

Practical Tips for the Battle of the Books Coach

Presented by Martha Blackwelder
mbwelder@suddenlink.net

Battle of the Books is a book competition for middle school students (grades 6-8) sponsored by the North Carolina School Library Media Association. The Battle of the Books manual, book lists, pronunciation guide, and other official information can be found on NCSLMA's website: <http://www.ncslma.org> -- then click on "Book Competitions" on the left.

Tips:

Distribute the reading list to students in the spring and summer; make sure it is available during open house and at the beginning of the school year; encourage reading of titles

Share question writing with the support group within your county

During the summer read the books and write practice questions

Introduce BOB to sixth graders at the beginning of the school year

Gather your questions and prepare them for practice sessions

About October survey student interest, encourage reading of titles, and organize a team

Give author/title tests to determine students who are serious about the team

Determine a practice schedule and share with parents

State expectations for appropriate dress for competition (t-shirts, etc.)

Teach rules, sportsmanship, etiquette, and other expectations of team members

Prepare, distribute, and collect all permission and transportation forms

During practice sessions always expect a title to be followed with an author's name

Practice, practice, practice and practice some more following the rules

