

Ramapo Catskill Library System

Battle of the Books Rules

Adopted 9/20/08, updated 6/15/09 (*marked in red*), 8/4/09 (*marked in magenta*), 8/27/09 (*marked in green*) 6/17/10 (*marked in blue*), 8/14/12 (*marked in purple*), 7/22/13 (*marked in orange*), ~~7/31/14 (*marked in brown*)~~, 8/17/15 (*marked in turquoise*) and 8/31/16 (IN ALL CAPS).

Teams:

- Each team will consist of *at least 2 players and* up to, but no more than, **10** players.
- Players must be entering grades 6-12 in the fall when the Battle occurs.
- Each team may have no more than 5 players on stage in any given round of competition.
- ~~▪ A team may choose to participate, even if they do not have 10 members present.~~
- Substitutes may only be substituted before a new round of bracketed competition.

Game Setup:

- Team *members* are not permitted to have any papers, writing materials, books or *electronic devices* in their possession. This includes lists of the books and copies of the books.
- Bracketed elimination Battles will be played according to a schedule.
- The schedule will be set up to ensure that each team gets to play at least twice.
- ~~▪ All five team members will participate in each Battle, if present.~~
- A buzzer system will be used for both teams in each competition.
- The first team member to buzz **must officially answer the question** and may confer with teammates.
- There is no penalty for buzzing before the MC finishes asking the question.
- He/she will have **5 seconds** to answer after the MC acknowledges him/her.*
- The answer must contain the full title and *author's full exact name as it appears on the book cover (i. e. Laurie Halse Anderson, Gene Luen Yang, etc.) including middle initial if any is shown on the cover*. The title's initial article (A, An, The) does not have to be given as part of the answer.
- ~~▪ If the first team gives a wrong answer or declines to answer the question, the second team will have 5 seconds* to answer after the MC repeats and completes the question or states that the question will not be repeated (in cases where the entire question was given the first time). A team member on the second team must buzz and give the official answer. MC will ask the second team to press the buzzer and answer within 5 seconds. If the second team does not press the buzzer, the time will start when the MC states "Team 'B', give your answer."~~
- ~~▪ If the first team buzzes before the MC completes the question the first time, the MC will automatically repeat the question for the second team. A question will only be repeated for the second team if the first team buzzes before the MC completes it the first time.~~
- There will be **15 to 25** questions per Battle. (*Depending on the number of teams participating.*)
- Only team members **PLAYING IN THE CURRENT ROUND** may challenge a question **during the round at play**; there will be no challenges by coaches, parents or audience members.
- ~~▪ If a question is thrown out or challenged, another question will be substituted.~~
- ~~▪ Judges will directly face all competing players as well as the audience. Any team receiving external assistance during that team's round of competition will be disqualified.~~
- Judges will have final say in case of a challenge.

Scoring:

- Team gets 1 point for each correct answer, which **must** include the correct title and the author's full name.
- Team with most points at end of each bracket wins that competition.
- In case of a tie, an additional question will be given to break the tie.

Questions:

- Each Battle will be based on 8 titles.
- There will be 15 to 25 questions asked in each Battle.
- Any *player* that shouts out an answer (or partial answer) if they or their teammate were not the first to buzz will be penalized 1 point (even if they answer the question correctly). *If a team member shouts an answer when one of his/her teammates was the first to buzz, the team member who was the first to buzz must officially answer the question.*

**Clarification: Teams will have 5 seconds to confer or answer the question. If the 5 seconds elapses and the team member has not given a response (or part of a response), the time keeper will say "time" and the team member must answer immediately. If he/she does not answer immediately, the time keeper will say "time up" and the question goes to the other team.*