



VEF INTERVIEW EXPERIENCE

VEF fellows 2009

Content

Experience

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graph TD; Experience((Experience)) --> Preparation[PREPARATION]; Experience --> Interview[INTERVIEW];
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PREPARATION

1. English
2. Background
3. Research
4. Universities

INTERVIEW

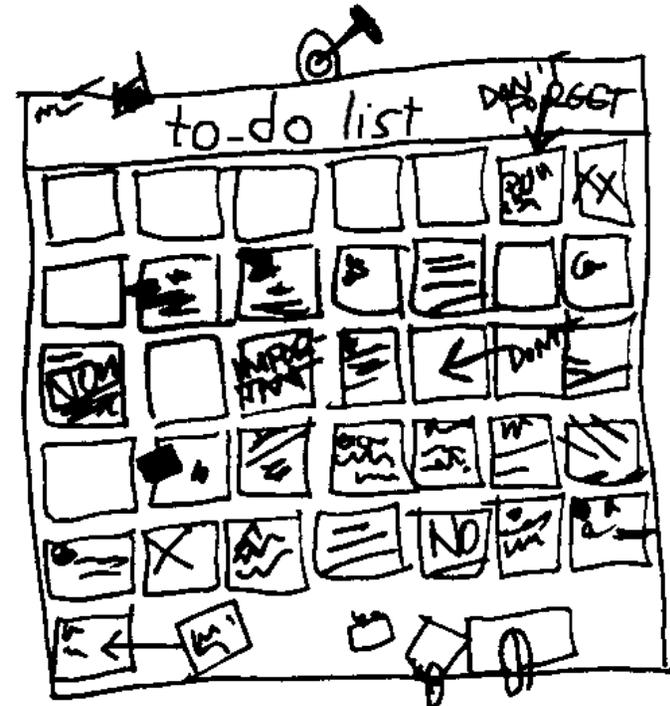
1. Before the exam
2. During the exam
3. Several interview questions

Preparation

What to prepare?

❖ Your VEF application

- Personal information
- SOP
- Research experience
- Work experience
- Intended universities



❖ List potential questions related to your provided information and answer them

- ❖ **Focus on Listening & Speaking Skills**
- ❖ **Use English as much as possible**
 - Learning groups
 - Online chatting
 - Emails
- ❖ **Prepare for small talks (traffic, weather, hometown, etc.)**
- ❖ **Sources: TV, American movies, e-news**



❖ Consolidate your academic background

- Fundamental courses
- Terminology, proofs of important theorems and lemmas
- Key courses related to your research areas
- Courses that you got low grades



❖ Previous research

- Review your previous projects, understand the materials thoroughly
 - Motivations
 - Research methods
 - Results
 - Proposals
- Practice presenting your work briefly (with the white board, to people inside and outside your field)



❖ Intended research

- Specific but not narrow
- Catch the actual state, on-going problems in your specific research fields
 - Reading major journals and conferences
 - Consulting your professors, experts, other VEF fellows



- ❖ **Schools/departments: ranking, funding, labs, facilities, etc.**
- ❖ **Professors:**
 - **Research interests**
 - **On-going projects**
 - **Achievements**
 - **Publications: read some abstracts**

Interview

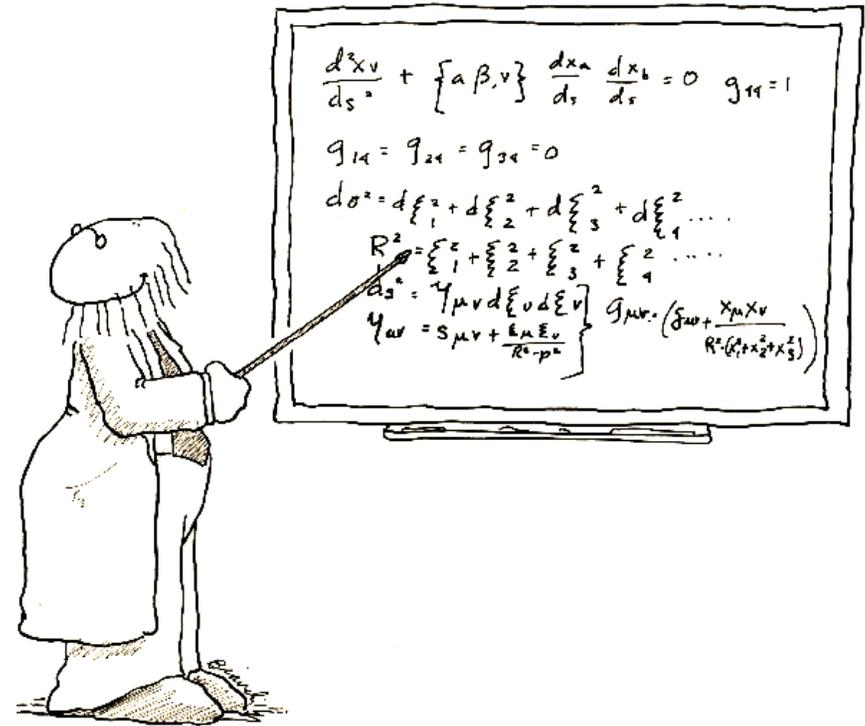
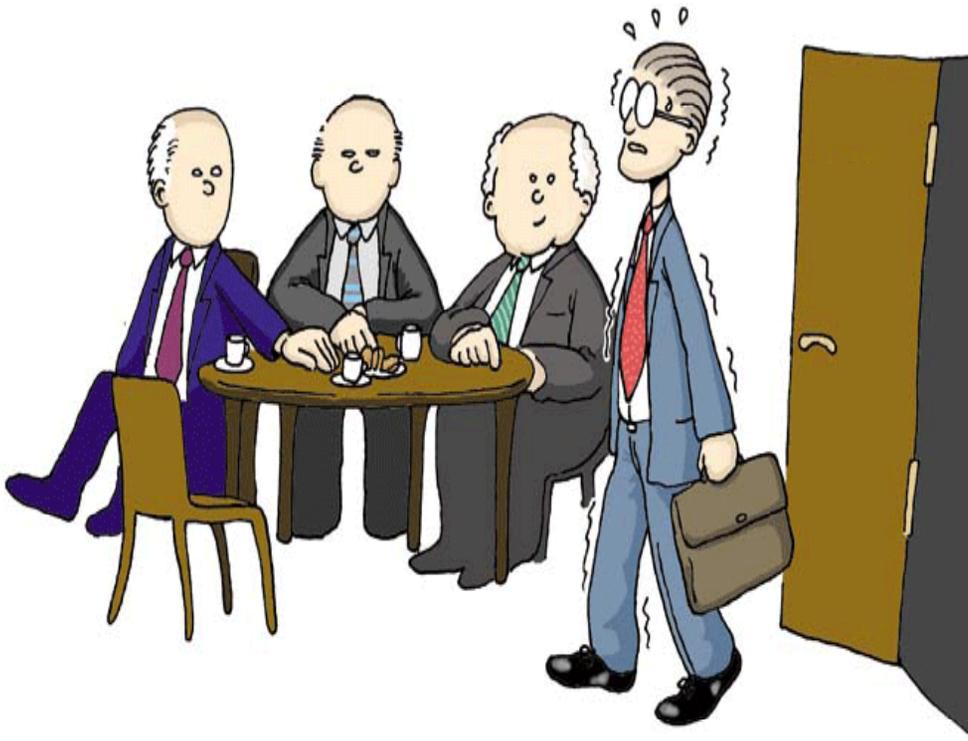
The day before

- ❖ Relax !!!
- ❖ Prepare for your next day's appearance
- ❖ Go to bed early
- ❖ Plan to come to the exam site 30 minutes early



Interview

During the exam



- ❖ **Chance to express yourself**
- ❖ **How you interact is very important**

Interview

During the exam

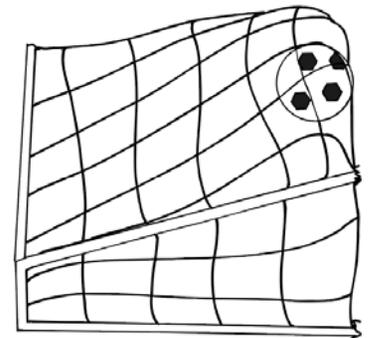
- ❖ Be confident, positive and honest
- ❖ Listen carefully
- ❖ Ask to restate the question if you don't understand clearly
- ❖ Speak clearly and succinctly
- ❖ Organize your answers



Interview

During the exam

- ❖ Drive the next question to the parts that are well-prepared
- ❖ Ask for suggestions if you can't find the answer
- ❖ Don't think about the previous unsuccessful answers
- ❖ Use handshake, say thank you goodbye at the end



- Could you please introduce yourself?
- Why do you want to study in the US?
- Your plan after completing graduate studies?
- Strong points, weak points?
- Why do you choose that university/
professors?
- Have you contacted the professor you want to
work with?

- Why do you find interest in your research area?
- Tell us about your most interested project?
- Technical difficulties you have experienced when doing your projects and your solutions?
- Is there a relation between your project and the courses you have learned at school?
- What are you currently doing?
- Do you have any questions for us?



Q & A ?