



Judging Question Bank

Judging Resources

FIRST® is a global robotics community that prepares young people for the future.

**FIRST
LEGO
LEAGUE**

**FIRST
TECH
CHALLENGE**

**FIRST
ROBOTICS
COMPETITION**

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Revision History		
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About This Document

This document is intended to act as a starting point for Judges to ask questions to teams during the Formal and Pit Interviews. This list is not a complete list of questions, and judges may ask additional questions that are not included in this document.

Please do not ask teams about religion, politics, gender, disabilities, or how the students are doing in school. These topics have no bearing on any *FIRST* award criteria.

Questions should also avoid comparing one team to another team and instead should focus on the strengths or unique qualities of a team.

Judges are reminded in the Formal Interview that they must first ask the questions selected by the Judge Advisor prior to asking their own questions. Judges may make a note in the "Required" column in this document as a reminder of which questions were selected by the Judge Advisor. These questions must be asked to all teams during the Formal Interviews. After the required questions, each judging panel's questions may vary team-to-team, depending on the content provided in the interview.

Questions that contain multiple parts, or may warrant follow-up questions, contain a bulleted list that the Judges may use to gather all of the information they may need to best advocate for a team to be nominated for a specific award.

Think Award

Think Award

Think Award	Questions	Required
	Can you describe your team’s brainstorming process? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As ideas came in, did your team use any trade-off or cost/benefit analysis? • In the end, did the team settle on one design, or were different parts of multiple ideas used? • What methods were used to prove a design would work? 	
	Did everyone on the team initially agree on the design of the robot? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If not, how did your team overcome this challenge? 	
	How did your team improve your robot throughout the season? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did your team iterate on a single design? • Did your team ever start over with a new design? • If yes, how did your team determine that a new design was needed? 	
	Can you tell us an example of a lesson learned this season?	
	How did your team track accomplishments or challenges throughout the season? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was your team’s biggest accomplishment? • What was your team’s biggest challenge? 	
	Did your team use methods to measure progress throughout the season? (for example, “score x number of points by this time in a season”)	
	How would your team improve the brainstorming or design process?	

Team Attribute Awards

Connect Award

Team Attribute Awards		
Connect Award	Questions	Required
	How did your team set your goals and strategies for this season? Do you have a learning plan for the team? Are you meeting your goals?	
	How does your team attract new Mentors and/or leverage your existing Mentors? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you provide some examples (of each if relevant)? 	
	Does your team reach out to new STEM professionals? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In what way(s)? Can you give us some examples? How did you measure the effectiveness of your outreach to new STEM professionals? 	
	Have any of these new STEM professionals become a Mentor for your team? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you give us some examples of the skills your team has learned from these professionals? 	
	Did your team create a learning plan this season? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If so, how did you decide what should be on the plan for each team member? If not, how did you determine what skills or training was needed to meet your goals? 	
	What have you learned by being a part of this team? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What impact has learning this new skill meant to you? 	
	How do you work with other <i>FIRST</i> teams in your area? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did you choose what activities to collaborate on? How do you measure the effectiveness of those collaborations? 	

Motivate Award

Team Attribute Awards		
Motivate	Questions	Required
	What role does each of your team members play on your team? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do your leadership roles get defined or set each season? • How did your team make decisions about assigning roles for the team? 	
	What has it meant to (each of) you to be on a <i>FIRST</i> team?	
	How do you fundraise or raise funds for your activities? Do you have a budget?	
	How do you market your team? How does your team help to increase awareness of <i>FIRST</i> ?	
	How do you add creativity to your marketing efforts?	
	Does your team perform any type of community service? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which of your student team members took part in an outreach activity? 	
	Who organizes your outreach or community service activities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What planning tools did you use to organize? 	
	In what ways is your team unique?	
	What learnings have you captured from your outreach activities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did you use these learnings to improve your efforts? 	
	What examples can you give us about introducing people to <i>FIRST</i> ?	
	Do you have a season timeline that aligns with your goals?	
	How does your team look at sustainability?	
	Do you consider your team to be an ambassador for <i>FIRST</i> ? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If so, what do you do to be an ambassador? • What impact are you having? 	

Machine, Creativity, and Innovation Awards

Innovate Award, sponsored by RTX

Machine, Creativity, and Innovation Awards		
Innovate Award, sponsored by RTX	Questions	Required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk us through the process that your team used to innovate? Did your process change through the season? If so, why? If not, why not? 	
	What were your team's overall goals and/or strategies for this season?	
	Is there an aspect of your robot that you consider unique or creative?	
	How did you evaluate your design to ensure that it met your team's goals?	
	What criteria or process did you use to determine success?	
	What does your robot do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What actions or tasks within a match is it able to reliably score in? How did you test for reliability? Did you evaluate other factors? 	
	How does your team brainstorm ideas? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do you make sure that all voices are heard? 	
	How did your team capture their learnings with what worked and what did not work?	
	Did your team take any risks or unique approaches when building the robot for this season?	
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Control Award

Machine, Creativity, and Innovation Awards		
Control Award	Questions	Required
	What sensors and hardware did you use on your robot? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What worked, what did not, and why? 	
	Can you talk about the code used on the robot? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What pre-programmed libraries or outside resources did you use to program your robot? • What worked, what did not, and why? • Did your team write any custom libraries or routines to handle specific functions on your robot? • What worked, what did not, and why? 	
	How did your team capture their learnings with what worked and what did not work?	
	What criteria or process did you use to determine if a component is working or not working?	
	How does your robot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know where it is on the field? • Control acquisition of scoring elements in Auto and/or Teleop? 	
	Measure and control the speed of the motors?	
	What enhancements did you program to assist the drivers during Teleop?	
	What were your design goals for the Auto period?	

Design Award

Machine, Creativity, and Innovation Awards		
	Questions	Required
Design Award	How did you come up with the overall design of your robot?	
	How did you balance competing factors in your design?	
	What strategies did your team outline at the beginning of the season? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does your robot meet these strategies? 	
	How do you measure effectiveness in meeting your team goals for the robot's performance?	
	What tools did you use to brainstorm or evaluate different design elements to your robot?	
	What process did you use to determine if a specific design element helps to meet your team's goals?	
	Did you iterate on your design? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why or why not? 	
	How did your team document your goals? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What planning did you do to ensure you were going to meet your goals? 	
	Did you look at how components work together when designing your robot? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did you look at each component separately or as a single system or sub-systems? How did this affect your design process? 	
	Did you have to make any compromises on your design from your goals? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If so, what did you do? 	
	How does your team balance functionality vs. simplicity vs reliability?	
	What specific problem did you encounter during your season that influenced the current design of your robot?	
	What did your team choose to optimize if you couldn't do everything?	

Judges' Choice Award

Judges' Choice Award

Judges' Choice Award		
Judges' Choice Award	What problems did your team overcome?	
	In one word, how would each of you describe your season and why?	
	Tell us your story – how are you making a difference through <i>FIRST</i> ?	
	What is the one thing that we did not ask about that you most want the Judges to know?	