**BOB Virtual Compilation**

Nothville:

Hi Shannon,

Northville completed it's virtual battle of the books on March 10, and it went extraordinarily well.

We recorded it, so you can actually watch what we did (from 2 view points):

<https://vimeo.com/522351133>

<https://vimeo.com/522350848>

-How many teams did you have?

19 teams. We capped at 24 teams for this version.

-How many people were on each team?

4 to 6

-How many total people did you need to run the event?

12 staff. We normally (in person) have volunteers, but that was out this year.

7 "Judges" (more than the normal alotment of judges)

presenter, score master, judge master, stage manager, communications master.

-What platform did you use? (Zoom, Facebook Live, Kahoot?)

Zoom for presentation, we used the same Powerpoint format for the actual presentation through Zoom. We made our own custom Python backend for scoring, but in the past have used Excel for scoring.

-How long did you give teams to answer the questions?

20 seconds for first 4 rounds, 15 seconds for last 3 rounds. We built in a "silent buffer" as well.

7 rounds, 8 questions each round. we also prepare a tie breaker round.

-How did each team submit their answers?

Whispered via Zoom to assigned judges (7 judges using the scoring backend). teams were assigned to judges before the event started.

We did include a strict note that if someone sent an answer into public in any way, shape, form or fashion EVERYONE ELSE would receive full marks and they would receive ZERO score. That appeared to be effective :)

-Did you have the teams/coaches agree to any rules or agreement before signing up?

Yes, we did an online meeting with all "coaches" before the event, explaining any changes, and giviing them the opportunity to ask questions. We also noted an honor system, because we really have no way to prevent competitors for treating the competition as open book.

-What kind of feedback did you receive?

Actually some of the best feedback for an event we've ever seen. Folks were ecstatic for the most part that we did the event.

-Any advice for us?

Don't be afraid of it. Every BOTB has it's work, and this was no different. We based our redesign of the presentation into the virtual sphere entirely on the work we'd done for years with BOTB. This kept it familiar to everyone staff and contestant alike. The first round was a learning experience (and that shows on recording) but the rest of it was as smooth as it could be.

Also: You will probably be amazed at the creativity of the kids who compete and what they can do under pressure. We had them submit costume photos they took themselves. Extremely creative. The kids were enthusastic during the event, and some were creative in social distancing. One team did the entire event outside!

Hope this helps. Feel free to contact us if you have any other questions!

 \_\_.-.\_ Michael McEvoy

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Baldwin

* We had 73 teams, 356 kids, and 108 coaches participate.
* Usually, the Battle teams are between 4 and 6 students but this year we allowed teams of 2-8.
* We hosted one big Zoom call to get everyone excited and so the teams could all see each other. We went over the rules and procedure one last time. Then we closed that Zoom call and at the appointment time I opened the Google Form. All the teams answered all the questions via a Google Form. I had emailed all the coaches the Google form the night before but set it to not accept responses so no one could open it yet. Teams had 30 minutes to answer 24 questions. Then we got back together for another big Zoom call to go over the answers and announce the winners.
* All 73 teams submitted their Google Forms in the allotted time and only one team had an issue related to the ReCaptcha. I had sent everyone a practice quiz earlier in the week so they could test using Google Forms and make sure everything worked for them. If there were ties, the team that submitted their entry form the quickest was the winner.
* We had three staff people officially on the day of the program. I monitored my email to answer any questions that came in from coaches, open the Google Form, troubleshoot as needed, and determine the winner (Google Forms did all the score tallying and it was fabulous). One staff person hosted the Zoom calls and was responsible for letting everyone in from the waiting room, making sure we didn't need to kick anyone out etc. The third staff member was our emcee and she was responsible for doing all the talking to the teams. We kept everyone muted the whole time, except for when we allowed the kids to cheer for their school. One patron called the Reference Desk because she couldn't find her team number but I had prepped the Reference Desk staff for this so they were able to give the coach her number and there were no other issues.
* We do not make coaches agree officially to anything but we do list in the Battle brochure and on our website what their responsibilities are. Mainly, they are the go between for the Library and their team, and this year they were responsible for figuring out how their team was going to meet for Battle. They had to decide if they were going to meet in person or via their own Zoom call or something else. They were also responsible for deciding how their team would practice for Battle, making sure they had all the books covered, etc. I host two optional Coaches meetings (one close to when Battle kicks off and then one right after team registration opens) and give a presentation to coaches then. After the second meeting, I post my slideshow on the website for coaches who may have missed it.
* It was very well received. Students and parents were very appreciative that the event was still happening. We didn't receive any complaints and we will definitely do it this way again next year if we can't have an in person Battle.

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CMPL

My name is Meghan; I’m one of the librarians at CMPL who has worked on an Adult Battle of the Books twice (third year in the planning stages.) We hosted it online in November, and in person in 2019. We had 7 teams sign up in 2019, and 6 participate. In 2020 we worked with some of our neighboring libraries to promote and host the Battle together online, since virtual participation seems to be less than in-person participation across the board. We again had 7 teams sign up, and had 5 participate online.

For the last two years we’ve chosen books that are popular and that we already own a lot of, so we don’t have to purchase any more books. We also have chosen books that have been discussed in one of our book clubs, (and at least one team grew out of that group!) We announce the books about 6 months ahead of time, like the kids’ Battle, so that they have plenty of time to read, and keep a small display up at the Main Library. Each team can have 6 people on it, no rules on age.

I think three people running the event is useful in person or online. Our online event was all through Zoom, with one team member responding to “Scorekeeper” in chat. We gave 2 minutes to answer, and told teams to have their own channel of communication, whether text or FB messenger or whatever, to keep their discussion out of Zoom chat . When we were in person, there were no books or phones at the tables, but we couldn’t really enforce that for an online event, so just let it go.

I think people enjoy the event, and it’s fun, but mostly I love seeing the circ numbers on the books we choose! Even if people don’t participate, having a display up keeps those circ numbers high. We’re working with any libraries SLC who want to participate for 2021, to make it more of a whole-county thing (and hopefully have higher participation.)

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Orion Township

Orion Township just finished our virtual battle and it was beyond successful of what we thought it would be! I got more thank notes and emails from parents than I ever have in the past!

We also just did a presentation at Spring Institute about it that will answer all your questions, if you have access to that.

If not, my short answer is we used a combination of Zoom meetups, Flipgrid video challenges, and Zoom/Kahoot for the battle. We had 90 kids participate and 30 teams(2-4 kids per team). This is lower than our usually numbers of around 150 but not that much lower! You are more than welcome to call me for more info so I can go into more detail about how we actually ran the Kahoot and what we did for the meetups.

Ashley Lehman

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Dewitt Library

Hi Shannon,

We just wrapped up our virtual Battle of the Books. I'm not sure what your format usually looks like, but we were able to keep our format the same and schedule individual battles with each team via Zoom over the course of one week. Although more time consuming, it went very well and we probably wouldn't change much of anything if we were to do it again. We asked 75 questions spread among 5 rounds. It took approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes per team. Because we don't use timers and wanted to be sure we were recording the team's "final answer", we provided teams with whiteboards to use to write and display their final answer. We used two staff members to run each battle--one to ask the questions and the second to record the team answers. We also recorded the Zoom sessions in the event we needed to double check an answer. We had some teams that all met in the same location and others where each member was in their own home. The kids were amazing at taking turns, respecting each other's input and collaborating, regardless of whether or not they were in the same location. On the Saturday afternoon following the week of individual team battles, we had one large Zoom meeting with all of the teams to announce scores and winners. Medals were then picked up via curbside for coaches to distribute.

Feel free to reach out if you need clarification or have a question about a specific aspect. Good luck!!

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ALATT



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Farmington

Hey Shannon,

We just hosted our adult Battle of the Books on Friday evening. Last February was out inaugural event so this was only our second time and then, of course we migrated online. Our teen department is hosting their YA online in April and is not exactly the same.

-How many teams did you have? - 8 registered

-How many people were on each team? maximum of 5 some had as few as 2

-How many total people did you need to run the event? - 2 the night of but we enlisted co-workers to read the selected books and write questions in the preceding months

What platform did you use? (Zoom, Facebook Live, Kahoot?) - Zoom for the event, Kahoot for the trivia

How long did you give teams to answer the questions? - 60 seconds

How did each team submit their answers? - Kahoot

Did you have the teams/coaches agree to any rules or agreement before signing up? - We had all the details on the landing page: <http://www.farmlib.org/chapters-for-charity/>

What kind of feedback did you receive? - Everyone seemed to have a good time. Several of the teams did the in-person battle last year and said that we did a good job of migrating it to a virtual format while keeping things fun.

Any advice for us? - Teams selected one member to login to the kahoot and answer the questions. We did not provide a way for the team to communicate when answering. Many team members were in the same house, others used Discord or facetime on their phones, we left that to them.

Feel free to reach out of you have any questions. Have fun!

Jen Hassell

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Farmington Hills

Hi Shannon,

I'll let the librarians who hosted an adult battle of the books, or our teen libs who had a regular teen battle, answer in more detail. But I want to make just one note as a participant in the adult battle. I got together a team of my ESL people together and we/they participated. We played over Zoom, using Kahoot. Only one person from each team had the Kahoot app - me, in our case - and each team needed a way to talk amongst themselves when choosing an answer. All the teams would be muted on Zoom and had to figure out their own way to communicate with each other. Our team's plan was to use Discord to talk to each other about each question. What happened was that the voices of the two host librarians reading the questions and the answer choices was picked up by Discord and we had a terrible echo problem. Using the audio settings on Zoom quieted our whole computers so that we could hardly hear each other. I learned afterward that we should have used headphones with Discord, so anyway, lesson learned.

I believe many of the other teams simply met in the same home and used one Zoom and some of them used their phones for communicating. Anyway, the communication part was problematic for us, but we seemed to be the only ones having this problem. It was still very fun and all of the people on my team said they would do it again.

Deb Hemmye

Farmington Library

Deb Hemmye

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TADL

TADL did not conduct its own BOTB program this year (nor have we in the past), but collaborated with area partners like the National Writers Series and e-Fulfillment Services on it. There were 62 teams of 4th and 5th graders that signed up for this year's program (more than we ever had) and almost 300 readers participated. Zoom was the platform of choice this year. Here is a link for the rules from the BOTB Grand Traverse website: <http://battleofthebooksgt.com/pandemic-rules/>

Team members had to be in the room by themself and needed to face the camera throughout the competition. There were 30 questions and 5 bonus questions. We had 2 judges for each battle, with one judge (Judge 1) asking the first 15 questions and the other judge (Judge 2) being the timekeeper (20 seconds to answer a question). The judges then switched roles at question 16. The bonus questions (questions 31-35) were asked by Judge 1 with Judge 2 reverting back to timekeeper.

Obviously, there is a lot more involved than the rules say and I suggest contacting Marcy Lindberg, the organizer and much of the planning brains behind this year's program: wildtwig@yahoo.com

Good luck!

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[www.tadl.org](http://www.tadl.org/)

pronouns:[*he/him/his*](https://odu.edu/safespace/pronouns-and-why-they-matter)