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Coaches' Bulletin

Survey of the Month

With Nationals just around the corner, we'll take a month off from the surveys.

Responses to Last Month's Survey Question

Does your league organize Nationals preparation practices or is preparation left to individual schools?

Only a few leagues indicated they have practices that are centrally organized.

- Nancy Kinard: "Yes, the Palm Beach Academic Games League does have organized practices for both the State Tournament and the National Tournament. Our National Coaches conduct the practices. Since we play our tournaments on Tuesdays during the school year, we continue on Tuesday with the practices after completing the Social Studies season in early February. We also hold an all day Saturday practice prior to the National Tournament."
- Connie Ginste: "The Michigan League of Academic Games does hold practices for Nationals. I know that Detroit schools go. I'm not sure if non-Detroit schools are included."
- Keith Richards, Lansing MI: "In past years, there occasionally has been a practice with multiple schools, but that has not happened recently."
- Michael Phillips: "The Western Pennsylvania Academic Games League (WPAGL) works together to share and compile information that we use to practice. We do not practice together."
- Betty Smith: "Hancock County (WV) only practices together even though we compete with WPAGL."
- Lorrie Scott, Indian River (FL): "I organize National practices for Elementary and Middle for the students from multiple schools. We do an All-star method for teams. Right now the high school teams are from the same school so they hold their own practices and meet with me only when they need help."

Coaching Tips: LinguiSHTIK

Since we are getting close to Nationals, let's talk about how players should ask the judges questions. Remind players that unless there has been a Challenge called, players are not allowed to ask for a judge. Most importantly, the questions asked must be able to be answered by "Yes" or "No," and the judge should not provide an explanation.

What are good questions to ask? Always ask a question related to a specific demand which has been made, not a general group of demands. For example, don't ask "Does this sentence fit all the demands?" Instead, ask "Is this sentence S-V-IO-DO?" Don't ask "Is this a word?" Instead, ask "Is this word a noun functioning as a direct object?" The judge may still need to look up the word in the dictionary, but he will also be determining if it's a noun at the same time. If you ask the question "Is the sentence grammatically correct?" be prepared to point out what you think is wrong with it.

Coaches, brush up on some of these procedural rules with your players:

- In *LinguiSHTIK*, players cannot take a -1 to get an extra minute to solve. They already have 3 minutes.
- Judges need to initial the score sheet for any -1 penalty.
- Each player needs to write his/her demand on the Demand Sheet as the shake progresses.
- For a Challenge Now, ALL players may try to write a Solution sentence.
- If a player chooses not to write or present a Solution for either Challenge Now or Challenge Impossible (except for the Mover), he/she is considered Neutral.
- The demands apply to the word to be formed. If a type of phrase or clause is called, the word must be within that phrase or clause.
- The word to be formed must be at least 4 letters long, and not longer than 10 letters. The sentence may not contain more than 20 words.
- All the words in the sentence need to be spelled correctly, and proper punctuation used for appositives, direct quotes, interjec-

Coaching Tip: Presidents

We've talked before about getting something out of every clue. Even if you don't know the answer from the 6-point clue, try to at least narrow the range of possible presidents.

Here's a picture that accompanied the 6-point clue in an Elementary/Middle question from this year's local #25-34 questions.



Oscar Straus, the first Jew appointed to a cabinet post.

The way the man is dressed and the fact that he has a beard indicates that the president is in the *early* part of the range 25-34. (The answer is 26 Theodore Roosevelt.)



Submit questions to:
bngolden1@cox.net

Question – Equations and On-Sets

The player in the lead calls “Bonus” and moves a cube to Forbidden. Before a second move is made, the Mover’s time expires. Does the mover receive two -1 penalties – one for not moving in time and the other for a bonus move when ahead? Craig Zeller (LA)

Answer

No. As soon as the first cube touched the mat in Forbidden, opponents should have penalized the mover a point for attempting to make a Bonus move when ahead. However, an additional penalty for the illegal procedure is that the mover may not make a second move. So any time limit penalty is set aside. Opponents may not delay calling the illegal procedure for the Bonus move in order to tag on a second -1 for the time violation. As a last note, if the mover realized he could not make a bonus move after he called “Bonus,” he could have avoided penalty by moving a cube to Required or Permitted.

Question – Senior On-Sets

This question involves the following rules clarification: “In Senior Division, if a player specifies a Double Set using –, that – means regular subtraction even if a *subsequent* player calls Symmetric Difference. However, if Symmetric Difference is called first, then any – in a Double Set called by a subsequent player (or the same player) means Symmetric Difference.” My players were wondering how could someone tell which was called first? Many judges determine

tions, and conjunctive adverbs. Commas between clauses are recommended, but not required.

- The sentence must be grammatically correct; e.g., agreement of subject and verb, correct usage of words.
- It is a courtesy to underline the word to be formed.

If you have any questions about *LinguiSHTIK* before we arrive at Oglebay, please feel free to email me, and I'll do my best to answer them. **Ellen Bredeweg**, Language Arts Chairperson, ellenfltch@aol.com

See you in a few weeks! Let the games begin!

Coaching Tips: Propaganda

Section A

Prejudice (often) and Tabloid Thinking (always) involve reducing groups of people to stereotypes. But Prejudice advocates action for/against someone solely because they are in the group.

Examples from this year's local examples

Yes, I know that Maria is a Latino. But we don't have any Latino friends in our group. We should really try to get to know her and include her. (Prejudice)

Olympic athletes are all the same - strong, thin, and solid muscle. (Tabloid Thinking)

Section B

Ambiguity uses a word *once* but with two or more possible meanings. Shift of Meaning uses a word with one meaning, then the same word or a derivative of that word a second time with a different meaning.

Examples

Play it cool. Book your next summer vacation in central Alaska. (Ambiguity – “cool”)

Oscar Mayer ad: “First, we smoke our bacon. Then we smoke the competition.” (Shift of Meaning – “smoke”)

Section D

Appeal to Flattery is based on praising a person for a trait they already possess. Appeal to Prestige offers greater respect and status should you accept an offer.

Examples

I knew you were smarter than the rest of us. You brought the Energizer Ultimate AA batteries to keep our flashlights going all the time during our overnight camping trip. Share your tent with me. (Appeal to Flattery)

Automobile ad: “Luxury at its finest. The new BMW CLX2000 series will whisk you away in comfort and class. You know you deserve it. Don't miss out on the lavishness you've already earned.” (Appeal to Prestige)

Section E

Selected Instances consists of choosing examples to justify an opinion *you already*

what variations are called simply by looking at the Variation Selection sheet, but there is no way to indicate on that sheet which has been called first. Keith Richards (MI)

Answer

Players need to pay heed to which variation, Double Set (with –) or Symmetric Difference, was called first in order to determine the correct double set for writing Solutions during the shake. If, however, they are disputing which was called first when Solutions are being checked, a judge should help them determine the order of the variation selections by asking who called which variation starting with the Goal-setter.

Question – Propaganda

Tournament Rule PT6 states, in part: “An erasure or scratch out of an answer makes the answer automatically wrong.”

A player circles answer 5 for a question, then scratches that out and circles 4. 4 is the correct answer. Since 4 is not scratched out, does the player get credit for that answer?
Hunter Mathas (LA)

Answer

No. The intent of the rule is to make *any* answer for a question wrong when a player scratches out or erases an answer on that line of the answer sheet.

hold. Hasty Generalization involves jumping to a conclusion based on just one or more occurrences.

Examples

Mother to daughter: “How are you doing in English this term?”

Daughter: “Great! I just got a 95 on the last quiz!”

One week later:

Mother: “I just got your midterm report card and you’re making a C in English! That’s not great.” (Selected Instances)

The daughter knows she’s not doing well in English. So she picks the one example of a good grade to answer her mother’s question.

I love our new teacher, Ms. Burgess. Our first three assignments have been clear and very understandable. This is going to be an easy and fun year in school. (Hasty Generalization)