

**ASEEDER**

**Supported by Yale University**

**2026**

**the World Scholar's Cup**

**Study Guide**



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The logo for the World Scholar's Cup (WSC) is displayed in large, bold, yellow capital letters at the bottom of the page. The background of the page features a faint, repeating pattern of the WSC mascot, a stylized alpaca wearing a blue and white striped scarf, in various colors (white, blue, yellow).

# What is the World Scholar's Cup

## 1. Introduction

**The World Scholar's Cup (WSC)** is an international academic competition conducted in English, designed for primary and secondary school students around the world. Combining academic rigor with social interaction, WSC is officially supported by Yale University. The competition is highly popular among students globally, attracting over 60,000 participants from more than 70 countries each year. The academic content of the World Scholar's Cup spans six main subjects: **History, Social Studies, Science & Technology, Art & Music, Literature & Media, and Special Areas**. Each year, the WSC committee will announce an annual theme, and will release detailed Guiding Questions to help students explore the annual theme. Participants compete in teams of three and take part in four core academic events, including Team Debate, Collaborative Writing, Scholar's Challenge, and Scholar's Bowl. These events assess students' ability to memorize, understand and apply subject knowledge, to persuade, and to work with others. Beyond the academic events, the World Scholar's Cup also features a wide range of social events such as Talent Show, Debate Showcase, Scholar's Ball, Scholar's Scavenge and Cultural Fair.

There are three age divisions in WSC: the Skittle Division (for students aged 8 to 10), the Junior Division (for students aged 11 to 13), and the Senior Division (for students aged above 14). Qualified teams in a Regional Round will advance to a Global Round, and qualified teams in a Global Round will be invited to the Tournament of Champion held each year in November at Yale University. Teams and individuals with good performance will receive awards. The overall award rate is around 60%. The official mascot of the World Scholar's Cup is the alpaca. A signature tradition of the competition is the "Alpaca Adoption Ceremony," where every participant adopts a plush alpaca. Scholars get alpacas of different sizes as they progress through different rounds of the competition.

To quickly grasp the essentials of WSC, remember these six key facts:

**Six subjects**

**Five continents**

**Four academic events**

**Three-member teams**

**Two-day schedule**

**One global community**



## 2. Six Subjects

Each year, the World Scholar's Cup centers around an academic theme, guiding students through deep interdisciplinary exploration across six subject areas. This thematic, cross-disciplinary approach encourages young scholars to investigate the world's diversity from multiple perspectives.

**2026 Theme** | **Are We There Yet?**

**Some themes from previous years:**

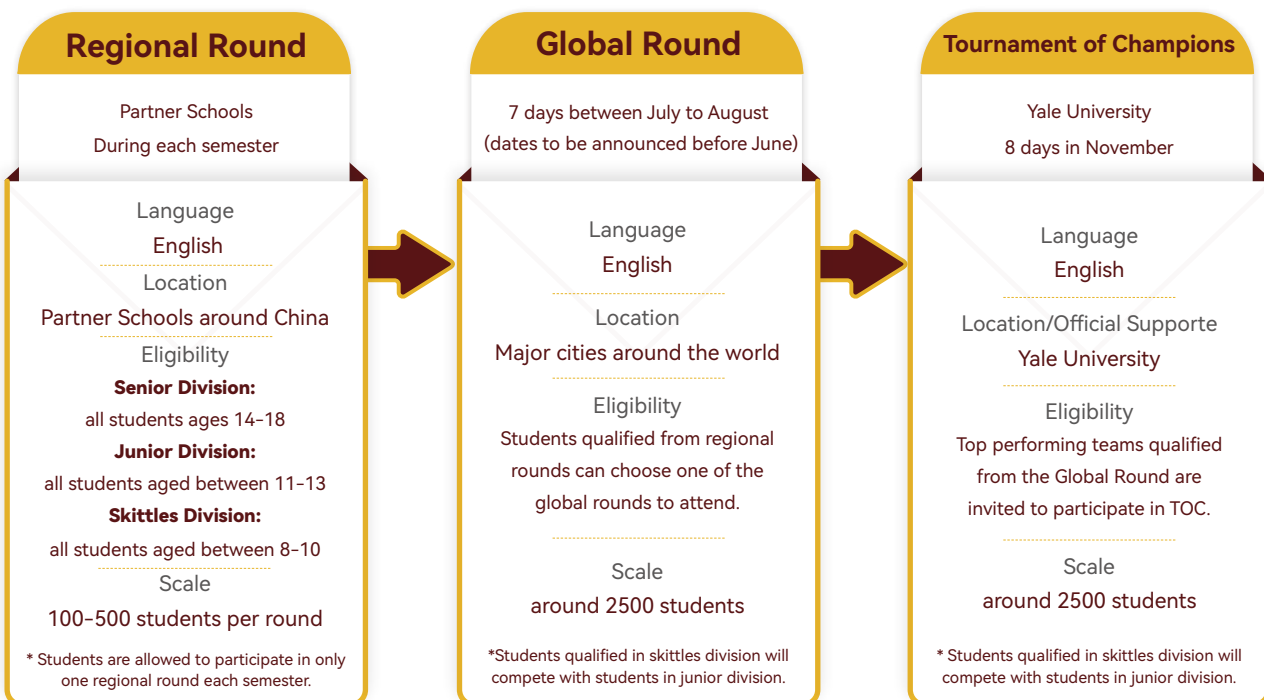
- 2025: Reigniting the Future.
- 2024: Reimagining the Present
- 2023: Reconstructing the Past

Six subjects will be covered in the competition, including:

 <b>Science &amp; Technology</b>	 <b>Art &amp; Music</b>
 <b>Social Studies</b>	 <b>Literature &amp; Media</b>
 <b>History</b>	 <b>Special Area</b>

## 3. Five Continents

Since its founding in 2007, the World Scholar's Cup has reached all five continents. From Nairobi to Athens, Kuala Lumpur to Melbourne, Los Angeles to Shanghai, nearly 60,000 young scholars from over 70 countries come together each year to participate in this global academic celebration. Participants initially register in teams of three to compete in more than 140 Regional Rounds held around the world. Those who qualify from the regional rounds advance to one of eight Global Rounds, each hosted in a distinctive city on one of the five continents. After intense competition, the top-performing teams earn the opportunity to compete in the prestigious Tournament of Champions, held every November at Yale University.



## 4. Four Academic Events

Each round of the World Scholar's Cup consists of four academic events:



### 1 Team Debate

#### (1) Introduction

Team Debate is one of the most iconic academic events in the World Scholar's Cup. Participants engage in three rounds of team debate, with topics drawn from the six subject areas. The debates cover a wide range of thought-provoking issues. You might find yourself discussing whether parents should allow schools to install surveillance cameras, or whether women would make better superheroes. Using the knowledge you've learned, your goal is to make the most persuasive arguments possible. Win or lose, every debate ends with a round of constructive feedback, where teams offer each other suggestions for improvement.

In the first two debate rounds, each team is given **15 minutes to research the topic and plan their arguments**. For all of our rounds taking place after Jan 01, 2026, **scholars will no longer be allowed to use devices, access the Internet, or use outside resources in the debates**. During the debate, each team member has up to 4 minutes to speak. Within this limited time, students must use their critical thinking to select relevant information and present a forceful argument. If you don't have many experiences in debate, don't worry! In fact, 2/3 of participants in Team Debate had never debated before WSC, and more than half of the participants are not native English speakers. The percentage of debaters with experiences is actually pretty small. For debate beginners, WSC's Team Debate can be a good introduction to the joy of debate. For experienced debaters, it will also be a unique challenge. After each round, every team is expected to provide constructive feedback to their opponents. Winning teams will go on to face other winners, while non-winning teams will be matched with others in the same bracket. The teams with the least experience often make the most progress. By the end of the day, every participant becomes a stronger debater.

#### IMPORTANT

**\*At all of our rounds from January 1, 2026, onwards, scholars will no longer be allowed to use devices, access the Internet, or use outside resources in the debates.**



Scan the code to watch a 60 second introduction video

## (2) Essential Information

Topic	Debate motions are announced on-site. Motions are related to each year's annual theme and based on Guiding Questions.
Format	Team-based competition. One team is assigned as the Affirmative side, and the other team serves as the Negative side.
Duration	Each team participates in 3 rounds of debate. Each round lasts approximately 45 minutes. Every team member must speak in each round (with a maximum speaking time of 4 minutes per person).
Rules	Before each round, teams have 15 minutes to prepare their arguments. Scholars are not allowed to use devices to access the internet and gather information during preparation. They may record key points on a single A4 sheet of paper. During the debate, they may only refer to what is written on that A4 sheet.
Scoring	Judges evaluate each scholar based on three main criteria: Presentation, Strategy, and Content. In addition, judges will select the Best Speaker from each team. Outstanding debaters may be invited to debate on stage during the Debate Showcase event.
Note	<b>Scholars will no longer be allowed to use devices, access the Internet, or use outside resources in the debates.</b>

## (3) Procedure

**01** Each team receives a Debate Tree (schedule and room assignment)

**02** Teams proceed to the assigned classroom and take their seats as directed

**03** The judge announces the debate motion

**04** Both sides have 15 minutes to prepare their arguments

**05** **Formal Debate Begins**  
Formal Debate Begins: Affirmative Team Speaker 1 delivers their speech— 60 seconds for Negative Team to prepare — Negative Team Speaker 1 delivers their speech — 60 seconds for Affirmative Team to prepare — Affirmative Team Speaker 2 delivers their speech — 60 seconds for Negative Team to prepare — Negative Team Speaker 2 delivers their speech — 60 seconds for Affirmative Team to prepare— Affirmative Team Speaker 3 delivers their speech— 60 seconds for Negative Team to prepare — Negative Team Speaker 3 delivers their speech

**06** **Feedback Session**  
90 seconds of preparation time for each team to draft feedback for the other team — Each team delivers 90 seconds of constructive feedback

**07** The judge announces the winner

## 2 Collaborative Writing

### (1) Introduction

Participants must choose one of the given writing topics, with no two team members selecting the same topic. The Collaborative Writing event begins with team discussion and preparation, followed by individual writing, and ends with peer review within the team. Whether you're writing a poem or a five-paragraph essay, the goal is to engage your reader from the start.



Scan the code to watch a 60 second introduction video

### (2) Essential Information

Topic	Each team receives a set of writing topics. Each member selects one topic. Each one should select a different topic. There is no word limit, and any writing style is allowed.
Format	Students will prepare for writing and review finished essays in teams, but they are required to write essays independently.
Time	Total duration is 75 minutes, including 20 minutes for team discussion, 40 minutes for individual writing, and 15 minutes for review.
Rules	Dictionaries and other printed materials are not allowed. No electronic devices can be used for research.
Scoring	Essays will be scored according to their Clarity, Content, Style and Originality.
Note	Bring your own pen or pencil for writing.

### (3) Procedure

**01** Teams enter the writing room and take their seats

**02** Writing topic sheets are distributed

**03** 20-minute preparation: Teams choose their topics, discuss structure and possible arguments or ideas, and give one another suggestions (no electronic device is allowed)

**04** Writing booklets are distributed

**05** 40-minute independent writing: No communication between teammates

**06** 15-minute review: Team members exchange and review each other's work. Edits are allowed, but no further writing on one's own piece

**07** Submit the writing booklets

### 3 | Scholar's Challenge

#### (1) Introduction

The Scholar's Challenge is a multiple-choice quiz, but with a twist: you're allowed to select more than one answer per question. As long as your selected answers include the correct one, you'll earn partial credit. Whether you want to go for high risk and high reward or take a more cautious approach is entirely up to you. The questions cover all six subject areas, giving everyone a fair chance to win medals. Team collaboration during preparation is key. You'll soon discover what all scholars do: that even if you think you're an expert in science, you might win a medal in the arts, and that the best way to prepare for a test that touches on everything is to talk through it all with your team, day by day.



Scan the code to watch a 60 second introduction video

#### (2) Essential Information

Questions	120 multiple-choice questions. Each question has 5 options, but only 1 correct answer. You may select one or more options.
Format	Individual test
Time Limit	60 minutes
Rules	No use of electronic devices for research at any point
Scoring	If your selected answers include the correct one, your score for that question = (full value of the question) ÷ (number of options you selected). If your selected answers do not include the correct one, you receive no points, but no penalty
Note	Bring your own 2B pencil for filling in the answer sheet

#### (3) Procedure

**01** Change seats according to instructions (you may not sit with your teammates)

**02** Answer sheets are distributed

**03** Question booklets are distributed

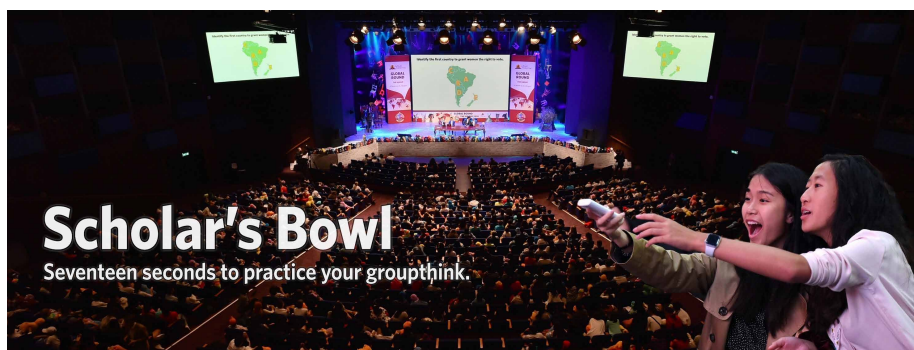
**04** Begin the test

**05** Submit both your answer sheet and question booklet

## 4 Scholar's Bowl

### (1) Introduction

The Scholar's Bowl is typically the final academic event of the World Scholar's Cup. It is a team-based quiz challenge where each team of three shares one clicker to submit answers. Questions usually progress from easier to more difficult, with varying point values. Success depends on collaboration, quick thinking, and strategic planning. Questions can be surprising and cover a wide range of content. Some may be based on videos, images, or just text, and teams must select their answer within a limited time using their clicker. The atmosphere is intense. Correct answers are often followed by loud cheers, while incorrect ones may earn groans of frustration. Strong performance in the Bowl requires not only grasp of knowledge but also strategic decision-making, especially when team members disagree. Remember, it's not the first team to answer correctly that gets all the credit. You're all racing the clock. But the clock is fast and the stakes are high.



Scan the code to watch a 60 second introduction video

### (2) Essential Information

Questions	There will be around 30 multiple-choice questions across the six subject areas. Each question only has one correct answer, and teams may select only one option.
Time Limit	Approximately 2 hours total; 15 seconds to answer after each question is read.
Format	Team-based quiz bowl
Rules	Use of electronic devices to photograph or research questions is strictly prohibited.
Scoring	Correct answers earn the point value assigned to the question. Incorrect answers earn no points, and typically no penalty is applied.

### (3) Procedure

**01** Enter the auditorium and sit with your team (teams from the same school must sit separately)

**02** One team member goes to the front sides of the stage to collect the clicker and Alpaca Card

**03** Test the clicker

**04** Begin the first half of the quiz

**05** Alpaca Adoption Ceremony: one team member uses the Alpaca Card to trade alpacas for each team member

**06** Begin the second half of the quiz

**07** Return the clicker at the front of the stage

## 5. Three-Person Teams

**Team Formation Rules:** Participants must register in teams of three. Team members may come from the same school or from different schools.

**Age Divisions:**

Junior Division: Students born on or after January 1, 2012,

Senior Division: Students born before January 1, 2012

\*Note: If any member of a team was born before January 1, 2012, the entire team will compete in the Senior Division.

**To inspire a love of learning, the World Scholar's Cup offers a wide range of awards and recognitions.**

**Individual awards:**

Champion Scholars

Debate Champions

Writing Champions

Challenge Subject Awards

Jac Khor Award

Asimov Award School Top Scholars

Ipaca Scholars BarelyOld Scholars

**Team awards:**

Champion Teams

Team Bowl Team Challenge

Team Writing

Team Debate

Ipaca Top Teams

## 6. Two day activity

Sample Schedule of Regional Round



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Host School Name*

### Saturday, 21 June

#### MORNING DEBATES

8:30 am Check-in  
9:00 am Opening Ceremony  
**10:45 am Team Debate**  
1:45 pm Lunch  
**2:45 pm Collaborative Writing**  
**4:30 pm Scholar's Challenge**  
5:45 pm Departure

#### AFTERNOON DEBATES

8:30 am Check-in  
9:00 am Opening Ceremony  
**10:45 am Collaborative Writing**  
**12:30 pm Scholar's Challenge**  
1:45 pm Lunch  
**2:45 pm Team Debate**  
5:45 pm Departure

Teachers & Debate Judges: Please report to judge training when it is announced at the Opening Ceremony.

### Sunday, 22 June

#### BOTH DIVISIONS

9:00 am Arrivals  
**9:30 am Scholar's Bowl**  
12:45 pm Lunch  
**1:45 pm Debate Showcase**  
**3:00 pm Scholar's Show**  
4:30 pm Break  
**4:45 pm Closing Ceremony**  
6:30 pm Farewell

Scholars: Sign up for the (un)talent show with our staff and check in with us after the Scholar's Bowl.

## 7. A Global Community

### The Adorable Mascot

Alpaca, the official mascot of the World Scholar's Cup, is present at every event to witness participants' hard work and moments of triumph. It symbolizes the team spirit of scholars—supporting and relying on one another throughout the journey. At each round of the competition, every participant has the chance to adopt their own alpaca, named Jerry. The size of the alpaca varies depending on the round. Every year, new special-edition alpacas inspired by elements of pop culture are introduced. Their quirky and unforgettable designs have made them iconic among scholars. Every WSC participant is taught the program's signature phrase: "Pwaa!"—a playful imitation of an alpaca's call. It has become the unofficial greeting and joyful expression unique to the World Scholar's Cup community.



### A Unique Community Culture

The World Scholar's Cup is not just an academic competition. It is a global community with its own distinct cultural identity. Here, young scholars from different countries, regions, and backgrounds come together to share their passion for learning. Some scholars have even created dedicated WSC community websites, where participants can exchange study materials, share learning strategies, and post anything related to the Scholar's Cup, including the alpaca memes they've made themselves!

Here are a few of the popular WSC community websites:

<https://www.pocketpwaa.org/>

<https://pwaaparation.com/>

<https://kumqwaat.com/>

<https://avansalpacaresources.weebly.com/>



# Introduction to WSC Social Events

Guided by the spirit of “A Celebration of Learning,” the World Scholar’s Cup offers not only four core academic events but also a range of vibrant non-academic activities, including the Debate Showcase, Talent Show, Scholar’s Ball, Scholar’s Scavenge, and Cultural Fair. Among these, the Debate Showcase and Talent Show are regular features in all rounds, while the Scholar’s Ball, Scholar’s Scavenge, and Cultural Fair are exclusive to the Global Rounds and the Tournament of Champions at Yale.

## 1. Debate Showcase



With the purpose to encourage sharing between scholars, after all the academic events are done, the committee will select 6–8 top debaters who stood out in the Team Debate event to form new mixed teams. These already strong speakers will face a brand-new challenge: working with brand new teammates. They will debate on stage in front of the whole community about a thought-provoking new motion. Afterwards, while a panel of nominated peers determines the winner, members of the audience can volunteer to join the conversation, sharing their thoughts with a community that is open to every voice.

## 2. Talent Show



The talent (and untalent!) show at every regional round is a chance for you to share something with our community, even if you’re not an experienced performer. Whether or not you possess a “traditional” talent, you’re welcome on stage. Classical acts like dancing or playing an instrument are just as celebrated as quirky talents like eating spicy sauce or reciting 400 digits of pi. It’s all about confidence and creativity!

## 3. Cultural Fair



Held during the Global Rounds and the Tournament of Champions, the Cultural Fair brings together scholars from around the world to showcase their countries’ cultures through food, crafts, clothing, games, and performances. It’s a wonderful cross-cultural experience where students broaden their worldview, appreciate global diversity, and enjoy connecting with peers from different backgrounds.

## 4. Scholar's Scavenge



On the opening day of every Global Round, all participants are randomly divided into teams of 12–14 for a scavenger hunt. Each team completes unusual and funny challenges listed in a task booklet to earn points. Tasks may include things like collecting signatures from strangers, imitating an alpaca’s call, dancing under an orange tree, or convincing a WSC staff member to jump into a recycling bin. It’s a great chance to make new friends from around the world, one wonderfully awkward photograph at a time.

## 5. Scholar’s Ball



During the Global Rounds and Yale TOC, scholars are invited to a lighthearted and joyful dance party. No formal attire is required, and no strict dance rules apply. It’s all about fun, freedom, and laughter. What makes this ball truly unique? You might find yourself dancing next to a dinosaur, a frog, or someone wearing a giant inflatable alpaca float.

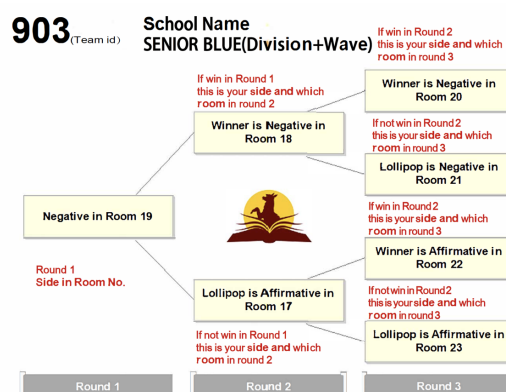
# Glossary of Key Terms

## (1) ID Letter

Each team is assigned a team number (e.g., 916), and each member of the team is identified by a letter: A, B, or C. For example, 916A, 916B, and 916C. In Team Debate, judges will confirm each speaker's ID Letter before they begin. In Collaborative Writing and Scholar's Challenge, participants must clearly write their ID Letter on their answer sheets.

## (2) Debate Tree

A flow diagram illustrating the room allocation and stance (affirmative/negative) designation for a team in each round.



## (3) Motion

A motion is a sentence your team will be arguing for or against during Team Debate. All motions start with RESOLVED and detail an action, opinion or proposal that your team will either agree or disagree with.

## (4) Affirmative

If you're the affirmative team in a debate round, you'll be agreeing with the motion and its content.

## (5) Negative

If you're the negative team in a debate round, you'll be disagreeing with the motion in its entirety.

## (6) Lollipop / Pop

In WSC debates, the team that does not win a round is not called the "losing team", but is instead referred to as the Lollipop or Pop.

## (7) Writing Booklet

The official writing sheet used in the Collaborative Writing event. Participants must write their name, team number, and the topic each team member selected on the first page.

## (8) Topics Sheet

A sheet containing different writing prompts. Each team member must choose one topic, and no two teammates may choose the same one.

## (9) Answer Sheet

The bubble sheet used for the Scholar's Challenge. Participants use a pencil to shade in their selected answers. Be sure to completely fill in the bubbles.

## (10) Question Booklet

The printed booklet containing all 120 questions for the Scholar's Challenge.

## (11) Clicker

The primary tool used during the Scholar's Bowl. Each team receives one clicker, which has six buttons: one power button and five answer buttons (A-E).

## (12) Point

Each question in the Scholar's Bowl carries a specific point value, which is announced before the question is read. In general, higher point values indicate more difficult questions.

## (13) Alpaca Card

In addition to the clicker, each team receives an Alpaca Card before the Scholar's Bowl. This card is used during the Alpaca Adoption Ceremony to claim an alpaca for each team member. Please keep the card safe, as it is required for collecting your alpaca.

# Study Advice

The World Scholars' Cup is an inclusive and open academic challenge. Whether or not you consider yourself a "straight-A student" in the traditional sense, you can find joy in learning, grow as an individual, and build confidence. Each participant can choose a study strategy that suits their learning style and schedule.

**If you're new to WSC and looking to get a taste of the competition, we recommend the following preparation strategies:**

- (1) Familiarize yourself with the scoring criteria for Writing and Debate to understand how points are awarded.
- (2) Focus on the preparation of Debate and Writing, and work on building relevant skills.
- (3) Choose debate topics that interest you and practice with your teammates through mock debates.
- (4) If you're short on time, don't worry about reading every Guiding Question. Instead, start with articles from WSC Weekly or community websites that share helpful knowledge.

**If you're a seasoned scholar aiming for the trophies, here are more advanced strategies:**

- (1) Read through all the Guiding Questions and their linked articles. Find out the meaning of every key term and read additional academic sources.
- (2) Summarize important content and concepts from what you've read, and organize them into study notes for easy review.
- (3) Create your own quiz questions based on the Guiding Questions and test your teammates.
- (4) Create writing topics/debate motions based on the Guiding Questions. Conduct mock debates/writing exercises with these topics/motions.

To better support students in preparing for WSC academic events, the organizing committee has launched a WSC learning column called "WSC Weekly." Each week, it shares interesting knowledge related to the official Guiding Questions. If you're interested, you can scan the QR code below to follow the ASEEDER Academic Competitions official WeChat account, then click the "WSC" section in the menu and choose "WSC Weekly" to access the content. The account also provides regular updates about Regional Round information.



 Scan to follow  
WeChat Account



 Scan to follow  
WSC RedNote Account

# How to prepare for Team Debate

## Beginner Preparation Strategies

### (1) Read and Understand the Team Debate Scoring Criteria

Understanding how debates are scored allows you to improve your performance in a focused way and earn higher marks. WSC Team Debates are evaluated based on three key dimensions: Presentation, Strategy, and Content. Practicing peer scoring with your teammates can also help you better grasp the scoring standards.

### (2) Watch Official WSC Debate Showcase Videos

The WSC organizing team has published a collection of past Debate Showcase videos from global rounds on their YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/kevinkuo2004/featured>. By watching these videos, you can gain a clear understanding of the WSC debate format and learn from the styles and techniques of outstanding debaters.

### (3) Practice Debates on Topics That Interest You

Although WSC motions are based on the Guiding Questions, debaters are not required to rely solely on that content. You can also draw on personal experiences from daily life. In practice, work on quickly brainstorming ideas, researching information, organizing arguments, and articulating opinions. These skills are crucial for performing well in real WSC debates.

### (4) Maintain Confidence and Good Stage Presence

Your presentation skills, including both physical presence and verbal delivery, are a major part of the WSC debate score. Use a clear voice, vary your tone and pace appropriately, and incorporate gestures. Make eye contact with your audience. This not only leaves a positive impression on the judges but also helps the audience understand your points.

### (5) Respond to Your Opponent's Arguments

Listening carefully to your opponent shows respect and also gives you a strategic edge. By understanding their arguments, you can adjust your own response and point out weaknesses in their reasoning. The ability to refute opposing points effectively is often the key to winning in team debates.

## Advanced Preparation Strategies

### (1) Assign Speaking Roles Based on Individual Strengths

In each debate team, the three debaters play different roles depending on their speaking order. Below outlines the responsibilities and characteristics of each speaker: First Speaker, Second Speaker, and Third Speaker. To optimize the team's overall performance, members should assign roles and prepare content based on their individual strengths.

#### First Speaker:

- Opens the debate and defines key terms and concepts
- Presents and explains their main argument(s)
- Affirmative First Speaker may need to anticipate and preempt possible rebuttals from the opposition
- Negative First Speaker may need to directly refute the arguments presented by the Affirmative First Speaker
- Previews the arguments to be made by the team's second and third speakers

#### Second Speaker:

- Rebutts the arguments made by the opposing team's First Speaker
- If necessary, clarifies or adjusts definitions introduced earlier

- Provides additional support for the First Speaker’s arguments
- Presents and explains new arguments of their own
- Typically the speaker who delivers the most factual evidence among the three

#### **Third Speaker:**

- Summarizes the team’s overall case and key points
- Delivers the final and strongest rebuttals against the opposing team’s arguments
- Usually the speaker with the most persuasive style and strongest rebuttal skills

### **(2) Maintain a Clear and Complete Debate Structure**

Ideally, a debater’s speech should consist of four parts: Introduction, Rebuttal or Definitions, Main Arguments, and Conclusion.

- **Introduction:** Begin by stating your name, school, the motion, the side you represent (Affirmative/Negative), and your role (First, Second, or Third Speaker). Then give a brief overview of the content you will present.
- **Rebuttal or Definitions:** After the introduction, if you are not the Affirmative First Speaker, you should start by rebutting the arguments previously presented by the opposing team. If you are the First Speaker for the Affirmative, you should instead define the key terms and concepts in the motion to set the foundation for your team’s case.
- **Main Arguments:** This is the core of your speech, where you present 2–3 arguments in support of your side. A strong argument typically includes logical reasoning, factual evidence to support the reasoning, and explanations of why that evidence is significant. You may also include stories, quotes, or emotionally resonant statements to strengthen your case.
- **Conclusion:** Summarize your arguments clearly. If you are the Third Speaker, your conclusion should summarize both your own arguments and your team’s overall position.

### **(3) Extract Debate Topics from the Guiding Questions for Targeted Practice**

While reading the Guiding Questions, pay special attention to the open-ended questions. These are often the basis for WSC debate motions. Team members can also work together to design and collect potential debate topics based on the Guiding Questions, and use them for structured debate practice.

### **(4) Organize Debate Materials Related to the Topics**

Since WSC debate motions are closely tied to the Guiding Questions, becoming familiar with the key concepts and case studies mentioned can help you back your arguments with solid evidence. It’s recommended to collect and organize useful examples from the Guiding Questions that can serve as debate material. Use these examples regularly in practice to increase your familiarity with them. Practicing analyzing the same case from multiple perspectives will also help you stay adaptable across different motions.

### **(5) Use Clear Signposting During Your Speech**

Signposting helps guide the audience and judges through your speech, making your reasoning easier to follow. For examples, at the start of your speech, you can outline your main points to provide a roadmap, e.g., “Today I’ll be discussing three main arguments...”. Between arguments, transition smoothly using phrases like “My next point is...” or “Moving on to...”. You can also emphasize key ideas by using phrases like “The impact of this argument is...” or “This is why it matters...”.

### **(6) Participate in Mock Debates with Other Teams**

Mock debates are one of the most effective ways to prepare for WSC debates. If you’re part of a club or school group, try to schedule weekly or biweekly mock debates with other WSC teams. You can also use online platforms, like video calls or chat rooms, for virtual debates. If there are no available teams at your school, try reaching out through WSC community forums to connect with teams from other schools or regions for cross-team practice.

## Team Debate Judging Criteria



### DEBATE CRITERIA & SCORING GUIDELINES



#### FILL IN BUBBLES COMPLETELY

- Team ID numbers and student ID letters are critical. **Any speaker can be any letter.**
- At the end of every debate, please double check that you gave **every scholar a score in every category.**

#### HOW TO SCORE *PRESENTATION*

Presentation refers to **speaking** and **presence**.

- **Speaking:** How clearly did the student speak? Did they use notes well, or read an entire speech off cards or a device? Did they finish their sentences decisively? Did their tone vary? Do not penalize students for their accents. You are listening for fluent arguments, not fluent English.
- **Presence:** Did they look at ease, using hand gestures and making eye contact with their audience? Did they treat the other team—and you—respectfully? Did they seem poised, like someone who has practiced?

#### HOW TO SCORE *STRATEGY*

Strategy refers to the student's use of **organization** and **rhetoric**.

- **Organization:** Did the speaker organize their argument with care and purpose? Were you able to follow the flow of their ideas, or did they seem to be speaking haphazardly? Did they make good use of their time?
- **Rhetoric:** Did the speaker use persuasive language to add impact to their argument or to weaken the other team's? Examples of effective rhetoric include metaphors, inversions, and groups of three.

#### HOW TO SCORE *CONTENT*

Content refers to the quality of the student's **evidence** and the effectiveness of their **rebuttals**.

- **Evidence:** Did the speaker provide reasons for you to believe their arguments? Reasons can be examples or facts, but can also take the form of a logical argument. When deciding what makes good evidence, ask yourself whether the speaker's arguments were logically and factually sound.
- **Rebuttal (or Prebuttal):** Did they present evidence against the other team's argument? Did they defend against counterarguments? If the first speaker, do they do a good job fending off possible rebuttals, and of defining terms (or the scope of the debate) favorably for their team?

#### HOW TO SCORE *TEAMWORK*

Teamwork refers to collaboration. All three teammates receive the same teamwork score.

- **Cohesiveness:** Did the teammates' speeches fit together to form an effective argument?
- **Behavior:** Did teammates work well together? Did they pay respectful attention to their opponents?

#### HOW TO SCORE *FEEDBACK*

- **Helpfulness:** Did the scholars offer their opponents constructive advice that they could use to improve?
- **Respectfulness:** Did the scholars share this feedback with kindness and courtesy?

#### CHOOSING THE *BEST SPEAKERS*

- **You MUST identify one best speaker per team.**
- If a speaker is **amazing**, fill in the + to nominate them to speak at the Debate Showcase.



# How to Prepare for Collaborative Writing

## Beginner Preparation Strategies

### (1) Read the Collaborative Writing Scoring Criteria

WSC writing is scored based on four dimensions: Clarity, Content, Style, and Originality. Understanding the specific standards for each scoring dimension will help you focus on improving the most important skills for earning a high score.

### (2) Read High-Scoring Sample Essays

On the WSC community website Scholars of Australia (<https://scholarsofaustralia.weebly.com/essay-hub.html>), several past global rounds and TOC award-winning participants have shared their essays. Reading these examples will give you a sense of the writing styles that are favored by WSC judges.

### (3) Choose a Creative Writing Style

There are no restrictions on writing style in the WSC Collaborative Writing event. Creativity is encouraged! You can write in the form of a letter, blog post, newspaper article, forum post, poem, interview, and more—anything that grabs the reader's attention. Notably, WSC also encourages the use of visual elements in writing. In addition to drawing alpacas, you can include illustrations or comics that support and enhance the content of your piece. Just ensure that the visuals are relevant to your topic and help the reader understand your message.

### (4) Keep Your Writing Neat and Language Accurate

WSC writing doesn't require fancy vocabulary or complex grammar, but it's important to avoid basic spelling and grammar mistakes, as they can interfere with the reader's understanding. Similarly, messy handwriting can make your writing hard to read and cost you points. You should aim for clarity and neatness.

### (5) Use a Clear Structure

Judges have limited time to read each essay. Only pieces that make the author's ideas and arguments easy to identify are likely to earn high marks. Pay special attention to: introductory and concluding paragraphs, topic sentences at the start of each paragraph, signposts and transitions between sections to help guide the reader through your ideas.

### (6) Maintain a Reasonable Length

There's no word limit in Collaborative Writing. Each participant receives a writing booklet with 5 to 6 blank pages. Most essays are 2 to 3 pages long. If your writing is less than 1 page, it may appear underdeveloped. If it exceeds 5 pages, it may seem too lengthy or unfocused.

## Advanced Preparation Strategies

### (1) Practice Writing Using Prompts Based on the Guiding Questions

Topics for WSC Collaborative Writing are all inspired by the Guiding Questions. Therefore, rather than practicing with random prompts, it's more effective to design practice topics based on the Guiding Questions. For example, the Introductory Questions section often contains open-ended questions that are ideal for writing practice. Additionally, some WSC community websites also offer writing prompts created by fellow scholars, which can be used for further practice.

### (2) Use Materials Related to the Guiding Questions

The World Scholar's Cup encourages students to incorporate knowledge from the Guiding Questions into their writing. While you are also allowed to use personal experiences or well-known real-life examples, referencing specific cases, terms, or ideas from the Guiding Questions can help your writing stand out by demonstrating your depth of understanding. To prepare, as you study the Guiding Questions, consider what issues each example illustrates and how they relate to the overall theme. Record these insights in your notes to use later during writing.

### (3) Ensure Your Examples Are Relevant to the Topic

While creative or unconventional use of examples can make your writing more engaging, it's essential to ensure that every example is clearly relevant to your topic. Avoid including unrelated content just to show off your knowledge or increase your word count. Whenever you use an example, be sure to clearly explain how it connects to your main argument or theme. This strengthens your reasoning and makes your writing more persuasive.

## Collaborative Writing Scoring Criteria



### COLLABORATIVE WRITING SCORING GUIDELINES

#### CLARITY

- *How easy was the paper to read and understand?*
- *Could you follow where you were in the paper—the beginning, the middle, or the end?*
- *Did the writer minimize distracting errors in grammar, syntax, and spelling?*
- *Did the writer understand the prompt and help the reader understand it too?*

15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

#### CONTENT

- *Were the ideas and facts presented relevant and thought-provoking?*
- *Did the conclusions drawn from the content make sense?*
- *Did the writer effectively draw on knowledge of the World Scholar's Cup subjects?*

15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

#### STYLE

- *Did the paper's style and use of language make it more engaging?*
- *Was the writer's vocabulary varied and vibrant?*
- *Did the writer seem excited to be writing the paper—and did you enjoy reading it?*

15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

#### ORIGINALITY

- *Did the paper provide a unique perspective on the prompt?*
- *Did the writer have a memorable voice or approach?*
- *Was it the kind of paper you wanted to tell someone else about afterward?*

15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----

**TOTAL**

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# How to prepare for Scholar's Challenge

## Beginner Preparation Strategies

### (1) Focus on Topics of the Guiding Questions That Interest You

All questions in the Scholar's Challenge are based on the knowledge covered in the Guiding Questions, but for beginners, reading through all the material can be overwhelming. Therefore, it's recommended to start with easier-to-read resources, such as the WSC Weekly column published weekly on the ASEEDER WeChat account. Additionally, many WSC community websites provide guides summarizing the content of the Guiding Questions. These resources can help you quickly understand the structure of the knowledge in the Guiding Questions, making the reading more manageable.

### (2) Limit the Number of Answer Choices

A key feature of the Scholar's Challenge is that you can select multiple answers for each question. As long as your selected answers include the correct one, you will earn partial points. If you're not completely sure of an answer, it's better to choose 2-3 answers rather than betting on one option. Also, try to avoid selecting all five answers for any question, as this will only earn you 1/5 of the total score for that question.

### (3) Use the Method of Elimination

You can improve your chances of scoring by using the method of elimination. When you come across a question that you're unfamiliar with or don't know the answer to, start by eliminating choices that don't make logical sense or are clearly incorrect. This narrows down the options and increases the likelihood of selecting the correct answer.

### (4) Plan Your Time Wisely

The Scholar's Challenge requires you to complete 120 multiple-choice questions within about 60 minutes, meaning most questions need to be answered within 30 seconds. If you encounter a particularly difficult question that requires more thought, try to limit yourself to no more than 2 minutes on any single question. Spending too much time on one question could cause you to run out of time and miss out on answering the remaining questions.

## Advanced Preparation Strategies

### (1) Thoroughly Read the Guiding Questions and Linked Materials, and Organize Key Points into Study Notes

The Scholar's Challenge tests how well you know the content of the Guiding Questions. There are no shortcuts. Standing out in this event requires solid, thorough reading and review. For advanced participants, we recommend the following study path:

#### Phase 1: Skim Reading

Quickly browse through the entire set of Guiding Questions and their linked external resources to get a general understanding of each topic. Take initial notes on the main case studies and key concepts.

#### Phase 2: Close Reading (Most Time-Consuming Phase)

Carefully read each entry and all linked articles word by word. Take detailed notes on important content related to the topics, including (but not limited to): definitions of key terms, summaries of linked articles, important dates, locations, names of people, and events.

#### Phase 3: Review

Go over your notes thoroughly, ensuring that all people, concepts, and historical events are committed to memory. Also reflect on the connections between different subtopics to build a deeper understanding.

### (2) Use Study Tools to Aid Memorization

Many scholars use tools like Quizlet to review key information from the Guiding Questions. Quizlet flashcards are useful for memorizing definitions of concepts, names and roles of important people, as well as key events and facts. You can create your own custom flashcard sets, or search for pre-made ones created by others. To do this, simply visit the Quizlet website (<https://quizlet.com/>) and enter keywords like "2025 WSC" in the search bar.

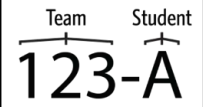
### (3) Test Your Knowledge Frequently

One effective way to reinforce your memory is to quiz yourself or your teammates on the material. For example, assign one team member each week to create a set of 20 quiz questions. The others complete the quiz under a time limit, and then the group reviews the correct and incorrect answers together. You can also download and use practice quizzes created by other scholars, such as those available at: <https://www.pocketpwaa.org/quizzes>.

# Answer Sheet for the Scholar's Challenge

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Team ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Student Letter \_\_\_\_\_

How to Read your Nametag



Team ID Digit 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
Team ID Digit 2	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Team ID Digit 3	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Student Letter	A	B	C							

1	A	B	C	D	E	61	A	B	C	D	E
2	A	B	C	D	E	62	A	B	C	D	E
3	A	B	C	D	E	63	A	B	C	D	E
4	A	B	C	D	E	64	A	B	C	D	E
5	A	B	C	D	E	65	A	B	C	D	E
6	A	B	C	D	E	66	A	B	C	D	E
7	A	B	C	D	E	67	A	B	C	D	E
8	A	B	C	D	E	68	A	B	C	D	E
9	A	B	C	D	E	69	A	B	C	D	E
10	A	B	C	D	E	70	A	B	C	D	E
11	A	B	C	D	E	71	A	B	C	D	E
12	A	B	C	D	E	72	A	B	C	D	E
13	A	B	C	D	E	73	A	B	C	D	E
14	A	B	C	D	E	74	A	B	C	D	E
15	A	B	C	D	E	75	A	B	C	D	E
16	A	B	C	D	E	76	A	B	C	D	E
17	A	B	C	D	E	77	A	B	C	D	E
18	A	B	C	D	E	78	A	B	C	D	E
19	A	B	C	D	E	79	A	B	C	D	E
20	A	B	C	D	E	80	A	B	C	D	E
21	A	B	C	D	E	81	A	B	C	D	E
22	A	B	C	D	E	82	A	B	C	D	E
23	A	B	C	D	E	83	A	B	C	D	E
24	A	B	C	D	E	84	A	B	C	D	E
25	A	B	C	D	E	85	A	B	C	D	E
26	A	B	C	D	E	86	A	B	C	D	E
27	A	B	C	D	E	87	A	B	C	D	E
28	A	B	C	D	E	88	A	B	C	D	E
29	A	B	C	D	E	89	A	B	C	D	E
30	A	B	C	D	E	90	A	B	C	D	E
31	A	B	C	D	E	91	A	B	C	D	E
32	A	B	C	D	E	92	A	B	C	D	E
33	A	B	C	D	E	93	A	B	C	D	E
34	A	B	C	D	E	94	A	B	C	D	E
35	A	B	C	D	E	95	A	B	C	D	E
36	A	B	C	D	E	96	A	B	C	D	E
37	A	B	C	D	E	97	A	B	C	D	E
38	A	B	C	D	E	98	A	B	C	D	E
39	A	B	C	D	E	99	A	B	C	D	E
40	A	B	C	D	E	100	A	B	C	D	E
41	A	B	C	D	E	101	A	B	C	D	E
42	A	B	C	D	E	102	A	B	C	D	E
43	A	B	C	D	E	103	A	B	C	D	E
44	A	B	C	D	E	104	A	B	C	D	E
45	A	B	C	D	E	105	A	B	C	D	E
46	A	B	C	D	E	106	A	B	C	D	E
47	A	B	C	D	E	107	A	B	C	D	E
48	A	B	C	D	E	108	A	B	C	D	E
49	A	B	C	D	E	109	A	B	C	D	E
50	A	B	C	D	E	110	A	B	C	D	E
51	A	B	C	D	E	111	A	B	C	D	E
52	A	B	C	D	E	112	A	B	C	D	E
53	A	B	C	D	E	113	A	B	C	D	E
54	A	B	C	D	E	114	A	B	C	D	E
55	A	B	C	D	E	115	A	B	C	D	E
56	A	B	C	D	E	116	A	B	C	D	E
57	A	B	C	D	E	117	A	B	C	D	E
58	A	B	C	D	E	118	A	B	C	D	E
59	A	B	C	D	E	119	A	B	C	D	E
60	A	B	C	D	E	120	A	B	C	D	E

# How to prepare for Scholar's Bowl

## Beginner Preparation Strategies

### (1) Pay Close Attention to Multimedia Materials

Scholar's Bowl questions often include diverse types of background materials such as film clips, and animations. Participants need to analyze and interpret these materials using their academic knowledge. It is crucial to focus carefully and identify key information from what's presented.

### (2) Get Familiar with the Music Mentioned in the Guiding Questions

Some questions in the Scholar's Bowl relate to music pieces included in the Guiding Questions. You may be asked to identify the title, composer, or historical context of a piece based on its melody. To help with preparation, the organizing committee has compiled a playlist of these tracks. You can find it on NetEase Cloud Music by searching for "2026 WSC Music." Play it often to build recognition.

### (3) Fully Discuss with Your Teammates Before Answering

The Scholar's Bowl is not a speed-based competition. Teams that answer quickly do not receive extra points. Therefore, make full use of the time during and after the reading of the question (around 15 seconds) to think and discuss before submitting an answer. Before the event, it's a good idea to agree on a team strategy for resolving disagreements (e.g., "majority vote wins").

## Advanced Preparation Strategies

### (1) Collaborate to Divide Study Focus

Like in the Scholar's Challenge, it's unlikely that a team will win the Scholar's Bowl without any familiarity with the Guiding Questions (miracles happen, but rarely!). Unlike the Challenge, however, the Bowl allows you to rely on your teammates' knowledge, so strategic division of content areas is key. For example, teammate A can focus on subtopics 1–4, while teammate B handles subtopics 5–8. The deeper each member's understanding of their assigned topics, the stronger your team's overall performance, increasing your chances of earning a medal or even a trophy.

### (2) Use Logical Elimination and Strategic Guessing

Just like in the Scholar's Challenge, you can use elimination strategies to narrow down answer choices and improve your chances of getting the correct answer. The Bowl also includes special question types, such as Lightning Round and Betting Round. In a Lightning Round, there will be a group of five questions with the same set of answer choices, presented one after another. You can write down the answers announced for the first four questions so that if you're unsure about the last one, you can use process of elimination to make a better guess. In a Betting Round, after hearing the question, your team must choose a point value to wager. If you answer correctly, you gain that number of points. If you're wrong, you lose the same number of points. Think carefully about how confident you are in your answer before betting. Avoid wagering high points unless you're certain. One bad gamble could erase the points you've worked hard to earn.

# How to read WSC Guiding Questions

The WSC Guiding Questions consist of several key components: the Annual Theme, Introductory Questions, Branch Topics, Entries (under each topic), and Concluding Questions. Within individual entries, you'll find a mix of elements such as factual descriptions, key terms/concepts, external links, and open-ended discussion questions. Each part serves a different purpose. Some are designed to spark curiosity and discussion, while others provide essential content knowledge.

Below is a breakdown of each component and how to make the most of it during your preparation.

## (1) Annual Theme

At the top of each year's Guiding Questions, you'll find an annual theme that sets the overall focus for the academic content. All branch topics and case studies revolve around this theme. For example, the theme of the 2025 Guiding Questions is "Reigniting the Future."



## Guiding Questions 2026: Are We There Yet?

## (2) Introductory Questions


These are a series of questions that appear immediately after the annual theme. They are usually simple, open-ended questions meant to spark curiosity and provide a basic understanding of the theme. Although there are no right or wrong answers, these questions are worth pondering. They often serve as inspiration for Collaborative Writing or Debate topics.

### Introductory Questions

- The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, but how does it end?
- Have you ever asked someone, "Are we there yet?" If so, whom were you asking—and where were you going? Did you ever get there?
- Have you ever gotten there, then decided it wasn't worth it in the end?
- "And now, the end is near," croons Frank Sinatra. But how do we know when we're getting to an ending—or to a point of no return?
- In 2003, millions of people gathered at theaters to watch the final *Lord of the Rings* movie. They watched it for a *long time*: three and a half hours. Many complained they kept thinking the movie was about to end, only to have it keep going; by most counts, the movie had **five separate endings**. Today, if you were streaming it at home, you'd easily be able to check how much longer you had to go. Does it make a difference to your experience of a work to know how close you are to the end of it?
- How about in the real world? Does knowing something in your life—say, the school year, or a friendship—is about to end change how it feels or what it means to you?
- Has an ending ever taken you by surprise? If so, what kind of ending was it?
- When you're working on a group project, how do you keep track of progress?
- "It's not the destination, it's the journey," is a phrase often misattributed to the American writer Ralph Waldo Emerson. But is it ever just the destination?
- Sometimes, not getting there—or anywhere—can be beautiful too. Are there places that were neither where you started nor where you were going, but were worthwhile destinations in their own right?
- "I just can't wait to be king," complains Simba. He is not quite one thing, not quite another. Not everyone is the heir to the throne, but we do all spend time as teenagers, no longer

### (3) Branch Topics

After the Introductory Questions comes the main body of the Guiding Questions. Most of the new knowledge you'll need to learn comes from this section. The content is organized under several subheadings, each of which represents a branch topic. For instance, in the 2025 edition, there are 12 branch topics in total.

 <b>Guiding Questions</b> 2026: Are We There Yet?	
Introductory Questions	▼
Progress, Not Regress	▼
More To Do Than Can Ever Be Listed	▼
The End is Nearish	▼
There's a Draft in Here	▼
We're All in This to Get There	▼
Where the Sidewalk Starts	▼
Monkey See, Monkey Prototype	▼
The Lovely and the Liminal	▼
Going Pains	▼
Home and Wandering	▼
Where We're Going, We'll Still Need Them	▼

### (4) Entries

Each branch topic contains 5 to 15 bullet-point entries, each consisting of one or more sentences. Entries vary in length and format, but usually include one or more of the following elements:

#### A. Factual Descriptions

Some entries begin with a fact or real-world observation. These not only introduce discussion but also serve as key knowledge points to remember. For example, for the entry below, the first sentence (“In 2009, the Australian government announced an ambitious project to provide super-fast fiber-based Internet to 93% of the population; in 2013, it revised the plan to reuse existing copper wire; in 2025, many Australians still have no (or slow) Internet.”) is a factual description you're expected to know and remember.

- In 2009, the Australian government announced an ambitious project to provide super-fast fiber-based Internet to 93% of the population; in 2013, it revised the plan to reuse existing copper wire; in 2025, many Australians **still have no (or slow) Internet**. First promise big things, then revise the promise to make them little things, then don't finish them anyway. This isn't (we hope) a description of the World Scholar's Cup curriculum release process, but a pattern of behavior for governments all over the world. Discuss with your team: is it better to underpromise and overdeliver, or vice versa?

#### B. Terms / Case Studies

Entries often include terms or case examples. These terms are not defined or explained in the Guiding Questions, so it's your job to research them independently. Keeping a vocabulary list or glossary is highly recommended, as these terms frequently appear in the Scholar's Challenge and Scholar's Bowl. For example, the following entry lists 10 megaprojects by name, and your task is to look them up and understand what they are.

- Don't worry, Australia—you're not alone. (More on loneliness later.) In Canada, a proposed high-speed rail network had its target speed slashed before being rebranded as a **high frequency** network. In many developed countries, ambitious projects have **gone out of fashion** in favor of slow, incremental ones. Check out the mega projects below, as well as those from your own country, then discuss with your team: is this shift in approach justified? How might megaprojects (or their failure) affect the way people **perceive progress**? And are some countries more consistently successful at these projects?

- Big Dig | Channel Tunnel | California High-Speed Rail
- Sejong City | Hambantota | NEOM | Khazar Islands
- Three Gorges Dam | Hong Kong-Zhuhai Bridge | New Eurasia Land Bridge

### C. External Links

Many entries contain external links to articles, videos, or podcasts. These are marked by colored text. Clicking on them takes you to the relevant resource. These linked materials are frequently tested in both the Scholar's Challenge and the Scholar's Bowl. For example, in the entry below, the phrase "many people's closest friends" is hyperlinked, where the link leads to an article about how podcasts replaced social interaction during the COVID-19 pandemic (<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2021/jun/07/tragic-but-true-have-podcasters-replaced-our-real-friends>)

- During the Covid pandemic, podcasts exploded in popularity. Their hosts (or at least their subtly-enhanced voices) became **many people's closest friends** in a solitary time. Discuss with your team: are podcasts meaningfully different from old-fashioned radio broadcasts in their impact on society, and will their impact continue? In other words, how dated will this bullet seem, ten years from now?)

### D. Open-Ended Discussion Questions

Almost every entry ends with a question, which is typically open-ended and has no single correct answer. Unlike the Introductory Questions, these questions are often tied to specific cases, terms, or linked materials. To answer them thoughtfully, you must first understand the related knowledge. For example, in the entry below, "Is this decline irreversible or will the world's population begin to boom again? Should we want it to?" is a question related to an article about global fertility decline. To discuss it meaningfully, students must first understand the article's content.

- In 2021, the UN Development Programme found that living conditions in **90% of the world's countries** had declined for the second year in a row—possibly contributing to **declining birth rates**. Discuss with your team: is **this decline irreversible** or will the world's population begin to boom again? Should we want it to?

### (5) Concluding Questions

At the end of the Guiding Questions, you'll find a series of Concluding Questions. Some are follow-ups or extensions of earlier Introductory Questions; others may introduce new terms, case studies, or external links for further exploration and discussion.

#### Concluding Questions

- Reconstruct, reimagine, reignite: consider the **works of David Irvine** as examples of how new art can be made from old things, even those found in thrift stores. Will the future be built from bits of the past, or from materials we haven't even imagined yet? What would you prefer to see?
- Listen to the song "**Section 52 (Morning Sun, I Built the Stairs)**" by the Polyphonic Spree, and then consider whether it feels more like a song about beginnings, endings, or starting over again. Is it optimistic about what comes next? Are you?
- Work with your team to imagine yourselves reuniting in 20 years; you can even use AI tools online to create images of what you'll like in the future. What kind of world will you be living in, and what sorts of people will you become? Which of your dreams, if any, do you think will need reigniting?



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