

**NS1:** Oh. Uh... My name is Nicholas Smith. And who I am.... That's kind of a tough question cause I'm in the middle of figuring that out myself. But, uh, I think I'm an easy-going person who's just kinda lookin' for... the right choices in life.

**DR4:** Independence is important because, um. It's important for everybody to have... as they get older. receive more independence so that they can do stuff by themselves, whether it's like purchase your first house or go to college. Because if you always have that lifeline you'll never be able to do stuff something alone. And you'll always be looking for some kind of lifeline, whether it's your parents, grandparents, a friends. And sometimes that friend, parent, and grandparent won't always be there with you, so you have to learn independence and how to do stuff.

**DR5:** If you had to have a life occupation, like, what would it be right now?

Can I be a superhero?

You sure can.

Uh, honestly. I'd probably - if I could be a superhero, I'd probably have to be, like Spiderman

**DR8:** Uh, yeah. You could say that. Like, from a young age I've been... kind of... I wouldn't say I was along, but I don't mind doing stuff by myself. Whether it's like, traveling alone on an airplane and stuff like that. So... yeah I'm independent

**NS2:** Uh, Track is honestly... It means a lot to me in ways 'cause I can just run, and it's real peaceful, and in some ways, I don't like it... 'cause running sucks. Kinda contradicted myself.

**NS3:** Uh... You could say that. 'Cause honestly through a hard day, if I had a bunch of tests, you can just kinda relieve it on the track, and just run it and clear your head.

**NS4:** Uh, honestly what goes through my mind is just beat the guy next to me and just clear - for me, I really have to like clear my head and kinda think about, um, what's really going on. I can't think about anything before, after, what's gonna happen. It just has to be clear, and just perform.

**NS15:** Uh... for me, I kinda... Well, I live athletic lifestyle, so I can't just sit on the couch. I need to do something athletic, and better yet... I mean not better yet, better than that to just join the school team. And kinda do with people that have similar goals and stuff like that.

**NS5:** MIC is a conference that Carmel competes in, and it includes schools like Center Grove, Lawrence Central, um, North Central and all the big schools in Indiana. It's the top conference that, uh, these schools compete in, between each other with all the sports that Carmel has to offer, like swimming and etcetera.

**NS6:** Uh, last year I didn't perform as well as I thought I would because one thing that's always messed me up with track is, uh, kinda my focus during my start- my start of the race - 'cause I'll be focused and then the gun will go off, and I'll start kinda looking at other people, and then while that's happening, I'll start to fall behind, and then I gotta play catch-up. And then sophomore year at MIC, uh, I lost all my technique, and then I finished the race. I was last, and I just started to cry.

**NS7:** And so I knew what I was doing and stuff like that, but I think what really affected me was, um, the intimidation of the older guys - running with seniors and stuff like that.

**NS8:** Uh, generally, what you're supposed to do, uh, you're supposed to stay down for maybe ten, fifteen, twenty meters, keep your head down and drive as hard as you can. But what I did instead of that, my first step off the line, I stood up. But keep in mind all these people are still in their technique so they're way ahead of me, and they have more energy and stuff like that 'cause they drove out. And I start to be, uh, fall behind. I about five meters at the start of the race, and I just have to keep five meters behind everyone else, and I just start to slow down because I didn't use my technique and stuff like that.

**NS9:** What I expected was... Generally, at first, I thought people were going to think like I'm slow or he's not ready and stuff like that, but uh... Later that day I was just told, 'You know, everyone has a bad race. It happens all the time.'

**NS10:** It was a, 'Wow, I blew it.'

**NS11:** Uh, I was a trainer for football because, uh... I practiced through the season, but then I started to have, uh, a heart problem. It wasn't necessarily the heart. I had a murmur, so it made my heart beat like irregular, but it was mostly the muscles around the heart that, uh, would tense-up and cramp-up, and I couldn't move, or like move my arm and stuff like that, and it made it really hard to perform. It was just a lot of pain. But I ended up being trainer because I wanted to stick with the team and be along with them for the season.

**NS12:** Uh, it just kinda popped-up. Uh, I think I was at a physical when they first did it, and then, um... I came back 'cause I was having chest pain, and they were like, 'You're working out too much,' 'cause I was doing football, track, and I was working, and doing more working-out on top of that, and... weight-lifting, and they're like, 'This is too much,' and so I kept going anyway, and it just got worse with the muscle stuff. So I had to set football aside, but they said I could still run and stuff like that.

**NS13:** Really? Okay. 'Cause if I were have told like, 'Oh, you have a heart murmur,' I would have been like, 'Excuse me, what? I have a what?' Yeah, so, okay, so you took it generally like... So if I were a doctor and said, 'You have a heart murmur,'

NICK  
Yeah.

OLIVIA

And you were just like...

NICK

Yeah, 'cause the way I see things, and life in general, 'cause there's no reason to be sad or... fret over it because you don't have a choice. You being sad isn't going to change anything. So you might as well take it head-on and be - not be happy about it - but not let it take away other factors in your life like happiness and stuff like that.

**NS14:** UH, what I would like to do is, uh... I want to be an emergency room doctor, but before that, I think I'm gonna join the military.

OLIVIA

Is that because of your father?

NICK

Uh, that's what I'm figuring out now. 'Cause it's not because of him. I'm not doing it for him, but it kinda like something that's instilled in me that makes me feel like... I want to do it, like I want to do it, but it's something else that makes me feel like... I just need to serve, and... help others, and... You know what I mean?

**DR1:** Okay so, um. I was told by Tyron here that, um, you were raised by your mom and your dad doesn't really live with you.

NICK:

That is true. He,uh. He' still in the military right now. He's a colonel and moves around to different jobs, like recently he worked at the Pentagon and he just left and moved to Florida and he had, um. He was stationed there for a little bit, and then I think now he is going to go back to D.C.

**DR2:** Um, I want to join the military. Honestly, I feel like it's instilled in me because I'd be a sixth generation per-person in the family to be in the military and, I just like, love the opportunities it provides: you can see the world, pay for school, and stuff like that.

**DR3:** Which way is most of your family?

NICK:

Uh, as far as the military

OLIVIA:

Uh huh

NICK: They don't care. My mom is like, "you should go to college," but, I think I'm going to - if I do, I think I'm going to do a program where I can do college while in the military.

**DR6:** Was there, like, a point, like you're like, now I, exactly now I do the mili - I want to join the military?

NICK:

Uh, honestly most my life it's just back and forth, since my dad graduated from West Point, I've kinda always had that military thing, like, whether it's seeing him in his uniform or the stuff he has around his house. Just stuff like that. It's always been in the back of my head. And I want to go to West Point for the longest time, but, they are really tough there. So I was like: uh, maybe I'll just go to a college and just get a normal degree. And be, like, ROTC.

**DR7:** ROTC is, uh. What does it stand for? Reserve Officer Training Corps, or something like that. And, it's where college students can, uh. Kinda have military classes in college and train a little bit then at the end of their four years, they'll be enlisted in the army as an officer. So, that's ROTC. And then, I kinda just wanted to jump right into and enlist. That's what I planned to do at the end of high school.