



# Mid-Hudson Battle of the Books

## High School Competition Rules

### Teams

- Players must be entering grades 9 through leaving grade 12 in the fall when the Battle occurs.
- Each team may have no more than 4 players on stage in any given round of competition.
- Substitutes must be instituted before a new game starts but not once the game has begun.

### Game Setup

- The same questions will be used for each round within a bracket.
- There will be 15 questions asked in each round.
- The questions will be based on 5 predetermined titles.
- A buzzer system will be used for all teams in each competition.
- The first team member to buzz will be called on to answer and may confer with teammates after being acknowledged.
- The team must answer within 10 seconds after the Emcee acknowledges them.
- The answer must contain the full title and full author's name. The title's initial article (A, An, The) does not have to be given as part of the answer.
- If the first team gives the wrong answer or declines to answer, a member of the second team may buzz in and answer within 10 seconds after the Emcee acknowledges them. The team may confer within that 10 second period.
- When one team is answering the other team must remain silent.
- A question will be repeated for the second team only if the first team buzzes before Emcee completes the question the first time.
- Only team members/coaches may challenge procedures. Team members will alert their coach and then procedural challenges will be deliberated with the two coaches and judges conferring quietly together.
- The Judge's ruling is final and cannot be challenged.
- Questions and answers cannot be challenged.

### Brackets and Scoring

- Teams will compete in a round-robin style tournament. Divisions of teams will be established to help cut down on total tournament time.
- The team with the most wins in each division will go on to the semi-finals.
  - **Note** *The specific layout of each tournament will vary each year depending on the number of teams.*
- Teams are asked a mix of trivia and title/author questions.
- Teams get 1 point for each correct answer.
- Any team that shouts out an answer before being acknowledged by the Emcee will be penalized 1 point.
- Any team that speaks while the other team in conferring will be penalized 1 point.