

## **QuizBowl Ideal Extracurricular Activity To Help Students Prepare for Vocational and Technical Careers**

### **Overview**

- Quizbowl as an extracurricular activity is growing in popularity nationwide in a number of organizations outside of the formal K-12 school system.
- Almost to a person, students who have participated on Quiz Bowl teams express how they became more confident in their intellectual and academic abilities through the experience.

### **Students report they experienced/learned:**

- Preparation for real world competition
- Discipline and goal setting and the rewards of both
- Sportsmanship, discipline, social skills and how to handle stress
- Responsibility and interdependence
- The experience of teamwork, feeling of belonging and mattering to the team

### **Recognition for achievement**

- Students are recognized and rewarded for what they know, a more realistic mirroring of the real world than athletic competition
- Students have the opportunity to represent the organization of which they are members
- Students experience good preparation for college and a variety of career options
- Students report greater interest in personal and intellectual growth

### **Additional Points**

- The relationships that students develop with other students and their coaches can lead directly to success in careers.
- “these competitions seem to have serious and enduring effects on shaping career patterns and life choices”
- Provides students with mentors and a network of contacts to assist and support their own career and college decisions as well as providing oppts

### **Students’ perspective- - “Learning can be fun”**

- Students think it is fun, and don’t necessarily realize they are learning

“This competition is a great way for students to learn health care and medical terminology that they will encounter in college or pre-med studies, learn more about the myriad career options that are available, and trends affecting them and their career options. Students also learn the importance of interdependence through the team aspect of the game. Each student specializes in certain areas of knowledge and team members are all dependent on each other for the success of their effort—which is very similar to real-world healthcare and medical practice.”

*--Joel Arvizo, past HOSA president*

“Quiz bowl is a great extra curricular activity because it recognizes and rewards students for what they know and what they’ve learned. It also gives them the opportunity to represent their school and by extension their community.”

*--Brent Porter, Program Director, KY Association for Academic Competition*

“Each student must accept the responsibility of their teammates being dependent on them. It is a lot of pressure and students mature in the process”

*--Joel Arvizo, former HOSA president*

“ I think of Quiz Bowl a methodology towards motivating kids. Preparing for the events makes students work and study harder.”

*--Chip Harris, Ed.D., Quiz Bowl National Chair, Skills USA Championships; Director, Center for Career and Technical Education, Tennessee State University;*

“I saw the practical use and applicability of Quiz Bowl early on for the classroom—about 30 years ago. I use Quiz Bowl for Spanish and Social Studies. It is ideal for review and recall, and my students enjoy it much more than drills. It is ideal for test preparation as well.”

Some students learn somewhere along the line that academic achievement is not “cool.” Yet some of these students enjoy Quizbowl and see it differently than learning. This can make the difference for those kids. Some kids really need the message that school can be fun.”

“Quizbowl fills a niche for certain students who don’t want or aren’t interested in athletics, but enjoy competition. It can be the only form of team play and opportunity to represent the school or community that special needs kids have.. This was recently the

case with a young man I taught who had muscular dystrophy and could not participate in sports.

*--Melinda Dixon, Teacher, Lockwood High School, Lockwood, MO*

“Participation in QuizBowl is definitely on a growth trajectory nationally. As a question writer for the states of Missouri, Alabama, Arkansas and Illinois, I see that teams practice much more today than they did ten years ago. Teams used to buy five sets of practice questions, and today they buy 20 sets. I attribute this to increased interest and more serious commitments by team members and coaches than exhibited in previous years.”

*-- Rita Harsh, Writer, former owner of Questions Galore*

“Students who were formerly quiet often come out of their shells on a Quizbowl team and become more confident. They also get more serious about school when they join the team because they take learning and knowledge more seriously. Although I do think there is a correlation between this sort of academic competition and doing well on standardized tests such as the ACT, although I can’t prove that.”

*--D. Wayne Foruge, Coach and Electronics Teacher, Porte Barre High School, Porte Barre, Louisiana*

“Quizbowl addresses topics that are not normal topics in the high school curriculum such as classical music, philosophy, and Nobel prize winners. This creates more well rounded students who become confident in their breadth and depth of knowledge.

“The students are under pressure in front of an audience, under glaring lights, and this creates confidence under pressure.”

“Our students are very diverse ethnically and the majority are first generation Americans. They are generally less confident than other students and wonder where and how they fit into their community and even into American society, in general. Yet, when they are on the Quizbowl team, they experience a strong feeling of belonging and mattering to the school and community.”

*--Paul Cain, Ysleta High School, El Paso, Texas*

“Quizbowl and other forms of academic competition should not be evaluated solely in terms of wins and losses but in successful preparation for the "real world." The students that choose to participate are winners before they play their first game because they have learned to challenge themselves and stretch their goals to guarantee individual achievement.”

*--Paul Cain, Teacher, Ysleta High School, El Paso, Texas*

“Students who used to be shunned and called “nerds” or “geeks” often become very popular school heroes once they’re on the Quizbowl team. Just like their athletic counterparts, they represent their school in competition, earn varsity letters, and are respected for their abilities and successes.”

*--Paul Cain, Teacher, Ysleta High School, El Paso, Texas*

“On a team, all members must depend on one another, and the acceptance of an individual by peers is important. In order to gain this respect, the work ethic becomes important. Students learn to be prepared to carry their share of the load and expect others to do the same ”

*--Joel Arvizo, former HOSA president*

## **Students**

“It gave me the confidence to know that I could compete on a national level – that no matter what environment I end up in, I have the capacity to do as well as some of the best and brightest.”

*--Cliff Chang, Team Illinois 2005*

“I really appreciated my experience...because it showed me that intelligent, hardworking, and dedicated students deserve to be rewarded whether they are athletes, musicians, or Quiz Bowl players!”

*--Mariusz Galczynski, Team Illinois 2002*

## **For more information:**

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