



NEWPORT NEWS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BATTLE OF THE BOOKS (BOB)

Frequently **A**sksed **Q**uestions

Q: What is the Newport News Public Library's Battle of the Books?

A: It is a book knowledge competition. Teams from Newport News read 12 books and compete against each other by answering questions about the books read. The winners of the Newport News battles go on to compete in the regional competition at Williamsburg Regional Library.

Q: Who can participate in BOB?

A: Area schools can have one team each; independent groups such as Scouts or homeschoolers may also participate.

Q: Why should I participate?

A: The Battle of the Books program encourages students to read titles they would not choose for themselves, it encourages reading comprehension, and helps develop team building and social skills.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: There is no cost! You can borrow all the books from the Newport News Public Library and battle participation is free.

Q: How do I participate?

A: Depending on the grade level of participants, you can compete in the Elementary (4th/5th grade) or Middle School (6th to 8th grade) divisions. You can begin reading books and having practice sessions at any time. The official team sign up date is January 31; call 757-926-1350 for details.

Q: How many participants are in each team?

A: Each team consists of a maximum of 6 participants, 4 participants compete at any one time plus 2 alternates. You are allowed to rotate participants between each round of questions. Each team must have an adult coach or coaches.

Q: How many times a week does each team meet?

A: That depends on the coach and the participants, frequency depends on the team; teams tend to meet more often as the competitions gets closer. Some teams meet during school lunch hours, others afterschool. Regular meetings help keep students focused and writing their own practice questions help deepen the knowledge of the book.

Q: Does every participant need to read all 12 titles on the list?

A: That depends on the coach and how much participants want to read, because team members can rotate. Coaches can optimize the number of books read by the group by rotating team members accordingly. Some participants read every book on the list, others do not.

If you want additional information on Battle of the Books and how it works call 757-926-1350 or visit our web page:

<https://library.nnva.gov/158/Battle-of-the-Books>