

# How to Win More Awards in FRC

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What do you have questions about?

What confuses you?

What is a goal your team has in the world of awards and judging?



# What can awards do for your team

## In *FIRST*

- **Enhance team credibility**
  - Among other teams
  - Establishes reputation among judges and volunteers at events
  - Resume builder
- **Engage other teams**
  - Network with teams in your area and beyond
- **Can qualify you for advancing in the season**
  - District --> District Championship → Championship
  - Regional → Championship(s)
  - Championship → Next Year's Championship(s)



# What can awards do for your team

## In Your Community

- **Generates interest and awareness of your team and *FIRST***
  - In your school system
  - In your community
- **Engages potential sponsors, supporters and team members by generating interest within:**
  - Student body at schools
  - Local businesses
  - Potential mentors in community
- **Potential to expand *FIRST* in your community**
  - Teams
  - Competitions
  - Seminars



# What can awards do for your team

## On Your Team


- **Gets your team organized**
  - Pre and Post Season
  - Set goals as a team
  - Long term achievements
- **Creates team self awareness**
  - Capabilities
  - Impact and purpose
  - Areas for improvement and enhancement
- **Something beyond the robot to work on**
  - Expands and creates more team roles
  - Diversifies team roles
- **Inspires confidence in students and team as a whole**
  - Generates interest and motivation to expand scope and spectrum of efforts
  - Team pride





Winning an award is evidence of hard work paying off

Not only what you did -  
but how you told your story about it to others



# Judges

Who are they  
and where did  
they come from



# Judges: Who they are

- **Volunteers**

- Remember to thank them for taking the time to come
- Some have years of FRC Experience
- Some this is the first exposure

- **They're all professionals in whatever they're judging**

- They know what they're talking about
- Ask them what they do! They love to share





# Judges: What do they do / where are they

- **Judge Breakdown**

- Judge Advisor
  - Technical Awards
  - Match Observers
  - Team Attribute Awards
  - Chairman's Award
  - Dean's List

- **All Over**

- Team/Machine Attribute judges are in pits
- Match Observers watch the matches
- Chairman's and Dean's List judges interview teams/nominees in specific room(s)
  - They'll come ask questions in the pits as well

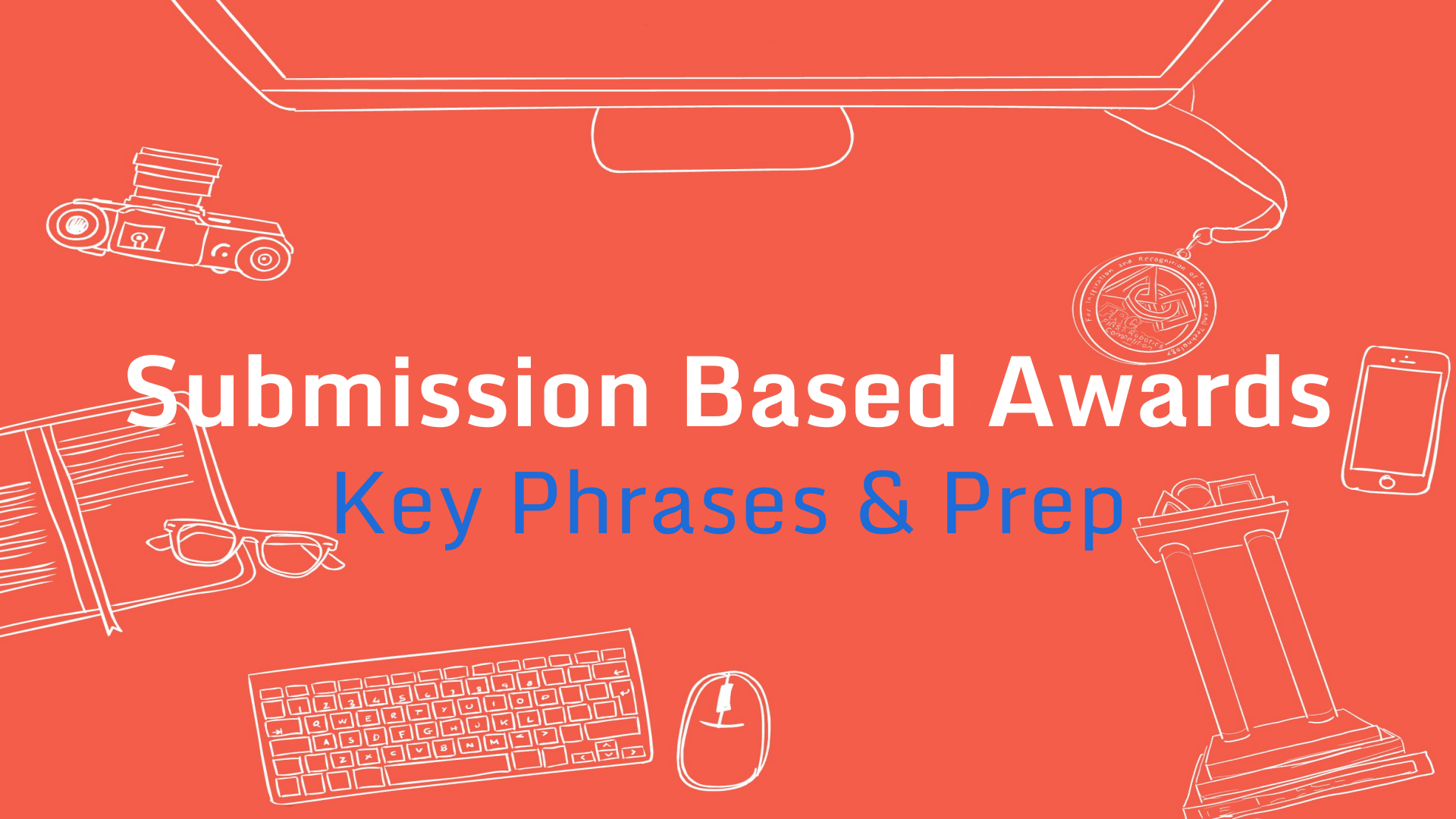
- **The judges are everywhere**

- The whole team needs to be prepped on how to act at competition, and basic statistics and facts



# Submission Based Awards

## Key Phrases & Prep



# Submission Based Awards: Key Phrases

- **Woodie Flowers**

Presented to an outstanding Mentor in the robotics competition who best **leads, inspires, and empowers** their team **using excellent communication skills**.

- **Dean's List**

Celebrates outstanding student leaders whose **passion for and effectiveness at attaining FIRST ideals** is exemplary.

- **Entrepreneurship**

Celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit by recognizing a team that has developed the framework for a comprehensive business plan to **scope, manage, and achieve team objectives**.



# Submission Based Awards: Prep

## Pre & Post Season

- **Reflect and review**
  - What went well / worked / did not work
  - What will you need to update/edit in your essays
  - What will you need to update/edit in your hand out & presentation materials
  - Set new goals as a team to expand and enhance efforts
- **Organize documentation of the season**
  - Photos / Feedback / Media
- **Ask for letters of support for next season**
  - Reach out to teams, companies, people, etc. that you worked with
  - Give them key points you'd like them to talk to
- **Gather data relevant to your key points to quantify your team's impact**
  - The basics - graduation rates, STEM higher ed rates, gender, number of people reached in demos, etc.
  - The not so basics - things that set your team apart
- **Create an updated outline for next year's submission**
  - Set benchmarks and deadlines for your submissions for the upcoming season
  - Develop ideas for what your team's story is - and how to tell it effectively



# Submission Based Awards: Prep

## Build Season

- **Solidify award deadlines**
  - Set your own earlier so nothing goes wrong
- **Add and edit new information to your submission**
  - Don't reinvent the essay entirely
- **If starting from scratch**
  - Determine your team's goals and mission
  - Categorize team information: Team History - Community Outreach - **FIRST** Objectives- Etc.
- **Determine high level points in each submission for supporting documents**
  - Data and stats for Entrepreneurship, Chairman's, WFA and DL
  - Photos, key phrases/ quotes, stats for Chairman's video and presentation materials
- **Have several people proofread submissions**
  - Team members, teachers, parents, other teams, and non **FIRST** people
- **Develop a plan for presentation supports**
  - What will your presenters need to enhance their talking points
    - Make sure they are complementary to the presenters and not overbearing
    - Keep handouts and supports simple - judges have limited time to review



# Submission Based Awards: Prep

## Competition Season

- **Review materials for presentation**
  - **Dean's List:**
    - Read over essay - come up with talking points
    - Have teammates ask you sample questions
  - **Chairman's:**
    - Practice presentation, don't memorize - practice with props and support materials
    - Gather all needed supports and give to someone responsible
    - Double check that everything is exactly how it should be the day before - check video, have multiple consent & release forms, double supports and posters
    - Practice discussions with teammates and mentors - ask them questions to get a new point of view
    - Use people as judges to interview presenters
    - Reach out to other teams and see what questions they may have been asked
- **Reflect and revise**
  - After presenting at one event, document questions that were asked and how you answered them
  - Discuss with teammates and come up with a plan to improve and enhance
- **Network with other teams**
  - Discuss how they presented
  - Share judge questions and feedback



# Woodie Flowers Award Tips

## Five Steps - The Amanda Morrison White Paper Method

1. Research your nominee- via your teammates and other methods
2. Create an outline of facts categorized into your topics
  - Intro
  - Team Involvement/Team Affiliation
  - Effective Communication examples (as stated in award description)
  - FIRST Involvement
  - What teammates had to say about them/what makes them so awesome
  - Why you think they deserve it
  - End quote
  - Conclusion
3. Read it out loud
4. Edit it yourself
5. Have others (English teacher) that have not read/written it edit it

**Submit before Noon Deadline**



# Chairman's Award Submission Tips

- **Use Executive Summary as a guide**

Elaborate on what you've mentioned and written in your executive summary in your essay. Use executive summary topics as an outline for your essay

- **Be Knowledgeable of the Team Support Definitions**

Find them [here](#). All teams are required to adhere to the Team Support Definitions in their Chairman's Award submissions and during their Chairman's Award interviews.

- **Read other team's submissions**

2017 Regional and District award winning submissions are available on the FIRST website [here](#) - these are great to reference but not copy!

- **Submit before the Noon Deadline**

You can always edit your essay in STIMS before the noon deadline...however you cannot turn back time





# Chairman's Award Presentation Tips

You have up to 7 minutes to present and up to 5 minutes of questions afterwards - 12 min total

- **Write a script**

Script for your 5 minute presentation should complement not recite your essay

- Some students will need word for word what to say
- A script can be an outline of who is covering what topics
- Judges are OK with students referring to a script or notecards - memorization isn't required

- **Have handouts for judges**

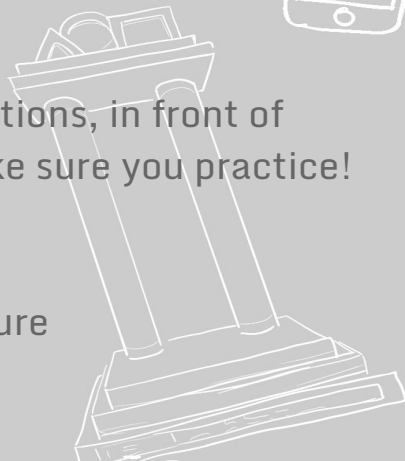
Handouts should parallel your script and give visuals to what you're saying

- **PRACTICE** 100,000,000,000

The more you practice the better you get! Practice with a stopwatch, distractions, in front of your team, in front of friends, families, in the shower, in your head. Just make sure you practice!

- **Definitions**

Judges will likely refer to [this word definition sheet](#) and ask you to clarify the meaning of some phrases like “started” “funded” “hosted”. Be sure to brush up on these definitions and how they apply to your team



# Entrepreneurship Tips

- **Use Executive Summary as your guide**

The award submission outline is really helpful to gather information and structure your submissions. You can find the award breakdown [here](#)

- **Talk about what makes your team, your team!**

What makes your team's unique structures and partnerships successful and awesome. Discuss how you have created fail safes and succession plans, use concrete and personal examples.

- **Make sure you have several hard copies**

Make sure one gets to a judge after you talk about it! If they don't ask about it, ask them if they'd like to hear about it and make sure they walk away with a copy in hand.

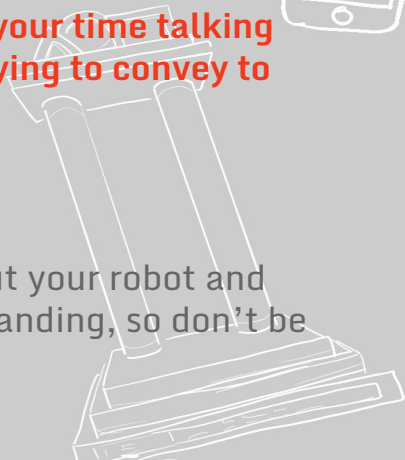


# Tips from Camilo:

## 2015 Championship Dean's List Winner

### Tips for Interviewing

- Before going into the interview, **make a plan**. It is very hard to pack together your whole **FIRST** experience and work in a couple of minutes. **Create a quick outline of your talking points**.
- Relax. **Practice, but don't memorize**. You do not want to sound like a robot by the time you get to the interview. Make it real!
- **Be confident** throughout your interview. Chances are the judges are just as nervous as you.
- Judges are looking for what YOU have done throughout your time in **FIRST**. **Take your time talking** about all the things you have done and **make sure they understand what you're trying to convey to them**.
- **Ask questions** the judges questions, they're interesting people!
- **Sleep!** If you are worrying about your interview, you're doing it wrong. Worry about your robot and other work first. You were selected by your mentors for this because you are outstanding, so don't be nervous!



# Tips from Camilo:

## 2015 Championship Dean's List Winner

### Difficult Questions

- What does it mean to be a leader?
- How do you represent the core values of **FIRST** in your daily life?
- How do you lead / inspire others ?
- Elaborating and explaining further on talking points in your submission

### Favorite Question

- What do you do for fun?
- What are you doing this summer?

### Other Questions

- Where do you expect to be in # years
- Where do you want to go to school? Why?
- Have you applied for any FIRST scholarships?
- What is your role on your team?
- How do you inspire others to be leaders?



Questions?  
Comments?  
I hope this is going ok



The background is a solid dark blue. It features several white line-art illustrations of technical and academic items. At the top center is a laptop. To the left of the laptop is a digital camera. To the right is a circular medal with a ribbon, featuring a logo and the text 'FEDERATION OF EDUCATION OF STUDENT ENGINEERS' and 'FEDERATION OF STUDENT ENGINEERS'. Below the laptop is a smartphone. In the bottom left is a keyboard and a mouse. In the bottom right is a stack of books with a trophy on top. On the far left is an open book with a pair of glasses resting on it.

# Technical Awards

## Key Phrases & Prep

# Technical Awards: Key Phrases

- **Industrial Design**

Celebrates **form and function** in an efficiently designed machine that effectively addresses the game challenge

- **Quality**

Celebrates **machine robustness in concept and fabrication**.

- **Innovation in Control**

Celebrates an **innovative control system or application of control components**—electrical, mechanical or software—to provide **unique machine functions**.

- **Creativity**

Celebrates **creativity in design**, **use of component**, or **strategy** of play.

- **Excellence in Engineering**

Celebrates an **elegant** and **advantageous machine feature**.

- **Judges' Award**

During the course of the competition, the judging panel may decide a team's unique efforts, performance, or dynamics merit recognition. ^\\_(\ツ)\_/^\



# Technical Award: Prep

## Pre & Post Season

- **Team and group discussions**
  - About successes, failures and discoveries from the season
    - Strategy
    - Fabrication
    - Design
    - Displaying and conveying information to judges
    - Observations of other teams efforts and ideas

## Build Season

- **Team Communication**
  - Group discussions about successes and failures
  - Reflect on previous seasons
  - Continue discussions throughout the build and competition season
- **Document your strategy and design process**
  - Delegate team members to capture process
    - Photo documentation (whiteboards, prototypes, etc)
    - Engineering journal
    - CAD files
  - Talking points and demo pieces
    - Save prototypes and spare parts to show judges





# Technical Award Prep

## Competition Season

- **Identify your team's unique attributes**
  - Study other team's reveal videos, watch competitions
  - Ask yourself - what does your team do well? What's unique about your robot or strategy?
- **Determine key points to convey to judges**
  - Develop a timeline from concept to competition
    - What is your strategy
    - How and why did your team come up with it
    - How did you design your robot / robot components to achieve your strategy
    - What are the key features on your robot
    - What adjustments and modifications did you make - when and why
- **Develop a basic list of key robot component facts for each sub system**
  - Drive Base - Feet per second
  - Programming - language used, unique features
  - Electrical - wiring methods, materials
  - Manipulator - ie. can grabber speed
  - Materials



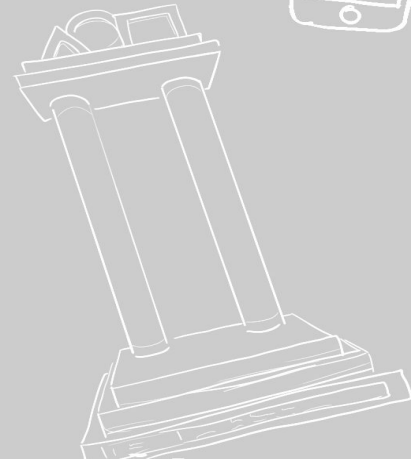
# Technical Award Prep

## Telling Your Robot's Story

- **How does your team think**
  - Talk about your team's process once you learn the game
  - Explain time frames and benchmarks your team has to get your ideas going
- **Turning a doodle into a real thing**
  - Get the judges to see and understand your design process
  - How does your team develop, test and make your concepts and design come to life
    - What resources do you have
    - How does your team problem solve before final fabrication
    - DOCUMENT IT!
- **Props and Tangible Visual Evidence**
  - Figure out the best way to visually show different components
    - Prototypes
    - Videos
    - CAD
    - Handouts
    - VR
    - Engineering binders / notebook
      - These also help your team down the road!



Questions?  
Comments?  
I hope this is going ok





# Team Attribute Awards

## Key Phrases & Prep

# Rookie Awards Breakdown: Key Phrases

- **Rookie Inspiration**

Celebrates a rookie team's outstanding success in **advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers**, both within their **school**, as well as in their **community**.

- **Rookie All Star**

Celebrates the rookie team exemplifying a young but **strong partnership effort**, as well as implementing the mission of FIRST to inspire students to learn more about science and technology.

- **Highest Rookie Seed**

Celebrates the highest-seeded rookie team at the conclusion of the qualifying rounds.



# Team Attribute Awards: Key Phrases

- **Team Spirit**

Celebrates extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit **through exceptional partnership and teamwork** furthering the **objectives of FIRST**.

- **Gracious Professionalism**

Celebrates the team that exemplifies the core values of FIRST in their **relationships with other teams** and by their **demonstrated Gracious Professionalism®**

- **Engineering Inspiration**

Celebrates outstanding success in **advancing respect and appreciation for engineering** within a team's **school and community**.

- **Safety**

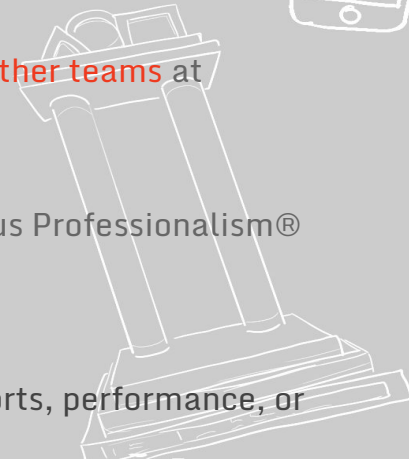
Team has a culture of safety and **works to bring this culture in every student as well as other teams** at competition.

- **Gracious Professionalism**

Celebrates outstanding demonstration of *FIRST* Core Values such as continuous Gracious Professionalism® **working together both on and off the playing field.**”

- **Judges' Award**

During the course of the competition, the judging panel may decide a team's unique efforts, performance, or dynamics merit recognition. “\(\ツ)/”



# Team Attribute Awards: Prep

## Pre & Post Season

- Team and group discussions about successes, failures and discoveries from the season
  - Review submissions – highlight areas to edit and update for the upcoming season
    - Discuss presenters and plans for next year's presenters
  - Review any feedback or questions from judges
  - Connect with teams you've worked with and ask for a Letter of Support
  - Review presentation materials
  - Observations and examples of other teams' ideas and efforts
  - What was most impactful and how can you expand and enhance it
- Collect information and turn into facts
  - Statistics
    - How do they compare to your school / communities
    - How do they change on your team over time
    - How do they impact the things you do on your team



# Team Attribute Awards: Prep

## Build Season

- **Update, edit and tweak award submissions**
  - Most of the writing should be done in the pre season for major award submissions
  - STIMS awards submission opens in November
- **Create visuals and support materials**
  - Highlighting key points
  - Important facts and statistics
- **Create visuals and support materials**
  - Highlighting key points
  - Important facts and statistics
- **Get everyone caught up on everything**
  - Make sure that your pit presenters and entire team understand your team's story
  - Read award submissions
  - Share feedback from past events, seasons and team observations



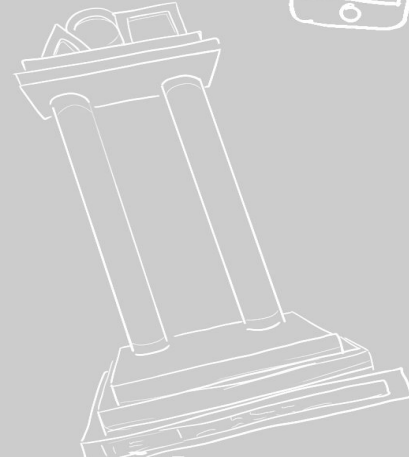


# Interview Tips

- **Practice - don't memorize**
  - Understand key talking points, supports, facts and experiences related to them
  - Delegate facts with others in a conversation
- **Ask potential judge questions to your mentors and peers**
  - Gives you a new way of answering and speaking to the topic
  - Helps reinforce key vocabulary and phrases
- **Make sure visuals are helpful to you and informative to the judges**
  - Keep the facts brief in writing
  - Helps nervous students have a reference in case they need it
  - Use prototypes and physical visuals
- **Have at least one or two questions to ask the judges at the end of your presentation**
  - Related to your submission and efforts
  - Related to your performance and presentation
  - Related to the judge and their experience as a judge or how they became involved
  - Always thank them for their time, they invest a lot of time before, during and after the event



Questions?  
Comments?  
Thanks for still being here



# Looking back on last season...

- What were the most impactful things you have done as a team?
- How can you improve upon them?
- What did you see other teams do that inspired you?
- What feedback did you get that made you think - good, bad or confusing
- What are you most proud of
- What is it like to be a normal human again?!



# Resources:

## Chairman's Award Resources

- FRC Chairman's Award Resources: [Examples of Regional and DCMP Winning Submissions](#)

## Woodie Flowers and Dean's List Resources

- Amanda Morrison: ['5 Steps Towards Winning WFA/ UFH Essay'](#)
- Penfield Robotics FRC 1511: [Dean's List Submission Examples](#)

## Presentation Material Examples

- The Cheesy Poofs FRC 254: [Branding Guidelines](#)
- FRC 503 Frog Force 2017: [Submission and Handout](#)

## Entrepreneurship Resources

- FRC Tool Kit: [Entrepreneurship Business Plan Step by Step](#)
- Cyber Blue FRC 234: [Entrepreneurship & CA Examples](#)

## General Awards Resources

- 2017 FRC Complete Awards Chart: [Detailed Breakdown of Awards](#)
- Kristine Atiyeh FRC 125: ['5 Things ANY Team Can Do in the Off Season to Win More Awards'](#)
- FRC Awards Resource Page: [General Awards Information](#)

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