



# Academic Challenge Fact Sheet

August 15, 2014



## Teams

- Each team consists of three high school students (9th-12th grade) One student on each team is designated as the team captain by the team's coach/adviser. Up to three alternates should be available in case any of the original team members cannot attend the recording. Once recording begins, advisers may not communicate with or coach their team, and substitutions of any on-camera team member(s) is prohibited. Team advisers select team's members.



## Show Production

- All shows are recorded at the WEWS-TV studios at East 30th and Euclid Avenue in Cleveland. Each team will compete against two other area high schools, based on enrollment size. The season will culminate in a Championship Finale, with the three participating schools determined by overall scores from the regular season.
- Each team is expected to bring a cheering section - family, friends, faculty - to add to the excitement of the occasion. Parking is provided on Prospect Court.



## Rounds

- The show consists of five rounds. Three rounds are competitive and two are non-competitive. Most questions will come from basic high school curriculum covering math, science, geography, literature and history. Also included are general information questions on subjects such as sports, music, mythology and art. Questions are from material one would reasonably expect a high school student to know, and are not intended to stump contestants with tricky or obscure questions.
- Any team member can answer a question. Teams may consult briefly in non-competitive rounds only, before they give an answer. However, this consultation should last only a few seconds. In competitive rounds, when a team is called upon, an answer is expected immediately.
- When a team gives an answer, the first answer heard by the host will become that team's answer. If a team buzzes-in and two team members give two different answers at the same time, the host will ask the team captain for clarification and a definitive answer. The team captain can then give either of the two answers or put forth a third answer. It is the team captain's answer that will then be THE official answer for the team. Questions are only asked once. Once a question is asked, that question is discarded and will not be available for other teams to answer.
- Paper, pens, pencils and calculators are NOT PERMITTED.
- In some rounds, teams will refer to the studio monitors for visual clues. Please keep in mind, if a math question appears on a monitor during a competitive round, the students must know the answer before they buzz in. As soon as they buzz in, the math problem will disappear from the monitor.



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## Competitive Rounds

- Team members must use their desk buzzers. The first team to buzz in will be recognized by the host. A team can interrupt a question at any time, if they feel they know the answer to the question. Once they buzz-in, they will not hear the rest of the question. If a correct is given, points will be awarded. But if they give an incorrect answer or fail to give any answer, they will lose points.
- When giving an answer, all information must be correct. Questions missed are discarded and not made available to other teams. Also, teams must wait until called on by the host, before answering.

## Non-competitive Rounds

- Here a series of questions will be asked of each team, in turn. Team members don't use their buzzers, as no other team may answer. There are no penalties for incorrect answers. However, if a team answers all their questions correctly, they will be awarded bonus points.

## Show Breakdown

- The host will guide teams through the show and remind students if the round is competitive or non-competitive and how much each question is worth.
- All teams begin with 100 points.
  - **Lightning Round** – Competitive Round – 10 questions, 10 points each. All questions are related to a common subject. The last question is pre-recorded and teams must wait until the end of the video question before buzzing-in.
  - **Mix it Up Round** – Non-competitive Round – 6 questions, 20 points each. If a team answers all questions correctly, they receive 25 bonus points. All questions are visual-based and appear on the studio monitor.
  - **Picture Perfect Round** – Competitive Round – 8 questions, 10 points each. All questions are visual-based and appear on the studio monitor.
  - **Hot Picks Round** – Non-competitive Round – 8 questions, 20 points each. Each team captain is asked to choose a packet of questions for another team. Choices are packets 1, 2, 3 or 4. There is no advantage in choosing one pack over another, as all of the questions are of equal difficulty. There will be one visual science and one visual math question in each packet. If a team answers all questions correctly, they receive 25 bonus points.
  - **Grab Bag Round** – Competitive Round – questions are worth 20 points, visual questions are worth 30 points. Number of questions varies based on remaining time of show. When the final buzzer sounds, the game ends and the host will stop asking the question. Teams may answer the question only if they buzz-in BEFORE the final buzzer sounds.
- In the event of a tie, additional question(s) will be asked to break the tie. Teams will gain or lose points, depending on a correct or incorrect answer, thereby breaking the tie and determining the program winner.



## **Protesting/Challenging**

- Only team advisers or team captains may challenge an answer or the scoring, but they should do so during the commercial break immediately following that round. Once the show is completed, no adjustments can be made. The decision of the producers is final and cannot be overturned.

## **Additional Information**

- Most science questions are written in multiple choice format. A team **MUST** choose one of those answers – no other answers will be accepted, even if another answer is also correct.
- **Hidden Word Questions** – there may be a hidden word question in your show. An example of this type of question is:

In this phrase, find the name of a Biblical leader featured in the movie, *The Prince of Egypt*:

ALAMO SESAME BUNS

The correct answer, hidden in the phrase, is Moses

ALAMO SESAME BUNS

- **Fix-it Questions** – there may be a Fix-it question in your show. These involve statements in which one word is incorrect. For example:

“Philadelphia is the capital of Pennsylvania.”

The team must fix it by changing **ONE** word. The correct answer would be “HARRISBURG is the capital of Pennsylvania.” The change must be a substantive one. It would not be enough to say “Philadelphia is **NOT** the capital of Pennsylvania.”

## **Conduct and Dress**

- Students must dress appropriately for television. No logos, with the exception of the school's logos, are permitted. Remember, you are representing your school to a television audience consisting of 17 counties in Ohio. Please avoid wearing bright white shirts.
- In the second round, students will briefly introduce themselves. This is not the time for political statements or inappropriate language, this is the time for students to state their name, year in school, career aspirations or any organizations they are involved in, etc.



## Audience

- Each team is asked to bring a cheering section of 20-25 people to the recording of your show. You're welcome to invite friends, family members and school representatives. If you are unable to accommodate this requirement, please let us know. Having a studio audience adds to the excitement of *Academic Challenge*.
- Audience members may bring signs to cheer their team on, as long as they are in good taste. WEWS retains the right to forbid any signs that are too large or inappropriate.

## Contact Information

- If you have questions or need any additional information, please contact the following:

Steve Kurrent, Producer/Director  
216-431-3724  
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Moreen Bailey-Frater, Community Affairs Director  
216-431-3742  
bailey@wews.com

WEWS-TV weekday switchboard  
216-431-5555

**====DAY OF PRODUCTION EMERGENCY NUMBER====**  
**216-431-3700**

**In case of inclement weather, team advisers will be contacted directly by WEWS-TV with any status updates of the scheduled show recording.**

**Unless notified by WEWS-TV, show recording will NOT be cancelled.**

**On the scheduled day of production, advisers should use the emergency number listed above to contact the station with any questions or concerns.**