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**No
Teacher
Preparation**

NewzBrain

**Independent
Study Skills
& Goal-Setting**

NATIONAL GIFTED CHALLENGE

**Global
Awareness**

**Ethical
Reflection**

2011-2012

**Monthly Online Current
Events Challenge
For Gifted Students 3rd - 9th**

**Lifelong
Learning
Enrichment**

**50 Multiple
Choice
Question Test**

***Accelerated
Social Studies
and Civics!***

**Testing takes
place in your
school at the
NewzBrain
website**

**Real-Time
Scoring
1,000 Pts Per Test**

www.newzbrain.com

**Entry Deadline September 26, 2011
If entering after September 26, pay a \$10 late fee.**

No Teacher Preparation!!

How does the NewzBrain fit the high ability learner?

NewzBrain is a cooperative learning activity/challenge that requires teamwork and independent research study. As a team member, the student must be a leader as well as a follower. Students will be interacting with peers who have the same goals as they do. The Challenge will help students develop a curious interest in the news of the day. NewzBrain promotes lifelong learning, civics, geography and helps develop an advanced vocabulary. Students will utilize high-level critical thinking, prioritizing news events and maximize their memory skills. Through reading and discussion, students develop a cognitive side of character by developing moral awareness and morality through reason via the perspectives of others.

NewzBrain Monthly Challenge Nitty-Gritty

What is the NewzBrain Monthly Challenge?

- The NewzBrain Monthly Challenge is a program designed for high ability students in grades 3rd – High School. Students involved in the challenge are identified by the teachers to have above average study and research skills, but have a need for increased global awareness. Participating students have the potential to become a future civics leader through an interest in news events as they occur from month to month.
- The program is designed to include independent study and cooperative learning. The role of the teacher is to assemble students into teams by identifying students' strengths as they score against students from other states in their same grade level.
- Teams test at the end of each month. Over a period of a few months, teachers will notice an increased awareness of the nation and the world as the students become more self-initiated in the study of current events.
- The key to this program is the belief that a student learns best when learning through self-initiation and group summary work.
- The end result will be a young person who is interested in the news, which research proves leads to a future voting citizenry and active citizenship.

How much does it cost for our school to enter the NewzBrain Gifted Challenge?

NewzBrain is designed to be extremely affordable! You can enter your entire school for **\$99** for the 2011-12 school year. NewzBrain is affordable enrichment that leads to measurable exponential global learning. If your school will not budget \$99, NewzBrain's Wish List Initiative will help you align with a school sponsor. Simply call our office for help!

How many teams from your school may test each month?

A teacher signs up as many grade levels as they wish in their school, therefore; the teacher may have as many teams as desired to take the NewzBrain Challenge test.

How many students make up a team?

A team is made up of 2-5 students. Each team selects a keyboard captain to enter answers.

Why Students Should Pay Attention To News!!!

Research shows that Americans who keep up with national and world news are much more likely to become better citizens. People who are in touch with current events are more likely to become voters and exhibit other signs of positive citizenship. People who follow current events are more likely to feel better about the United States than those who ignore the news.

NewzBrain Online Challenge Mission Statement

To provide teachers with an educational event that enhances the current events education of students. The NewzBrain Online Challenge uses the motivation of a news achievement contest to enhance lifelong learning and citizenship skills for elementary and middle school students.

When does the NewzBrain Monthly Challenge take place?

The NewzBrain Challenge is a test taken in your school on a day of your choice covering a two-week testing.

The 2011-2012 test session dates:

September 26 – October 7 | October 24 – November 4 | November 21 – December 2 |
December 19 – December 23 | January 23 – February 3 | February 20 – March 2 | March 26 – April 6 |
April 23 – May 4

Do lower grades compete against upper grades?

No! Each grade level has its own division. If a team has mixed grades, they must enter the grade level of the oldest student. Each grade level has its own benchmark score (see next page).

How long will it take for a team to complete the NewzBrain Challenge?

The estimated completion time is 20 to 30 minutes. If you have multiple teams they may test at the same time, on separate computers, or on different days.

Will score lists be provided?

Yes, all team scores in each grade division will be listed in real time and in ranking order. Student names will not be listed, only team names, school, city, and state. Real time scoring means top scores immediately show up on the website. The scroll on the website will show the top scoring schools. The 50 question test is divided by 15 level 1 questions worth 10 points, 20 level 2 questions worth 20 points and 15 level 3 questions worth 30 points. A perfect score is 1,000 points. During the test, the students will not be informed on the question value.

What study methods are used to prepare and review for the NewzBrain Challenge?

The NewzBrain Challenge is a student centered activity. There is no teacher preparation required. It is suggested that students work as “topic specialists.” As the months pass, students will be motivated to follow the news as a way to improve on previous monthly scores.

What topics of current events questions will be on the NewzBrain Challenge?

Questions 1-10 will cover World and National News, Questions 11-20 People News, Questions 21-30 Geography, Questions 31-40 Arts/Entertainment and Sports News, Questions 41-50 Mr. News Owl’s Top Ten (any category).

Do teams have to test every month?

No, the program is very flexible. Teams, team names, team members may change from month to month. Scores do not aggregate, so if you miss a month there is no loss. The main rule is that a student may test only once per month.

When will the school contact person receive the NewzBrain Challenge passcode?

After you sign up, the teacher will receive a NewzBrain Challenge passcode and easy instructions in a window envelope.

How do GATE coordinators administer a district-wide event?

You will receive a code for each school involved in the NewzBrain Challenge. At the end of each month, the coordinator can either post high scores on the district site or even offer fun prizes to top scoring students in the schools. Coordinators must provide NewzBrain an entry form for each school. When entering five or more schools, the cost is \$50 per school.

What supplemental materials are available?

Teachers get a demo practice test for the students, award certificates, and a press release for your local newspaper and newsletters.

What are the benchmark score goals for each grade level?

Teachers should reward a team with a fun prize if they get these scores:

- Third grade – 300 out of 1,000
- Fourth grade – 350 out of 1,000
- Fifth grade – 400 out of 1,000
- Sixth grade – 450 out of 1,000
- Seventh grade – 500 out of 1,000
- Eighth grade – 550 out of 1,000
- High School – 600 out of 1,000

