

Welcome to the 2026 Inland Empire Academic Bowl Hosted by CSUSB, Pi Rho Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, 100 Black Men IE & GLG

Our theme this year is **“What Is America To Me?”** in honor of author, poet, social activist, Langston Hughes.

Our theme for 2026: **“What Is America To Me?”** has been expressed from many formats. Most notably, author, poet, social activist, Langston Hughes referenced this question often. However, many share in this question, such as: Frank Sinatra, who questioned America’s commitment to those at the bottom of the social ladder. Derrick Bell, Billie Holiday, Michael Jordan, or Kathleen Hughes shared remarkable success, but not without the question of why we must work twice as hard to be challenged in our own authenticity.

This year’s Academic Bowl invites students to engage this question through knowledge, competition, and critical thinking.

ACADEMIC BOWL TEAM GUIDELINES

- Each team must consist of **three (3) primary players**.
- **One (1) alternate** is permitted.
 - Alternates may **not** replace a player after **Round 2**.
- Each team must designate **one member as the Team Captain**.
- Teams must represent a **single school or a recognized organization** (e.g., *Pacific High School* or *100 Black Men Team*).
- **Schools may not combine teams** to compete. Joint teams are only permitted if they represent a **recognized organization that exists outside of a single school or campus**. (i.e. Delta Sigma Theta or Onyx Black Males)

PLEASE HAVE YOUR TEAM FINALIZED BY 02/07/2026

TEAM PREPARATION & INFORMATION SESSIONS

Beginning **Tuesday, February 10th at 4:00 PM**, and continuing each Tuesday through **March 3rd**, the Academic Bowl Committee will host **virtual information sessions** (*link will be provided*) to help teams prepare for the competition.

Planned activities include:

- HBCU-style mock Kahoot! games
- Black Wall Street overview and discussion
- Open Q&A for coaches, students, and families

The Academic Bowl consists of two distinct competition tracks:

- **Team Competition**
- **Black Wall Street (BWS) Competition**

These tracks operate **independently**. Yet, if you are in the Top 4 teams, you are ineligible to compete in BWS. Participants should review each section carefully.

TEAM COMPETITION OVERVIEW

All teams begin in the **Team Competition**. Advancement is based on the **combined performance of all three team members** in the opening rounds.

Teams qualify through:

- **A paper test**, and
- **A Kahoot! game**

Scores from both formats are combined to determine advancement.

- The **Top Four (4) teams** advance to the Team Semi-Finals.
- Teams that do not place in the Top 4 will conclude Team Competition.
- Individuals from non-advancing teams may participate in the **Black Wall Street Competition**.

BLACK WALL STREET COMPETITION

The **Black Wall Street (BWS) Competition** is an **individual-based competition** and does **not affect team scores**.

- Eligible participants include individuals whose teams did **not** advance to Team Semi-Finals.
- BWS occurs **between Team Competition rounds**.
- The competition includes a paper/pencil component and Kahoot! gameplay.
- The **Top Three (3) individuals** advance to the BWS Championship round.
- **One BWS Champion** will be selected and awarded a **laptop**.

After the BWS Champion is determined, the Team Competition resumes.

COMPETITION LAYOUT & ROUNDS

Round 1: Team Qualification

- Paper Test: 50 questions | 12–15 minutes

Round 2: Team Semi-Final Qualification

- Kahoot! Game: 20 minutes
- Combined participants scores (Paper and Kahoot) will be calculated to assess which Top 4 Teams advance to the Semi-Final Round
-  **Top 4 Teams Advance**
 - Non-advancing individuals may enter **Black Wall Street**

Round 3: Team Semi-Finals

- Jeopardy-style game (20 minutes)
- 25 questions
-  **Top 3 Teams Advance**

Black Wall Street Competition (Individual)

Part 1: Paper/Pencil & Kahoot!

-  **Top 3 Individuals Advance**

Part 2: BWS Championship (Jeopardy-style | 20 minutes)

-  **One Champion Selected (Laptop Awarded)**

Rounds 4 & 5: Team Championship

- Two rounds of 25 questions jeopardy-style (50 questions)
- Round 4: Top 3 Teams (25 questions)
- Round 5: Top 2 Teams (25 questions)
-  **Champion Team Selected (Laptops Awarded)**

COMPETITION FORMATS OVERVIEW

ELECTRONIC DEVICES DISRUPTING COMPETITION “IN ANY WAY”, CAUSE FOR TEAM DISQUALIFICATION.

Kahoot! Game Format

- Interactive, timed trivia platform
- Questions projected on-screen
- Students compete **individually**, with scores contributing to team totals
- Accuracy and response time determine points

Kahoot! Rules

- One device per participant
- Answers must be submitted within the time limit
- Answers cannot be changed
- Technical issues must be reported immediately

- Moderator decisions are final

Paper Test Format

- Up to **50 questions** covering:
 - Black Geniuses and Entrepreneurs
 - Black Artists
 - Black Authors
 - Inland Southern California Leadership
 - Black Athletes

Rules

- 12–15 minutes
- Closed-book
- No electronics (phones, watches, tablets, laptops)

Materials Provided

- No. 2 pencils
- One scratch sheet

Academic Integrity

- Any form of dishonesty results in **automatic disqualification**
- Proctor decisions are final

Jeopardy Game Format

Jeopardy rounds include **one Semi-Final** and **two Championship rounds**.

General Rules

- Teams must be recognized before answering
- Blurred answers result in an automatic incorrect response
- Team Captain provides final answer

Semi-Final Jeopardy

- Top 4 Teams
- 25 questions
- 5 seconds to answer
- No point deduction for incorrect answers

Championship Jeopardy – Round 1

- Top 3 Teams
- 25 questions
- 3 seconds to answer
- No point deduction

Championship Jeopardy – Final Round

- Top 2 Teams
- 25 questions
- Immediate response required
- Incorrect or delayed answers result in point deduction

⚠ This is the “Know the Answer or No Point” round. Time is critical.

SCORING & DETERMINING THE WINNER

First and Second Round Scores will assess which 4 teams will advance to the semi-final round - (Third Round). Scores will be calculated based on the team’s combined Paper Test and Kahoot scores. (all three players)

Please refer to the above section “Competition Rounds & Layout” to understand team elimination as we near the last two rounds (Rounds 4 & 5).

Round Score Breakdown

Round 1 and 2: Each participant’s score (all three) will be combined to assess who are the Top 4

Round 3: The top 4 teams will compete for the top 3 scores for this round only

Round 4: The top 3 will compete for the top 2 scores for this round only

**Round 5: The top 2 teams will compete to become the champion!*

The team winning the last round, “Championship game” will be crowned the **2026 Academic Bowl Champion** (top score in round 5).

**Please keep in mind the layout of the Championship Rounds on pg. 4 and 5*

“Up, you mighty race, accomplish what you will.”-Marcus Garvey

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday March 7th!