



Semifinalist Event General Tips

- ✓ **Know what to expect and be prepared.** Review the [Interview/Audition Preparation Guides](#) for your subject area. Each document will detail the expectations for semifinalists during the Semifinalist Event. If you ask.
- ✓ **Get a good night's sleep — and eat a good breakfast (or lunch).**
- ✓ **Each semifinalist and their parent/legal guardian will receive information about when and where their interview/audition will take place on campus.** Factor in travel time to Georgia Southern University (Statesboro) for the day of your interview.
- ✓ **Dress neatly and appropriately.** Extremely casual wear may suggest to your interviewer that you are not serious about getting into the program.
- ✓ **Read up on your subject outside of class.** This reading may include books, magazine articles, blogs, etc. Be up to date in your field.
- ✓ **Be yourself.** Give real answers, not answers you think the interviewer wants to hear. Insincerity is worse than an “unpopular” opinion.
- ✓ **Have a conversation with your interviewer(s).** Take a moment to think before beginning your answer. It is acceptable for you to think about what you are going to say before beginning. It is unlikely that your interviewer will have reviewed your application previously. Feel free to discuss topics and interests that were a part of your application.



Semifinalist Event Interview Tips

- ✓ **Practice answering these questions — out loud!** Get a friend, parent, or teacher to conduct a practice interview with you. (At least one of these questions are sure to show up in your actual interview.)
 - Why do you want to attend GHP?
 - What will you contribute to GHP?
 - What do you hope to gain from GHP?
 - What scares you the most about GHP?
 - What have you recently read or done concerning your subject in the classroom?
 - What have you recently read or done concerning your subject out of the classroom?
 - Are your grades an accurate reflection of your potential?
 - Which one of your activities is most rewarding? Why?
 - What is your most important achievement? Why?
 - If you could change one thing about your high school, what would it be?
 - Why should you be selected as a GHP finalist?
 - How do you react to failure?
 - What happens when you are not the best in the room?
 - Describe your dream project in your area.
 - What questions do you have about GHP?
- ✓ **Take notes on your answers.** Write down your best answers, not to memorize them but to train your brain to respond to the same question if asked in the interview.
- ✓ **Note that these are generic questions.** You can expect to be asked questions about your area of nomination as well.
- ✓ **Practice interview skills:**
 - Shaking hands.
 - Sitting up straight—no folded arms, please—and looking your interviewers in the eye.
 - Body language—leaning forward to show interest, using minimal hand gestures to avoid distracting from your words, and avoid fidgeting if you tend to move around when nervous.
 - Thank your interviewers for the opportunity when you are finished.