



Regional Challenge Team Preparation Guide

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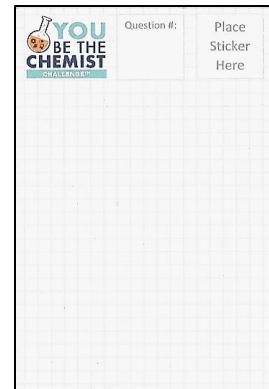
Congratulations on advancing to the regional level of the *You Be The Chemist Challenge*®! While preparing for the competition we hope and your teammates “challenge” each other to explore the wonderful world of chemistry, build teamwork skills, and most of all, have fun!

What happens at a Regional Challenge?

When you arrive to the Challenge, a volunteer will sign you in, collect your [Agreement and Photo Release form](#) if you have not already returned it, and provide the answer cards you will use to submit responses during the competition (pictured to the right). Once all teams are settled, the competition moderator will review the most important parts of the [Official Rules](#) and everyone will answer a practice question. Then the competition rounds begin! There will be four rounds each with ten short-answer questions. For each question:

- The moderator will read the question once and then the teams will write an answer on the answer card in the allotted time (30-60 seconds).
- After the allotted time ends, you will hold up your team’s completed answer card, which will be collected and handed to the Judges for scoring.
- The moderator will then read the correct answer to the question.

There will be a five-minute break between each round. At the end of the fourth round the Judges will tabulate participant scores and identify the winning team(s). If there is a tie that prevents the Judges from determining advancing teams, Judges will use the tiebreaker procedure outlined in Section G of the [Official Rules](#).



How should we prepare for the Regional Challenge?

Study!

All the material covered during the Regional Challenge will come from the [study materials](#) posted on the CEF website. We encourage you to review them with your team.

As this is a team competition, everyone has an important role to play! Please assign each team member at least one of the roles below *before* the day of the competition so everyone has time to practice their skills:

- **Scribe** – This student writes the official responses to each question. *Tip: choose the team member with the best handwriting!*
- **Timekeeper** – This student keeps track of time for each question and keeps the team moving.
- **Team Advocate** – This student holds up the answer card for collection and is responsible for representing their team for any appeals or discussions with the Judges. (Can be combined with another role if necessary.)
- **Team Captain** – This student is in charge of double-checking calculations, making sure responses are easy to read, and keeping the team on track.



Regional Challenge

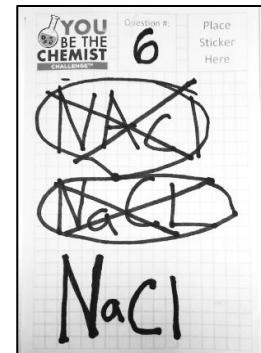
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How to maximize points

Each question in the competition is worth four points. To ensure your team receives all points:

- If a question asks for a specific number of responses, be sure to only submit that number of responses. Submitting more than the number specified will result in getting zero points for the question!
 - Examples:
 - If a question asks you to list 2 physical properties of gold – “**malleable and good conductor**” would receive full credit, but “**malleable, ductile and good conductor**” would receive no credit.
 - If a question asked you to identify 4 transition metals – “**zinc, copper, cobalt**” would receive partial credit, “**chromium, iron, gold, and silver**” would receive full credit, and “**zinc, copper, iron, gold, and silver**” would receive no credit.
- If you make a mistake on your answer card, circle and then cross out with an “X” the responses you want disregarded. Anything not inside a circle with an “X” through it will be included in the grading process (see example to the right).
- If a question states that parts of responses must be labeled (such as labeling responses a, b, and c) responses that do not clearly label responses corresponding with the question requirements will receive zero points for the question.
- Capitalization matters for element symbols and for units!
 - Examples:
 - In the scorecard to the right, the two crossed out responses would be marked wrong because of incorrect capitalization.
 - If a question asked for the chemical symbol for gold – **Au** would receive points, but **au** or **AU** would not receive points.
 - If a question asked you to give your response in milliliters and the answer was 1.0 mL – “**1.0 mL**” would receive points for the units but “**1.0 ML**” or “**1.0 ml**” would not.



What happens if my team wins?

Advancing teams from each Regional Challenge will compete at the national level by creating a 3-5-minute video exploring the role of chemistry in their community. The guidelines and rubric for the video competition will be released on March 9 and teams will have until April 20 (7 weeks) to complete and submit their video. Each advancing team will be assigned Advisors who will check in with the team, provide planning support and feedback throughout the process, and submit the video online.

Videos will be evaluated by a panel of judges, and the winning video from each state will be recognized on the CEF website and posted so that other students all around the country can watch their video. The top 10 teams, selected from the winning teams, will be brought to Houston to participate in an on-site competition with the other top student teams from around North America, from June 14-17.