

Tips to winning the National Economics Challenge
as provided by the Council for Economic Education's Webinar:
Preparing Your Students for the NEC In-Person

Tips are provided by a multi-year winning National Economics Challenge teacher. Failure to score well in the Challenge is NOT a measure of teaching; sometimes the ?s your students are most prepared for are not asked.

Best strategy to follow:

- Teach the course well
- Practice MC ?s for the on-site quiz bowl
- Practice QB ?s from the past, the style of questions asked
- Current events preparation and knowledge
 - Have students present current events in class
 - Summer readings that lead to fall presentations (national news)
 - Team readings during school year. Each member on team picks two topics to study and know inside and out (*begin this once known which students advance to state event*):
 - Euro Central Bank
 - Famous Economists
 - Federal Reserve Banks – online research sites
 - Dallas
 - Minnesota
 - Richmond
 - Bureau of Econ Analysis
 - CPI
 - Unemployment Rate – online research sites

Students must own the team/take responsibility for their success. Example:

- Students research and come up with questions to populate practice tests. Builds a question bank over the years.

Practice answering ?s in a Quiz Bowl format. Write a grant for a buzzer system for Challenge “practice” or see if the state Council on Economic Education or the local regional Center of Economic Education can apply for a grant. Set of buzzers can be found for less than \$100.

- Have teams practice a mock Quiz-Bowl 1x/ week during the semester of the competition, to prep for successfully answering questions in a timed setting with the limitations of buzzing in against each other.
- Consider holding an in-school challenge for Quiz Bowl practice with an audience.

Two timelines seem to work well in preparing students to excel in the competition:

- 1st semester Econ course & 2nd semester club
- Year-long Econ course