

The Academic Awards

(A Brief Summary)

Statewide science quiz championships to air live 2 times per week on prime time television (each program will be repeated once during the week). The program will be piloted through the Brooklyn high school Superintendent's office; competitions in the pilot will take place exclusively between Brooklyn high schools.

Ideally the program will air on Channel 25 through industry sponsorship. Students in all grades will be eligible for tryouts at their high school. Competing teams will have 4 members, and as many as 8 alternates. However the team that's sent to the finals (those matches that will air on television) will comprise 4 members and one alternate.

Subjects:

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Chemistry | Literature | History |
| Earth science | Art and music | Government |
| Biology | Spanish | Social studies |
| Math | English | Law/Economics |

Industry Sponsorship:

Sponsorship will include monies for the students, their school and to support the airing of the program. The major part of sponsorship will be the donation of supplies for schools by participating companies. Companies can also donate prizes for individual students on winning teams. Not to have a top-heavy scheme of giving, some prizes will be reserved for all participating schools and all participating students from those schools. For winning teams, prizes will be given to those students who served as alternates, even if they don't take part in the televised championship. The majority of awards will go to the winning team and their school, followed by the second and third place teams and their respective schools.

Certain industries will be precluded from sponsorship, namely companies involved in the manufacture and/or sale of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and firearms. Political endorsements are welcomed, but there will be no political sponsorship. Community based organization can offer sponsorship, and so too can national organizations. However organizations dedicated to separatist ideas and activities are not eligible.

Sponsors providing over \$100,000 in goods and/or services will have their commercials aired during each competition. Those providing sponsorship between \$50,000 and \$100,000 will have their commercials aired once during the competition, and their name mentioned as a sponsor. Those sponsors offering less than \$50,000 will have a spot aired once during the competition and their name mentioned during the last 4 matches.

Divisions:

The Brooklyn high schools will be divided into 4 divisions of 13 schools each. Each school will play 5 schools from their division picked at random, and 1 school from each of the other divisions, also picked at random. From this total of 8 games in the first

round of competition 32 schools will be picked to move on to round 2 – the televised round. Round 2 of the competition will take place between the top 32 schools, and will involve 30 matches, and a championship finale.

Promotion:

The games will be promoted by taping the initial contests between schools and airing it on Brooklyn Community Access Television (BCAT).

Submission of questions:

Each participating schools will be asked to submit 30 questions from each of the above subjects for round 1 of the competition, and 3 questions from each category for round 2.

Format for questions:

Questions must be submitted on 3" X 5" index cards. The question should be typed on the front of the card under a subject heading selected from the above list. Questions should not be ambiguous, and should indicate standard knowledge within Brooklyn high schools. For example questions submitted should match that which is given in the State examinations being used in Brooklyn high schools. It's recommended that schools test the questions on their students before submitting them. Questions for round 2 should only be those requiring some level of critical thinking and deductive reasoning.

Hosting of the matches:

All the round 2 matches will take place at the same venue (to be announced prior to the start of the round 1 matches) which will be conducive to taping for television. The same host will conduct all the matches, with the assistance of 4 judges. The judges will be selected from applicants based on their level of teaching experience. Coaches of high school quiz teams will not qualify for positions as judges during the year in which they coach their school quiz team, but may qualify at other times. 2 teachers will host the round 1 matches – one from each school involved in the match. Each school should submit at least 2 applicants who can rotate the position of hosting between; coaches of quiz teams don't qualify as host. Schools should also submit 2 applicants for the post of judge for the round 1 matches, which will be rotated like the post of host. The questions to be asked in the round 1 matches will be selected at random from the questions submitted. 30 questions will be mailed to each school host 2-3 days prior to the match; hosts will alternate questions during match, each host asking a total of 30 questions.

Rules for the competitions:

Each correct answer will be worth 1 point, and each incorrect answer will result in the deduction of 1 point. Each team will be given a buzzer system with lights set up such that when one team buzzes in, the other team is precluded from buzzing in. Once the team buzzes in 3 seconds will be allotted for answering the question. Team members may confer with each other, but only one member of the team will be allowed to provide the accepted answer. If more than one members of a team answer, then the answer will be

disqualified, and the opposing team will be given the opportunity to answer. If a team buzzes in and cannot answer the question, that team will lose a point.

In round 2 of the competition, teams will be given desks equipped with a buzzer system, an electronic score board, and a microphone, all of which will be centrally located on the table. There will be 4 chairs 1 for each member of the team. Schools will be required to submit a banner of appropriate dimensions to be hung at the front of their table during the competition. The banner should have the school name, emblem and motto, or any combination thereof. There should be no sponsorship logos on school banners.