

Rules

1. You may have as many students as you wish on your team; however, when your school is called to come on stage, you may only send 6 students for that round. The next time your school is called to compete, you may send the same students, all different students, or a combination of both. Each team will be accompanied to the stage with a sponsor. The sponsor will be seated near the competition table and is merely there in case of a challenge. Students are to signal their sponsor if they feel a challenge is warranted. If the sponsor interferes with the questioning in any way other than a challenge, then the team will be warned only once. Immediate disqualification will follow for the second offense.
2. A school may compete with a team of less than 6 members.
3. Students do not have to read all of the books on their list in order to participate in the competition. There are, of course, a few great readers who complete the whole list, but students who have read only a portion of the list can still be a huge advantage to a team.
4. Two teams will be on stage at a time for competition. If there is an odd number of schools competing, there will be one round with three schools participating and an equal number of questions for each school. All other rules for scoring apply.
5. After each question is asked, the team will have 30 seconds to discuss the question; a ten second verbal warning will be issued, then one member of the team will answer the question for the team. If the answer is not received before the verbal "time" the question goes directly to the other team. They will have fifteen (15) seconds with a five (5) second warning to answer.
6. The members of the team will take turns answering the questions by rotating in order around the table.
7. Every question begins with, "In what book?" The answer must include the title of the book and the author in order to receive three points; if only the title is correct, the team will receive two points. The last name of the author is acceptable unless there are two authors with the same last name; in that case, students must provide the first name also.
8. If a team misses a question, that same question goes to the other team. If they answer it correctly, they will receive two points (for title and author) or one point (for title only).
9. All questions were provided by the National Battle of the Books organization.
10. As the competition continues, teams will be eliminated based on points. The team with the highest number of points at the end of the competition will be the winner.
11. The order of schools competing against each other is determined randomly.
12. Teams will receive a warning if
 - They begin discussing an answer while the question is still being read.
 - They begin discussing an answer, and it's not their question.
 - Not all members of a team answer a question during a round.
 - **If a team member prompts their team speaker who is giving the answer to a question after the speaker has already begun, the team will be disqualified for that question.**
13. If a team receives a second warning throughout the competition, it will lose 3 points from its overall score.

14. If a team wishes to challenge an answer, they must do so before the question goes to the other team for rebuttal. Students are to immediately signal their sponsor if they feel their challenge is warranted. The sponsor will then get the attention of the moderator. The moderator will meet with that sponsor and both judges. The challenging team will be given a copy of the book in question and have ten minutes to find proof to support their challenge. At the end of the 10 minutes a team member must point to and read aloud the proof to support their challenge. One sponsor of the challenging team may assist the team during the allotted ten minutes in searching for the evidence to support their challenge. During the challenge, the non-challenging team may not talk to one another. Their sponsor will ensure this “no talking” rule. No penalty is given if a challenging team cannot find evidence to support their claim. The sponsor may initiate a challenge on her own if she feels it is warranted even if her team has not signaled her to pursue a challenge. The competition will continue pursuant to the judges’ ruling of the challenge.
15. At the State Competition, if a tie exists at the end of the Battle, the tie-breaker will consist of 10 more questions (5 per team) which will be asked in the same format as regular play. All points earned during regular play and tie-break play will be counted towards the final score. If the scores are still tied at the end of the tie-breaker, Co-State Champions will be declared using the SCISA policy regarding trophies. (The School which is the greatest distance from the event will take the trophy after pictures and another trophy will be ordered and shipped to the school closest to the event.

Battle of the Books

Scoring of the Regional Competition

- a. The number of rounds is determined by the number of schools participating in each regional competition.
- b. Two schools compete in each round.
- c. Teams are awarded 3 points for giving the correct answer of title and author.
- d. Teams are awarded 2 points for giving the correct title only.
- e. If a team misses a question, that same question goes to the other team for rebuttal.
 - i. The rebuttal team will receive 2 points if they give the correct title and author.
 - ii. The rebuttal team will receive 1 point if they give the correct title only.
- f. If there is an odd number of schools competing, there will be one round with three schools participating and an equal number of questions for each school. All other rules for scoring apply.
- g. Regional scores will be reported to the SCISA office immediately following the end of competition. The top six schools in each division (LS & MS) with the highest overall scores from the Regional Competitions will advance to the State Competition. Those schools will be contacted by SCISA with details for the State Competition.

Sponsors of Battle of the Books teams:

- Some of the book titles on these lists have alternate titles listed on other sites; however, SCISA has decided that the book titles provided with this email are the titles that must be given by team members in both the regional and state competitions. The titles must be given exactly as listed.
- The pronunciation of the authors' names does not have to be correct as long as the judges can tell what the students are saying, but www.teachingbooks.net/pronunciations.cgi is an excellent website to visit. It lists most of the authors with a link of the correct pronunciation and often with a personal comment from the author.
- Giving only the last name of the author is acceptable; however, if your team chooses to provide both the first and last names of the author, they both must be correct to receive credit. For example, if the author is Jane Yolen, Yolen is correct, Jane Yolen is correct, but Joan Yolen would be incorrect.