



Pumpkin seems to be the overwhelming favorite amongst teenagers. Apple scored behind Pumpkin and pecan falls further still.

Inside the mind of Brain Game

By Luis Zepeda

Beads of sweat begin to trickle down the brows of christened brainiacs, fingers tremble in anticipation to smash the buzzer, and only the quickest and most prepared succeed. What could cause such passionate feelings?

PM has a team that holds the same passion and drive comparable to any athletic team. This team is a group of heavy brained, academic athletes that face other teams across the state of Indiana in a game of difficult questions and odd facts.

A typical brain game meet follows a specific pattern that will decide who the ultimate winner will be. There are four rounds, each with varying difficulty and length. The process of the game goes as follows:

Pre-game: The team that hosts the game provides a multitude of snacks. As the visitors enjoy a not so healthy helping of food, Perry brainiacs meet in the senior incentive rooms for a small meeting and to discuss tactics to victory. Afterwards, Falcons help themselves to their share of refreshments. Occasionally, they will play a few games of ping pong to relax.

Round 1: The Toss Up
Question Worth: 1 point.

Known as a "toss up" because a reader (generally from the home team, but can be from visiting team) will read a question and the first person to buzz in gets to answer. However, the contestants must be quick and cunning because if they happen to be wrong, the other team gets a stab at the cake,

receiving full credit if they answer correctly. This round is one of the easier rounds, but still holds great challenge because the questions are answered in a non collaborative fashion, meaning team members are not allowed to help one another if one of them has buzzed in to answer.

Senior varsity brainiac **Max Sandefer** believes it is difficult because, "you have that nerve that you don't have the right answer but your teammate does."

Round 2: The Bonus Round
Question Worth: 3 points.

Similar to the Toss Up round but with the questions being significantly harder than the first round. Just like the first round, if one fails to answer correctly then the opposing team gets a crackshot at the pot.

"It has a lot more questions than the first round which can make or break a game and that's what makes it so hard" Sandefer said.

The questions are made for the knowledgeable, but similar to round one, the questions are answered individually.

Round 3: The 60 Second Round
Question Worth: 1 point.

This round is generally the quickest and easiest, saved only for those who can think quick on their feet or those lucky enough to buzz in and guess the correct answer before the opposing team. This round is a bit different from the previous two because competitors only have a minute to answer a total of ten questions and the answering is in a collaborative format instead of indi-

vidual answers. However, the final decision must be made by the team captain and the performance can get messy if a teammate disagrees with the final decision of the captain.

Sandefer agrees, he believes that "It's difficult and makes you feel frustrated because the team captain makes the final decision and it's hard if you disagree with him"

After time has run out, the other team gets a chance to rebound off of questions the first team got wrong.

Round 4: "Stump the Experts" Round

Question Worth: 3 points.

The hardest round, shows no mercy and makes even the most talented competitors kneel down before it. Contains many complicated questions from a multitude of topics, including (but not limited to), chemistry, physics, calculus, theology, history, and Shakespearean literature. Here are some keys to victory the top competitors have to offer.

Sandefer believes it is necessary to "rack up as many points as you can early on in the game. If you're behind then it is hard to catch up."

Senior **Conrad Thompson** said, "the most vital strategy for this round is to buzz in rapidly if you know the answer and to wait until the whole question has been read."

Brain games are always challenging, full of random questions and facts few people know.

However, with good wits, quick thinkers, and teamwork, even the smartest outsmart one another.

Wrestlers drop bars

By Alisa Raufeisen

Senior **Daniel Below** decided to take initiative when no one would jump in to rap with senior **Noah Warren**.

Below freestyled at the Disney Duals while PMHS wrestlers had some free time between meets. It was his first time rapping.

Below liked the experience because his teammates were hyping him up while he spit bars. "I do it to impress people," he joked.

Below explained that he starts by thinking of a word or line, and then runs with it when he is freestyling.

"Lil Nah" or Senior Noah Warren started freestyling his freshman year. He and his teammates freestyle for fun when they aren't at practice or a meet.

"I rap about goofy stuff my friends and I do. I also rap about a bunch of stuff I can't relate to... if it flows it flows," said Warren.

Warren says he and other wrestlers freestyle every time they hang out

because like wrestling, practice makes perfect.

Although Below only freestyles when other people on the team do, he says he wishes he could rap about "deep stuff." Instead, Below said, "I try to tell stories similar to the rappers I listen to."

Warren says that freestyling strengthens the team's bond because "people rap about stuff he doesn't bring up in conversation. It's a way for people on the team to open up to everyone."

Warren's younger brother, Aiden Warren, started rapping this past spring break after his brother introduced him to it. When he raps he says "it could range from breakups or sad things in your life or happy, great things."

The most serious of all the freestylers, Noah Warren, says he is in the early stages of a mixtape he hopes to drop on Soundcloud in collaboration with senior teammates **Jack Servies**, **Donnie Bose** and **Beau Steward**.

Lightning bolt challenge

For each category given, name something in it starting with the letters PMHS. For example, if the category were "Girl's Names" you might say Polly, Mary, Harper and Selena.

**Tweet your answers to @PMHSfocus
Winners will be posted to falconsfocus.org**

- 1. Animals in a Zoo**
- 2. Countries**
- 3. Desserts**
- 4. State Senators**



Art by Adam Crozier
Adapted from Will Shortz, Sunday Puzzle, npr.org