BATTLE OF THE BOOKS RULES
Middle Schools 2009 - 2010

1. A team will consist of a maximum of 12 members with 6 members allowed to play during a round. There will be no minimum number of players, and substitutions will be allowed between rounds only.

2. The order of play will be pre-determined prior to the competition. In the interest of time, teams will be requested to play a pre-determined number of rounds before exiting the stage.

3. A round will consist of 8 questions, 4 questions per team. However, all team members will be allowed to confer.

4. The moderator will read each question once and will repeat it once upon the request of the team member assigned the question. (The clock will continue to run while the question is repeated.)

5. The moderator will say the team member's name, state the question, and repeat the team member's name to start the time. Once a team member has been designated to answer the question, 20 seconds will be allowed to start the answer. The questions will be answered by team members in sequential order. The person answering may get help from his/her teammates within the 20-second time limit, but he/she may not confer until the moderator repeats the team member's name a second time. Once the answer has begun, no more conferring is allowed.

    a. If any member of a team confers at an inappropriate time, the team will receive a warning from the judges.
    b. Additional offenses will result in the offending team forfeiting its opportunity to respond.
    c. The questions will be read again and addressed to the next player in sequence on the opposing team as a rebound question. (Time will be 10 seconds and score for a correct answer will be two points.)

6. Two (2) points will be awarded for each correct book title as it appears on the official booklist. Judges may disregard articles such as “a”, "an”, and "the" at the beginning of the title. If a student adds “a”, “an”, or “the” to the beginning of a title that does NOT include the article on the official list, then the answer will be considered a correct response. One (1) bonus point will be awarded for the name of the author as it appears on the official booklist. A team cannot earn bonus points for the author's name unless the title has been stated correctly.

7. If a team fails to answer the question correctly within the allotted time, the question will be read again and addressed to the next player in sequence on the opposing team, who will have 10 seconds in which to begin the answer. The second team offered the question cannot confer until the question has been addressed to them or the team will forfeit its opportunity to respond. Points can only be earned for the title. The play will resume with the next question being directed to that same player.

8. Each team will compete with all other teams in the room. The two teams having the highest cumulative score at the end of all rounds will go on to the FINALS. In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker rule will apply.

9. The tiebreaker round will consist of 8 questions. Scoring will start at zero. Rounds will continue until a winner is determined. If more than two teams are tied, each team will play each other, and the team with the highest cumulative score at the end of play will go on to the finals. (Points are not added to the cumulative scores from the preliminary rounds.)

10. Conferences between team members and their coaches will be prohibited during rounds. However, conversation will be allowed during the interval between rounds and at scheduled breaks.

11. Challenges (to questions, answers, procedures, or time) will be handled in the following manner.

    a. There will be NO challenges to questions and answers.

    b. Team members/coaches may challenge time, scoring, and rotation.

    c. Challenges should not be based solely on pronunciation of title or author.

    d. The judges decision is FINAL.

12. If there is audible prompting from the audience, the question will be disqualified.

13. There will be no entering or exiting the competition area during a round.

14. Videotaping of the competition is not allowed.

15. The FINALS will consist of the two highest scoring teams from each room.