

Suggested Guidelines for Preparing Science Jeopardy Answers

We assume the standard Jeopardy game contains a Single Jeopardy and a Double Jeopardy game board, as well as a Final Jeopardy game board. The Single Jeopardy game board consists of 30 answers arranged in 6 categories each of which contains 5 answers, ranging from 50 to 250 points each. The Double Jeopardy game board is essentially identical except the point values of the questions are doubled. In many cases, a standard Jeopardy game is not warranted or wanted; therefore many of our games consist of only a Single Jeopardy game board. Blank, zipped versions of both the Standard Jeopardy game and the Single Jeopardy Only game are available from our web site (<http://chemed.chem.pitt.edu>). This document is designed to provide suggestions, based on what we have experienced, to you for the preparation of your own variation of a Science Jeopardy game. In addition to what we have described below, there are numerous other workable variations, we urge you to make any modifications that you desire.

Our recommendations for preparation of answers are next detailed. Do not feel obligated to follow our recommendations. An Answer Template (answer_template.doc or .pdf) is available on the web site to assist you in this activity.

- Material that appears within the Jeopardy game should be in the form of an answer for which the contestant must pose the correct question.
- It is our experience in science versions of Jeopardy, that some answers can be correctly correlated with several equally correct questions. For this reason we strongly recommend that the MC of the Jeopardy game be an expert in the game's topic (e.g., a Professor or an especially talented graduate student).
- By conscious decision, our Jeopardy game site is not designed to be a study tool for an individual student. Thus we do not, in general, post complete solutions to the various Jeopardy games though we often post at least partial solutions (see the "Instructions" area of the web site). Individuals wishing to use the site as an individual are encouraged to "research" the correct question to any answer that they are unsure of. Resources for research include your lecture notes, textbook, and teaching staff.
- The answer can either be text, drawing, or an image. In every case, the answer is saved as a gif; these gifs are automatically incorporated into the web-based Jeopardy game when they are copied into the "correct" folder. A ChemDraw template is included that is useful for saving text, drawings, and images in the correct size for our web-based Jeopardy game. Note, conversion of answers to the needed gifs is a "trivial" process compared to intellectually designing the answers that you want to use. Thus, start your design process by filling in the table(s) available in the Answer Template (answer_template.doc or .pdf), including text, or images that you want to appear on the answer screen. (Note, we usually fill in the first draft of the Answer Template with a pencil.) Once these are designed, they easily can be drawn in ChemDraw, ChemWindows, ChemIntosh (or similar drawing program) and saved as a gif of the correct size and color scheme using templates available on our web site (see the "Convert Answers to GIFS" document for details).
- Answers should be ranked such that more difficult questions are worth more points.
- Answers should clearly reflect the category that they are placed in. When the contestants see the answer they will also see a prompt reminding them of the category in which that answer is found.

- Category titles should be no more than two 8-character words (smaller is ok). The category titles (like the individual answers) will be converted to gifs. The recommended font size for category titles is 36 point and the recommended font is *Comic Sans MS*. Two different gifs of each category will be created, one for the main game board, and one for the answer board. In each case, an appropriately designed ChemDraw (or other) template is provided.
- We recommend allowing 30 seconds for contemplation after the answer is read, before the “time is up”. We find this time adequate and not too long; we find it necessary to actually time the wait period as well.
- In some cases, you may want to encourage students to use scrap paper to help work out their answer, however, keep in mind the 30-second limit for answering or passing on an answer.