COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Purpose:

Students are given the opportunity to demonstrate knowledge, skills, and talents learned in the area of a career/technology education class. Through the completion of individual projects, students will demonstrate technological literacy. These activity-based assignments better prepare students to become productive members of the industrial and technological community or to enter a post-secondary institution after graduation.

Description:

The contest is for entries that may be designed, produced or constructed by intervention program students as an outgrowth of career related interest in the area of Business and Information Technology.

Examples:

Projects ideas include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

Desktop Publishing
Animation
Digital Media Design
Website Design

Rules and Procedures:

The students must adhere to the following format:

1. A CTI competitive event portfolio, display board and project which meet all guidelines laid out in the Computer Applications rubric.
2. Maximum Project size requirement is 4'L x 4'W x 8'H.
3. Each contestant will be interviewed and career objectives of the contestant will be stressed along with employability/soft skills in the oral interview.
4. The student/coordinator is responsible for project set-up prior to competition and removal of his/her project at the conclusion of the contest.
5. The project must be the original work of the student.
   a. **Appendix E student project authenticity verification form-- MUST be included as the last page in the CTI competitive event portfolio or the student will be disqualified.**

Equipment:

Technical equipment, such as computers, LCD panels, TVs, VCR/DVD players, power strips, extension cords, etc. that is required for a student's project must be provided by the student's coordinator.

A hard copy of a student's project, when applicable, must be provided for the area of Computer Applications and Technology Skills.

Suggested Judge Questions:

1. Tell me about yourself.

This question is often used to break the ice and see how personable you can be. Be careful not to drone on endlessly for this question. It's easy to get caught up in your back story and lose track of time. A safe answer is to give a brief overview that covers where you grew up, where you went to school, why you chose your major, any internship experience you have, and why you're applying for this job.

2. What are your strengths? Your weaknesses?

To answer this question, you need to do some introspection. Ask your friends, family, and any previous coworkers what they how they view your strengths and weaknesses. Prepare to discuss at least 3 strengths and 3 weaknesses. Stay away from clichés like "perfectionist" and "workaholic" as they can be interpreted as weaknesses. Own up to your faults. Everyone has them. Just be honest and open to improving yourself.

3. Give me an example or a situation in which…

These questions are not only used to determine what you learned from a particular experience, but also to assess how you would respond to potential workplace scenarios and situations. Prepare to talk about 3 scenarios in which you faced conflict or difficulty in either work or school, had difficulty with either a supervisor or peer, and a leadership opportunity or a project you are particularly proud of.

4. Tell me why you chose this specific project?

The good news here is that nobody knows and understands your experiences better than you, so you should be confident for this question. This is a great opportunity for you to sell yourself. A good framework for your answers is to explain the goals for any class or internship, cover your personal responsibilities in any projects, and discuss the outcomes. Again, avoid droning on for too long about any particular experience and wrap things up concisely.

5. What are your longer-term career goals (or where do you see yourself in 5 or 10 years)?

There is no "right answer" to this question and it's certainly ok to say that you don't have any. However, be prepared to explain why you don't have any. One solid strategy is to downplay your career goals and aspirations (you are young after all) and play up your interest in the company and industry of the job you're applying for. Showcase your passion to be a part of whatever it is they are doing.