

## **Gates Cambridge Interview Advice**

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship interviews consist of five panels of interviewers, and the students will be allocated to a panel on a broad subject basis: Math, Engineering & Computer Science; Physical Sciences; Biological Sciences; Social Sciences; and Arts & Humanities.

Each panel will consist of three or four members, knowledgeable in a general way about the fields of study of the candidates. There will be a Cambridge academic on each panel, but other members will be drawn from institutions in the United States and not restricted to universities. Many of the panelists have experience interviewing for other major scholarship programs.

Each interview will run for about 25 minutes. The students will be asked about their subject, why it is interesting and important, and why they want to continue study in Cambridge. This opening discussion will not be unduly technical. The panelists will also want to know something of the student's future ambitions, and about how the student thinks further study might help him or her, in some way, to change our world for the better.

The panelists are enjoined to assess the candidate's potential as a future leader (in any field), and to gain some sense of whether the candidate is aware of the responsibilities higher education brings. To this end, the interview may branch out into more general questions--usually of a sort for which there is no conceivable 'right' answer. Gates Cambridge scholars are expected to branch out into all walks of life and the panels will not favor one calling over another.

You should remember that you have come through a pretty tough process to be selected for an interview. You should try to relax and enjoy talking with other students in Annapolis, and engage the interview panels in intellectually lively conversation. In other words, just make it a personal goal to enjoy the experience all you can and make new friends. You've already done the preparation to be worthy of the scholarship, and now the Gates Cambridge selection committee just has to pick their favorites. There's not a whole lot you can do about influencing this choice other than just being yourself.