



Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) Official Handbook

2021-2022

The OBOB Project is supported in part through a LSTA grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Oregon State Library and is supported by the Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL)—a division of the Oregon Library Association. OASL is committed to equity, diversity, inclusion, anti-racism, and anti-oppression in our organization, policies, practices, and educational resources and opportunities.

The purpose of this handbook is to record the official rules and guidelines for school, regional, and state tournaments. Rules are adopted and amended as necessary by the OBOB executive committee. This handbook also serves as a vehicle for introducing and explaining the procedures used for battles. The Regional Manager Manual is intended to provide resources to assist regional and state managers in organizing their competitions using standardized procedures.

Due to the restrictions placed on schools and libraries by the State of Oregon, local governments and school districts due to the Coronavirus Pandemic there will be no State tournament hosted by the OBOB State committee. Battles at the local level (sponsored by schools and public libraries) are encouraged to be socially distanced and follow health and safety rules. The OBOB State Committee has guidelines in place for hosting and participating in virtual regional tournaments. See the Regional Manager Manual for more information on 2022 virtual regional tournaments or visit our website: www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter/Section	Page
Oregon Battle of the Books Statewide Committee	3
Introduction and History	4
Organization	5
OBOB Regions by County	6
General Player and Team Rules	7
Homeschooled Student Participation	8
Coach Rules and Responsibilities	9
Regional and State Battle Rules and Procedures	10
Protocol for Challenges	11
Battle Officials	13
Moderator	13
Coach (for Competition)	13
Timekeeper	13
Scorekeeper	14
FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)	15
Promotional Ideas	17
How to Manage Public Relations	18
Criteria for the Selection of Titles	19
Book Selection Process	20
OBOB Question Writing	21
Sample Battle of the Books Questions	21

To search this handbook on-line simply search for the Chapter Title or the page number.

Oregon Battle of the Books Statewide Committee

State Executive Committee Members:

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Financial Chair: Korie Jones Buerkle – obobfinancechair@gmail.com

Book Grant Chair: Allison Byers – obobookgrant@gmail.com

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State Tournament Team Manager – Kelly Bartlett – obobstateteam@gmail.com

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Title Selection Chair: Courtney Snyder – obobtitlechair@gmail.com

Regional Mentor 3-5: Heidi Pramuk – obob3to5regionalmentor@gmail.com

Regional Mentor 6-12: Christy Sander – obob6to12regionalmentor@gmail.com

If you have questions about your school's OBOB program, please contact your school OBOB coordinator. Before contacting the OBOB Executive Committee regarding your request, question, or concern please refer to this handbook and/or the Regional Manager Manual. If you do not find the necessary information in these documents, please read the following job descriptions and direct your email to the most relevant OBOB Executive Committee member.

OBOB Job Descriptions

OBOB Administrator – registration issues, facilitates Executive Committee meetings

OBOB Liaison Chair – acts as the OBOB liaison with other organizations such as the Oregon Library Association and Oregon Association of School Libraries. Provides support for the incoming Administrative Chair and OBOB promotion projects.

OBOB Outreach Chair – maintains the OBOB website, newsletter and Facebook page as well as news related communication

OBOB Financial Chair – oversees OBOB budget, regional managers re finances, donations to OBOB, other finance issues

OBOB Book Grant Chair -- facilitates and oversees LSTA grants

OBOB Secretary – maintains minutes for Executive Committee meetings, edits Handbook and Manual, questions about rules and regulations

OBOB Title Chair – questions/concerns about title selection, application to join a title selections committee

OBOB Question Chair – responds to concerns from question writers, concerns from registered schools about receiving local questions, concerns about regional questions from regional managers

OBOB Regional Mentor 3-5 – responds to questions/concerns regarding grade 3-5 regional tournaments

OBOB Regional Mentor 6-12 – responds to questions/concerns regarding 6-8 and 9-12 regional tournaments

OBOB Outreach Chair – handles the webpage, newsletter and Facebook accounts

OBOB State Tournament Coordinators – handle all aspects of the state tournament

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

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 grant through the Oregon State Library. Students in grades 3–12, regardless of ability, are exposed to quality literature representing a variety of literary styles and viewpoints. OBOB's mission is to encourage and recognize students who enjoy reading, to broaden reading interests, to increase reading comprehension, promote academic excellence, and to promote cooperative learning and teamwork among students.

The OBOB Title Selection Committee chooses a list of books for elementary, middle school, and high school reading levels. Students read the books, discuss them, quiz each other on the contents, and then compete as a team to correctly answer trivia questions based on the books. Some questions begin with the words "In which book," and students must answer with the book's title and author. Other questions provide the title of the book, and students must answer a trivia question based on the book's content. Students may participate at the school, regional, and state levels of competition.

New lists of titles for each level are compiled each year by the Title Selection Committee based on the "Criteria for the Selection of Titles." An attempt is made to vary the titles chosen according to genre and difficulty so that readers may encounter a broad range of books. Please see the section titled "Book Selection Process" for how books are nominated and selected. The public (students, parents, and others) is encouraged to nominate books and provide feedback for any titles that are nominated.

Individuals may access the OBOB website at www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org to gain access to the OBOB Facebook page and the ability to sign up for the OBOB newsletter.

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 Battle programs developed in various parts of Oregon throughout the ensuing decades including Salem-Keizer, Roseburg, Springfield and Beaverton. Never a mandated program, it has continued to be popular because it works. Parents are enthusiastic. Teachers and librarians find children read more books as they learn the pleasures of teamwork and academic competition.

In 2006, with the encouragement of State Librarian Jim Schepke, 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. The state OBOB Committee was then formed to bring various disparate Oregon programs together into one cohesive state-wide effort and the 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, and parents, just to name a few.

Organization

The Oregon Battle of the Books is organized locally by participating schools, regionally by a regional manager, and statewide by the OBOB Executive Committee. The Executive Board is composed of the following chairs: Administrative, Outreach, Financial, Book Grant, Liaison, Title Selection, and Question Editor, as well as the Secretary, OBOB State Tournament Co-Managers, and two Regional Manager Mentors. The OBOB Executive Board meets in person or on-line in November, January, February, and July of each year to discuss policies and select titles for the next school year. Librarians and school personnel interested in joining the Executive Board should contact the Administrative Chair at OBOB1sta@gmail.com. OBOB Committee members are volunteers, although the Administrative Chair and Question Editor each receive a modest stipend.

The OBOB Executive Committee oversees the collection and distribution of information, questions, and book lists. Registration of participating school teams takes place each fall on the OBOB website and registration must be completed prior to announced deadlines for a school to participate in their designated regional tournaments. A participation fee is required of schools to support the OBOB committee in operating state and regional tournaments and in providing book grants to schools. Registration information is available on the OBOB website. At the direction of the OBOB Executive Committee, regional managers will conduct the regional competitions according to rules set out in this handbook. A Regional Manager Manual is also available with organizational information and official handouts.

The OBOB Executive Committee is responsible for the guidelines and rules stated in the Official Handbook and the Regional Manager Manual.

Tournaments will take place in regions originally established by OASL. Due to the number of schools participating within a region it may be necessary for a region to be subdivided. Subdivision of a region will be overseen by the Executive Committee. An effort is made to reduce the number of teams at regional meets so as not to overwhelm regional managers. Regions may fluctuate from year to year. Regional and mini tournament dates and locations will be determined by the regional managers and team leaders. Schools assigned to a tournament may not request a date change or be allowed to attend an alternative regional tournament.

Registering for OBOB

Registration for OBOB is available for all public, private and charter schools in Oregon. Online and homeschool groups are not eligible to register as a school. However, students may participate on a school team in which they live within the school boundaries 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. In the event that a school or public library chooses not to participate in the OBOB regional or state tournaments but wants to receive the school tournament questions only, they may be purchased after November 1. OBOB does not sell questions to commercial businesses or other non-school operatives. To purchase a set of questions, visit the OBOB website (www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org). Questions are distributed to school OBOB coordinators in January.

NOTE: All references to advancement to regional and State tournaments do not apply for the 2021-2022 OBOB season. It is strongly suggested that school battles be conducted using the OBOB regional and state rules and regulations as closely as possible

OBOB Regions by County

<u>Region</u>	<u>Division 3-5</u>	<u>Division 6-8</u>	<u>Division 9-12</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Division 3-5</u>	<u>Division 6-8</u>	<u>Division 9-12</u>
1	Clatsop	Clatsop	Clatsop	5	Lake	Lake	Lake
	Columbia	Columbia	Columbia		Lamath	Lamath	Lamath
	Tillamook	Tillamook	Tillamook		Jackson	Jackson	Jackson
	Washington	Washington	Washington		Josephine	Josephine	Josephine
2	Marion	Marion	Marion		Curry	Curry	Curry
	Linn	Linn	Linn	6	Sherman	Sherman	Sherman
	Yamhill	Yamhill	Yamhill		Gillia	Gillia	Gillia
	Polk	Polk	Polk		Morrow	Morrow	Morrow
	Lincoln	Lincoln	Lincoln		Umatilla	Umatilla	Umatilla
	Benton	Benton	Benton		Union	Union	Union
2 East	Marion	Marion	Marion		Wallowa	Wallowa	Wallowa
	Linn	Linn	Linn		Baker	Baker	Baker
2 West	Yamhill	Yamhill	Yamhill		Malheur	Malheur	Malheur
	Polk	Polk	Polk		Jefferson	Jefferson	Jefferson
	Lincoln	Lincoln	Lincoln	7	Deschutes	Deschutes	Deschutes
	Benton	Benton	Benton		Crook	Crook	Crook
3 North	Lane	Lane	Lane		Wheeler	Wheeler	Wheeler
3 South	Coos	Coos	Coos		Brant	Brant	Brant
	Douglas	Douglas	Douglas		Harney	Harney	Harney
4 North	Multnomah	Multnomah	Multnomah				
	Hood River	Hood River					
4 South	Clackamas	Clackamas	Clackamas				
	Wasco	Wasco	Wasco				

Large regions (determined by the number of participating schools, not by land size) may be further divided into mini-regions. Because the number of registered schools changes from year to year the organization cannot predict when or where mini-regions will be established with team leaders working with the regional manager. Any region and/or mini-region that does not have a volunteer manager/leader will have a regional tournament.

General Player and Team Rules

- 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, but all team members must be in grades in the same division level.
- There are two ways that students may participate on an OBOB team:
 - Students may participate within the school that they are registered. A school may only form a team consisting of students registered at their school or live within the school boundary. However, students who are registered in multiple schools may be a member of a team from any school at which they are officially registered.
 - Public libraries may host battles at the local level. may send one team for each grade division to the regional tournament in which the library is located. Teams from a public library must be sponsored by a library staff member. Team members must live within the region that the library is located.
 - If a member of a team moves out of the school or public library's boundary after the school/library has registered with OBOB the student may choose to continue to participate as a team member for the remainder of the school year.
 - 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 approved by the OBOB Executive Committee prior to the beginning of the regional tournament. Accommodations will not be allowed that give a team an unfair advantage during competition. Accommodations will be communicated to the regional manager prior to competition and moderators will be told of accommodations prior to the beginning of a battle.
- Each team must have a sponsor from their school or public library who is a school library media specialist, library paraprofessional, or other school or public library staff member.
- Composition of the team members may not change once the team members have been registered for the regional tournament. Should a team member be unable to participate in the regional competition another school/public library team member may be chosen to replace the missing member prior to registration at the regional competition. Note that fair play is encouraged – hand picking, “cherry picking” or “stacking” a team to send to regionals is considered to be contrary to good sportsmanship. Teams may not add or substitute members should the team qualify for the state tournament.
- Regional competitions do not require participation in a district/county/ESD competition. State tournament battles do require participation in the regional competitions.
- Each school/public library may send only one team, per division, to the regional competition (grant recipients must attend and compete in the Regional competitions).
- School teams are not able to change their assigned regional competition because of a date conflict.
- Each region will send its top team(s) in each division to the State Tournament competition. Some regions will be allowed to send more than one team to the state tournament competition, depending on the number of registered teams competing at the regional competition. Regional managers will be notified of the number of teams their region is allowed to send to state each year before they host their regional competition.
- Teams are usually made up of two to four members, with one optional alternate, for a total of no more than five members. However, no more than four students may participate in any given battle. Teams may compete with fewer than four players but not fewer than two.

- There may be only one alternate. This alternate may take the place of another player for a battle. When the alternate is used, the alternate must remain in competition for the entire battle. No substitutions may be made during a battle.
- No other person may assist in answering any question directed to a team, or any challenge decisions, including the team's coach. The moderator will disqualify a team determined to be receiving outside help.
- Team players must be present in the room or online for all battles. Battles may be delayed because of potential tie breakers in previous rounds, but teams must be present and ready to play when the announcement to begin is given.
- In the event of a situation that is not specifically addressed in the OBOB rules, the decision of the moderator for that battle is final. In a regional battle, the moderator may choose to discuss the issue with the team coaches but does not have to accept their opinions. The decision of the Moderator may not be challenged.
- Once the score sheet leaves the battle site it may not be challenged.
- The OBOB State Committee has the authority to refuse to allow a team to participate in the event of unsportsmanlike behavior or other extenuating circumstances.
- Battles on the local, regional, and state levels may not be recorded in any manner.

Homeschool Student Participation

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 parents or guardian reside (as per ORS 339.460 section B, part f). Homeschooled students may not, however, form a team of their own. Homeschooled students wishing to participate in OBOB should contact their local school library for OBOB related class and/or practice requirements (ORS 339.60, Sec B(e)). Homeschooled students may be placed on a school OBOB team at the local level following the same procedures and guidelines used for traditional students. Public libraries may send one team per division to the regional tournament. Public library team members may not participate in two teams. Public library teams must have a librarian staff member as the sponsor coach.

Students enrolled in on-line school programs who wish to participate in OBOB will follow the same public school attendance boundary residential guidelines as given above for homeschooled students or participate on a public library team.

All public, charter and private schools are welcome and encouraged to participate in OBOB.

Should a team member move out of the school/public library's boundary any time after the school has registered to participate in OBOB, the student may continue to remain on the team for the remainder of the school year.

Coach Rules and Responsibilities

- Become familiar with all the rules and procedures provided in this handbook and commit to following them.
- Prepare the teams by reviewing procedures and rules.
- Conduct practice battles which follow OBOB protocol. Practice questions are not provided by OBOB. Please note that it is strongly suggested that local competitions follow the same rules and procedures used at the regional and state tournaments. This will help students to become familiar with the rules that will be followed at the regional and state competitions.
- Encourage and moderate discussions about the books.
- Encourage as many student participants and teams as possible at the school 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.
- A moderator may choose to discuss an issue with coaches prior to, during, or after a battle. The moderator does not have to accept the coaches' opinions and the moderator's decision is final.
- Must secure adult supervision for the team at all regional and state competitions.
- Reinforce that the focus of this program is to celebrate the love of reading, and promote good sportsmanship for both teams and spectators.
- Must bring a complete set of books (traditional paper copy, no electronic versions) to regional and state competitions.
- Communicate and confirm attendance at regional and state competitions. Note that team members must be available to battle during the entire time of regional and state tournaments.
- Check in when the whole OBOB team arrives at the tournament. If one (or more) team members may not be photographed, this information must be provided at registration. Check-in includes providing signed good sportsmanship statements for team members and parents and the coach.
- Follow the specific guidelines provided for coaches at the regional and state competitions.
- Notify regional manager when registering a team for the regional tournament if a team member needs special accommodations that have been pre approved by the OBOB Executive Committee.

Regional and State Battle Rules & Procedures

1. All electronic devices in the room must be in the off mode during all battles. Photos may only be taken before and after a battle.
2. No device recording of battles may occur. Coverage of the competition by local media may occur on a limited basis.
3. Each battle will consist of sixteen questions; eight "In Which Book" and eight "Content" questions. The championship battle will consist of thirty-two questions (sixteen of each type).
4. Competition begins with four pool play battles. The top-scoring teams proceed to an eight-team single elimination tournament. The eight teams with the highest cumulative score for all pool play battles advance to the "Elite Eight" bracket.
5. Each team will bring a complete set of concealed OBOB books (paper copies, not electronic versions). These will be used in case of a challenge.
6. Teams are made up of up two to four members with one optional alternate, for a total of five members. Teams may battle with no more than four players and no fewer than two.
7. Of the four competing members, one will serve as the spokesperson throughout each battle. The role of spokesperson may be changed for each battle but not during a battle.
8. Alternate members who are not playing will sit in a designated area during battles and may not participate in the battle in any manner.
9. Two teams will compete during a single battle. A coin toss will be held before the start of each battle. The winning team decides if they would like the odd-numbered or even-numbered questions.
10. For pool play rounds, three teams may be present in the same Zoom meeting with the moderator. Two teams will battle at a time, while the third team is watching and muted by the moderator. Each team will take a turn battling the other two.
11. The Moderator will review the rules and read a good sportsmanship statement with the participating teams and 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 heard or recorded during that battle.
12. The Moderator will ask a question, prefacing the question with the name of the team it is directed to. Timing starts immediately after the question has been read for the first time. Teams will have twenty seconds to quietly discuss the question among themselves. Once the team has their answer, the spokesperson should raise their hand to indicate they are ready to speak. All discussion **MUST** stop. **Only the first answer the spokesperson gives will be accepted; the team cannot use up the time left to guess other answers.** Moderator will not ask for more information or details. Acceptance (or not) must be based on what the spokesperson responds, without prompting.
13. Discussion must stop as soon as time is called, and the question must be answered immediately. If the spokesperson does not immediately begin to answer, or if discussion continues, the moderator must record, "No answer."
14. A team's spokesperson may request a repeat of a question. All repeats must take place within the twenty-second time limit, which starts after the question is read for the first time. Having the question repeated does not restart the time. If the moderator stumbles while reading a question he/she should stop and start over without penalty to the team.
15. While asking a question, the moderator may choose to mute opposing team on Zoom.
16. "In Which Book" questions will be read first and are worth a total of five points. In the case of a partially correct response (whether it is only the title OR the author that is correct), three points will be awarded. Book titles and authors must be stated as listed on the official OBOB book list. Omission of the articles *a*, *an*, and *the* at the beginning of a title will be accepted as correct.

17. For "Content" questions, five points are given for the complete answer. Designated two-part questions may be broken down for partial credit, with three points given for a partially correct answer. No partial scores will be given unless the question is designated as "Two Parts." Prior to reading the question, the moderator will let teams know the title of the book as well as if it is a two-part question.
18. If a team gives an incorrect answer, zero points are awarded. **The question is then discarded and does NOT pass to the opposing team.** No team may acquire points from the opposing team's incorrect answer.
19. If a question is being read and the spokesperson interrupts the reader, that team's spokesperson must answer the question immediately.
20. If the moderator makes a mistake while reading a question such as giving the answer, the question shall be thrown out and another question substituted in its place.
21. An answer is considered correct even if mispronounced, as long as the moderator can discern that's the way those letters could possibly be pronounced.
22. Multiple questions may appear on certain titles and some titles may not be asked about at all.
23. Neither teams nor audience members may use a title/author list or notes of any kind.
24. At the end of a battle, the moderator announces and allows ***twenty seconds*** for challenges to be articulated through the team's spokesperson only. The teams are each limited to one challenge per battle. If there are no challenges, the final score will be announced, and a winner will be declared. The battle will be considered complete, teams will log off, and no further challenges will be entertained.
25. Accepting the score: Teams will verbally accept and confirm the score. The battle will be considered complete when each team has been provided an opportunity for a challenge.
26. Bracket seeding is based on total cumulative points earned in pool play. If there is a tie for the last spot in bracket play, there will be a tiebreaker battle.
27. During tiebreaker battles, each team will be asked one "In which book" (IWB) question, and then each team will be asked one "Content" question. At the end of the tie breaker round, any teams that are still tied will repeat this process until a winner is determined. No team may acquire points from another team's incorrect answer. Challenges ARE allowed at the end of each tiebreaker round with the usual challenge time in effect.

Protocol for Challenges

- After the battle, the moderator will ask each team's spokesperson if their team would like to challenge any question. A team may only challenge a question that they were asked. Each team may only accept one challenge per battle.
- A team can challenge the decision on an answer they gave for which they feel they should have received points. A team may only challenge a question that they have been asked and must prove their original response. A team may not challenge an answer given by the opposing team.
- The teams have twenty seconds for their spokesperson to respond.
- 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 answering the odd-numbered questions should go first. The other team should remain muted on Zoom.
- Read the question aloud. The team must provide reference for the same answer to the question that they gave during the battle. Moderator should be able to refer back to the answer noted on the question card. In other words, during a challenge, a team may not offer a different answer from the one they gave during the battle.

- Students may use one copy of the challenged book to prove their answer.
- The challenging team will have two minutes to find and mark the page number(s) where the answer can be found. The moderator will not provide the page number(s) of the answer given on the question card. Note that not all of the page numbers will be exact because of different printings.
- Timing will begin **after** the coach provides the book to the challenging team.
- At the end of the two minute time period, discussion must stop. There will be no countdown of time.
- The challenging team will show the moderator the exact wording that supports their challenge. The team shall not explain their answer.
- The moderator determines whether the challenge is successful or not. An answer may be considered correct only by way of evidence. If the moderator accepts the challenge as successful, the points shall be awarded and the score amended.
- The moderator will explain the decision and process of amending points to the teams.
- The moderator's decision is ALWAYS FINAL and there is NO further discussion.

Battle Officials

The moderator, scorekeeper, and timekeeper will work collaboratively to provide a fair and enjoyable battle.

Moderator's Role

- Have teams arrange their chairs so each team member faces the computer/camera/moderator.
- Moderator hosts the Zoom call and may choose to mute all teams except the answering team.
- Teams will move their stack of books out of sight of each other and the camera.
- Moderator should also have a complete set of books available with them for reference during challenges.
- Some accommodations may be necessary for team members, such as the use of a sign language interpreter. These accommodations shall be agreed upon by the regional/state manager with the agreement of the OBOB Executive Board and communicated to the moderator prior to a battle.
- Moderator leads the battles according to battle procedures.
- In the event that a team, team member and/or audience member does not conduct themselves(s) in a good sportsmanship manner the moderator may stop the battle and speak to the offending person(s). Should disruption continue, the moderator may evict the person(s) from the battle.

Coach's Role (for Competition)

- Prior to any competition please review good sportsmanship guidelines with your team.
- Coach will ensure that all team members are able to log in to the Zoom meeting.
- Ensure that one copy of each OBOB book is available in case of a challenge.
- Have students create a school name card to display facing the camera during battles.
- The moderator may ask coaches to act as scorekeeper or time keeper (this depends largely on how many volunteers the regional manager was able to recruit).
- A coach may remind the moderator of a procedure that was forgotten.
- Remind team members to thank battle officials.
- Do not allow parents or team members to argue about the questions/answers.
- During battles a coach may not communicate (verbally or nonverbally) with their team OR take notes.

Timekeeper's Role

- Be familiar with the role of timekeeper and the contents of this handbook.
- Start the timing device as soon as the Moderator finishes reading each question. Time for twenty seconds and verbally call, "TIME" when the twenty second collaboration time is up. A team's spokesperson may choose to answer before time is called. If so, stop timing and do not interrupt a student's answer to call, "TIME."
- At the end of the battle, the moderator will ask each spokesperson if there is a challenge. Provide twenty seconds for a decision to challenge to be determined.
- If a team chooses to challenge a question, they will have two minutes to find the page or passage in the book supporting their answer. Begin timing this two-minute period when the team has a copy of the challenged book. Call, "TIME" when two minutes have elapsed. The team may find their page before the two 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.").
- Announce the end of the two minute time period. All team discussion must stop, and the Spokesperson must give an answer.

Scorekeeper's Role

- Become familiar with scoring procedures and the contents of this handbook.

- The scorekeeper may keep score on a whiteboard, chalkboard, or giant scoresheet where it is visible on camera to both teams and the audience.
- After the winner of the coin toss has chosen to answer even- or odd-numbered questions, write the school names in the appropriate columns on the white board and scoresheet.
- Listen as the moderator announces the school name and question number and award the points correctly.
- The moderator will also record the scores of each question on question sheets/cards.
- Add up the scores at the end of the battle.
- Transfer all scores from the whiteboard onto an official OBOB scoresheet for documentation. If applicable, compare scores with the other coach and/or moderator for verification.

The basics of scoring:

- All questions are worth five points. If a team gets only the title OR the author correct on an "In Which Book" question, they receive three points.
- Occasionally there will be a two-part "Content" question. It will be stated on the question card, and the moderator will announce, "This is a two-part question." If both parts are answered correctly, the team earns five points. If the team only answers one of the parts correctly, they will earn three points.
- The opposing team does not get a chance to answer any missed questions. They will receive a brand new question on their turn.
- Should any scoring conflicts arise, ask the moderator to pause the battle and resolve.

Example:

	School Name: (Receives odd-numbered questions first)	School Name: (Receives even-numbered questions first)
	School of Readers	OBOB Academy
"In Which Book" Question	Points Earned	Points Earned
1	5	-
2	-	5
3	5	-
4	-	5
5	5	-
6	-	5
7	3	-
8	-	5
"In Which Book" Subtotal:	18	20
Content Question	Points Earned	Points Earned
1	5	-
2	-	3
3	0	-
4	-	5
5	5	-
6	-	5
7	3	-
8	-	0
Content Subtotal:	13	13
Battle Total:	31	33

Frequently Asked Questions

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

A: Visit the website at: www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org

Q: How does a student participate?

A: Students participate by reading from the book list provided for that year's Oregon Battle of the Books and discussing those titles and competing in battles with their teammates. Make sure your school/public library is registered by the date listed on the official OBOB website.

Q: Who competes at the Regional OBOB battles?

A: Any school/public library registered in OBOB may send one team per division to their Regional competition. Grant recipients must participate and compete.

Students must participate with the school in which they are registered. School teams may not be made up of students from more than one school. Students not registered on a school team may register on a team with the public library in which derestriction they live.

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 parents reside (as per ORS 339.460 section B, part f). Homeschooled students may not, however, form a team on their own. Homeschooled students wishing to participate in OBOB should contact their local school library for OBOB-related class and/or practice requirements (ORS 339.60, Sec B(e)). Homeschooled students may be placed on a school OBOB team at the local level following the same procedures and guidelines used for traditional students. As an alternative, students may register on a public library team as provided above. Students enrolled in virtual schools will follow the same guidelines as homeschooled participants.

Q: What is the definition of a “school?”

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

Virtual School: Students enrolled in Virtual Schools will follow the same guidelines as home school participants.

Q: What is the definition of a “public library?”

A: “Public library” or “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.

Q: Where do the students get the books?

A: School libraries should have copies of each book on the list. Public libraries, book fairs, and local bookstores will also be appraised of the titles and will most likely have them available.

Q: When do the students read the books?

A: The school battles should be completed prior to the Regional Tournament (check the OBOB Website for dates). The reading list for the following school year is announced sometime in

May. Reading through the summer is completely optional but available to students.

Q: How do I get questions for my school battle?

A: Local questions are distributed to registered schools/public libraries by email in early January. Please do not share the questions with non-registered schools/public libraries. All questions supplied by OBOB are official questions and should not be used as practice questions. OBOB does not supply practice questions.

Q: Can my school obtain questions if the school is not registered for OBOB?

A: Yes, schools may purchase the current school year questions that are sent for local competitions (questions used for regional and state competitions are not available for sale.) Individuals, businesses, and other non-school organizations may not purchase OBOB questions.

Q: What is a battle?

A: A typical battle is a trivia game, in which student teams earn points by answering questions about the books on the book list.

Q: Can we change the members on our team after the regional battle?

A: Your five-member team (four members plus an alternate) may not change after the names have been sent in to the regional coordinator as listed on the OBOB website. Names of team members need to be submitted to the regional coordinator two weeks prior to regional competition. Teams of four may add an alternate before the team member names are submitted to the regional coordinator.

Q: How do alternates participate in the Regional/State level competition?

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

Q: Do students have to read all the books?

A: No. Many students read only about half of the books. There are a few readers who complete the whole list, but there are some who might only be able to read five of the books.

Q: Do I need other schools/public libraries to have a battle?

A: It is best to start small. The first time you conduct a battle, we recommend that you do it alone at your school/public library site. To participate in the Regional Competition your school/public library must simply be registered as a participating school. Some school districts offer district-wide competitions for practice purposes. All registered school/public library teams are invited to attend the regional competition no matter what their status is at the district level.

Q: How do I get started?

A: Have your school/public library purchase books from the book list and develop an in-house reading incentive system to encourage students to read these books. Request questions for

your competition by registering your school/public library in OBOB (via our website) and begin to find sponsors and helpers to support and conduct your local battle at your site or region.

Q: May I use the OBOB logo?

A: The logo is available for any Oregon Battle of the Books promotional activity, with the proviso that the Oregon Association of School Libraries must be given credit for their sponsorship. 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.

Q: Who else is participating in Oregon?

A: Participants are listed on the OBOB website.

Q: Who can I contact if I need help?

A: You can contact one of the OBOB participants in your area or send your question to oboblsta@gmail.com and the question will be considered by the executive committee.

Q: Do we need to have awards for the winning teams?

A: We suggest that you find ways to honor all participants.

Q: How can I find out more information?

A: Information is posted on our OBOB website www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org.

Promotional Ideas

A wide variety of ideas have been submitted for promoting the program and motivating students to read. Several ideas are outlined below.

- Involve parents, teachers, administrators, and the public as much as possible.
- Offer group orientations for students, staff, and parents.
- Do book talks using battle books.
- 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 to students.
- Hold contests to redesign book covers, create bookmarks, design a school logo for Battle of the Books, etc.
- 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.
- 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.
- Book stores: ask for promotional area.
- 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 listed, and specific size needed for logo. Students can be the judges for greater investment, and the winner's logo is included on the 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, 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).

How to Manage Public Relations

The real key to a publicity campaign is planning. Keep a schedule or timeline for the media, when to submit newsletters for district publications, when to bring in your camera to record momentous events, etc. Please include in publicity items that the Oregon Battle of the Books is sponsored by the Oregon Association of School Libraries.

- Local newspapers, local radio and television stations, as well as statewide publications, are anxious to read and hear about what is occurring in the schools. Even if you have to take the pictures and write the articles, record the interviews, or set up the video gear yourself, it will be worth the effort. Communications with the parents and the community about this popular school program will also open channels that can later be utilized when support for this and other worthy programs may be needed.
- Do a presentation on the Oregon Battle of the Books for open house.
- Get local merchants to display not only the books but also rules and prizes.
- Invite local dignitaries to assist with battles.
- Send out regular parent letters and news releases.
- Send individual invitations to school board and city council members to attend Oregon Battle of the Books finals in their communities. (Also, invite school board, City Council, and/or public library board members to be officials!)
- Create a link at your local school to OBOB webpages.
- Connect public library webpages to the OBOB webpages.
- Connect with Youth Services at local public libraries for support (displays, promotion, etc.)
- Present at a PTO/PTA or board meeting.
- Present a mock battle at a board meeting and other various locations.
- The Oregon Battle of the Books Committee 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 Chair for use in statewide publicity.
- Just remember to 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.

Criteria for the Selection of Titles

Note to Parents: The Oregon Battle of the Books is a voluntary program. OBOB welcomes students in grades 3-12 to participate. The titles are selected with the reading level and maturity in mind depending on grade level. Selection committee members are trained professionals. At least three committee members will have read a title considered for inclusion on the list. You may feel that the content and/or theme of one or two of the titles are inappropriate for your child. Not all OBOB team members are required to read all books on that year's list and students should not be assigned specific books to read for a grade if students or parents have reservations about the content suitability of that title.

Different criteria are used for the selection of these titles than those used in selecting materials for required activities in individual school districts. Books chosen for the Oregon Battle of the Books list are selected keeping in mind the following criteria:

Number of titles:

- Sixteen titles per elementary and middle school divisions
- Twelve titles for the high school division
- Grade level/reading level
- Balanced grade/reading level

Interest:

- A variety of subject areas, plots, settings, and styles
- Balanced interest for boys/girls and wide range of maturity levels within divisions
- Chosen from a variety of genres: realistic fiction, nonfiction, fantasy, science fiction, historical fiction, mystery, multicultural, and Oregon representation

Quality of the books:

- Select high quality, well-reviewed, age-appropriate titles.
- Award winners such as the Newbery, Oregon Readers' Choice, Beverly Cleary Children's Choice Award etc., will be considered

Books on previous lists:

- Titles may have been used as OBOB titles previously.
- Titles must not be repeated within at least four years of being on the list

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 should be currently available in paperback format whenever possible.

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;" or

"because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval;" or

"because of actual or suspected parental objections;" or

"in an effort to avoid controversy with parents."

Book Selection Process

Title selection is a year-long process that is taken very seriously by members of the Title Selection Committees.

Title Selection Committee members

All members of the title selection committees are trained professionals. They must be teachers, librarians or instructional coaches and/or serving on the General Board, or a person retired from one of these positions. There may be up to nine individuals on a title committee for each level. Committee members will be appointed for one year by the OBOB Title Chairperson. Appointments will be made by September of each year.

Title Nomination

- 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 list. 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 on November 15, nomination feedback will be solicited from the reading community on titles that are on the nomination list. Any new titles added by the committee will be placed on the nomination feedback list--community members are encouraged to check back in to the nomination feedback for starting in January and continuing through February to give feedback on any titles added by the title selection committee.
- New titles may be added by the Title Selection Committee starting at the January OBOB State Committee meeting. Three members of the committee must agree before a new title can be added to the nomination list, and titles should only be added by the committee to fill a gap in a particular area (for example, a lack of nominations in non-fiction, lack of nominations with a female protagonist, high interest titles, etc.).
- Titles from the ORCA (Oregon Readers' Choice Award) are automatically added to the OBOB nomination list.

Committee procedure

- Original nomination lists will be shared with the full statewide committee through November 15. Once Title Selection Committee consideration officially starts at the November statewide committee meeting, title lists and comments remain confidential.
- One committee member at each division level will be in charge of editing the 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.
- An effort is made by the committee to have a well balanced selection. Committee members consider factors such as genre, maturity level, authenticity, cultural bias, gender diversity, potential stereotypes, and tokenism.
- Publishing considerations – is it available in paperback and is it self-published?
- The committee will check availability of titles prior to putting the book on the list.
- If title selection members think a title may be controversial, all committee members read the book before a final vote is cast.

Final title lists

- The committee will strive to have half of the titles chosen at the January meeting. However, this may not always be possible.
- Potentially controversial titles will be read by the Executive Committee for their input but the final selection is up to the selection committee.
- 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 numbers for participating schools.

OBOB Question-Writing

Questions for the three levels of OBOB competition (local, regional, and state) are written by members of the OBOB question writing team using specific guidelines provided to each writer. Completed sets of questions are submitted to the OBOB question editor for each level to be edited and made available to schools in time for their local tournaments.

In the event that a book has been used in previous years' OBOB tournaments, writers write new questions each year the book is used.

OBOB question writers write questions from all parts of the book, cover-to-cover. Questions are trivia questions about important details in the books. For the moderator's reference, each question includes the page number on which the answer is found (page numbers may vary in different editions of a title).

Sample OBOB Questions

“In Which Book”:

Q: In which book does a character write a love note as a prank?

A: *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

Q: In which book does a child work alongside adults as an assistant in a hospital?

A: *Close Encounters of a Third World Kind* by Jennifer J. Stewart

Q: In which book does a character live on a twelve-acre rock surrounded by water?

A: *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Jennifer Choldenko

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

A: *Clementine* by Sara Pennypacker

Content:

Q: What prized possession does Greta's mother plan to sell?

A: Piano

Q: What item do the Wright Brothers build with a damaged tombstone?

A: Printing press

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

A: Alcatraz

Q: What are the two things that Clementine fears?

A: Pointy things AND boomerangs