

2025 Battle of the Books  
Competition Process and Scoring

Two-Team Rounds

1. The Reader asks the questions and directs the Scorekeepers in scoring the Battle. The Reader and two Scorekeepers will keep track in order to ensure accurate scorekeeping.
2. Each team will tell the Reader who is the team Captain. The Reader will accept answers from only the Captain; no other team member's answer shall be heard and recorded.
3. The team to the left of the Reader will go first. Teams will alternate getting the first chance to answer the questions, so the team on the left will have odd-numbered questions and the team on the right will have even-numbered questions.
4. The "odd" team will go first and be read question number one.
5. The team shall have approximately 15 seconds to confer before giving a response. Team members are encouraged to confer. The first answer that the Captain gives is accepted as the team's answer.
6. If the title is correct, the team is awarded 5 points. If the author name is correct, the team gets an additional 2 points. If the team provided the author name but no title, the team is awarded 2 points.
7. If a team gives an incorrect answer, the opposing team has an opportunity to answer and receive the points for either the book title, author name, or both. (Note: if they do not answer correctly, the question does NOT pass back to the original team. Author name points are not passed to the next team separately from the question either.)
8. Regardless of who answered the last question, teams will continue having first chance at odd or even numbered questions only.
9. In cases of ties, additional sets of two questions will be asked until the tie is broken. Depending on the number of remaining extra questions and time, the Question Reader has the discretion to end the tiebreaker questions and call it an official tie.
10. At the end of the round (24 questions), the Reader will give an opportunity for challenges to be brought forward. If no answers are being challenged, a staff member will take the scorekeepers' and question reader's records to verify they are the same. The winner of each round will be announced at the conclusion of preliminary rounds.

Three-Team Rounds

11. The Reader asks the questions and directs the Scorekeepers in scoring the Battle. The Reader and two Scorekeepers will keep track in order to ensure accurate scorekeeping.
12. Each team will tell the Reader who is the team Captain. The Reader will accept answers from only the Captain; no other team member's answer shall be heard and recorded.
13. The team to the left of the Reader will go first. Questions will rotate through, giving each team the first chance to answer
14. The team shall have approximately 15 seconds to confer before giving a response. Team members are encouraged to confer. The first answer that the Captain gives is accepted as the team's answer.

15. If the title is correct, the team is awarded 5 points. If the author name is correct, the team gets an additional 2 points. If the team provided the author name but no title, the team is awarded 2 points.
16. If a team gives an incorrect answer to the question, the team who is next gets the opportunity to answer and receive the points for either the book title, author name, or both. After the halfway point of a three-team match, any missed questions will go to the PREVIOUS team (the other opposing team). This is to make it more fair in case there is a team that misses a lot of questions.  
Example: If you have teams ABC, during the first half of the round, any missed questions from team B will go to team C. During the second half of the round, any of their missed questions will go to team A.  
If the second team to try a question does not answer correctly, the question does NOT pass back to the original team and it does NOT go to the next team. Author names do not get passed around as a separate opportunity—they are tied solely with the main question. This is in the interest of keeping the competition to a reasonable time.
17. Regardless of who answered the last question, teams will continue having first chance at their predetermined question #, which is as follows:
  - a. Team A will be numbered # 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25, 28, 31, 34
  - b. Team B will have numbers #2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 26, 29, 32, 35
  - c. Team C will have #3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36.
18. In cases of ties, additional sets of two (or three, depending on if two or three teams are tied) questions will be asked until the tie is broken. Depending on the number of remaining extra questions and time, the Question Reader has the discretion to end the tiebreaker questions and call it an official tie.
19. At the end of the round (36 questions), the Reader will give an opportunity for challenges to be brought forward. If no answers are being challenged, a staff member will take the scorekeepers' and question reader's records to verify they are the same. The winner of each round will be announced at the conclusion of preliminary rounds.

**Answers:** An answer is considered correct even if mispronounced, as long as the Reader can discern it. That may mean that an incorrect article in a title may be used or answers that are slightly off (such as *Zekmet the Stone Cutter* instead of *Zekmet the Stone Carver* are acceptable as well. *That Stone Carver Guy* is not acceptable.) To get the author name bonus points, last names alone (or the full name) are acceptable.

**Challenges:** The questions are proofread and worded carefully to avoid mistakes. The most common challenge occurs when a question may have two correct answers. When the error has been proven by consulting the books, both teams will receive credit for a correct title. These challenges must occur before the round is complete.

**Default:** Any team which does not appear for a round will automatically default to the team which was to be its opponent.