



MONTANA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL

IMPACT REPORT

Academic WorldQuest

Academic World Quest (AWQ) is our multi-day global education summit which feeds students' curiosity about the world and broadens their understanding of international affairs.

Each year, The World Affairs Council of America decides on 10 overarching topics based on the most relevant global issues of that year. These 10 topics build the focus of the summit, as well as, the competition questions.

During the summit, AWQ connects students through programs with international experts. Students engage with each other and students from around the world in our virtual "Student-to-Student Global Conversation." The summit concludes with a global issues knowledge competition. The winning team then represents Montana in the national competition in Washington, DC. For many, the event is life-changing, giving them a taste of life as a global citizen engrossed in world events.

Topics for the 2023 AWQ included

1. Securing the Future of the World's Wildlife
2. The Arctic Council: Frozen Cooperation
3. Atrocity Prevention and Accountability
4. Combating Global Food Insecurity
5. Economic Sanctions: A Double-Edged Sword
6. Great Decisions
7. A Country in Focus: Ethiopia
8. The Future of Supply Chains
9. Battle of the Century: Autocracy vs. Democracy
10. Current Events



By The Numbers

- 397** Total students participating in AWQ
- 87** Number of student teams
- 84** Percent of schools participating that qualify as school-wide or partial Title I
- 16** Number of unique programs for teachers and students
- 15** Number of Montana counties represented
- 8** Scholarships awarded to cover travel, lodging, and substitute teachers

Top Three Teams

- Sentinel -- Missoula County
- Gardiner -- Park County
- Columbia Falls -- Flathead County



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All Montana World Affairs Council school programs are developed in collaboration with educators. Programs are designed around learning objectives that fulfill State and National Standards.

Learning Objectives

1. Expose and prepare students to relevant global topics and world affairs.
2. Build relevance to student in-class learning by connecting students and educators to leaders, students, and programs from around the world.
3. Evaluate and think critically about international agreements and contemporary world issues.
4. Expose students and educators to different cultures to develop critical thinking skills to evaluate misinformation and stereotypes.

Connections to Standards

The following standards are from the *Montana Content Standards for Social Studies For K-12*: SS.CG.9-12.2, SS.CG.9-12.3, SS.CG.9-12.5, SS.H.9-12.11

To see the standards, please follow [CLICK HERE](#).

Measuring Learning Objectives

AWQ uses three metrics to measure student impact and learning. 1. Anecdotal evidence is gathered from educators and students. 2. Engagement is tracked by monitoring student questions and comments and the relevance to the AWQ study guide and competition topics. 3. Competition completion.

Outcomes

Anecdotal Evidence

Please [Click HERE](#) for student evidence of impact.

Please [Click HERE](#) for educator evidence of impact.

Engagement

This year students participated in 16 unique programs, including two Student-to-Student Global Conversations with Ukraine and Ireland, Panel Discussions with Ambassadors and Consult Generals on topics from Democracy vs. Autocracy to the Arctic Council, and Current Events. The University of Montana's Irish Studies Program introduced students to Irish Dance and Music. Students exuberantly participated in the International Trade Game Simulation and learned about the culture, customs, places, and language of Saudi Arabia during an exciting, competitive scavenger hunt. Every program was designed for deep, critical thinking. Students expanded their knowledge by asking detailed questions and engaging in lively discussions.

AWQ Competition

The AWQ competition is made up of 100 questions from 10 globally relevant topic areas. Students receive a practice quiz and a custom study guide that includes articles, links to videos, discussion topics, and resources to help prepare for the competition. All of the teams finished the competition—many showing improved study and comprehension from the previous year.

"I see pieces of my education come together at AWQ. Events I've learned of in class, debate, etc begin to make sense in my mind. "

Faith You, Hellgate High School