

Christian School Finals Competition

Academic Bowl 150

November 2010



CSFC Event Highlight – Academic Bowl 150

When you want to relax and just enjoy yourself, what is it that you do? What is that single activity that you look forward to doing whenever you get the chance? For some it's anything physical such as golf, running, hiking or mountain climbing. Others look forward to something more serene such as traveling or getting together with

friends over coffee. As you can see, our leisure pursuits span a wide variety of interests. Now, try to guess which pastime continually stands out year after year in terms of popularity and prevalence? The answer, which may surprise many, is reading.

Reading is considered an enjoyable activity with the added benefits of enriching and inspiring its participants. Reading also provides new information and thus expands an individual's knowledge base.

For those who love reading, learning and amassing a variety of seemingly random facts, the Academic Bowl at Christian School Finals Competition (CSFC) plays to your strengths. Fast paced and highly competitive, the Academic Bowl provides a venue to demonstrate knowledge in history, literature, mathematics, science, current events and the arts in a tournament setting. Each year the Academic Bowl at CSFC attracts a growing number of participants.

Dr. Cal Easterling, a veteran Competition Academic Bowl Quizmaster, recommends this event for all schools. Similar to a sports workout, he believes Academic Bowl competitions provide motivation for continual learning. Motivating students to be continual learners has the potential to provide any school with an academic edge which is an exceptional promotional attribute.

Drawing on his years of service to Competition's Academic Bowl, Dr. Easterling provides some guidance to help your team prepare for and be highly competitive in the 2011 CSFC Academic Bowl.

Academic Bowl is a team event that covers a broad range of subjects. While all team members should have a solid foundation and be well versed in a variety of areas, it is helpful to think about particular strengths when selecting team members. The best team members are well-rounded and exemplify ORU's whole person. Consider a mix of students with strengths in a

variety of areas...athletics, music, arts, science, etc. (The video, "What is a Whole Person" can be viewed on ORU's web site at [Whole Person Video](#)).



As you may have guessed, accumulating a wide knowledge base is essential for Academic Bowl success. Of course, reading is a popular, easy and enjoyable means to accumulating knowledge. Think about this each time an extra reading is assigned in class. While it often feels simply like extra work, take time to consider how this additional reading provides new information or a new perspective on a particular subject. Reading outside of specific classroom assignments provides opportunities to expand knowledge in areas more in line with specific interests. Though reading for enjoyment may seem not as important as assigned classroom reading, remember Academic Bowl questions cover a wide variety of subjects. Staying updated and well-read in a subject you love such as perhaps soccer, the latest art techniques or music provides an individual knowledge depth that is beneficial to an Academic Bowl team. Both classroom and outside reading are excellent preparation activities for Academic Bowl.

While reading is a reliable means of expanding one's knowledge base, it should not become grueling or necessitate getting through a certain number of pages of each day. Reading a good newspaper daily is quick and provides information on current events. Several newspapers can be accessed online, and reading a variety of newspapers will provide a well-rounded background of what is going on in the world. Even simply reading through headlines can be helpful. Additionally, watching a good news program will enhance knowledge of current events and is a tool for immediate information.

Preparing for Academic Bowl should be an ongoing process, not something that starts weeks before Competition. Sample questions are available online at www.questionsunlimited.com. While individual team members can access these questions (and answers) to review, more benefit is gained by using the practice questions in a trial Academic Bowl setting at your school. The Questions Unlimited web site also offers a Twenty Questions interactive monthly competition for schools which provides exposure to the types of questions students will encounter at Competition's Academic Bowl event.

The truth is, as a student there will always be another reading assignment. If you have not previously, try looking at these assignments as an opportunity to put your knowledge through a mental "work out". More than likely you will discover you know more than you thought you did on a particular subject, or you may learn another way of thinking about a specific subject but most likely you will find that learning is exciting. Once you do, you are well on your way to being a 2011 CSFC Academic Bowl competitor!

The CSFC Handbook provides in-depth details about the Academic Bowl Event including functions and roles, definition of terms, pre-game preparations, game procedures and rules, sportsmanship and responsibilities. (See pages 37-45 of the 2011 CSFC Handbook.)

Bio:

Dr. Cal Easterling, Director of Institutional Research at Oral Roberts University, is another faithful servant at CSFC. Dr. Easterling holds a PhD in sociology from the University of North Texas and has been at Oral Roberts University since 1990. Before joining ORU, he taught at several universities across Oklahoma and Texas. Additionally, he founded and has pastored at various churches in Oklahoma and is the current Sunday School Superintendent at Victory Christian Center in Tulsa. Presently, Dr. Easterling is engaged with contributing chapters to various publications in collaboration with other ORU faculty. Dr. Easterling assists with Academic Bowl and Lightning Chess at CSFC and is appreciated for the special sense of humor that he brings to everything he touches.

<http://competition.oru.edu>

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