

TYPES OF PEOPLE YOU MEET AT OLYMPIADS

MAYBE 1 WILL SURPRISE YOU BUT I'M NOT SURE

AZMIN AZRAN

If you aren't familiar with them, Olympiads are gatherings of young people interested in and fascinated by academics, where they go up against each other to prove who's more interested in and fascinated by a certain subject than everyone else. So yeah, Nerd-con.

I recently went to one of these Olympiads to see if I possessed any marketable talent that could make me rich one day. I was thoroughly disappointed but thanks to infallible boredom that triggered heightened powers of observation, I managed to learn enough things to write this article.

The first group of people you'll notice in the early morning hustle bustle of an Olympiad are people with their head buried in a book whose title reads like it came out of a BuzzFeed article - "40 Formulas to Get You Through High School" or "10 Techniques Mathletes Must Know". Some of the books might be legit, but the people reading them are the sort who'll invariably snap at you if you interrupt them. They can't imagine what it'd be like to go home without a medal.



What's funny is most of them go home with a participation certificate, and on it, if the Z's in their name is misspelt with G's, they'll fuss about it like that even matters.

Then they're people who're more enthusiast than competitor, and they'll be smiling all the time. It's almost refreshing to see people who can be so happy with so little. They're happy to just be there, it's almost as if they like Physics because Greek letters are pretty. They'll be the first in every line, and they'll ask the experts in the panel stupid questions. When they don't get an answer to their stupid question, they'll have a "gotcha" smile plastered on their face, and ignore the disgust directed at them from all directions by people who actually know why Einstein is famous.

Next is the sad story of those whose golden days are past them. In a year recently gone by, they might have been in the same place winning all the praise and acclaim, and the longing for that to happen again is what brings these people back. But between the times they last won something to their latest appearance, brain development hasn't lived up to expectation and the laziness of late teens has prevailed. These people can easily be identified by how they concede defeat

even before the fight starts. They've made the journey from extraordinary to mediocre and Olympiads are where they're reminded of it the most.

Now we move on to the people who truly know what they're doing. These are the people who'll own tech companies in 20 years and people like me will keep getting rejected by for jobs. They don't have to prove themselves to anyone because they know they're good at whatever they try, but accomplishments and appearances at international Olympiads are necessary if you want to get into a good university. They'll mind their business all day and at no point in the day will you look at one of them and think that that's a genius right there. But when the day is over and everyone's leaving, and they're up on the stage with a medal hung around their neck, you'll can't help but wonder, "Who would've thought?"

Azmin Azran is a 17-year-old boy stuck in the body of a 17-year-old boy. He talks a lot, mostly about football and politics because that's what's on TV most of the time. Contact him for an onslaught of uncomfortable jokes at [fb.com/azminazran](https://www.facebook.com/azminazran)



Being an ideal wingwoman

World's best wingwoman reporting for duty!

SAMIN SABAH ISLAM

Sometimes even cupid's work needs a little push. That's where the wingwoman walks in with the sole duty of finding the single friend a Pringle.

Know thy mission

Before diving head first into the pool of eligible bachelors, know thy mission. Don't go aiming for some fancy model material if your friend favours intellect over appearance. Keep an eye out for her type. Consult, and don't boss around. It's best to keep the wing relationship between two women having polar preferences in men. You wouldn't want to go through an awkward back-and-forth of "Oh okay, you can have him" or have a public catfight over him. As a wingwoman, loyalty is essential.

Do your homework

A wingwoman must have the qualifications of an Intelligence Analyst. Here are the basics for the thorough report about boy target.

Is he single? How many exes? Can your friend compete with said exes? Does target have a type? His age, his height. Mutual Facebook friends, number of Instagram followers, favorite Snapchat filter. Does he posts shirtless post-workout selfies?

When time doesn't permit though, the first question would suffice.

Initiate a tête-à-tête

People tend to be shy bumping a conversation with someone they're attracted to. Check your pride at the door and be the first to talk, so your friend doesn't end up stuttering, or worse, rambling out, "Your hair looks soft". Subtly break the ice without being a creep. Anything from

"Could you please pass the napkin?" to "Hey you look just like this friend of ours" will do. Keep it cool and simple.

Be a sneaky ghotok

(Bad)

Cute guy: This place has killer fuchka!

You: OMG, my friend Sara loves the fuchka here too! She a regular here, ask anybody. You guys like the same things, how convenient - I mean, what a coincidence!

(Good)

Cute guy: This place has killer fuchka!

You: I'm more of a chotpoti girl. Sara here is a sucker for good fuchka though.

Fade away into the background

Don't engage with him too much. You might end up having too many things in common, or worse, loathing him. Portray your friend as the more appealing one in the picture, being the weirdo in comparison. Part of being a good wingwoman is

knowing when to bow out. As the caterpillar grows her own wings, know when to let the butterfly fly solo.

Your job isn't over

The most important thing you can do as a wingwoman, friend, and decent human being, is look out for your friend. Recognise the signs and make sure she makes the smart choice. Be the one with an exit tactic if she isn't feeling it. Don't force it if it isn't working. A wingwoman must always be easily reached for text updates and available for coffee to go over every tiny detail.

Patience and determination, grasshopper. Playing cupid ain't that simple.

Samin Sabah Islam is on a quest to find the perfect diet while simultaneously drooling over pizza. Throw her some tips at sabahsamin11@gmail.com