



WCNY Televised High School Academic Quiz Show

Team Participation Guide Season 13 - 2017

New for Season 13: Qualifying Day

Double Down begins with the Qualifying Day. Teams will compete in 2-minute lightning rounds, answering as many questions correctly as possible. The 16 teams with the highest scores advance to Double Down competition that begins on Tuesday, October 24.

Qualifying Day

DATE Saturday, October 21, 2017

LOCATION Double Down TV set, WCNY studios 415 W. Fayette St. Syracuse, NY 13204

NOTIFICATION The 16 top scoring teams will be announced on the WCNY website at 8 p.m., Saturday, October 21.

Double Down Competition begins at WCNY on Tuesday, October 24.

Double Down FAQs

What is Double Down? Double Down is a televised half-hour weekly game show for teams of high school students from WCNY's 19-county viewing area. Teams of students in grades 9-12 compete in matches that consist of four rounds, answering questions on a variety of topics. Double Down spotlights students who are academic achievers and provides an entertaining and educational television experience for viewers of all ages.

How is the show made? To make the show fun and competitive for the participants, as well as visually entertaining for television viewers, each show is recorded without interruption in the television studios at WCNY. Actual recording of each match takes approximately a half-hour, with as many as three Double Down shows produced daily. There is no live studio audience for Double Down shows, so school advisors and chaperones are welcome to attend but will be seated in another WCNY location to watch the competition taking place in the studio.

What topic categories are covered in the competition?

- English Language Arts/Literature (famous authors, books, plays, language, grammar skills. . .)
- History/Geography (important events, famous people, historic dates, places. . .)
- Science (biology, earth science, chemistry, and some physics. . .)
- Math (algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and some calculus. . .)
- Arts (famous artists/composers/musicians, famous works of art/compositions, genres of art/music, art techniques, musical theory. . .)
- 2017 (people, places and events that made or are making the news in 2017)
- Sports (game rules, current major sports champions, all-time major sport history. . .)

Who develops the questions? Questions are created by a panel of educators and WCNY's Double Down team.

How are questions asked? The host reads the questions from cue cards and questions are visually displayed for the contestants (except during the Lightning Round) and viewing audience. Some questions also have images, sound, and/or video clips as cues.

How are questions judged? One or more judges monitor the competition from the control room. All decisions of the judges are final.

How are teams selected and prepared? Double Down team advisors at each school may select team members as they see fit and name up to five students on the roster submitted to WCNY via the Team Roster Form. Once the Team Roster Form has been submitted, only those students whose names appear on the roster may compete throughout the season. While only three students may actively participate for any one match, the school's five person team may rotate throughout the season as necessary. No practice should be required for the students to answer questions on the show. Some advisors choose to have a club based on participation and/or to combine Double Down with another school activity and group of students, but that is up to the advisor/school.

How do teams advance in Double Down? The 16 teams with the highest scores from Qualifying Day advance to the Double Down Competition. Double Down matches are played in head-to-head, single elimination format. Losing teams are out of the competition. *See the Double Down Game Format & Rules section for more information.*

How many times will teams have to travel to WCNY to compete? - 3 times- Including the Qualifying Day, the maximum number of times a team would have to travel to WCNY to compete in Double Down is three.

Double Down Game Format & Rules

QUALIFYING DAY | Open to all registered teams

TIME 2 minutes

- Teams answer as many questions as possible in 2 minutes, earning points for each correct answer. Points are not deducted for wrong answers.
- The 16 top-scoring teams move on to the Double Down Competition

DOUBLE DOWN COMPETITION | Open to the top 16 teams from the Qualifying Day

Double Down is conducted in four rounds, each with its own style of questioning. Points accumulate throughout the four rounds.

Round One: Twenty Questions

TIME approx. 8 minutes

- 20 questions, each worth 10 points.
- No penalty for wrong answer.
- Questions are for individual players only.
- Questioning alternates between the participating teams.

Round Two: Double Down

TIME approx. 10 minutes

- Each opening question is worth 20 points.
- One student is questioned, but teams decide their response as a group. The questioning rotates team-by-team.
- A correct answer allows the team the opportunity to “double down” and choose to take a second (more difficult) question to answer. Teams decide as a group whether to double down. Answering the double down question correctly earns double points (40 pts.) but incorrect answers cost the team 20 points. Each team has a maximum of three Double Down opportunities.

Round Three: Lightning Round

TIME approx. 45 seconds

- Each question worth 10 points.
- No penalty for wrong answers or passed questions.
- Team members may consult one another but will need to choose a designated responder.

Final Round

TIME approx. 4 minutes

- A final Double Down category is announced. Teams indicate how many points they are willing to wager on an electronic screen.
- The host reads one final question which is displayed for the teams and viewing audience.
- Each team discusses their answer and their captain writes the answer on an electronic screen that is hidden from view.
- Starting with the team with fewer points, the host displays each team’s answer and the points wagered to calculate the team’s final score.
- The team with the most points at the end of the Final Round is the winner.

Tiebreaker

In the event that the Final Round ends in a tie, the team that missed the fewest questions throughout the entire game will be declared the winner. If there is still a tie, the team that answered the most Second Round questions correctly will be declared the winner. If there is still a tie, the team that answered the most First Round questions correctly will be declared the winner. If there is still a tie, a “one question shoot-out” question will be issued to both teams. The team whose response is closest to the correct answer will be declared the winner.

Required Team Paperwork: Due – September 30, 2017

To participate in Double Down, three forms must be completed by each school's Double Down team advisor and submitted to WCNY:

- 1. Team Roster Form** Each Double Down team must consist of at least three but no more than five students. Student names must be listed on this form. **IMPORTANT:** Only students whose names appear on the form may compete in Double Down and no changes to this roster are permitted.
- 2. WCNY Release Form** This form is a legal agreement allowing students to compete and appear on the Double Down show and in Double Down promotions. Each student listed on the Team Roster Form must have this form completed and signed by his/her parent or guardian.
- 3. Team Member Information Form** This information may be used during a team's televised appearance on Double Down as well as for Double Down promotional purposes including WCNY social media messaging. Each student listed on the Team Roster Form must complete a Team Member Information Form.

Completed forms **MUST** be submitted to WCNY no later than September 30, 2017. Submissions should be made to the attention of WCNY's Director of Education and may be sent electronically (scanning original signed forms is permissible) to Debbie.Stack@wcnyc.org or by mail to WCNY, P.O. Box 2400, Syracuse, NY 13220 Attn: Double Down. You may fax submissions to WCNY (attn. Double Down) at (315) 451-8824, but **MUST** also contact WCNY by phone, (315) 453-2424 to confirm their receipt. An online submission form is also available at wcnyc.org/doubledown

Scheduling of Team Competitions

Qualifying Day Participating teams will be assigned to times between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. Session assignments will be sent to team advisors by October 5, 2017. Teams must be accompanied by their Double Down advisors or designees. The top 16 teams will progress to the Double Down competition.

Double Down Competition The schedule of competitions for the 16 teams from Qualifying Day will be posted on the WCNY website on October 21 by 8 p.m. Teams may need to compete in up to two games per day. The winners of the first two games will compete against each other in the third match of the day.

MANDATORY ARRIVAL TIMES Timing in the TV studio is critical! Teams should plan ample travel time to arrive promptly.

- Teams competing in a first game must arrive by 1:00 p.m.
- Teams playing in a second game must arrive by 2:00 p.m.

Rescheduling of Team Appearance Dates is not allowed. WCNY has an active TV production calendar and available studio time is limited. Therefore, Double Down schedules are final. Teams that do not compete on their scheduled date and time forfeit the game. The only exceptions are for school closings, seriously inclement weather, or an exceptional extenuating circumstance. (Requests for exceptions will be reviewed and decided upon by WCNY's Double Down team, keeping in mind the needs of the station and other teams).

All Double Down competition is scheduled to be completed no later than November 2, 2017.

Airing Season 13 of Double Down begins November 5, 6 p.m. on WCNY. Watch past episodes online at wcnyc.org

Dressing for TV

Please adhere to these dresscode guidelines

Students will represent their school, district, and community and should dress appropriately. WCNY reaches a viewing audience of 1.8 million viewers and we want you to look your best! Remember that for the most part, you are seen on camera from the waist up.

Men's Options

- Jacket with dress shirt and tie
- Jacket with a dress shirt
- A dress shirt with a tie
- A sweater with dress shirt
- A sweater with dress shirt and tie

Women's Options

- Suit
- Skirt/Blouse/Jacket
- Skirt/Blouse
- Dress Slacks/Blouse/Sweater
- Dress

NO

- T-shirts
- Jeans
- Sweatshirts
- Hats
- Logo apparel
- Sleeveless or spaghetti strap tops

Additional Tips to Look Great!

- Avoid white, as it causes glare
- Avoid clothing with thin stripes
- Avoid skin color clothing as it will appear on TV as bare skin
- School emblems or crests are permissible on clothing that complies with the above guidelines

Double Down Contact Information

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(315) 451-8824

WCNY Studios Address

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