

**FLORIDA EDUCATION FUND
HISTORY AND CULTURE BRAIN BOWL RULES**
(COVID-19 Edition for 2021-2022 Competitions, September 2021)

A. GENERAL

1. The name of the FEF's History and Culture Brain Bowl shall be "Challenge Race to Excellence." The game played shall be "The Black Heritage Trivia Game."
2. There will be two (2) levels of competition during the year. From November 2021 through January 2022, county/regional competitions will occur. In March 2022, the state competition will take place via Web video conference.
3. At the county/regional level, the COE Director will determine the number of teams that may enter the Brain Bowl Competition.
4. The first-place teams from the respective regional competitions will compete against each other in the state finals in March 2022.
5. Youth in grades six (6) through twelve (12) are encouraged to compete in the Brain Bowl.
6. Teams may consist of seven (7) players. **At least** five (5) players **must** compete at a time. Once a team has competed, new members may not be added at any level of competition.
7. A school-based team or a team sponsored by a school may consist only of students attending the school.
8. Prior to the competitions, each team will designate a captain and a co-captain. The captain will introduce the members of the team, the coaches, and the sponsors before the competition begins.
9. There will be at least one (1) ombudsman utilized at the county/regional competition. There will be a moderator, a chief judge, a timekeeper, a scorekeeper, and at least one (1) ombudsman utilized at the State level of competition. The ombudsman will be responsible for monitoring team members and coaches during the Web video conference competitions and will notify the chief judge if a coach wants to file a protest.
10. Members of advisory boards of Centers may not serve in any official capacity during the competitions with the exception of serving in the role of orientation leader(s). Staff of Centers may serve in designated capacities, i.e., timekeeper, scorekeeper, and ombudsman at any time during any of the competitions.
11. After the competitions have begun, competing teams conferring with each other with the aid of written materials will forfeit the competition. **No books or other written materials will be brought to the rooms where team members are competing.** After competition has begun, neither coaches nor sponsors nor Center staff are to confer with members of their teams unless official times are allocated.
12. Prior to the competitions, an orientation for team members, judges, scorekeepers, timekeepers, moderators, ombudsmen and coaches will be held. Staff of the Florida

Education Fund (FEF) or their designees will conduct this orientation. Advisory board members may serve as orientation leaders for this portion of the competition.

13. Dates and location of competitions must be specified in writing. Any team that fails to appear at the competition site at the designated time will forfeit the competition.
14. State level first-place, second-place and third-place team members who selected college scholarships from prior years **may not compete** in subsequent years.
15. At the county/regional level, questions will be drawn from The Black Heritage Trivia Game. Questions at the state level will be drawn from ***Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow*** by Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Publisher: Penguin Press (April 2, 2019); ***Kric Krac*** by Edwidge Danticat; Publisher: Vintage; First Edition (April 2, 1996); and from ***Becoming*** by Michelle Obama; Publisher: Random House Large Print; Large Print edition (November 13, 2018).
16. An independent consultant hired by the FEF will write all book questions. No COE Directors, students, coaches or sponsors will have access to these questions prior to or after the competition. Judges should receive the questions in a sealed envelope from the FEF. The envelope is to remain sealed until the competition.
17. **TRUE/FALSE, YES/NO, OR EITHER/OR QUESTIONS WILL NOT BE ASKED IN COMPETITIONS AT THE COUNTY/REGIONAL OR STATE LEVEL. IF THE MODERATOR INADVERTENTLY ASKS ONE OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED QUESTIONS, WHETHER IT IS ANSWERED CORRECTLY OR INCORRECTLY, THE QUESTION WILL BE THROWN OUT AND THE RECEIVING TEAM WILL BE GIVEN A NEW QUESTION WITHOUT PENALTY. FOR MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS, CHOICES WILL NOT BE GIVEN. STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CORRECT ANSWERS.**
18. **DURING ALL LEVELS OF COMPETITION, ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR RULES AS WRITTEN.** Any participant who violates any Competition rule may be barred from participating in the Competition during the remainder of the current Competition year or in subsequent years, at the discretion of the FEF.

B. COUNTY/REGIONAL COMPETITION

1. To compete, a team's members and coaches will meet by Web video conference at a time designated by the COE Director, during which each team member will complete a timed online quiz containing questions drawn from The Black Heritage Trivia Game. For the competition, each team member will be required to download and install onto his/her computer safe exam browser software indicated or provided by FEF.

During the entire time the team is taking the online quiz, each team member and team coach must position their cameras as directed by FEF during the Orientation to be held pursuant to section A.12 above, so that they and their surroundings can be clearly seen during the Web video conference. While any member of the team is taking the online quiz, no team member may speak, look at any mobile computing device, or receive guidance or help from any source; no team member may open any application on his or her computer

other than the Web browser displaying the online quiz and the Web video conferencing software; and the team coaches may not speak to or otherwise signal any team member. The team will be subject to disqualification if any team member or coach violates any of these rules.

2. Each team's competition score will be the average score of its team members. The team with the highest score will advance to the state competition. In the event of a tie, each of the tied teams will take an additional timed online quiz containing questions drawn from The Black Heritage Trivia Game, following the same rules as outlined above, until a winner is determined.

C. STATE LEVEL COMPETITION DESCRIPTION

1. The Competition will take place in March 2022 and will be audio taped. No recording, written, audio or visual, will be permitted by the participants and no audience members other than COE Directors will be allowed to attend the competitions.
2. To compete, a team's members and coaches will meet by Web video conference at a time designated by the FEF, during which the team will answer twenty (20) Level 2 and ten (10) Level 3 book questions, as defined below, posed by the Moderator. For the competition, each team member will be required to download and install onto his/her computer safe exam browser software indicated or provided by FEF.

LEVEL 2 Book Questions

*May include multiple short answer questions with fill-in-the-blanks, but not limited to this type of question. Level two (2) questions are worth two (2) points and are the next highest level of difficulty.

LEVEL 3 Book Questions

*May include questions requiring critical thinking, but not limited to this type of question. Level three (3) questions are worth three (3) points and are the highest level of difficulty.

3. Teams may confer on all answers and will have fifteen (15) seconds in which to answer each question. Questions will be read only once unless a team requests clarification; however, the team still remains under the fifteen (15)-second rule. The moderator will announce the book and page number of each question read.
4. The team captain or designee must give the answer, and only that answer will be considered as the official team response.
5. An answer to a question started after the time has elapsed will not be considered valid. If the moderator is interrupted by a member of the team, the moderator will immediately stop reading the question and allow the interrupting individual five (5) seconds in which to answer the question. If the individual who interrupted the moderator fails to provide the correct answer, the team is penalized one (1) point. The moderator will then repeat the entire question.
6. If either the chief judge or moderator believes that a particular answer to a question may be accurate but is incomplete, he/she may request the responding team to provide additional

information. For example, if a question requires identification of an individual and the responding team only gives the last name, the team may be asked to provide the individual's first name. Likewise, a team may be asked to spell an answer if it is unable to pronounce it properly.

7. If a team response provides more information than is included in the correct answer, the moderator or chief judge may determine whether the answer is acceptable or not and may ask for clarification from the person answering the question.
8. No team member other than the captain may challenge or question the moderator or any other official at any time during competition. The chief judge will issue a warning on the first interruption and will assess a two (2)-point penalty with each additional interruption.
9. During the entire time the team is competing, each team member and team coach must position their cameras as directed by FEF during the Orientation to be held pursuant to section A.12 above, so that they and their surroundings can be clearly seen during the Web video conference. No team member may look at any mobile computing device, open any application on his or her computer other than the Web video conferencing and safe exam browser software, or receive guidance or help from any non-team member or other source, and team coaches may not speak or otherwise signal any team member while the team is competing. The team will be subject to disqualification if any team member or coach violates any of these rules.
10. Each team's competition score will equal the number of points earned for answering questions correctly, less any penalty points. The score for each team will be recorded in order to provide an official record. The team with the highest number of points will be declared the champion. In the event of a tie, each of the tied teams will compete again following the same rules as outlined above, until a winner is determined.

D. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

A protest may be initiated by the team's captain orally during the competition or in writing by the team's coach who will utilize the protest form. Any protest must be submitted to the chief judge immediately. The protest may be one of three types: (1) a challenge as to the accuracy of an answer provided; (2) a claim that a rule violation occurred; or (3) a claim that a judge misinterpreted a rule that would change the outcome. The protest must be submitted by the team captain or coach and must specify which question or rule is being violated. If the team does not protest, the team forfeits the right to protest and the outcome will remain unchanged.

A coach initiates a protest by holding up the protest form. Once the ombudsman sees the raised protest form, s/he informs the chief judge of a protest, and the clock will stop immediately.

The chief judge will review the protest and, if necessary, the audiotapes. If the judge rules that the protest is valid, and this changes the outcome of the competition, then the revised outcome will be considered the official outcome. The chief judge will be allocated five (5) minutes to make a decision regarding written protests, and oral protest decisions will be made immediately.

All protests filed must be adjudicated before the competition can proceed. If the chief judge fails to adjudicate a protest, the FEF President or Vice President will make a decision regarding the protest, which decision will be final and cannot be protested.

A team filing a protest not considered valid may be assessed a one (1)-point penalty at the discretion of the chief judge. For a second or third invalid protest or counter-protest by the same team, the sponsoring Center of Excellence will be assessed a \$100.00 fine by the FEF. At the county/regional competition, the chief judge will report any infractions that led to a penalty to the Florida Education Fund.

Once competition has concluded and the moderator or chief judge announces the official outcome of the Competition, that official outcome is final and cannot be protested. After that point, any participant who would like to express a concern about the Competition must send that concern to the Director of his/her local Center of Excellence who will forward the information to the FEF's Vice President. The FEF's Vice President will ensure that all such concerns are reviewed and considered by the official History and Culture Competition Committee.

E. SYNOPSES OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL BOOKS

The following books were selected by the FEF because they provide a historical frame of reference for the experiences of African Americans and other minorities and speak to the obstacles and challenges they have had to overcome. The books also highlight and target the phenomenal achievements of African Americans and other minorities, past and present. We believe these books harbor much of the historic knowledge our children and youth need to know in order to take their proper place in the continuing development of our community. For it is truism "...that a people who do not know from where they come cannot know where they are going."

Note: The descriptions of the books below derive from various synopses and reviews.

1. ***Becoming***, by Michelle Obama

In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it—in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.

2. ***Kric Krac***, by Edwidge Danticat

This collection of interrelated short stories presents the harsh reality of daily Haitian life under a state-approved terrorist regime. Despite the harshness, Danticat beautifully balances the poverty, despair, and brutality her characters endure with magic and myth. For many characters, she also explores the inevitable clash between traditions of Haitian home

life and a new American culture. Principally mothers and daughters confront each other in these cultural and intergenerational wars, wars that would be emotionally devastating were it not for the indomitable presence of love. Danticat's stories are intimate histories about the raw longing of people for some chance at peace and happiness for themselves and their imprisoned society, about existence contorted by forced separation, and of personal lives shot through with terror. They are stories of an ancient people, at once proselytized and bullied, who actually live their lives in the embrace of overriding mythic powers and rites of passage.

3. ***Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow***, by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

The abolition of slavery in the aftermath of the Civil War is a familiar story, as is the civil rights revolution that transformed the nation after World War II. But the century in between remains a mystery: if emancipation sparked "a new birth of freedom" in Lincoln's America, why was it necessary to march in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s America? In this new book, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., one of our leading chroniclers of the African American experience, seeks to answer that question in a history that moves from the Reconstruction Era to the "nadir" of the African American experience under Jim Crow, through to World War I and the Harlem Renaissance. Through his close reading of the visual culture of this tragic era, Gates reveals the many faces of Jim Crow and how, together, they reinforced a stark color line between white and black Americans. Bringing a lifetime of wisdom to bear as a scholar, filmmaker, and public intellectual, Gates uncovers the roots of structural racism in our own time, while showing how African Americans after slavery combatted it by articulating a vision of a "New Negro" to force the nation to recognize their humanity and unique contributions to America as it hurtled toward the modern age. An essential tour through one of America's fundamental historical tragedies, *Stony the Road* is also a story of heroic resistance, as figures such as W. E. B. Du Bois and Ida B. Wells fought to create a counter-narrative, and culture, inside the lion's mouth. As sobering as this tale is, it also has within it the inspiration that comes with encountering the hopes our ancestors advanced against the longest odds.

F. THE NAMES OF THE REGIONAL WINNING TEAM MEMBERS MUST BE FORWARDED TO THE FEF OFFICE WITHIN 48 HOURS AFTER THE COMPETITION. CENTERS THAT SUBMIT THEIR TEAM REGISTRATION INFORMATION AFTER FEBRUARY 19, 2021, WILL BE ASSESSED A \$50 LATE FEE.

G. SUGGESTED PLANNING STRATEGIES

Centers of Excellence

1. Identify a minimum of ten (10) community entities for the competition that may serve as team sponsors, i.e., individuals, schools, churches, businesses, fraternities, sororities, and civic and social organizations.
2. Send them a Brain Bowl Information Packet:
 - Announcement cover letter on your Center's stationery

- Brain Bowl Rules
 - Newspaper media coverage of previous Brain Bowls
3. In your Brain Bowl announcement cover letter, give the date that you have planned a sponsor orientation (**seek an RSVP**); follow-up with phone calls and personal contact to ensure good attendance. At your sponsor orientation, show appropriate Brain Bowl photos (**create excitement**), discuss the upcoming local competition and the rules, and give general pointers to all sponsors as to how they might prepare their teams for competition. **STRESS THE FACT THAT THERE ARE NO LOSERS IN THE COMPETITION, ONLY WINNERS.** Make clear that, through their support, sponsors may help a team's students win scholarships to college.
 4. **SCHEDULE THE SITE OF YOUR LOCAL COMPETITIONS EARLY** and plan a special orientation for officials so they might become a part of the planning and have time to internalize their roles and responsibilities (**highly visible and credible persons from your community serving as officials help to authenticate this activity**).
 5. **ORGANIZE PRESS COVERAGE EARLY** so the media can plan your Brain Bowl competition into their publication and airing schedule.
 6. **REPLICATE THE ABOVE STRATEGIES IN EACH OF THE COUNTIES THAT ARE LOCATED WITHIN YOUR SERVICE AREAS.**

H. **SUGGESTED STRATEGIES FOR BRAIN BOWL TEAM COACHES AND SPONSORS**

1. **SELECTING YOUR TEAM** - Participants may be neighborhood children whom you know, children of people whom you know, students who are members of your church and students referred by other teams. Note, however, that a school-based team or a team sponsored by a school may consist only of students attending the school. If you need help, call your local Center of Excellence.
2. **YOUR ROLE - WHAT DO I DO?**
 - Make sure you have read the background material on the Brain Bowl competition and that you understand the significance and procedures of the competition.
 - **Contact your Center of Excellence Director to obtain** The Black Heritage Trivia Game.
 - Find out from the Center where you might purchase the historical and cultural books.
 - Arrange a regular practice schedule with your team members to (a) play The Black Heritage Trivia Game and **study the rules** and (b) study and discuss the historical and cultural books. (In preparing your team for competition with the books, you might want to recruit someone you know, a teacher, graduate student, etc., who can help the team members **DEVELOP** study skills in reading the books and how to take notes for

study purposes.) **A "book report" process will help your team tremendously and will help you as a sponsor/coach know the extent to which your team is internalizing the materials.**

- Encourage your team, challenge them and remind them often of what is at stake, i.e., awards **that may include college scholarships. In addition to awards, the benefits of participating will increase students' study skills, sportsmanship, teamwork and knowledge of African American history.**
- GO FOR THE GOLD

3. WHERE TO GET THE BLACK HERITAGE TRIVIA GAME AND BOOKS

Contact your Center of Excellence Director in order to obtain information about The Black Heritage Trivia Game and ordering books.

I. GLOSSARY

1. Chief Judge – The official authorized to make the final decision for any protest.
2. Coach/Asst. Coach – The person(s) who prepares the seven (7) students for the Brain Bowl Competition.
3. Immediate – (1) As soon as a violation or infraction of the rules occurs and the clock is stopped. (2) The time allocated to the chief judge to make a decision regarding an oral protest.
4. Interruption – a) an individual interrupts the moderator when a question is being read (failure by the individual to answer the question correctly results in a one (1)-point team penalty); b) participants disrupt the competition (after first interruption, a warning is issued, and, after additional interruptions, team(s) are assessed a two (2)-point penalty.)
5. Invalid Protest – a) a team files a protest that is not valid (team may be assessed a one (1)-point penalty); b) when the team files more than one (1) invalid protest during the competition (sponsoring COE will be assessed a \$100.00 fine).
6. Moderator – The person who reads the questions for the competition and verifies the response to the question by awarding or not awarding points.
7. Ombudsman – The person who is responsible for monitoring team members and coaches. Ombudsmen also acknowledge the protest form in order to notify the chief judge of a possible protest.
8. Penalty – The loss of point(s) or monetary loss due to infraction of a rule stated in the Brain Bowl Rules document.
9. Protest – (1) a challenge as to the accuracy of an answer provided during competition; (2) a claim that a rule violation occurred during competition; or (3) a claim that a judge misinterpreted a rule that would change the outcome of competition.

10. Protest Form – Instrument used by the coach to notify the ombudsman or judge of a protest.

11. Protest Procedure – A protest may be initiated by the team's captain orally during the competition or in writing by the team's coach who will utilize the protest form. A coach initiates a protest by holding up the protest form. Once the ombudsman sees the raised protest form, s/he informs the chief judge of a protest, and the clock will stop immediately.

12. Scorekeeper – The person who records the official scores during the competition.

13. Team – A group of five (5) to seven (7) students competing in the competition

14. Time Limit – (1) The time allotted for a response to a question. (3) The time allocated to the chief judge to make a decision regarding a written protest or counter-protest.

15. Timekeeper – The person who keeps the official time for the competition and the lapse time for answering questions.