

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. In September 2013 President Obama called for American strikes against government forces in Syria's civil war. Then, leaders of both parties in the House of Representatives issued their support for President Obama. Do you support or oppose the President's position in Syria?
2. Mallory Hagan, stayed connected through Facebook, twitter and Instagram during her reign as Miss America 2013. What role, if any should social media play in during a titleholder's year? Follow up, do you think that today's youth rely too much on social media?
3. We have to talk about Miley Cyrus' performance at the 2013 VMA's! Is the public and media making too big of a deal about her performance or should we chalk this up to just another outrageous VMA performance that we've also seen from the likes of Madonna and Britney Spears?
4. How do you lead a healthy lifestyle without going to extremes to prepare for competition?
5. Is there a problem with binge drinking on our college campuses? Why or why not? What about other recreational drugs like Molly?
6. Do you believe there should be pageants that segregate women by physical disabilities, race or weight groups?
7. Every young citizen is guaranteed the opportunity for a "free" public education through high school, should college also be free?
8. What do the four points of the Miss America crown stand for and how would you exemplify them during your year of service?
9. Do you believe the American education system and other domestic priorities have taken a backseat to foreign policy?
10. Several mass shooting have rocked this country over the past year. With the NRA lobbying to maintain current gun freedoms how do our legislators strike a balance between the right to bear arms and keeping Americans safe from each other and terrorists?
11. What would I find if I Googled your name? Are you proud or embarrassed of those things? What would you change about your online presence?
12. With each state's health care marketplace now open, do you think that the changes to healthcare have provided more affordable health insurance options or is the government trying to tell employers how to run their business?

13. In all of history, a worker was considered a full-time employee when working at least 40 hours per week. The Affordable Care Act currently defines a full-time employee as one working at least 30 hours per week. What is your opinion on this discrepancy?
14. Is terrorism still a threat to our country?
15. Do you believe the preliminary swimsuit winners at the most recent Miss America pageant portrayed a healthy image to young girls or have we, as a society, gone too far in our "ideal" of the perfect body?
16. Childhood obesity is still a huge problem in this country. Is it the responsibility of the schools or the parents to ensure nutritious meals for our students?
17. Do you believe the American education system and other domestic priorities have taken a backseat to foreign policy?
18. Do personal platforms still have a relevant place in the Miss America Organization in addition to the national platform?
19. If you had to be a contestant on a reality television show, which show would you be on and why?
20. Does competing in pageants define you? How do you address those who do not support your interest in pageants?
21. With 18 Fortune 500 companies run by women (the largest number in history, but still just 3.6 percent of Fortune 500 companies), do you feel like the glass ceiling has been broken in this country?
22. What is the biggest problem facing our education system today?
23. As of late 2013, passengers can now use approved electronic devices on airplanes during take-off and landing and now the FCC is considering allowing airline passengers to make cell phone calls above 10,000 feet. Do you think this should be allowed?
24. Elon Musk has been named the Fortune's 2013 Top Business Person of the Year. Not only is he the co-founder and CEO of PayPal but he's the Chairman of the Board and the largest stakeholder in Tesla. Do you think that Americans will ever convert to fully electric cars or do you think we are too reliant on large gas-powered vehicles?
25. 5,000 volunteers in the state of Oregon are going to pay a tax per mile they drive (road usage tax) rather than pay the state's 31 cents a gallon gas tax. The concern for the state is that people are driving more fuel efficient cars, leading to the state not collecting the same tax revenue to support infrastructure improvements in the state. Would you opt for a per mile tax verses a gas tax?

26. Adam Levine was named People's Sexiest Man Alive for 2013. Do you think media outlets and magazines should name a "sexiest man of the year"? How do you define "sexy"?
27. In late November 2013, the U.S. Senate voted to end the ability of the minority to continue to use filibusters to block the President's judicial and executive nominations. Previously, a vote of 60 was needed to break a filibuster, but now only 51 votes (a simple majority) would be necessary. This will now likely lower the threshold for presidential nominations and make it easier for President Obama to accomplish his second-term priorities and appoint new top officials to key agencies. A filibuster is a prolonged speech, often used by senators when trying to prevent a vote on an issue. The filibuster speech could have nothing to do with the topic at hand. Do you think filibuster should be allowed on the Senate floor? Do you agree with the Senate's vote to lower the voting requirements to stop the filibuster?
28. The Supreme Court of the United States agreed in mid-December 2013 to review provisions of the Affordable Care Act requiring employers of a certain size to offer insurance coverage for birth control and other reproductive health services without a co-pay. At issue is whether private companies can refuse to do so on the claim that it violates their religious beliefs. Do you think employers should be able to claim First Amendment rights like individuals and claim their religious beliefs prevents them from following the law in certain instances?
29. In early December 2013, the US and 6 other super powers reached an agreement with Iran to halt any economic sanctions regarding Iran's nuclear program in exchange for Iran agreeing to tighter international monitoring of its nuclear program. Do you think this is a good interim step to curb the nuclear concern in Iran? What other steps should be taken?
30. Nelson Mandela passed away in early December 2013 at age 95. What do you think his biggest contribution to the world has been? Are schools doing enough to educate students about humanitarians like Nelson Mandela and Mother Theresa?
31. A video going around Facebook in December 2013 conveys one writer's opinion on how women are portrayed in the media in 2013. Do you think it's a correct interpretation? If so, what should be done to change the portrayal?
32. In December 2013, unemployment rates fell to 7%, a five-year low and fast food workers have taken to the streets in a nationwide protest to campaign for the minimum wage to be raised to \$15 per hour. Given the lower unemployment rate, and the argument the minimum wage workers are making, do you think minimum wage should be increased?
33. Lululemon Chairman and Co-founder has resigned from his position in 2013, after alienating customers by making statements on behalf of the company that "Frankly some women's bodies just don't actually work for [the pants]." Does Mr. Wilson's statements affect your opinion of Lululemon?

34. In 2013, a 16 year old teen in Texas was sentenced to 10 years of probation after killing 4 pedestrians while driving drunk. His defense team argued his actions weren't his fault but rather a result of "affluenza"—being wealthy, spoiled and not held accountable for bad actions. Do you think the Judge gave the right sentence?
35. On the eve of the first year anniversary of the Sandy Hook shootings, a shooting occurred at a high school in Centennial, Colorado, which left the shooter & another student dead. Do you believe the gun laws in our country are strong enough?
36. President Obama was criticized for taking a "selfie" during Nelson Mandela's funeral. Do you think his behavior was inappropriate or was he just caught on film during an inopportune moment?
37. A report came out in December showing that animal care at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. is severely lacking. Do you think zoos are still a good way to show visitors the lives of animals or do you think it's cruel to the animals?
38. A new study has found that expanding health-care coverage may not reduce the number of emergency room visits. The research showed a 40 percent increase in ER visits among low-income adults recently insured. The findings undercut the argument that expanding coverage would decrease medical costs. After full implementation what do you think we'll learn about government mandated health coverage?
39. Fiat struck a \$4.35 billion deal that allows the company to buy the 41.5 percent of Chrysler it doesn't already own and finish its acquisition of the third largest U.S. automaker. Is the American automobile industry a dying breed?
40. The California State Supreme Court unanimously ruled that Sergio Garcia, an immigrant without a green card, can practice law until his residency paperwork is approved. The decision was the first of its kind and could help others in similar situations get their law licenses. Should the U.S. streamline the process to citizenship or tighten immigration standards?
41. The mother of Jovan Belcher, the Kansas City Chiefs player who murdered his girlfriend and then killed himself in December 2012, is suing his former team for failing to diagnose his brain injuries. What level of responsibility should professional sports teams have in regard to long-term health of their current or former injured players?
42. The Agriculture Department says it's making permanent rules that allow schools to serve larger portions of lean meat and whole grains in school lunches and other meals. Guidelines restricting portion size were originally intended to combat childhood obesity, but schools & parents complained kids weren't getting enough to eat. What do you think of the changes?
43. Why did begin competing in pageant?
44. How has competing in pageants challenged you?

45. If you don't win this pageant would you consider competing again?
46. Would you rather be a member of a championship sports team or the sole champion of an individual sport?
47. Do you think it's important for young people to actively volunteer in their communities? Why?
48. What is the best advice you've received from a family member, teacher or other role model?
49. What is your definition of a winner? Of success? Of beauty?
50. Have you learned more from your formal education or from life experience?
51. What makes your hometown special?
52. You're not from here; how will you promote an area you've never lived in?
53. What personal sacrifices have you made in order to compete in pageants?
54. Define poise.
55. What are 3 adjectives to describe who you are?
56. If you had 1 hour with the President of the United States, what would you discuss?
57. There are many pros & cons to the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare). Do you believe Obamacare has had a positive or negative impact on your local community?
58. What sources do you use to get your news and current events?
59. What has been your greatest accomplishment thus far with your personal platform? And what is your ultimate goal?
60. What makes you passionate about your personal platform?
61. Are you passionate about the Children's Miracle Network? What have you done to help promote and raise funds for CMN?
62. The Miss America Organization has recently begun supporting STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Math) education, particularly for young women. Have you participated in any STEM initiatives? Why is this important?
63. Do you have to defend your participation in pageants? How do we change the conversation?
64. When did you know you were a leader?
65. How did you decide on your talent selection? And do you have any hidden talents?