



WORLD
AFFAIRS
COUNCILS of
AMERICA



TEACHER'S

GUIDE

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WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCILS OF AMERICA

ABOUT US

The World Affairs Councils of America is an independent, nonpartisan organization dedicated to engaging the public and leading global voices to better understand the world, America's international role, and the policy choices that impact our daily lives and our future.

Established in 1986 as a nonprofit membership organization in Washington, DC the World Affairs Councils of America carries out its mission by:

- Supporting more than 90 World Affairs Councils across the United States and promoting their programs and educational initiatives for diverse, multi-generational audiences. Webring the world to classrooms, C-suites, and conferences in the nation's capital and townhall-style forums in your community.
 - Developing Councils' convening power nationwide by providing face-to-face connections and dialogue with global leaders, business executives, policy experts, social innovators, and distinguished opinion makers.
 - Exploring new ideas in dozens of dynamic Council events each week that shape public discourse on a range of critical issues, including: national security; the economy and international trade; global health; energy and the environment; immigration; human rights; education; and culture.
 - Challenging the next generation to develop leadership skills and global acumen so that our communities can better compete, collaborate, and make informed decisions.
 - Partnering with organizations that seek to reach out to "grassroots" and "grasstops" citizens, disseminate research, mutually expand networks, and transform how people, enterprises, and governments think about the world.
 - Expanding informed, respectful public discourse about international relations and current events through WACA conference calls, podcasts, information services, and social media. We are digitally accessible from anywhere in the world.
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ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST OVERVIEW

The Carlos and Malú Alvarez Academic WorldQuest™ (AWQ) is the flagship youth education program of the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) – the national network of World Affairs Councils.

Preparing the next generation of leaders, scholars, and decision-makers to thrive in a rapidly changing world – where our national interests are intertwined with the global community – is one of the greatest challenges facing our country. It requires a renewed enthusiasm for global studies in our high schools. Too many American students today fall behind their counterparts from other countries in their knowledge and understanding of world history, geography, and current international events. The mission of Academic WorldQuest is to close the gap.

AWQ provides a unique opportunity for high school students to test their knowledge of international affairs through a competitive and engaging trivia competition. On average, 5,000 students representing 50 local Councils across the United States participate annually in competitions across the country. Winning teams are then invited to represent their high school, city, and local Council at WACA's National Competition, held each spring in Washington, DC.

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Academic WorldQuest™ contributes to the national Common Core State Standards Initiative by fostering reading comprehension skills for informational text.

AWQ PROGRAM STRUCTURE

World Affairs Councils across the country begin recruiting high schools for local Academic WorldQuest™ competitions in late summer and early fall. World Affairs Councils typically host a local Academic WorldQuest™ competition on a given Saturday. Ideally, taking place at least two months before the WACA National Competition which is held in April.

This team based competition allows high school teams throughout the community to demonstrate their knowledge on U.S. foreign policy, geography and culture, and global affairs. Teams consist of four high school students, selected by the school, and accompanied by a teacher chaperone. Teams are allowed to have one to two alternates in case a team member needs to be replaced before the competition. Each team sits at a separate table that is clear of all personal belongings. Teacher chaperones and other observers are asked to remain in the designated seating areas around the perimeter of the room.

Local competitions can consist of anywhere between 6 and 10 rounds of questions (**NOTE:** the national competition has 10 rounds). Each round will have a total of 10 questions. In addition, there will be a separate tiebreaker round, if the need arises. Tiebreaker questions will also be provided by WACA.

Following a competition introduction, the competition begins. Ten questions for each round are asked using a previously created PowerPoint presentation (also provided by WACA). Teams have between 30 seconds and one minute once the question has been read to write their answer before moving on to the next question. Students submit their answers at the conclusion of each round. Judges review answers while the competition continues and keep a tally of the final scores. Each question is worth one (1) point.

Answers are read periodically during the competition, this can be done after each round or after a grouping of rounds (**NOTE:** at the national competition answers are read after the third, seventh and tenth round). After all rounds are completed, the scores are tallied to determine the winner. Tiebreaker questions are available in the event of a tie. At the conclusion of each competition, the winning teams are recognized and awarded prizes.

AWQ COMPETITION RULES

All teams that compete in the Carlos and Malú Alvarez 2022 Academic WorldQuest™ National Competition must win a local AWQ competition sponsored by a Member Council of the World Affairs Councils of America. Teams may compete in only one (1) local competition in order to qualify to compete in the National Competition. A team consists of four (4) Primary Teammates who are currently high school students (freshman – senior year). No more than four players per team will be able to compete in WACA's National Competition. Teams of fewer than four students are allowed to compete, but this is strongly discouraged.

There are 10 rounds in the competition, each round having 10 questions. Teams will have 45 seconds at the local competition and 30 seconds at the National Competition to answer each question. (**NOTE:** For the AWQ National Competition, all of the categories are multiple choice.) For Local AWQ Competitions organized by Councils, may use multiple-choice format or fill-in-the-blank for the Current Events category.

One (1) point is awarded for each correct answer. No penalty for incorrect answers or no answer. The team with the most correct answers out of all 100 questions is declared AWQ Champion. If, at the conclusion of the competition, there is a tie for 1st place through 3rd place, tiebreaker rounds will be played.

Player substitutions once the competition has started is not allowed. Teams are not allowed to consult with the audience, wireless devices, cell phones, other teams, books, or other written materials at any point during the competition. Any team found by World Affairs Councils of America judges, staff, or volunteers to be violating this rule will be automatically disqualified and ejected from the Competition. If a team believes another team is cheating, a player may alert a World Affairs Councils of America representative. However, if the other team is not found to be in violation of any rules, the accusing team will forfeit two (2) points.

HOW TO USE THE AWQ STUDY GUIDE

The World Affairs Councils of America prepares the Academic WorldQuest™ Study Guide in early September. Questions for eight of the ten categories are drawn from the resources included in the AWQ Study Guide. Questions from Great Decisions and Current Events are derived from other resources.

The AWQ Study Guide is a primary source that contains articles from a variety of media organizations, think tanks, and institutional resources worldwide. The overall aim of the AWQ Study Guide is to help students learn about important international topics of the day and to help prepare them for future careers. More specifically, to prepare for the AWQ competitions, when reading the material, we ask students to use critical thinking skills to synthesize and understand the material.

WACA often creates questions that are not straight memorization types and will ask questions instead that require broader synthesis of the required readings and video content.

One suggestion from former participants on how to use the AWQ Study Guide is dividing the the guide among team members. Each team member would receive two topics that they will become experts on. The two remaining categories, Current Events and Great Decisions, will be the responsibility of the entire team.

ACADEMIC WORLDQUEST TIMELINE

Beginning your process early is key to a successful Academic WorldQuest™ Program Year. A sample timeline for preparing for the AWQ Competition is offered below.

SUGGESTED TIMELINE

September

AWQ Study Guide is released by the WACA National Office. Local World Affairs Councils distribute this material to educators and students.

Schools and educators begin recruiting and developing team(s) of students that are interested in participating in Academic World Quest.

October - December

Begin competition preparation. Teams are created and start studying for the competition. Students will use the official AWQ Study Guide provided by WACA National Office to become experts on the selected topics for the year.

January - March

Local Competitions are held throughout the Council network. Your team will compete at the local competition.

Begin preparing for the National Competition. The winning team of the local competition should begin preparing for the National Competition held in Washington, DC in late April.

April

National Competition is held. Winning teams will travel to Washington, DC to compete in the National Competition and partake in exciting discussions with leading individuals in foreign policy and global affairs.
