Structure of Program
Approximately 5,000 students across the country participate in competitions hosted by 50 local World Affairs Councils across the United States. Winning teams are invited to represent their high school, city, and local Council at the National Competition held in the spring each year in Washington, DC.

National Competition
The Academic WorldQuest National Competition is attended by 200-250 of the nation’s most promising students along with their parents, teachers, and chaperones. The 4-hour competition is a unique opportunity for many students to visit the nation’s capital, perhaps for the first time. This year’s National Competition will be held at the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP).

There will be a Friday night reception as well, location TBA.

Common Core Standards
Academic WorldQuest contributes to the national Common Core State Standards Initiative by fostering reading comprehension skills for informational text.

What is it?
Academic WorldQuest™ is a flagship youth education program of the World Affairs Councils of America. It is a team game testing high school students’ knowledge of international affairs. In the game, four-person teams compete by answering multiple-choice questions divided into ten unique and engaging thematic categories.

2021 National Competition:
April 17, 2021

First place winners of the 2019 Academic WorldQuest Competition. Students from Jasper High School, representing the World Affairs Council of Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas.

2020-2021 Topics
1. Global Protests
2. Shifting Sands: The Arab Spring 10 Years On
3. International Labour Organization
4. The U.S. Foreign Service in the 21st Century
5. Great Decisions
6. Country in Focus: Uzbekistan
7. Exploring Peace in a World of Conflict
8. Fraying Alliances
9. Looking to a Post-Pandemic Economy
10. Current Events