

Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) Official Handbook 2025-2026

OBOB is partially funded by a grant from the LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) administered by the Oregon State Library and receives support from the Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL), the Oregon Library Association (OLA), and Chemeketa Community College (CCC). OASL, and OBOB operating under its umbrella, is committed to equity, diversity, inclusion, anti-racism, and anti-oppression in our organization, policies, and practices.

Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who generously give their time and/or financial donations to help spread the magic of OBOB each year.

The purpose of this handbook is to record the official rules and guidelines adopted and amended as necessary by the OBOB Executive Board. The OBOB Executive Board recommends using the Official Handbook for local competitions. Additional information can be found in the Regional Manager Manual.

For more information and resources, visit our website:
www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org

Table of Contents

Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) Executive Board	3
Introduction	4
History	4
Overview	5
Role of the Executive Board.....	5
Where do I join?.....	5
Book Grants.....	5
Tournaments.....	6
Registering for Participation in OBOB.....	6
Timeline.....	6
OBOB Regions by County.....	9
What's New for the 2025-26 Season?.....	10
General Player and Team Rules	11
Sportsmanlike Conduct and Devices.....	12
Alternative Schooling Participation and Change In Enrollment.....	13
Site Coordinators	14
Organization.....	14
Running the Local Tournament.....	15
Promotional Ideas.....	16
Coach Rules and Responsibilities	18
Student Participants	19
Regional and State Tournament Rules & Procedures	21
Pre-Battle Information.....	21
Battle Structure.....	21
Running the Battle.....	23
Tie-Breakers.....	25
Battle Officiating	27
Moderator.....	28
Site Logistics (Pre-Battle).....	28
Scoring.....	29
Moderator Prep.....	30
Pre-Battle Procedures.....	30
Battles.....	31
Challenges.....	31
Finalizing Scores.....	31
Participant & Audience Unsportsmanlike Conduct.....	32
Must File Incident Report.....	32
Coach (in Competition).....	33
Scorekeeper - Official.....	33
The Basics of Scoring.....	33
Timekeeper.....	34
Protocol for Challenges	35

- How to Manage Public Relations..... 36**
- Title Selection..... 36**
 - Title Selection Committee Members..... 37
 - Title Nominations..... 37
 - Selection Criteria..... 37
 - Number of Titles..... 37
 - Interest..... 37
 - Quality..... 38
 - Previous Selections..... 38
 - Publication Information..... 38
 - Intellectual freedom..... 38
 - Committee Procedure..... 38
 - Final Title Lists..... 39
- Tournament Question Writing..... 39**
 - Question Preparation..... 39
 - Sample Battle Questions..... 39
 - “In Which Book” questions..... 39
 - Content questions..... 40
- Frequently Asked Questions..... 41**
- Additional Resources..... 44**
 - Sample Competition Forms..... 44
 - Alternative Reading Options..... 44
 - Battle Practice Resources..... 44

Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) Executive Board

Administrative Chair: Christy Sander oboblsta@gmail.com

Registration issues, facilitates OBOB Executive Board meetings.

Administrative Vice-Chair: Emily Louwsma obobvicechair@gmail.com

Assists Administrator as needed and recruits regional tournament managers.

Finance Chair: Isabel Johnson obobfinancechair@gmail.com

Oversees OBOB budget, communicates with Regional and State Managers regarding funds for tournaments, tracks donations to OBOB, facilitates LSTA and other grants, and other finance issues.

Secretary: Valerie Harris obobsecretary@gmail.com

Maintains minutes for OBOB Executive Board meetings, edits Handbook and Manual.

OLA/OASL Liaison Chair: Elaine Ferrell-Burns obobliaison@gmail.com

Acts as the OBOB liaison with other organizations such as the OLA and OASL. Provides support for the incoming Administrative Chair and OBOB promotion projects.

Outreach Chair: Karren Christensen oboboutreach@gmail.com

Manages the OBOB Facebook page as well as communications.

Title Selection Chair: Wendy Gassaway obobtitlechair@gmail.com

Handles questions and concerns about title selection, applications to join a title selection committee.

Question Editor: Ken Randall obobquestioneditor@gmail.com

Recruits, trains, and manages question writers and editors, responds to registered schools and regional managers regarding official questions and rules interpretations.

Associate Question Editor: Holly Campbell-Polivka obob3to5associateeditor@gmail.com

Assists the Question Editor

Technical Chair: Kelly Becker obobtechchair@gmail.com

Manages OBOB website, official documentation, content management and distribution.

Book Grant Facilitator: Noah Hall obobbookgrant@gmail.com

Facilitates and oversees book grants.

Regional Mentor 3-5: Thomas Moll obob3to5managermentor@gmail.com

Responds to questions and concerns regarding grade 3-5 Regional Tournaments.

Regional Mentor 6-12: Treasa Street obob6to12managermentor@gmail.com

Responds to questions and concerns regarding 6-8 and 9-12 Regional Tournaments.

State Tournament Lead: Libby Hamler-Dupras obobstatevols@gmail.com

State Tournament Manager of Volunteers: Valerie Harris obobstatevolsast@gmail.com

State Tournament Manager of Team Communications: Becky Benton obobstateteam@gmail.com

State Tournament Manager of Questions and Packets: Heidi Pramuk heidipramuk@gmail.com

Note: At times committee members are not available for immediate response. You may receive a message from an alternate contact

!! Local program questions: If you have questions about your local program, please contact your local Site Coordinator first before contacting anyone on the OBOB Executive Board. Refer to this Handbook and/or the Regional Manual before sending any emails. If you do not find the information you need in the documentation, please read the OBOB Executive Board descriptions to direct your email to the best resource to answer. Thank you!

Introduction

Oregon Battle of the Books, OBOB, is a statewide voluntary reading motivation and comprehension program sponsored by the Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL) and the Oregon Library Association (OLA) in conjunction with a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant through the Oregon State Library. Students in three divisions (grades 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12) are introduced to quality literature representing a variety of literary styles and viewpoints. Our mission is to encourage and recognize students who enjoy reading, to broaden reading interests, to increase reading comprehension, to promote academic excellence, and to promote cooperative learning and teamwork amongst students.

Lists of books are chosen and questions are written for each grade level division. Students read the books, discuss them, quiz each other on book trivia, and then compete on teams to correctly answer questions based on the books in a quiz-show-style format. Teams participate at their local level and may advance to both regional and state levels of competition.

New lists of titles for each division are compiled each year by the title selection committees based on the "Criteria for the Selection of Titles." Please see the section titled "[Book Selection Process](#)" for how books are nominated and selected. The public (students, parents, librarians, school staff, and others) is encouraged to nominate books from September 1st to October 31st and to offer feedback on those nominations from November 15th through January 31st. These links are available on our website.

Individuals may access the OBOB website (www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org). From this website you will find access for the OBOB Facebook page, the OBOB newsletter, resources, and more.

History

The original idea for Battle of the Books came from a radio program sponsored by the Chicago Public Library in the early 1940s which featured teams of students from different Chicago schools each week. It was revived in the 1960s by one of those child contestants who grew up to be a school librarian in Illinois.

Battle of the Books was brought to Oregon by school librarian and author Sybilla Cook in the 1970s. Word spread about the program through various library conferences. Successful local Book Battle programs developed in various parts of Oregon, including Salem-Keizer, Roseburg, Springfield, and Beaverton, throughout the ensuing decades. Never a mandated program, it has continued to be popular because it works. Parents are enthusiastic. Teachers and librarians find children read more books, read more intensely, and read for deeper understanding when they learn the pleasures of teamwork and academic competition.

In 2006, with the encouragement of the State Librarian of Oregon, Jim Scheppke, and the OEMA (now OASL) President Allen Kopf formed a committee to submit a grant to the Oregon State Library for a statewide Battle of the Books program. Upon receipt of the first LSTA grant, the committee moved forward with the statewide plan to be implemented in the 2007-2008 school year targeting the 3rd - 8th grades.

The OBOB Executive Board was then formed to bring various disparate Oregon programs together into one cohesive state-wide effort, and Oregon Battle of the Books was born. OBOB has continued ever since with the support from LSTA grants, the Oregon Association of School Librarians, the Oregon Library Association, and countless volunteers from all over the state, including local businesses, local service clubs, both public and school librarians, teachers, school administrators, parents, and students.

Overview

Role of the Executive Board

The Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) is organized locally by volunteers at participating schools and public libraries, regionally by Regional Managers, and statewide by the OBOB Executive Board and State Tournament Manager(s). The OBOB Executive Board is responsible for the guidelines and rules stated in the Official Handbook and the Regional Manager Manual. It also oversees the collection and distribution of information, questions, and book title lists for each grade level division. The OBOB Executive Board meets four times a year to discuss and establish rules and procedures. OBOB Executive Board committee members are volunteers; some time-intensive positions may receive a stipend. Persons interested in volunteering on the OBOB Executive Board may contact the Administrative Chair at oboblsta@gmail.com.

- Regions are overseen by the OBOB Executive Board but were originally established by the Oregon Association of School Libraries. Due to the number of schools participating within a region, it may be necessary for a region to be subdivided or merged with another region. An effort is made to reduce the number of teams at Regional Tournaments so as not to overwhelm Regional Managers. Regions may fluctuate in size and specific composition from year to year. Regional Tournament dates and locations will be determined by each Regional Manager within the window of time set by the OBOB Executive Board every year. Schools assigned to a tournament may not request a date change or be allowed to attend an alternative Regional Tournament.

Where do I join?

- **School:** Your public, private, or charter school may elect to sign up for OBOB if they have at least one team (If only one, that team will automatically attend the Regional Tournament). With multiple teams present, groups of two - five students may form their own teams, read the books, practice and compete in their local school battles to select a championship team to represent their school at the Regional Tournament. Your local Site Coordinator should use this manual to run your local tournament, but may customize it within the guidelines to meet the needs of their community.
- **Public Library:** In lieu of joining a school team, you may also check with your local public library. They can send one team to the Regional Tournament for each division (3-5, 6-8, 9-12).
 - If your local school or public library elects not to participate in Oregon Battle of the Books, you may **not** join a team from another school or library that is outside your zoning boundaries. We recommend advocating for participation and offering to help run the program by getting other interested families involved. If you would like to promote more OBOB participation in your community, please email our Outreach Chair.

Book Grants

Oregon Battle of the Books provides annual grants to support school and public library communities that struggle to participate due to financial constraints. We are committed to offering this program to students who love to read from every socioeconomic background and welcome requests for assistance. If you would like to apply for a book grant, please visit our website, oregonbattleofthebooks.org, between May 1st and June 30th and "Click to Apply."

Your school or library may apply for a grant for each division they are registered to compete in, but must reapply every year. If selected, your location will be mailed a complete set of the division books. Titles awarded through the OBOB Book Grant are added to the school or public library's collection, to be made available to all participants throughout the OBOB season. *(Note: Book grant awards should not be added to an individual*

teacher's classroom library.)

Tournaments

There are three levels of tournaments in Oregon Battle of the Books. The first is called the Local Tournament. This is specific to the needs of each individual site and is not overseen by the OBOB Executive Board. For example, some schools with large student bodies may have a well-established OBOB program that includes 200+ students on approximately 50 teams. Organizing that Local Tournament to determine which one team will represent the entire school could be a challenging process of elimination. Many schools in this situation model their Local Tournament after the Regional and State Tournaments because their structure is designed for large-scale competitions. However, other schools and public libraries may only have one team. In that situation, that team is guaranteed a place at the Regional Tournament and question sets can be used for supervised practice so that these teams have an equal opportunity to prepare themselves for competition at the regional level. The OBOB Executive Board wants each site to be as prepared as possible, and for students to have an amazing experience to deepen their love of reading no matter how they are able.

The next two Tournament levels are Regional and State. The winning teams from each site (school or public library) will compete in their Regional Tournament. Once they are registered, the coach will begin receiving information and instructions from the Regional Manager. Each Regional Tournament will supply at least one team to continue on to the State Tournament at which point all teams will be eliminated except one who will be named that year's OBOB State Champions for each division (3-5, 6-8, 9-12).

Registering for Participation in OBOB

Registration of participating schools and public libraries takes place each Fall and is available on the OBOB Website at www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org. Registration, along with a participation fee, must be submitted by the deadline to ensure delivery of the Site Coordinator's local tournament packet and a spot in the Regional Tournament. The participation fee supports OBOB's operational costs for all tournament levels, as well as for book grants. Registration for OBOB is available for all public, private, and charter schools in Oregon, as well as all public libraries. Home school groups are not eligible to register as a school. However, students may participate on a school team if they live within that school's boundaries and the school is able to host them, or they may join a team with their local public library if the library is participating in OBOB. Registration is open from September 1 to October 31. If a school or public library chooses not to participate in the OBOB Regional and State competitions but wants to receive the local school questions they may be purchased in early January. OBOB does not sell questions to commercial businesses or other non-school or library operatives. To request a set of questions please contact the OBOB Question Editing team at obobquestioneditor@gmail.com. Official questions are generally distributed by mid January.

Timeline

Below is the timeline of activities that happen throughout the year in OBOB starting in September at the beginning of the school year. Activities for the current OBOB tournament season as well as preparations for the following year happen concurrently and are noted under the "Current Season" and "For Next Season" headers below.

- Items for the current year's tournaments are in standard font
- Items for the following year's tournaments are in *italic font*

Month	Executive Board	Tournament	Title Selection	Questions	Book Grants
September		OBOB Registration opens for schools/public libraries competing in the current seasons: Sept 1st	<i>Title nominations for the next OBOB season open on: Sept 1st</i>		
October		OBOB Registration closes closes: Oct 31	<i>Title nominations period for the next OBOB season list close: Oct 31</i>		
November	Executive Board meets to review current season planning and operations		<i>Title Selection Feedback: OBOB Community is asked to submit feedback on all Titles submitted for review for next OBOB season</i>		
January	Executive Board meets to review current season planning and operations	Local Tournaments begin and are conducted in January and February as determined by the Site Coordinators MLK Jr. - Deadline for Regional Managers to volunteer, set a Tournament Date and Location	<i>Title Selection Chair announces the first half of books for next year's lists</i>	Local Tournament questions are sent to the official registered Site Coordinators by January 15th	

February		Local Tournaments conclude one - two weeks prior to their Regional Tournament. Your Regional Manager will give you dates and Qualification deadlines		Regional Tournament Questions are sent to Regional Managers two weeks before each Regional Tournament <i>Call for interested question writers - sign up using the link published on Facebook and the OBOB website</i>	
March		Regional Tournaments occur end of Feb - Mid March Regional Tournament documents due for State	<i>Title Selection Chair finalizes, announces and publishes the full reading lists for all divisions (except Student Choice Vote)</i>	State Questions are sent to State Tournament Team to prepare for competition sets	
April		State Tournament Mid-April at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon	<i>Final Title lists with Student Choice Selections published - students who attend the State Tournament vote on the final title for next year's book list.</i>	<i>Question writing teams finalized - Question writers are selected and team title assignments are set</i>	
May					<i>Book Grant applications open May 1st</i>
June	Executive Board meets to review the current season and <i>plan for</i>				<i>Book Grant Applications close June 30th</i>

	<i>the next season</i>				
July	<i>OBOB Operations - Documentation /website maintenance and updates</i>			<i>Final title questions are submitted - All division Question Editors receive the question sets for each title from assigned writers</i>	
August					<i>Book Grants Finalized - recipients are notified and sent a full set of books for the coming OBOB season</i>

OBOB Regions by County

Actual arrangements for Regional Tournaments will vary from year to year based on participation levels, availability of volunteer Regional Managers, and other factors. Regions may be combined, sub-divided, or split up and added to other Regions in any given year. **A Regional Tournament may be cancelled if no volunteer steps forward to take the role of Regional Manager.**

The table below is an example of participating areas in 7 regions. Large regions are determined by the number of participating schools, not by land size. Regions may be further divided into mini-regions, as the number of registered schools varies from year to year.

Important note: Any region and/or mini-region that does not have a Regional Manager will not have a Regional Tournament and will not be allowed to send teams to the State Tournament.

OBOB Region	Oregon County
1	Clatsop Columbia Tillamook Washington
2 East *	Marion Linn
2 West *	Yamhill Polk Lincoln Benton

3 North	Lane
3 South	Coos Douglas
4	Multnomah Hood River Clackmas Wasco **
5	Lake Klamath Jackson Josephine Curry
6	Sherman Gilliam Morrow Umatilla Union Wallowa Baker Malhuer
7	Jefferson Deschutes Crook Wheeler Grant Harney Wasco **
<p>* Region 2 East and West exist for 3-5 Division only. *Region 2 for 6-8 and 9-12 include all counties listed in East and West. ** Wasco County splits between Region 4 and Region 7 to reduce travel time for regional tournaments.</p>	

What's New for the 2025-26 Season?

Not much will have changed for experienced tournament organizers, OBOBers, and volunteers, but here are a few things that may be worth your time to review:

- While actively battling, team members are no longer allowed to carry fidgets, stuffed animals, or other items that may cause distractions
- We have clarified language around pronunciation of answers. See rule 25 in the [Running the Battle](#) section for more details and examples, including some author-name pronunciations of note for this season.
- If audience members refuse to follow rules, Moderator, or Tournament Manager instructions, they will be asked to leave the battle room or the tournament location. It is possible that the team connected to such behavior may be subject to loss of points, forfeiture of battles, and/or removal from the tournament. Unfortunately, this is in response to increasingly adverse behavior from a small number of audience members, as well as a few OBOBers in the past few years. We look forward to never implementing this new rule.
- All Internet Capable Devices; cell phones, smart watches, tablets, headphones, etc., are expected to be off and away while you are inside a battle room and battles are in progress. If you require a phone or device to access medically necessary apps that may be disruptive to play (notifications or the use of a camera app), it is the team's responsibility to request an accommodation from the

Tournament Manager *before* the tournament. Any such pre-approved device must be visible to the Moderator at all times who will quietly instruct the bearer where to sit.

- This Handbook, including the Rules Section, has been reorganized for improved flow and understanding. We encourage your feedback on this document for continued improvement.

General Player and Team Rules

The goal of Oregon Battle of the Books is to balance fun, sportsmanship, and fairness while furthering our mission of promoting literacy and inclusion across Oregon. Join us as we celebrate the hard work, dedication, and love of reading found in the youth of Oregon across the state.

- All students participating must be in grades 3-5, 6-8, or 9-12 for the current school year. Team members do not have to be in the same grade within their grade divisions, but they may not compete in a different division. Students may only participate on one team per year.
- There are two ways that students may participate on an OBOB team:
 - School Teams: Students may participate within the school where they are registered (public, private, or charter). A school may only form a team consisting of students registered at their site, or who live within their school boundary. Students who are registered in multiple schools may be a member of one single team from any school at which they are officially registered.
 - Public Libraries: Your local library may also host battles at the local level. A staff member must register the library and act as the Site Coordinator (see below). Libraries may send one team for each grade division for which they are registered to the Regional Tournament in which the library is located. Team members must live within the region where the library is located.
- If a member of a team moves out of a school or public library's boundary, or otherwise changes school enrollment (e.g., changes enrollment from a private school to a public school or vice versa) after the school/library has registered with OBOB, that student *may* be allowed to continue to participate as a team member at their original school for the remainder of the school year. The original school must agree to this arrangement but is not required by OBOB to accommodate a former student.
- The OBOB program strives to be inclusive of all Oregon students in grades 3-12. From time to time, special accommodations are required to allow students with unique abilities to participate on a team. Accommodations that reflect a 504 plan or IEP must be supplied to and approved by the OBOB Executive Board prior to the beginning of a Regional or State Tournament. Accommodations will not be allowed that give a team an unfair advantage during competition, that fundamentally alters the nature of the competition, or that creates an undue financial or administrative burden for OBOB. Accommodations will be communicated to the Regional and State Managers prior to competition and moderators will be told of accommodations prior to the beginning of a battle. All accommodations will be kept confidential between parties involved.
- Each site must have a Site Coordinator to facilitate their school or public library tournament; they may be a school library media specialist/teacher-librarian, library paraprofessional, or other school or public library staff member.
- Composition of the team members may not change once the team has been registered for the Regional Tournament. Should a team know in advance that a member will be unable to participate in the Regional Tournament, another member may be chosen to replace the missing member prior to submission of the Team Advancement Form for the Regional Tournament.
 - NOTE: Fair play is EXPECTED: hand picking, "cherry picking," or "stacking" a team to send

to Regionals is considered poor sportsmanship. Every member of the championship team from each local site is entitled to participate at the Regional Tournament if able to attend.

- In addition, teams may not add or substitute members should the team subsequently qualify for the State Tournament. Only members submitted for advancement from their **local site** may continue on to each level of the tournament. Bringing additional, unqualified players, will result in immediate disqualification at the check-in table.
- Regional Tournaments do not require participation in a district/county/ESD competition. State Tournament participation, however, does require participation in a Regional Tournament.
- Each school/public library may send only one team, per division, to the Regional Tournament.
- Teams are not able to change their assigned Regional Tournament because of a date conflict.
- Each Region will send its top team(s) in each division to the State Tournament. Some Regions will send more than one team to the State Tournament depending on the number of registered teams competing at their Regional Tournament. Regional Managers will be notified of the number of teams their Region is allowed to send to the State Tournament each year before they host their Regional Tournaments.
- Students are encouraged to form their own teams, or they may elect to be placed on a team. Site Coordinators can thoughtfully add members to existing teams, or form teams as needed.
- Teams are made up of two to four members, with one optional *alternate*, for a total of five possible members; however, no more than four students may participate in any given battle.
- There may be only one Alternate. For example, on a team with five players, one will sit out as the Alternate during each battle. They cannot participate in any way for the entire battle. Students on a team will determine who the Alternate will be for each battle, and unless a student prefers this role, taking turns is both encouraged and expected so all students can participate equally. No substitutions may be made during a battle.
- No other person may assist a team in answering questions or in making decisions to challenge, including the team's coach. The Moderator or Tournament Manager may disqualify a team determined to be receiving outside help to answer questions.
- All team players and audience members must be present in the battle room for the entire round of play, even if they have a bye. In other words, in the standard A vs. B, A vs. C, B vs. C pool play format, all members of teams A, B, and C, as well as their audience, are expected to stay in the room for *all three battles*. Teams on byes should sit still and remain quiet and distraction-free during battles. Battles may be delayed because of tie-breaker battles, but teams must be present and ready to play when it is their turn to battle.
- In the event of a situation that is not specifically addressed in the OBOB rules, the decision of the Moderator or Tournament Manager for that battle is final. The Moderator may choose to discuss any issue with the team coaches, but does not have to accept their opinions or ask for their input. The Moderator may also choose to discuss any issue with the Regional or State Tournament Manager(s). The decision of the Moderator *may not be challenged*.
- Once the score sheet is signed by each team's Spokesperson and leaves the battle site, it may not be challenged.

Though highly unlikely, there are rare circumstances in which OBOB will need to make a change to a rule during the year of play. In that event, all participating schools will be notified in as timely a manner as possible.

Sportsmanlike Conduct and Devices

Oregon Battle of the Books encourages participation throughout the state. We uphold the values of good sportsmanship, kindness, fairness, literacy, and collaboration. As in any competition, there is ultimately only

one winning team from each division every season, but that does not take away from all of the accomplishments every student and team makes along the way. Below is a description of behavior expectations to help us ensure that everyone has a safe, fair, and enjoyable tournament experience.

- Disclaimer: Though the OBOB Executive Board has the authority to refuse to allow a team to participate for unsportsmanlike behavior, every opportunity to allow teams to continue to compete will be made. Because the Executive Board cannot predict every potential scenario in advance they will support the judgement of the volunteer Moderators and Regional Managers who make this program possible. Please come to enjoy the day and celebrate the accomplishments of the teams.
- Any incident reports will be followed up on by the Executive Board. They may be filed for behavior displayed by individual participants, teams, parents, family members, or other adults associated with a team. A description of serious penalties can be found in the [Moderator](#) section of this Handbook.
- All participants and spectators are responsible for following the rules in this Handbook.
 - Follow all instructions given by the Moderator.
 - All team players and audience members must be present in the battle room for the entire round of play, even if they have a bye (see the General Rules, above). Teams on byes should sit still and remain quiet and distraction-free during battles.
 - Reinforce that the focus of this program is to celebrate a love of reading, and to promote good sportsmanship for both teams and spectators.
 - If a mistake is made by a battle official, only the team's Spokesperson is allowed to challenge it. Allow the game to continue without interference.
 - Coaches may politely correct a Moderator if they forget a step or are incorrect about a rule, but may not challenge an error. That is the responsibility of the team.
 - Silence is expected during battles with only pre-approved exceptions. Do not bring noisy food or toys/games for children or allow talking during a battle by students or adults. A parent with a disruptive child will need to wait in the hallway until the child is able to return. Wait for the door to be opened from the inside.
- If an audience member or participant is asked to leave the battle room, they must do so immediately. Failure to comply may result in the end of the battle, causing a forfeiture for the team.
- All cell phones, tablets, watches, or other electronic devices with Internet capabilities must be off and out of sight during the entire pool-play round (three battles) and all subsequent knock-out battles. You may not use them in between battles during pool play. Failure to follow this rule may result in your removal from the battle room or forfeiture of points at the Moderator's or Tournament Manager's discretion and **cannot be challenged**.
- Battles on the local, regional, and state levels may not be recorded in any manner by any members of the team or audience.
- NOTE: If you require a phone or device to access medically necessary apps that may be disruptive to play (notifications, or the use of a camera app), it is the Coaches responsibility to request accommodations from the Tournament Manager **before** the tournament, and to notify the Moderator when they enter the battle room. The Moderator will direct the person with the pre-approved device to a seat where they are able to see the person and device throughout the battles.

Alternative Schooling Participation and Change In Enrollment

Home School: Students who are currently homeschooled may participate in OBOB as a member of a school team within the public school attendance boundaries of the school in which the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) reside (as per [ORS 339.460](#)). They may also join a team at their local public library. Homeschooled students may not, however, form a team of their own. Homeschooled students wishing to participate in OBOB should contact their local school or public library for OBOB-related class and/or practice requirements.

Homeschooled students may be placed on a school/public library OBOB team at the local level following the same procedures and guidelines used for traditional students. It is the prerogative of local schools and public libraries as to whether or not they participate in OBOB. If a school registers for OBOB, they should familiarize themselves of their responsibilities under ORS 339.460. All public, charter, and private schools are welcome and encouraged to participate in OBOB.

Online Schools: Online schools may register for OBOB if they are able to send a team, in-person, to a single Regional Competition. However, if they are unable, students enrolled in online school programs who wish to participate in OBOB may follow the same public school attendance boundary residential guidelines as given above for homeschooled students, or they may participate on a public library team. Any online school wishing to clarify their ability to register and participate under this rule should contact the Board Administrative Chair, at oboblsta@gmail.com.

Change In Enrollment: Should a team member move out of a school or public library's boundary any time after the school or library has registered to participate in OBOB, or should a team member change school enrollment mid-year for another reason, the student may continue to remain on the team for the remainder of the school year. Schools are encouraged, but not required by OBOB, to continue to allow a formerly-enrolled student to participate.

Site Coordinators

The Site Coordinator is a key conduit for success at the local level. They are responsible for receiving communications from OBOB Executive Board members as well as for communicating with their local community. They will organize, or help to organize, their local tournaments along with other school and parent volunteers and encourage as many student participants and teams as possible at their local level.

NOTE: It is possible that the Site Coordinator may not be the same person who registers the school or public library for OBOB. (e.g., a principal may ask their school secretary to fill out the registration, but they are not running the program.) If this is the case, make sure the registrant provides OBOB with accurate contact information as soon as it is available. Once done, the registrant has completed their task. The Site Coordinator should be a staff member of the local school or public library. However, it is common for a parent volunteer to run the program, especially in a school environment. This parent will be considered your local OBOB Coordinator and will not be on record with OBOB. Please forward all emails to them *except the official question sets*. If they are handling the questions as well, have them printed and prepared at the school or public library site. You may assign them to be the official Site Coordinator by providing their contact information to OBOB only if there is no other staff member available for that role.

Organization

- Receive email communication from OBOB Executive Board members. This will include important information about tournament qualification deadlines, the official questions to be used in the local tournament, as well as communication from their Regional Manager about the Regional Tournament schedule and location.
- Communicate/advertise through your local channels that your location is hosting Oregon Battle of the Books. (newsletters, websites, flyers, classroom visits, etc.)
- Provide dates and information for local signups.

- Create a schedule for local tournament activities (which may or may not include the following: signup, team formation, orientation, practice options, pool play schedule/dates, bracket play schedule/dates, etc).
 - NOTE: Locations with only one team will look much different than a location with 30+ teams. You are free to adjust your program accordingly. The official Rules are created with large-scale tournaments in mind.
- Sign up participants and collect contact information from parents and/or student participants.
 - Guarantee that each team, regardless of age division, has an adult who will be the Coach of Record to accompany the championship team to Regionals and/or State if they win. In some cases, this may be the Site Coordinator. Please confirm with your local organization about rules governing transportation of minors if a non-parent/guardian will be providing transportation.
- Make sure the rules are available to everyone participating in the local tournament.
 - If needed, consider hosting an orientation for new participants to learn the rules. New students are often anxious about battle logistics, so hosting a demonstration battle or giving teams a chance to have a practice battle will alleviate that anxiety.
- Ensure that all participants (including parents) are aware of the resources provided by OBOB as well as your local site (resources on the OBOB website, books, ebooks, and audio books available for free use, practice questions available through public libraries or student/parent groups, worksheets developed on site by volunteers, etc.). Keep play fair by ensuring all members are given the same opportunities.

Running the Local Tournament

- Run or support the running of local battles needed to determine a local championship team who will represent their school or public library for each division your location is registered to compete in.
- Recruit volunteers to help with roles in the local tournament, as needed: moderators, time keepers, score keepers, runners, etc.
 - *Note: This may be recruiting one main volunteer to be responsible for recruitment and parent communication. (your local OBOB Coordinator) You don't have to do it all by yourself! Be flexible and ask for help whenever you need it.*
- Print and organize Question Sets provided by the OBOB Question Editor following the directions provided.
- Will not share the question sets with others, allow teams to practice with them independently, or let teams take them off site.
 - *Note: Every site is different in size and experience level. The question sets range from easiest (set 1) to hardest (set 40). You do not have to use them all. However, we recommend that each team answer the same questions in a range of difficulty. This will not only provide a fair tournament experience for everyone, but will also help prepare your teams for the difficulty of Regional and State level competition.*
- Advance your local championship team for their Regional Tournament!
 - REMINDER: Once a team has been submitted for Advancement to Regionals, they may **not** swap out team members at **any** time for the remainder of the season. Students are allowed to create their own teams but “cherry picking” at the local level is considered poor sportsmanship. All team members on the local championship team are allowed to advance to the Regional Tournament if they are able, and no more than five students may be registered for any one team. If you know a team member will not be able to attend the Regional Tournament, another student may be chosen to take their place prior to sending in the team’s Advancement Form.

However, unless registered as a member, the original student cannot be added back if the team advances to State. If you have concerns or need clarification, Site Coordinators can reach out to their Regional Manager for assistance.

- Accommodations: Please notify the Coach(es) of Record they will need to request accommodations for any participant or audience member who needs one. Coaches may need assistance providing documentation (IEP, 504 plan, medical documentation, etc.) in order for a request to be considered. You may be contacted by the OBOB Administrative Chair for clarification and/or further information.
- The Coach(es) of Record will begin receiving emails from the Regional Manager once their team is registered. Make sure they are aware and will pass along information to their team.

If you are not the Coach of Record, you are done!!! Please enjoy the rest of the season.

Promotional Ideas

A wide variety of ideas have been submitted for promoting OBOB and motivating students to read. Several ideas are outlined below. If you do something not on this list that you love, please share it with us!

- Involve parents, teachers, administrators, and the public as much as possible.
- Offer group orientations for students, staff, and parents.
- Do book talks using OBOB books. Look for slide shows and recorded book talks published by local schools, public libraries, authors, and publishers.
- Make bookmarks from each level's official book list.
- Design visible displays or bulletin boards publicizing the program.
- Saturate school bulletins, district newsletters, and other handouts with program information.
- Encourage teachers to read books or portions of books aloud in their classrooms.
- Hold contests to redesign book covers, create bookmarks, or design a school logo for Battle of the Books.
- Have students create large posters of book covers to display.
- Develop a variety of study guides or literature units related to the battle books that include games, crossword puzzles, "first line" quizzes, etc.
- Create a large display including title/author lists, participant's names, and places to chart each student's progress.
- Hold a party or a library sleep-over for students who read all of the books on their list (not all 16, just those they are responsible for reading on their team).
- Purchase unabridged audio recordings of the books.
- Take team pictures and prominently display them.
- Create murals about OBOB books to place on display in the lobby.
- All-school read: pick one book from the OBOB selection for the WHOLE school to read.
- Classroom teachers meet, read, and discuss the OBOB books.
- OBOB blog and/or Facebook for school community.
- Hold discussion sessions to help teams prepare for tough questions.
- Free book giveaway: focus on OBOB titles for summer reading.
- Distribute bookmarks.
- Create a school logo contest which any student is able to enter. Use requirements such as: Oregon Battle of the Books, school, year, and specific size needed for logo. Students can be the judges for greater investment, and the winner's logo is included on a school t-shirt the teams wear to

Regionals/State. This has been done with a color printer/iron on transfer with success. The logo winner might also receive a t-shirt.

- Check your local Public Library for their promotional ideas, potentially including practice questions. The list is only limited by your own creativity and time! Students who participate in the Oregon Battle of the Books are usually easy to motivate and are enthusiastic. (Do not forget to save a copy of everything you do as a guide for next year!).

Thank You

For making OBOB such a successful experience at your site.

Coach Rules and Responsibilities

Coaches are required at all divisions, but will have more responsibilities with younger students. An adult Coach of Record must accompany all teams to Regional and State Tournaments.

- Become familiar with all rules and procedures provided in this Handbook and commit to following them.
- Prepare their team(s) by teaching students the procedures and rules, including reading them the Student Participation section with special emphasis on the “Remember...” bullet points.
- Conduct practice battles which follow OBOB protocol. Practice questions are not provided by OBOB.
 - NOTE: It is strongly suggested that local competitions follow the same rules and procedures used at the Regional and State Tournaments, if possible. This will help prepare students for competing without having to “unlearn” location-specific practices that may hurt their chances of competing at higher levels. However, local needs may require adjustments.
- Encourage and moderate discussions about the books.
- Encourage as many student participants and teams as possible at the local level.
- Direct teams in writing their own practice questions if additional questions are desired.
- Offer moral support to the Moderator during battles and help manage audience behavior.
- Reinforce that the focus of this program is to celebrate the love of reading, and to promote good sportsmanship for both teams and spectators.
 - NOTE: A Moderator is not required or encouraged to discuss issues with coaches prior to, during, or after a battle. The Moderator does not have to accept the coaches’ input and the Moderator’s decision is final.
- Must secure adult supervision for their team (3-12) at all Regional and State Tournaments.
- Bring a complete set of concealed books (traditional paper copies, no electronic versions) to Regional and State Tournaments.
- Provide a volunteer to be an unofficial scorekeeper (for the whiteboard) or Timekeeper at Regional and State Tournaments. This may be you. These volunteers will travel with their teams during pool play to avoid any conflicts between officiating and supporting their teams. Volunteers will NOT be asked to officiate when their teams are in play.
 - **Important note:** *At State, this is a requirement. A team that does not provide a volunteer may not be allowed to compete due to the critical nature of ensuring all officiating roles are staffed.*
- Communicate and confirm attendance at Regional and State Tournaments.
 - Check in when the whole team arrives at the tournament. If a team member is arriving late, or must leave early for any reason, communicate with the Tournament Manager in advance, if at all possible.
- If a team member(s) may not be photographed, please include this information when submitting the team’s Advancement Form.
- Check-in includes providing signed Good Sportsmanship Statements from team members, parents, and coaches. (These will be provided by the Tournament Managers.)
- Follow the specific guidelines provided for coaches at the Regional and State Tournaments.
- Attend the mandatory volunteer training prior to the Regional and State Tournaments, *if requested*.
- Notify the Regional Manager when registering a team for the Regional Tournament if a team or audience member needs special accommodations. All accommodations must be pre-approved by the OBOB Executive Board.
 - NOTE: *Accommodations must be backed by an IEP, 504 plan, or other medical documentation to be provided to OBOB. We will make every effort to meet the needs of all participants and audience members within the limitations of our program, but we cannot guarantee all requests will be approved. Failure to make a request in advance will mean no accommodations will be allowed.*

Student Participants

Student participants are what it's all about! Every adult volunteer works hard to help you have the most rewarding experience possible. Books are selected based on **your** recommendations, and hopefully give insight into the many lived experiences of everyone you meet at school and in the community. There will also be a broad range of reading levels, graphic novels, one or two brand new books, and maybe a classic that should never be forgotten. Participating in Oregon Battle of the Books will guarantee you will get to experience great literature. Below is a participation timeline and some reminders to help get you started.

Timeline

- September - October:
 - Find out if your school is participating in OBOB. If not, check with your local public library. Homeschoolers can contact their neighborhood school (where they would attend if they went to a public school) or local library. If neither is planning to participate, ask your parent or guardian to consider starting the program at your school. It only takes one volunteer to make it happen.
 - Start reading the books! Think about how you remember details best (e.g., taking notes, writing practice questions, using sticky notes, drawing pictures of characters, locations, or pets, or retelling the story). Using your own abilities will help you remember details best.
 - If you're interested in nominating books for the next OBOB season, you can do so from September 1st - October 31st on the OBOB website: oregonbattleofthebooks.org.
 - START READING!!!
- November - December:
 - KEEP READING!
 - If you don't already have a team, now is the time to make one and make sure the Site Coordinator running OBOB at your school or public library knows. You have several options.
 - How Teams Form
 - Usually, students in the same division who want to work together can form a team of their choosing. They don't have to be in the same grade or class, just the same division and location (age groups are 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, or 9th-12th). You may also ask to be placed on a team by the local Site Coordinator. In addition, the Site Coordinator may need to add students to existing teams based on the needs of your site. Remember that OBOB is for everyone. Make sure new students on your team feel welcome.
 - Some locations don't have the option of allowing teams to form independently. Though we encourage students to choose their own teams, we cannot predict the needs of each site. This is an excellent opportunity to meet new friends.
 - Once you have your team, find a time to meet as often as possible to study and make it fun.
- January - February:
 - Depending on your location, you may be battling during this time or just studying the books with your team. Find out what your school or library has planned and READ!
 - Practice, practice, practice!!! Plan a weekly meeting (or more) with your team, or practice during lunches, etc. Do what works best for you! You don't have to read all 16 books (12 for high school), so focus on the ones you've agreed to be responsible for knowing inside and out. Once you have those down, go ahead and read the others (or as many as you want).
 - Ex: On a team with four students, each student needs to become an expert on only four (3rd-5th and 6th-8th) or three (9th-12th) books. Choose a fair method for dividing the books amongst the team.

- Many public libraries create practice questions that are posted on their websites as they're written. Check websites often for added questions throughout the season.
- Sometimes there are other study options available from your local site or parent groups. Check with your Site Coordinator.
- At sites with more than one team, a competition will take place in February to determine which team will represent their school or library at the Regional Tournament. This is when the season ends for everyone except the Championship Team that moves on.
- March - April:
 - Regional Tournaments around the state take place from the end of February through the middle of March (it's slightly different each year). If you're not ready to be done but you aren't your site's Championship Team, ask your Site Coordinator how you can volunteer at the Regional Tournament.
 - The full title list for the next season is finalized at the State Tournament in April. There is no reason to wait until the fall if you want to start reading new books now!

Remember...

- **Respectful Competition:** Don't be a distraction! Bringing fidgets to the battle area is not allowed. If you need something to hold, it must fit in your pocket and be silent. Show it to the Moderator before your battle begins so they know. You are expected to remain in your seat during the battle and be quiet or (preferably) silent during the other team's turn. Show them the respect you want them to show you.
 - **Alternates:** If you have five team members, take turns being the alternate (the student who sits out during a battle). *If one student wishes to be the alternate for all battles, that is okay, too, but it should be their choice.
- **Teamwork:** Learn to listen and respect your team members. Everyone will make mistakes, but how you react to them will either help or hurt your team. The strongest teams support each other no matter what. Consider using phrases during practice to help each other stay focused and positive.
 - Ex. If one teammate suggests a wrong answer and another suggests the right one but the team or Spokesperson makes the call to try the incorrect answer, say, "That's okay! Shake it off!" to the person who made the call, and acknowledge the player who suggested the correct answer: "You were right! Way to go!" This practice will help you learn to trust one another which will only make your team more formidable.
 - Verbal communication like this won't be an option during battles, but if you've been practicing this way, you'll know your team is there for you. You can give verbal support between battles.
- **Be Reliable:** Make sure you read your assigned books and show up for practice prepared. Ask for help if you're struggling with the length of a book, or if something is difficult to understand. Adults are excellent resources to ask about odd things in older books, too.
- **Good Sportsmanship:** The worst feeling is being kicked when you're down. Being positive extends beyond your own team. Every team has worked hard and is both nervous and excited about the tournament they're playing in. Being gracious winners is just as important as being a gracious loser. If you win, be kind and supportive to the other team. Never gloat or put down other players. You might just find yourself losing that win.

Regional and State Tournament Rules & Procedures

Pre-Battle Information

1. To ensure fairness of play, all cell phones, tablets, watches, or other electronic devices with Internet capabilities must be silenced and out of sight during all battles and bye rounds.
 - NOTE: If you require a phone or device to access medically necessary apps that may be disruptive to play (notifications or the use of a camera app), it is the team's Coach's responsibility to request an accommodation from the Tournament Manager before the tournament and to notify the Moderator prior to the beginning of play. Any such pre-approved device must be visible to the Moderator during battles.
2. Photos may only be taken before and after a round (pool play) or battle (brackets). Ask the Moderator when that is allowed.
3. Participants are not allowed to bring fidgets, stuffed animals, signs, or other similar items to the competition area during battles. Team members should remain seated throughout their battle. They also may not speak above whisper level or cause distractions during the other team's questions or answers.
 - NOTE: If a team requires an accommodation related to this rule based on a 504 plan, IEP, or other documented need, they must seek pre-approval from the OBOB Administrative Chair prior to participating at Regionals or State. Accommodations related to this rule at the local level should be approved by local Site Coordinators.
4. No device recording of battles may occur at any tournament level of competition, Local, Regional or State.. Coverage of the competition by local media may occur on a limited basis, but may not include audio of official questions being asked or answered.
5. Neither teams nor audience members may use a title/author list or notes on the books of any kind during a battle.
6. Each team's Coach will bring a set of OBOB books in a non-transparent bag or box (physical copies, not electronic versions) and hand them to the Moderator when they enter the room for each battle.
7. Teams compete with anywhere between two to four members with one optional alternate player, for a total of up to five members per team. All competing members must be physically present for a battle.
8. One student will serve as the Spokesperson throughout each battle and no other team member may answer questions. The role of Spokesperson may be changed for each battle, but not during a battle.
9. Alternate members who are not playing will sit in a designated audience area during battles and may not participate in the battle in any manner, including any decision to challenge.

Battle Structure

10. Question Structure:

All Questions are worth 5 points each, regardless of type.

- "In Which Book" questions will be read first and are worth a total of 5 points. In the case of a partially correct response, the first correct response (whether it be author or title) will be worth 3 points, and the second correct response will be worth 2 points. Book titles and authors must be stated as listed on the official OBOB book lists and OBOB website www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org.
 - Omission of the articles *a*, *an*, and *the* at the beginning of a book title will be accepted as correct.
 - However, adding an article such as *a*, *an*, or *the* anywhere title is incorrect.
 - For example, this title is correct: *Firekeeper's Daughter*, but *The Firekeeper's Daughter* is incorrect.
 - If a book has two authors, the spokesperson must say both authors to earn points for that answer.
 - For books with two authors, the author names can be given in either order.
 - However, if a book has only one author, giving two authors for that book is incorrect, even if one of those authors is correct.

- For "Content" questions, 5 points are given for the complete answer. Designated Two-Part questions will be scored with 3 points for the first correct answer given and 2 points for the second correct answer given. **No partial scores will be given on Content questions unless the question is a designated Two-Part question.** For example, asking for a full name is not considered to be a Two-Part question unless specifically designated as such, so failure to give a complete name in response to a question asking for one will result in 0 points, even if the team provides a correct first or last name.

11. Battle Types

- Pool Play: There will be 16 questions per battle at local, regional, and state tournaments (8 "In Which Book" and 8 "Content" questions).
- Pool Play: The typical pool play structure will have three teams in a room for three battles following the A vs. B, A vs. C, B vs. C format. There are exceptions based on the number of teams present, so follow the directions given to you by your Regional Manager. There are two rounds of pool play (two battles for each team in each round, for a total of four battles per team) in which teams accumulate points for seeding. All teams play four times.
- Bracket Rounds: The top-scoring teams proceed to a single-elimination knock-out tournament. Advancing to single-elimination bracket play is determined by each teams' cumulative scores from pool play. When bracket play begins, pool play scores are no longer considered. Advancing through the single-elimination knock-out bracket is based on head-to-head wins. (For examples of Bracket Structure see the Appendix of the Regional Manager Manual.)
- Regional Bracket Rounds: Follow the same pattern as Pool Play except: the battle(s) determining which teams will advance from Regionals to State (the "Round to Go") will consist of 32 questions (16 of each type). This may be the semifinal or the final depending on how many teams your region is sending the State. Either the semifinal or the final at Regionals, whichever is *not* the Round to Go, will consist of 24 questions (12 of each type).
- State: Follow the same pattern as Pool Play except: the semifinal battle at the State Tournament will consist of 24 questions (12 of each type). The final match at the State Tournament will consist of 32 questions (16 of each type).

12. Competition General Guidelines:

- All team players and audience members must be present in the battle room for the entire round of play, even if they have a bye (see Pool Play below). Teams on byes should sit still and remain quiet and distraction-free during battles. Battles may be delayed because of tie-breaker battles, but teams must be present and ready to play when the announcement to begin is given. The door is to remain closed during the entire round of play unless express permission is given by the Moderator.
- Two teams will compete during a single battle. A coin toss (or other random method) will be held before the start of each battle. The suggested format for who gets to call coin tosses is as follows:
 - In pool play with three teams and three battles following the A vs. B, A vs. C, B vs. C format, the coin toss should be called by team B, then team A, then team C before the three battles, such that each team gets to call one coin toss.
 - In bracket play, the higher seeded team should call the coin toss. E.g., in a quarterfinal battle with the 3 seed playing the 6 seed, the spokesperson for the 3rd-seeded team should call the coin toss
- The team that wins the coin flip decides where they want to sit – on the Moderator's left to receive the first and all odd questions (the "odd" team), or on the Moderator's right to receive the second and all even questions (the "even" team). During all bracket rounds, and during pool play in the 9-12 division, teams will have opportunities to steal questions answered incorrectly by the other team. Efforts will be made to ensure teams can quietly discuss answers among themselves without fear of being overheard by the opposing team.
- The Moderator will discourage teams from distracting the opposing team. If a team (or their fans) persists in distracting opposing teams or otherwise engages in unsportsmanlike behavior,

the Moderator or tournament director may take corrective action, up to and including disqualifying a team from the tournament.

Running the Battle

13. The Moderator may review the rules and/or read a Good Sportsmanship Statement with the participating teams.
14. The Moderator will find out who is serving as the Spokesperson for each team. Answers will be accepted only from that spokesperson; no other team member's answer shall be considered or recorded for points during a battle.
15. The Moderator will use pre-numbered questions in the order given if they are provided (if pre-numbered questions are not provided, the Moderator will shuffle and number the questions). The Moderator will ask a question, prefacing the question with the name or location of the team to which it is directed. Timing starts immediately after the question has been read for the first time. Teams will have 15 seconds to quietly discuss the question amongst themselves. Once the spokesperson begins to give an answer to the Moderator, all discussion must stop and no other team member may prompt the spokesperson verbally or non-verbally. **Only the first answer the spokesperson gives will be accepted; the team cannot change their initial answer or use up any remaining time to guess other answers.** The Moderator will not ask for more information, specifics, or details. Acceptance (or not) must be based on what the spokesperson answers, without prompting.
 - NOTE: The opposing team may discuss the question during the 15 seconds or until the other team's spokesperson starts talking, but they must remain seated and be very quiet so as not to distract the other team.
16. Time: Discussion must stop as soon as "time" is called, and the question must be answered immediately. Moderators should allow only roughly one second ("One-Mississippi") of hesitation time. The Moderator will mark the question as answered incorrectly if: the Spokesperson does not begin to answer during this time, if discussion continues after time is called, if a team member other than the Spokesperson answers, or if a team member other than the Spokesperson prompts the Spokesperson verbally or non-verbally. In a battle with steals, the Moderator will then turn to the other team and read the question in its entirety to them. That team then has 15 seconds of discussion time. When time is called, the Spokesperson must answer immediately.
 - NOTE: During pool play battles in the 3-5 and 6-8 divisions, there are no steals and this situation would result in the Moderator revealing the correct answer and moving on to the next question.
17. Repeats: During a battle, a team's spokesperson may request a repeat of a question. All repeats must take place within the 15-second time limit, which starts after the question is read for the first time. Having the question repeated does not restart the timer. If the Moderator stumbles while reading a question, they should stop and start over without a time penalty to the team.
18. No Steals: No steals are allowed for the 3-5 and 6-8 grade divisions in pool play battles at Regionals and StateTournaments. During pool play battles for our 3-5 and 6-8 divisions, if a team gives an incorrect answer, no points are awarded. The moderator will reveal the correct answer and the battle continues with the next question and the other team.
19. Steals (General): For all 9-12 division battles, and for knock-out rounds in ALL divisions, if a team gives an incorrect or partially incorrect answer, the question is repeated in its entirety to the other team with another 15 seconds to discuss. Note: If the acquiring team also does not answer correctly, play does NOT pass back to the first team; the moderator reveals the answer and the battle progresses to the next question.
20. Partial-point Steals: When a team answers an In Which Book or Two-Part Content question partially correct, they receive 3 points and the second team is able to steal the remaining 2.
 - The Moderator will reveal which part is correct and which part is incorrect before repeating the question in its entirety to the acquiring team with another 15 seconds to discuss (e.g., "That is the correct title, but incorrect author, 3 points. Team 2, you have a chance to steal the remaining 2 points.")

- The acquiring team must only give the missing element to steal the remaining 2 points. They are allowed, but not required, to repeat the correct portion already supplied by the first team. They will be judged only on the missing element and not be penalized if they incorrectly repeat the already-supplied correct portion.
 - For Two-Part Content questions, a team may not guess two new answers. If they do, they will be judged only on the first of the two answers supplied.
 - Two-Part Content question examples: Answer on the question card is “Apple(s) AND Cinnamon” and the first team answers “Apples and Nutmeg.” Moderator says something like, “Apples is correct for 3 points, but Nutmeg is incorrect. Team 2, you have a chance to steal,” then rereads the question to the acquiring team.
 - Acquiring team answers: “Apples and Cinnamon” – 2 points awarded
 - Acquiring team answers: “Cinnamon” – 2 points awarded
 - Acquiring team answers: “Cinnamon and Cloves” – 2 points awarded, as ‘Cinnamon’ was offered first, but team should be warned not to supply two new answers
 - Acquiring team answers: “Cloves and Cinnamon” – 0 points awarded, as the incorrect ‘Cloves’ was offered first, and team should be warned not to supply two new answers
21. In the event that neither team answers correctly (or in battles without steals, if the first team answers incorrectly), the Moderator will reveal the correct answer.
22. Regardless of who scored on the previous question, odd-numbered questions will be read to the odd team first and even-numbered questions will be read to the even team first. In a battle with steals, this means that an acquiring team may get to answer two questions in a row: the one it acquired in a steal opportunity, followed by their own.
23. If a question is being read and any team member interrupts the Moderator, that team’s Spokesperson must answer the question immediately. NOTE: Whispering with teammates is not considered an interruption.
24. Spoils/Burns: If the Moderator makes a significant mistake while reading a question such that any part of the answer is revealed or heavily hinted at, the question shall be considered spoiled and thrown out/burned.
- If a question is spoiled before the first team has had a chance to answer, the replacement question will be read to the original team first.
 - However, in a battle with steals, if the first team has already answered the question incorrectly or partially incorrectly, the replacement question will only be read to the second, acquiring team. (In other words, the first team should not get two chances to answer a question when a Moderator spoils a question).
 - If it is an “In Which Book” or Two-Part “Content” question and the first team was awarded 3 points, after which the question was spoiled, the acquiring team will get a new question and have a chance to score the remaining 2 points with any correct or partially-correct answer (**no more than 5 points can be scored on any question, regardless of situation**).
 - The substitute question shall be numbered with the number of the original question.
25. Pronunciation: An answer is considered correct even if mispronounced, as long as the answer is a reasonable phonetic pronunciation given the letters in the word. This rule extends to author names and words in book titles. A reasonable phonetic pronunciation of an author’s name should be granted full credit, even if the answer given is not the way the author pronounces their own name. Note: credit should not be given for pronunciations that are “close enough” or when the Moderator “can tell what the team meant.” Some recent examples for clarity of this rule:
- With an author name of “Jeff Zentner,” neither “ZET-ner” nor “ZENT-er” should be accepted as pronunciations for the last name, because neither is a reasonable phonetic pronunciation of the name containing an “n” both before and after the “t”
 - Reasonable phonetic pronunciations for the name “Phoebe” as a character might differ, and all should be accepted. This includes the standard pronunciation of “FEE-bee”, but also reasonable phonetic pronunciations such as “FO-bee” or “fuh-EE-bee” that OBOBers who have only ever read the name may reasonably infer phonetically from the letters in the name
 - Occasionally, the way an author pronounces their own name may differ from the way that many people might consider a “reasonable phonetic pronunciation” of their name given the way that it

is spelled. If OBOBers take the time to learn the way the author themselves pronounce their name, they should get credit. In the 2025-26 season, please note the following:

- Roshani Chokshi (6-8) pronounces her first name as “ROSH-nee,” with two syllables. Both “ROSH-nee” and other reasonable phonetic pronunciations (e.g., “ro-SHAH-nee”) should be accepted for credit.
- Jeanne DuPrau (3-5) pronounces her name as “JEEN doo-PRO,” notably with a single-syllable first name.
- Thanhà Lại (3-5) pronounces her name as “TANG-ha LIE,” notably with a hard ‘G’ sound in the middle of “Thanhà.” Both “TANG-ha” and other reasonable phonetic pronunciations (e.g., “THANH-ha”) should be accepted for credit.

26. The question card may contain information to help a moderator judge whether an answer should be given credit. Some examples:

- Words in the answer contained by parentheses are not required for an answer to be correct. E.g., if the answer on the card is “(Southeast) Portland” then either “Southeast Portland” or “Portland” should be accepted
- Words underlined in an answer are required for an answer to be correct. E.g., if the answer on the card is “Cerulean blue,” then the word “Cerulean” is required for credit and an answer of “Blue” should be deemed incorrect.
- Additional notes from the question editing team may appear in italics to either help moderators pronounce words or names correctly in a question or to help a moderator judge whether an answer should be deemed correct.

27. Multiple questions may appear on certain book titles and some book titles may not be asked about at all in any given battle.

28. Challenges: At the end of a battle, the Moderator offers both teams an opportunity to challenge one question they were asked, and allows 15 seconds for the team's Spokesperson to accept or decline. While challenges are not encouraged, the opportunity must be provided.

- Note: Teams are limited to one challenge per round and challenges may only be requested for questions that were read to the challenging team. (e.g., you may not challenge a question or answer the other team was asked or gave.)
- If there are no challenges, the final score will be announced. The battle will be considered complete, and no further challenges will be entertained.
- If a team wishes to challenge a question, the Moderator will follow the procedures and rules for challenges provided in this handbook (see “Protocol for Challenges”).

29. Accepting the score: The battle will be considered complete when each team has been provided an opportunity to challenge questions, scores have been verified by the Moderator and Scorekeeper(s), and the official score sheets have been initialed by the Spokespersons. Once the official scoresheet leaves the room, further discussion of the battle or score will no longer be considered.

Tie-Breakers

30. Seeding for bracket play is based on total points earned in pool play rather than wins. Each team plays four times during pool play. If there is a tie for the **last spot or spots** in bracket play, there will be a tie-breaker battle. Challenges ARE allowed at the end of each tie-breaker round with the usual challenge time rules and procedures in effect.

31. Ties for any other seed in bracket play can be settled by flipping a coin, drawing names from a hat, or any random method selected by tournament organizers.

32. Tie-breaker battles will occur when two or more teams tie after pool play for the final spot or spots in bracket play OR when two teams are still tied after any challenges are settled in a knock-out battle during bracket rounds.

33. In a tie-breaker round, each tied team will be asked one In Which Book, then each team will be asked one Content question, with no opportunities for steals. Each tie-breaker “round” is one question of each type for each team. Opportunities to challenge will be offered after each round and all other normal rules apply

(e.g., there is still a 15-second time limit, answers must come from the spokesperson, etc.). If, at the end of a tie-breaker round, one team has fewer points than the other(s), they are eliminated.

- Example 1: In a Sweet 16 knock-out battle, two teams are tied after the battle and any challenges. A tie-breaker process starts, one round at a time, until the teams are no longer tied and one team advances to the quarterfinal round.
 - Example 2: After pool play, three teams are tied for 16th place. A tie-breaker process starts with all three teams in one room. If, after any round, one team scores fewer points than the other two, they are eliminated from further rounds. If, after any round, one team scores more points than all remaining teams, they get the 16th spot in the knock-out bracket.
 - Example 3: After pool play, four teams tie for 4th place. Draw names from a hat to assign 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th place. Do not do a tie-breaker procedure.
 - Example 4: After pool play, four teams tie for 15th place. A tie-breaker process starts with all four teams in one room. If, after any round, one or two teams score fewer points than the others, they are eliminated. If, after any round, one team scores more points than all the others, they get the 15th seed (or 16th seed if the 15th seed has already been secured). This process is repeated, round by round, until two teams advance OR until only two teams remain, at which point names can be drawn from a hat or a coin flipped to determine 15th and 16th position.
34. In the very unlikely event that tie-breaker rounds continue until all available back-up questions are exhausted, a coin flip, drawing names from a hat, or other random method will be used to determine which team or teams advance.

Battle Officiating

The following are the required roles for a battle to be officiated. These positions work collaboratively to provide a fair and enjoyable battle.

- **Moderator**
 - The Moderator is a key volunteer who allows OBOB to happen at all! Without Moderators, there could be NO battles! Thank you.
 - Read questions and award points to teams that answer correctly.
 - Check that the scores recorded by the Scorekeepers are accurate.
 - Guide the audience and teams through every aspect of fair play.
- **Official Scorekeeper (paper scoresheet)**
 - The Official Scorekeeper is partnered with a Moderator in a battle room and will usually stay with them until that room is no longer needed. They are an invaluable resource.
 - The Scorekeeper is responsible for filling out the paper scoresheet that is an official record for the OBOB tournament, and will personally hand it off to either their designated Runner, or take it directly to the person keeping all of the scores for the tournament.
 - Will ensure that the official scoresheet is filled out accurately, including being initialed by the Spokesperson from each team.
 - Check with the Moderator for clarification.
 - The Moderator may request input in unusual situations regarding an answer or rule from the Official Scorekeeper.
- **Timekeeper**
 - The Timekeeper starts a digital timer on their phone for 15 seconds after each question is read, and two minutes in the case of challenges.
 - A Regional or State Manager may recruit Timekeepers from coaches traveling with their team.
- **Unofficial Scorekeeper (display)**
 - The Unofficial Scorekeeper is usually a coach who will keep the score on a whiteboard, chalkboard, or chart paper hung in a place where the teams and audience can see.
 - They may confer with the Official Scorekeeper between questions for accuracy.
 - Their scores will be checked as an initial confirmation that the official scores are accurate, but they are not official themselves.
 - A dispute between the two scores will be resolved by the scores on the question cards kept by the Moderator.
- **Runners**
 - Runners are volunteers stationed in the hallways outside of battle rooms. Their job is to take the official scoresheets to the person keeping the official score for the tournament.
 - They cannot share the scores with anyone other than the Moderator, Regional/State Manager, and the records keeper, if there is one keeping track of all tournament scores.
 - It is very important that Runners get the scoresheets after every battle. If there are two or more Runners in a hallway, then one should take the scores to headquarters while the other(s) stay near the battle rooms.* (This is not the case at State.)
 - Students make great runners, as do the children of your adult volunteers.

Moderator

Moderators play the role of the game show host during battles. They are the person in the room who sets the tone and represents Oregon Battle of the Books to students and audience members alike. In this light, the Moderator is the person who sets the example of Good Sportsmanship, Friendliness, and Fairness of Play. It is important to know that Moderators are not required to read the books before moderating a battle. The rules and questions provided should prevent them from needing any information not included on the question cards. The Moderator's job will be to read the questions clearly, follow the rules and structure of play, conduct the battle in a way that represents the values of OBOB, and facilitate the completion of battles and accurate recording of points. In the rare event that an issue arises, the Moderator may opt to defer to the Site Coordinator (Local Level), or the Regional or State Tournament Managers if they are unclear on a specific rule or if someone refuses to comply. There is never a reason that a Moderator should feel threatened. Your Tournament Managers are incredibly grateful for your time and have your back at all times. Thank you for helping us make the Oregon Battle of the Books possible.

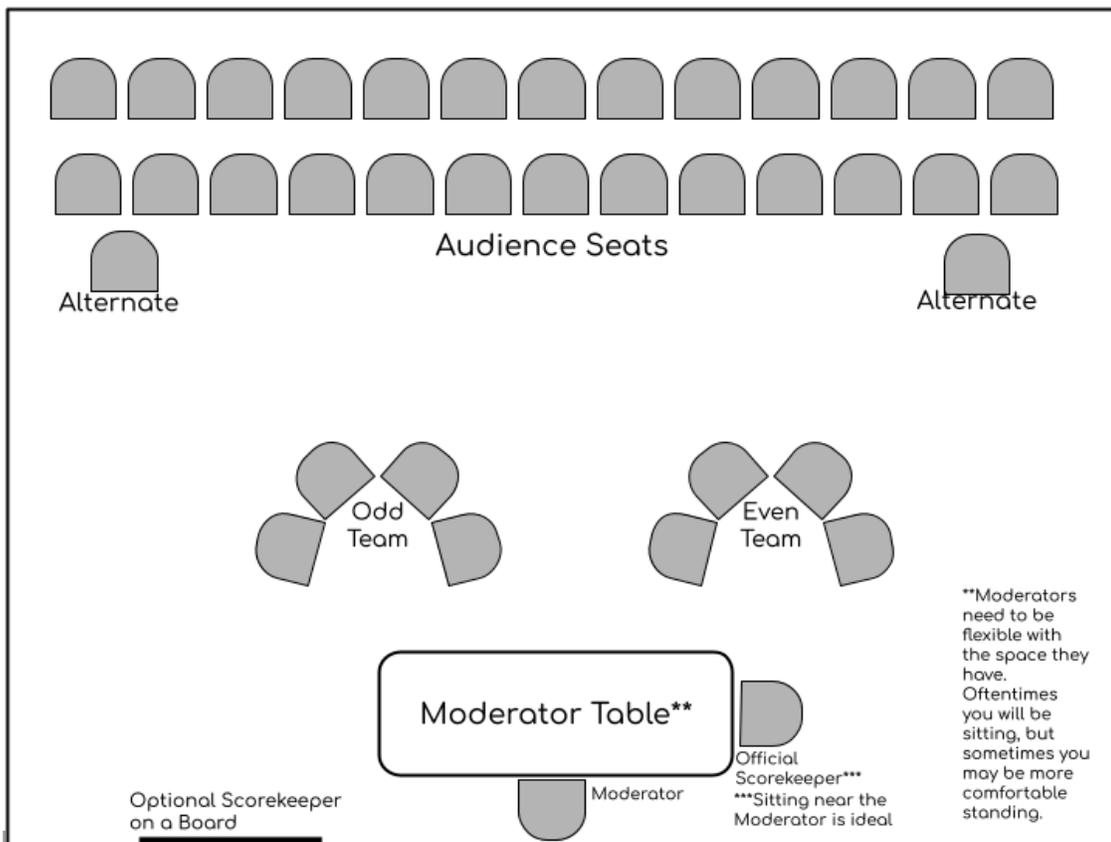
Site Logistics (Pre-Battle)

- Cluster team chairs in such a way that team members can confer easily with physical separation between the two teams.
- Have teams face the Moderator (with backs to the audience), or sit in a circle or semicircle.
- Moderator sits or stands at the front of the room facing the teams.
- The Coach will hand the Moderator a concealed set of OBOB books when they enter the room.

In the event that a team member is hearing impaired and needs a sign-language interpreter, the interpreter will stand near the Moderator and simultaneously sign the question as the Moderator reads it. Other accommodations may be necessary for team members. These accommodations shall be agreed upon by the Regional/State Manager with the approval of the OBOB Executive Board and communicated to the Moderator prior to a battle.

Ex. of Battle Room Setup*

*Please be respectful of the classroom space you are using. Remind the teams/audience not to leave trash behind, and do not move anything on a teacher's desk/cabinets, bookshelves, or erase/draw on the boards.



- Follow the directions given by your Site Coordinator or Tournament Director for delivering official scoresheets (e.g., passing them to Runners for delivery or keeping them until your round is over and hand delivering them yourself, etc.).
- Once the official scoresheet has left the room, there will be no changes to the score.

Moderator Prep

- Be familiar with the rules and regulations provided in this handbook.
- Attend the mandatory volunteer training prior to the Regional and State Tournaments (if attending).
- Check that you have your room packet with all items needed to run a battle (question sets, coin, scoresheets, pencils, post-it notes, statement, door sign, battle rules, official titles/authors list, and incident report).
- Note: Moderators are *not* meant to fill out the official scoresheet. They **MUST** record scores and incorrect information given accurately on each question card and should not have their attention divided. If, and only if, they are unable to locate another volunteer to fill out the official scoresheet, they may fill it out themselves. They must be careful to do both accurately.

Pre-Battle Procedures

- **Remember to always speak slowly and clearly.**
- Introduce themselves to the teams.
- For the first game of the day only:
 - Read the Volunteer/Good Sportsmanship Statement.
- Photos: Notify audience members that they are allowed to take photos, but will be asked to put devices away prior to the beginning of battles. Give 2-3 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the battles for photography.
- One minute prior to battles beginning:
 - Politely instruct all present that all Internet capable devices (including watches worn by students) be turned off and put away for the duration of the round/battle. If accommodations have been made for a device to be used by an audience member during play, notify all in attendance and provide a seat for that person where you can see both them and their device clearly throughout the battle(s).
 - Ask everyone to take their seats and close the door. Make sure your “Battle In Progress” sign is affixed to the exterior.
- Remind the audience they are to be silent spectators.
- Ask each team's Spokesperson to come forward and shake hands.
- Ask the Timekeeper to do the coin toss.
- The team winning the coin toss may choose whether they wish to answer odd or even-numbered questions. If the team chooses odd-numbered questions, they sit on the Moderator's left. The team sitting on the Moderator's right will receive even-numbered questions.
- State aloud that you will be shuffling the questions and numbering the front of each of the cards 1 through 8 (unless questions are pre-numbered).
 - There are usually one or two extra questions in each question set. These are available in case the Moderator makes a mistake, spoiling a question.
 - If you spoil a question, write, “BURN,” in capital letters across the ruined card and write the number of that card on its replacement. The BURNT card goes back in the envelope and the replacement takes its place in the set.
- Ask that each school's name table tent be facing the Moderator during the battle.
- Ask the Scorekeepers if they have the teams' school names on the official scoresheet and on the board (if using). Say, "_____ School is answering the odd-numbered questions and _____ School is answering the even-numbered questions." The Scorekeeper will keep score on the official paper scoresheet. A second Scorekeeper (who may be a coach or audience member) will keep score on the whiteboard, chalkboard, or large chart paper where the teams can see it, if possible.
- Inform the teams that you will be reading “In Which Book” questions first, followed by “Content” questions.

Battles

- Prior to reading each question, state clearly the team's school name and the question number. This helps the Scorekeeper and helps keep the Moderator on track.
- Only the team's Spokesperson can give the Moderator an answer to the question. Only the first answer the Spokesperson gives will be accepted. If the Spokesperson begins to answer the question prior to the completion of the question, the Moderator will stop reading the question and determine whether the answer is correct or not.
- Respond, "Correct" or "Incorrect." Make note of the score on the question card. If an incorrect response was given, record the incorrect answer on the card, as well.
 - This is necessary if there is a challenge. Do NOT skip this step.
- In a battle without steals (pool play in 3rd-5th and 6th-8th divisions), read the correct answer before moving onto the next team's question.
- In a battle with steals, if the first team does not answer correctly, or their answer is only partially correct, the question will be repeated to the opposing team who then has 15 seconds to discuss before giving an answer.
- Each team has only one chance to answer each question.
- After all chances for scoring are complete, if the answer has not been given or has only been partially given, the Moderator will reveal the correct answer.
 - In a battle without steals, this is done after the first team attempts to answer. In a battle with steals, this is done after the steal attempt.
- If the Moderator stumbles reading a question, they should begin again without any time penalty to the team.
- Read the question in its entirety, then look up and make eye contact with that team.
- Teams have 15 seconds to collaborate. The Timekeeper will call, "Time."
- A Spokesperson may ask to have a question repeated as many times as they want **within** the 15-second collaboration time. However, the clock will not restart at the re-reading of the question.
- If a team needs the entire 15 seconds to collaborate, the Spokesperson must answer immediately when time is called.
 - Moderators should allow only roughly one second ("One-Mississippi") of hesitation time. If the Spokesperson does not begin to answer during this time, the Moderator will mark the question as answered incorrectly.
- After all In Which Book questions have been read, move onto Content questions following the same procedure as before.

Challenges

- At the end of the battle, ask, "Are there any challenges?" Allow 15 seconds for a challenge from either team's Spokesperson.
- If there are no challenges, the battle is over.
- If there is a challenge, refer to the "Protocol for Challenges."
- At the conclusion of a challenge, the scores may need to be adjusted.

Finalizing Scores

- Check the Official Scoresheet against the unofficial one on the board for validation. (Recommended to do after IWB questions, and again at the end.)
 - Discrepancies will be adjusted based on the Moderator's notes on the question cards.
- Ask the Spokespersons to initial the final score on the official scoresheet and shake hands.
- Have the Official Scorekeeper give the official scoresheet to the OBOB Runner outside the battle room or keep it following specific instructions from the Tournament Manager. (i.e., take it to the scoring room directly).
- Once the scoresheet has left the room, there will be no changes to the score.

Participant & Audience Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Must File Incident Report

Though truly unsportsmanlike conduct is very rare, it is important to address possible circumstances so that the students who work incredibly hard reading and training for this competition, the wonderful volunteers who make OBOB possible, and the parents who support and encourage their children in this endeavor may all have the best experience possible throughout the OBOB season.

In the event that a team, team member, and/or audience member does not conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the Parent and Student Attitude and Behavior Contract turned in before the tournament, the Moderator should pause the battle to calmly restate the expectation and/or quietly speak to the offending party. In most cases, a reminder is all that is necessary for play to resume unaffected. Below are the three uncommon causes for more extreme actions to be taken after repeated reminders do not work.

- Please Leave: Disruptive behavior that does not stop. This can be talking, loudly wandering around during battles, intentionally distracting an opposing team, loudly playing or eating during battles, refusal to follow directions, an audience member challenging the Moderator's decisions during a battle, entering/exiting the room during battles, and refusing to put away devices (including unapproved devices needed for accommodations. Teams are required to get approval in advance for ALL such devices to ensure fairness of play.) In this case, the person being asked to leave is only asked to do so for the remainder of the round (pool play) or battle (brackets) and may watch any potential future battles as long as they follow all expectations.
- Forfeiture of Points: (two causes)
 - Due to audience interference: If an audience member gives an answer to a team during play, the audience member will be instructed to leave the battle room for the duration of the round (pool play) or battle (brackets), they will then be reported to the Tournament Manager and may be asked to remain in a neutral area for the rest of the tournament. The team will forfeit the possible points for that question and warned that further cheating will result in disqualification from the tournament.
 - Pause here to investigate to ensure that no other cheating has occurred. If a team has been cheating throughout the game, or for more than the one question you caught, they will forfeit the game and be subject to disqualification from the tournament by the Tournament Manager (see below).
 - *Note: If an audience member, including an alternate team member, blurts out an answer accidentally and is not actively cheating, the points will **not** be forfeited, and they do not need to be removed from the room unless it happens again. Burn that question and start again.*
 - Due to a team member: Students who are disruptive during the opposing team's questions and collaboration time, or who display poor sportsmanship by mocking, gloating, or demeaning the other team, will lose points from their previous question and be warned that a second occurrence will result in a forfeiture of the game.
 - The Alternate, if present, is not allowed to participate if a team member is removed.
- Forfeiture of Game and/or Disqualification from the Tournament: This is extremely rare and includes unruly conduct from a team or audience member that is verbally or physically threatening, cheating, highly disruptive behavior after repeat warnings and possible loss of points, arguing with the Moderator about any decision and refusing to stop arguing when asked, physical altercations, hate speech toward anyone.
 - Note: If a parent is being unruly but the team is not, the parent's behavior should not affect the team. A parent may be removed from a tournament while the team continues.
- Actions: Pause the battle immediately if any of these situations occur and send a Runner to get the Regional/State Manager. Not only do you want the person with the highest authority at the tournament handling extreme situations, they should also be able to take over so you can resume the battle or round.
- Take a deep breath for yourself and check in with all of the students before you continue. Remember that the remainder of the people in the room are grateful that the battle has been rescued and the

students can still compete. No one wants such negative conduct impacting their tournament experience.

- After a forfeiture, In the 3-5 and 6-8 divisions, pool-play battles may continue with only one team battling and continuing to receive all the even or odd questions only. In the 9-12 division during pool-play, efforts will be made to continue a battle if possible so the team not subject to forfeiture is not penalized. It may be necessary to substitute in another pool-play opponent that is on bye for a team that is subject to forfeit. Any team asked to perform in this manner will only accrue points from their four regularly scheduled pool-play battles.
- An incident report must be completed by the Moderator and submitted to the Regional/State Manager.

Coach (in Competition)

- Prior to any competition, please review the Good Sportsmanship Guidelines with your team.
- Each team's Coach will hand the Moderator their concealed set of OBOB books when they enter the room.
- Ensure the school name table tent is visible to the Moderator during all battles.
- The Moderator may ask coaches to act as an unofficial Scorekeeper or Timekeeper.
- A Coach may politely and quietly remind the Moderator of a procedure that was forgotten.
- When the battle is finished, encourage your team to respond cheerfully to the other team: "Good Game" or "Great Battle" or something similar. The coach should also be a positive role model.
- Remind team members to thank battle officials.
- Remember to take their book set and name table tent with them.
- Do not allow parents or team members to argue about the questions/answers or Moderator decisions.
- During battles, a coach may not communicate (verbally or nonverbally) with their team OR take notes on the questions asked. **Note: no one is allowed to take notes on the questions asked.**

Scorekeeper - Official

- Become familiar with the scoring procedures and the contents of this handbook.
- Attend the mandatory volunteer training prior to the Tournament(s) attending.
- The Scorekeeper will keep score on the official scoresheet. A second unofficial scorekeeper (which may be a coach or audience member) will also keep score on a chalkboard, large chart paper, or whiteboard where it is visible to both teams and the audience.
- After the Timekeeper has conducted the coin toss, and the winner of the coin toss has chosen to answer odd or even-numbered questions, write the school names on the scoresheet in the appropriate places. (left side is odd-numbered questions and right side is even-numbered questions)
- Listen as the Moderator announces the school name and question number and award the points correctly.
- The Moderator will keep score on the individual question cards. Use those when the official and unofficial scores do not match.
- Add up the score subtotals at the end of the In Which Book questions, then again after the Content questions. Add the total from both sections together for a total score.
- Make adjustments to the official scoresheet as needed after a successful challenge.
- Make sure the Spokespersons from each team initials their score at the bottom of the scoresheet.
- Compare scores between the official scoresheet, the board, and the Moderator's scoring on the question cards to ensure accuracy before sending the official scoresheet to be recorded.
- Follow your tournament's procedures for turning in the official scoresheet.

The Basics of Scoring

- The team that wins the coin toss chooses whether to have odd or even-numbered questions. The team answering the odd-numbered questions must sit to the Moderator's left, and their school's name goes on the left side of the scoresheet. See example below.

- The team answering the even-numbered questions sits to the Moderator's right, and their school's name is on the right side of the scoresheet.
- All questions are worth 5 points. If a team gets only the title OR the author correct on an In Which Book question they receive 3 points. In a battle with steals, the other team then gets a chance to give the correct author (or title) for the remaining 2 points.
- Follow the Moderator's guidance.
- Occasionally there will be a Two-Part Content question. It will be stated on the question card, and the Moderator will announce that this is a Two-Part question. Follow the Moderator's guidance to determine whether 5, 3, 2, or 0 points are awarded. NOTE: If a team is asked a question, fill in the space with either a 5, 3, 2, or 0. If they are not asked a question (the other team answered it correctly so there was no opportunity to steal, or the battle does not have steals) use a hyphen (--). This will prevent errors.

Ask the Moderator to pause the battle should any conflicts in scoring arise.

Example Scoresheet (in a battle with steals):

Question Set: _____	School: <i>John Locke Elementary</i> (Odd Numbered Questions)	School: <i>Michelangelo Academy</i> (Even Numbered Questions)
"In Which Book" Question	Points Earned of 5	Points Earned of 5
1	5	–
2	2	3
3	0	0
4	–	5
5	3	2
6	–	5
7	5	–
8	2	3
"In Which Book" Subtotal:	17	18

Timekeeper

- Be familiar with the role of Timekeeper and the contents of this handbook.
- Attend the mandatory volunteer training prior to the Regional and State (if attending) Tournaments.
- Oversee the coin toss. Toss a coin and let that team spokesperson say "heads" or "tails".
- The team that wins the coin toss may choose to answer either the odd-numbered or even-numbered questions.
- The team answering the odd-numbered questions will sit on the Moderator's left. The team answering even-numbered questions will sit on the Moderator's right.
- The Moderator will read each question aloud. Start the timing device as soon as the Moderator finishes reading the question. Time for 15 seconds and verbally call, "TIME" when the 15 seconds ends. A team's Spokesperson may choose to answer in less than 15 seconds. Once the Spokesperson begins to answer, stop timing. **Do not interrupt an answer to call TIME.**
- If the team uses the entire 15 seconds to collaborate, they must answer immediately upon "TIME" being announced.
- At the end of the battle, the Moderator will ask each Spokesperson if there is a challenge. Provide 15 seconds for teams to decide whether or not to offer a challenge.
- If a team chooses to challenge a question, they will have 2 minutes to find the page or passage in the book supporting their answer. Begin timing this 2 minute period when the Moderator hands the team both copies of the challenged book and tells the team they can begin. Call "TIME" when 2 minutes have elapsed. The team may find their evidence before the 2 minutes are up. If the Spokesperson hands the

book to the Moderator indicating they are finished, stop timing. Do not count down the time (such as “one minute remaining”).

- At the end of the 2 minute time period, all team discussion must stop and the Spokesperson must give an answer.

Protocol for Challenges

- Coaches may not communicate with the team about whether or not to challenge a question.
- After the battle, the Moderator will ask both team Spokespersons if they want to challenge a question. A team may only challenge a question that they were asked and had their answer ruled incorrect or partially incorrect. Each team may only offer one challenge per battle.
- The teams have 15 seconds for their Spokesperson to respond if they wish to challenge.
- Teams do not need to remember which question number they wish to challenge. They may describe the question to the Moderator.
- If both teams wish to challenge a question, the Moderator should handle one team at a time. Ask the teams which question they wish to challenge. The team to the Moderator's left should go first. The other team should remain silent.
- In the event that both teams were asked the same question in a battle with steals, neither response matched the answer provided on the question card, and both teams wish to challenge that question, the team that was asked the question first will be given the first opportunity to prove their challenge. If that answer is accepted by the Moderator, that team will be awarded the appropriate points and the second team will not be allowed to challenge that question, but will be given the opportunity to challenge a different question (with another 15 seconds to decide).
- Read the question **and** the incorrect answer given by the team aloud. The team must prove that the answer they gave during the battle was correct. They may **not** change their answer. . (The Moderator will refer back to the incorrect answer they recorded on the question card during the battle.) The Moderator will provide the team with a copy of the book provided by each team. A team may not have more than two copies of the book, even if additional copies are available.
- The challenging team will have two minutes to find and mark the page numbers (with a post-it note, if available) where the answer can be found in the book they named. **The Moderator should not provide the page number(s) of the answer given on the question card.** Note that page numbers in different copies may be different because of separate printings/publishers.
- The Timekeeper will begin timing **after** the Moderator provides the books to the challenging team and tells them to begin. The other team, coach, and audience must remain quiet during the two minutes.
- The Timekeeper will announce the end of the two-minute time period, and discussion must stop. There will be no countdown of time.
- Only the challenging team's Spokesperson will show the Moderator the exact evidence that supports their challenge. The Spokesperson should not explain their answer other than to point out where their answer is located in the book, unless prompted by the Moderator.
- The Moderator determines whether the challenge is successful or not. An answer may be considered correct only by way of textual evidence. If the Moderator accepts the challenge as successful, and the other conditions for gaining a score were fulfilled, then points shall be awarded and the scores amended.
- Only one team will be awarded the points for a correct answer by the Moderator. **The maximum score for any question is five points.**
- The Moderator will explain the decision and process of amending points to the teams.
- The Moderator and both the Official Scorekeeper and the optional scorekeeper (if using the board) will amend the points. Amending points may mean points are removed from the team who stole a question and awarded to the challenging team. For example, in a battle with steals, Team A was asked question number 7 and were told that their answer was incorrect. Team B was able to answer the question correctly according to the answer on the card to steal 5 points. Team A challenges question number 7. It is determined that, in fact, Team A's original answer was correct (via successful challenge). Team A will receive the 5 points and Team B will have 5 points removed from their score.

- The Moderator’s decision is considered final and there should be no further discussion.
- A team may only challenge a question that they have been asked and must prove their original response is correct. A team may not challenge any answers given by the opposing team.

How to Manage Public Relations

The key to a good publicity campaign is planning and tone. Positivity is king! Plan a timeline well in advance for media such as newsletters and district publications, when to bring in your camera to record momentous events, etc., and always speak kindly and admirably towards all participants and volunteers. Those in large school districts will likely focus on their immediate communities, while those in smaller districts and rural communities may have the opportunity to showcase their programs more broadly.

- **First, please include in your advertisements and announcements that the Oregon Battle of the Books is sponsored by the Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL).**
- Local newspapers, radio stations, and television stations, as well as statewide publications, are anxious to read and hear about what is occurring in our schools. Even if you have to take pictures and write articles yourself, record the interviews, or set up your own video gear, it could be worth the effort. You can also seek out a volunteer with these skills if you don’t have time. Communications with the parents and the community about this popular school program will also open channels that may be invaluable when support for this and other worthy programs is needed.
- Here are some suggestions:
 - Do a presentation on the Oregon Battle of the Books for an open house.
 - Get local merchants to display not only the books, but also rules, schedules, team photos, and even leader boards for tournaments that last several weeks.
 - Invite local dignitaries (school board members, mayors, city councillors, state representatives, etc) to view or assist with battles.
 - Send out regular parent letters and news releases. This is a great way to keep your community on the same page by using a “To-Do This Week” style update.
 - Link an OBOB webpage to your school or library website using Google Sites, or another platform that is free to your location.
 - Connect public library webpages to your Google Classroom or Canvas Classroom page.
 - Connect with youth services at local public libraries for support (displays, promotion, etc.)
 - Present at a PTO/PTA/PTSA or board meeting.
 - Present a mock battle at a board meeting and other various locations.
 - The Oregon Battle of the Books Executive Board will be keeping historical data and will be in contact with the media. Please send digital photographs, as well as local news reports, to the Oregon Battle of the Books Outreach Chair, or post on the OBOB Facebook page, for use in statewide publicity.
- Just remember, communicate with those around you who might otherwise miss out on important events. Also, save everything you do - every invitation you send, every letter home, every news item, every photo you take, every timeline you prepare. You may wish to reuse items, or remind yourself about ideas from year to year.
- **Finally, check with students and/or parents before using a photo with their child in it for any form of publicity.**

Title Selection

Oregon Battle of the Books is not a part of the Oregon Department of Education. Therefore, the

criteria for the selection of OBOB titles may differ from criteria used in selecting materials for curriculum-based learning in individual school and library districts. The selection criteria are outlined below.

Note: Title selection is a year-long process that is taken very seriously by the volunteer members of each division's Title Selection Committee. They look forward to your nominations and feedback to help inform decisions for the final title lists each year.

Title Selection Committee Members

There may be up to nine members on a Title Selection Committee (TSC) for each division who serve one-year terms and are appointed by the OBOB Title Selection Chairperson. Appointments are made by September of each year. All members of each division's TSC are trained professionals. They must be current, former, or retired teachers, librarians, instructional coaches, and/or serving on the OBOB Executive Board. This ensures experienced committees are making well-considered selections following the title selection criteria and maintaining the quality of literature expected for the program.

Title Nominations

- Starting September 1 and ending October 31, title nominations will be solicited from members of the general public for consideration for the next year's reading lists. All members of the reading community are encouraged to nominate titles, including parents, students, teachers, librarians, etc. Each individual may nominate up to three titles per division.
- Beginning after the first TSC meeting in November, nomination feedback will be solicited from the public on the titles that are on the nomination list. Any new titles added by the committee will be placed on the nomination feedback list for public review.
- If all criteria are not met for a particular category, new titles may be added by the TSC at the January meeting of the OBOB Executive Board. Three members of the TSC must agree before a new title can be added to the nomination list. (e.g., a lack of nominations in non-fiction or lack of nominations for male protagonists, high interest titles, etc. may trigger non-nominated titles being added).

Selection Criteria

Titles selected for the Oregon Battle of the Books tournaments are selected from current nominations, keeping in mind the following criteria.

Number of Titles

- 16 titles in the 3-5 and 6-8 grade divisions
- 12 titles in the 9-12 grade division
- Appropriate grade and reading levels for each division as established by publishers and professionals
- Balanced and varied range of age and reading ability levels within each division

Interest

- Subject areas, plots, settings, formats and styles should vary
- Balanced interest for different genders
- A wide range of maturity levels within each division
 - This is most challenging in the 3-5 Division since students in elementary school have a broad range of reading ability and comprehension. We recommend students be offered help reading long books, classics, and books about topics unfamiliar to a child in grades 3-5.

- A variety of genres are represented: realistic fiction, nonfiction, fantasy, science fiction, historical fiction, adventure, horror, and mystery
- Styles will primarily include prose fiction, however, some graphic novels and books in verse will be included, if possible
- Areas of representation include but are not limited to: gender, nationality, ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, mental health, immigration status, disability, and other demographic information.
- Special priority is given for books featuring Oregon authors and/or Pacific Northwest settings

Quality

- High quality, well-reviewed, age-appropriate titles
- Books Awards for titles such as the Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Award, National Book Award, Oregon Readers' Choice Award, Pura Belpré Award, Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Award, and many others, will be given serious consideration, but are not guaranteed to make a title list each year.

Previous Selections

- Titles may be reused after four years
- OBOBers will have an opportunity to vote in the Student Popular Book category at Regional Tournaments to choose that season's favorite title in their division. The winning title in each division will be considered a priority selection for inclusion on the title list four years later.

Publication Information

- Published by a recognized, mainstream publisher (no self-published titles will be considered)
- Titles must be available in sufficient numbers for purchase through major book distributors such as (but not limited to) Ingram, Follett, Scholastic, etc.
- Books currently available in paperback format will be given priority

Intellectual freedom

In accordance with the Library Bill of Rights and its interpretations, titles that otherwise meet the selection criteria will not be excluded:

- *"...because of the origin, background or views of those contributing to their creation"*
- *"...because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval"*
- *"...because of actual or suspected parental objections"*
- *"...in an effort to avoid controversy with parents."*

Committee Procedure

- Title Selection Committee consideration officially begins at the November meeting of the OBOB Executive Board, after which point title lists and comments are confidential.
- One committee member at each division level will be in charge of editing their confidential title list.
 - A book will only be selected for the final list if **at least three committee members** have read the book and agree that it is a good choice for the list. Committees may choose to expand readership for any book that they deem requires broader review for a final decision.
- An effort is made by the TSC to have a well-balanced selection that enriches OBOBers' reading experience and worldview while avoiding othering, stereotyping, and tokenism. Committee members will consider genre, authenticity, multiculturalism, and age appropriateness/maturity, etc.
 - TSC will check availability of titles in paperback and the ease of obtaining bulk quantities of copies prior to putting the title on the official list.

Final Title Lists

- The committee will strive to have half of the titles chosen by the January meeting of the OBOB Executive Board. However, this may not always be possible.
- Potentially controversial titles will be read by the OBOB Executive Board and their input taken into account, but the final selection is up to the TSC.
- Once a title has been placed on the final list and announced to the public, it cannot be removed, except in the event that a title will be unavailable in adequate quantities for participating schools.

Important Note About Content: Titles are chosen in an effort to represent students and communities from across the state of Oregon. In some instances, you may feel that the content and/or theme of a selected title is not a good fit for your child. OBOB supports every family and student's right to define what is and is not suitable reading material. No student is required to read all books on their title list to participate in OBOB. Students should not be assigned specific books to read if students or their parents have any reservations about the content. If you feel that you, your community, or your lived experience is not represented in our title selections, we invite you to forward your nominations and leave public comment on the OBOB website beginning in September of each year. [See above for exact dates and instructions to nominate books.](#)

Tournament Question Writing

Official questions for the three tournament levels (Local, Regional and State) are written by members of each division's question writing team. Question sets are submitted to the Division Question Editors by June 30 (or earlier) so that they can be edited and made available to Tournament Managers in a timely fashion.

Question Preparation

Question writers prepare for writing questions by first reading the entire book. Each book will have 100 to 120 questions: 50 to 60 "Content" and 50 to 60 "In Which Book" questions. Questions will be from all parts of the book. Questions are generally short and specific about important details in the books. As tournaments progress, questions become more difficult, and therefore often more "trivial" in nature in order to differentiate between teams of immense OBOB talent. The Moderator is provided the answer and page number where the answer is found.

Note: Different editions from the officially selected ISBN for the title may have different page numbers. The moderator only uses the exact content and page numbers from the ISBN designated for competition).

Sample Battle Questions

The following questions are examples of both "In Which Book" and "Content" questions that may be written.

"In Which Book" questions

"In Which Book" questions are always answered with the title and author of the book

In which book does one of the characters write a love note as a prank?

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott p. __

In which book does a character receive a postcard with a skyscraper on the front?

Play to the Angel by Maurine Dahlberg p. __

In which book is a tombstone used for something other than marking a grave?

The Wright Brothers by Russell Freedman p. _

In which book does a child get to work alongside adults as an assistant in a hospital?

Close Encounters of a Third World Kind by Jennifer J. Stewart p. _

In which book does a character live on a 12 acre rock surrounded by water?

Al Capone Does My Shirts by Jennifer Choldenko p. _

In which book does a family participate in “Las Posadas”?

Becoming Naomi Leon by Pam Munoz Ryan p. _

In which book is a character saving money to buy a gorilla?

Clementine by Sara Pennypacker p. _

Content questions

“Content” questions are always answered with the specific content trivia from the book.

Little Women

What does Amy do to destroy Jo’s book?

Answer: Burns it OR Throws it in the fire/fireplace

p. _ Author: Louisa May Alcott

The Wright Brothers

What do the Wright Brothers do with a damaged tombstone?

Answer: Build a printing press

p. _ Author: Russell Freedman

Close Encounters of a Third World Kind

[Two Parts] What two jobs are assigned to Annie?

Answer: Care for her sister AND Help in the hospital

p. _ Author: Jennifer J. Stewart

Al Capone Does My Shirts

What is the name of the island where Moose Flanagan lives?

Answer: Alcatraz

p. _ Author: Jennifer Choldenko

Becoming Naomi Leon

What festival do Naomi and Owen attend?

Answer: “Las Posadas”

p. _ Author: Pam Munoz Ryan

Clementine

[Two Parts] What are the two things that Clementine fears?

Answer: Pointy things AND Boomerangs

p. _ Author: Sara Pennypacker

Frequently Asked Questions

Where do I find basic information about Oregon Battle of the Books?

Visit the website at: www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org This Handbook and the Regional Manager Manual are the best resources for information about OBOB.

How does a student participate?

Check with your school or public library to see if it is registered to participate. You cannot compete without a registered site. Then follow all of the directions from your local Site Coordinator for full participation.

Who competes at the Regional Tournament?

All schools or public libraries registered to compete in OBOB may send **one team per division** to their Regional Tournament. At sites with more than one team a local tournament or battle will be hosted to determine which team that will advance to Regionals.

Definition of a School

All public schools listed in the ODE directory, public charters, as well as private schools, are eligible. A school is defined as “an elementary or secondary school offering a comprehensive instructional program.”

Online Schools: Online schools may register if they have one complete team to send to the Regional Tournament. Online students may also participate at their neighborhood public library or school following the same guidelines as homeschooled participants.

Definition of a Public Library

A Public Library, or a Public Library System, means, “a public agency responsible for providing and making accessible to all residents of a local government unit library and information services suitable to persons of all ages, as defined by ORS 357.400-357.621.”

How does a school or public library participate?

See Registration for more details. Registration is open September 1 through October 31.

Where do the students get the books?

School libraries should have copies of each book on the list. If funding is a challenge, please apply for a Book Grant and/or speak to your local PTA/PTO/PTSA for funding. Public libraries and local bookstores will also be appraised of the titles and will most likely have them available.

When do the students read the books?

The school battles should be completed prior to the Regional Tournament (check the OBOB Website for dates). The full title lists for the following year’s season will be announced in April at the State Tournament. Reading through the summer is optional.

How do I get questions for my school battle(s)?

Local questions are distributed to registered schools/public libraries by email in January. All questions supplied by OBOB are official and must remain at the site where they were sent. OBOB does not supply practice questions.

Can my school or library obtain questions if the school is not registered for OBOB?

Yes, if your school or public library site would like a copy of the Local Questions but does not wish to compete at the Regional Tournament, you may purchase a copy by emailing the Question Editor, obobquestioneditor@gmail.com.

What is a battle?

A battle is a game, similar to Jeopardy, in which teams earn points by answering questions about the books

on the title list for their division.

Can we change our team after the Regional Tournament? Can we add or swap members?

No, once a team has been advanced to Regionals, they may NOT add or swap members. Teams from each local site may add members (maximum of five per team) *before* they are submitted for advancement to the Regional Tournament. (Students cannot be removed from a team unless they are unable to attend.)

How do Alternates participate in the Regional/State level competition?

An alternate may only replace a team member between battles; never during a battle. Players may not be substituted once a battle has begun.

Do students have to read all the books?

No. Each team will determine how many books each student will read. Some students want to read them all and others divide the title list equally between members. Students who are only able to read one or two books are encouraged to join a team with an opening with students who want to read more than their equal share. Remember, reading is a joy for all and is not limited to those who read quickly. Your Site Coordinator can help balance teams so all students feel they can participate.

Do I need other schools/public libraries to have a battle, or can I just have only one at my school/public library?

No, your local tournament is between the teams participating at your local site, whether you have 2 or 200. The Regional Tournament is between all of the championship teams representing their local school or library.

How do I get started?

Register your site with OBOB between September 1st - October 31st, purchase at least one set of the books for your division(s) title list(s), and advertise to your community that OBOB will be happening at your site this year. Allow students/teams to sign up, request parent volunteers, and follow the directions in the Site Coordinator section of this Handbook. Let us know if you need extra guidance.

May I use the OBOB logo?

The logo is available for any Oregon Battle of the Books promotional activity, with the proviso that the Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL) is given credit for their sponsorship. The OBOB logo is the intellectual property of Oregon Battle of the Books and cannot be used for profit, e.g., selling merchandise to raise money for purposes other than running an OBOB program. **Should the logo be used by any commercial entity, the sponsorship credit must be printed somewhere on the same page on which the logo is used.**

Who else is participating in Oregon?

Approximately 750 local sites, more than 8,000 teams, and over 30,000 students participate in OBOB each year! Participating sites may be available to view on the OBOB website in February and March.

Who can I contact if I need help?

Parents and students, please contact your Site Coordinator with questions; Site Coordinators will contact their Regional Managers; Regional Managers are provided mentors throughout the tournament season. For all other concerns not addressed in this Handbook or the Regional Manager Manual, [see the list of OBOB Executive Board members](#) at the top of this document for directions.

Do we need to have awards for the winning teams?

We suggest that you find ways to honor your participants, but physical awards such as medals or trophies are optional.

How can I find out more information?

Information is posted on the OBOB Website www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org. You may also request to join

the [OBOB Facebook Page](#) for updates and current events.

Additional Resources

Sample Competition Forms

Forms, scoresheets, and instructions for all Local, Regional, and State Tournaments will be sent to the designated organizer for each. Site Coordinators are not required to use official scoresheets, but they are available, if desired.

- [OBOB Scoresheet](#) - Example scoresheet of Division 3-5 for a 16 questions battle
- [Sample OBOB Bracket](#) - This is a sample bracket used in tournaments with 16 teams competing. For help creating brackets for differently sized tournaments, visit [Print Your Brackets](#) for examples that can be used and printed. If you're feeling stumped on how to organize brackets, ask for help in our [Facebook forum](#)!

Alternative Reading Options

- [Talking Book and Braille Library](#)

Battle Practice Resources

Cedar Mill & Bethany Community Libraries

We publish some practice questions for grades 3-5 in September and share the rest after our winter trivia events to support OBOB participation.

2025-2026 **3-5 Division Practice** OBOB Practice Questions

<https://library.cedarmill.org/kids/obob/>

Glencoe Elementary School

OBOB practice questions and Interactive Battles, created by Glencoe Elementary parent Brian Ellin.

For students in the 3-5 Division, 6-8 Division and 9-12 Division who want to prepare for OBOB

Read books, answer questions, and play solo or friend battles with timed or untimed.

Link: obob.dog

Lake Oswego Public Library

OBOB 2025-2026 Practice Questions for 3-5 Division and 6-8 Division

<https://www.ci.oswego.or.us/kids/obob-2025-26>

Newberg Public Library

2025-2026 OBOB Practice Questions coming soon!

https://www.newbergoregon.gov/government/departments/library/oregon_battle_of_the_books.php