



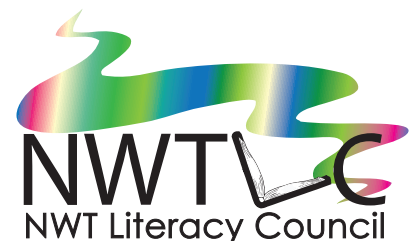
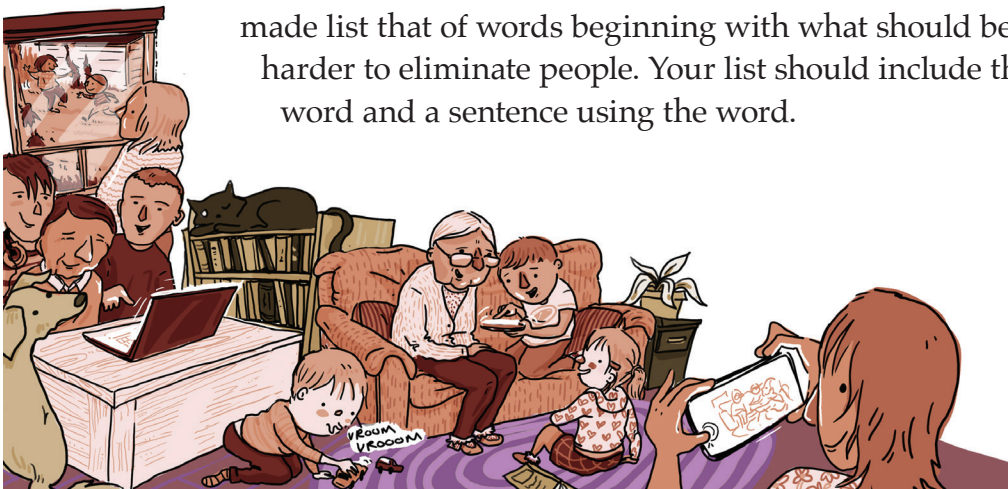
The Great NWT Spelling Bee!

Spelling is an important step in learning to use language. Spelling Bees are a fun, challenging competition that can be for any age. Sometimes we rely on our technology to do our spelling for us. Though the examples provided are in English, a Spelling Bee can be in any language of choice!

If you would like to hold a Spelling Bee in your community, contact the NWT Literacy Council for prizes. Make sure to contact us at least two weeks before your event so the prizes make it to you! You can do this in your classroom, have a school-wide Bee in the gym, host a community event at your library or coffee shop or even do one at work amongst your co-workers. Let us know about your Spelling Bee, and what the hardest word spelled was!

What you need:

A pronouncer, judges, and a dictionary to prove the spelling. Remember that there is more than one way to spell words in English, for example, *analyze* and *analyse*, where a "z" is common in North America but an "s" is common in England. You'll want a pre-made list that of words beginning with what should be average difficulty then getting harder to eliminate people. Your list should include the word, a definition of the word and a sentence using the word.



Basic Rules:

1. The pronouncer announces the word to be spelled. He speaks slowly and clearly, without changing the normal pronunciation of the word. He uses the word in a sentence and says the word again.
2. The speller listens carefully to the pronouncer and asks for the word to be repeated, if necessary. The speller may also ask for the definition of the word, and for it to be used in a sentence.
3. When the speller is sure she understands the word, she pronounces it, spells it and then says the word again. She must say it loudly enough for the judge to hear it. For example: If the word is Story, the speller would say “Story. S-t-o-r-y. Story”
4. The judge(s) determines whether or not the word was spelled correctly.
5. If the correct spelling was given, the speller remains in the game.
6. If the spelling was incorrect, that speller is eliminated from the game. The judge gives the correct spelling of that word. Then the pronouncer reads a new word to the next student.
7. When there are only two spellers left, if one player misspells a word, the other player must spell that word correctly, plus one more word to be declared the winner of the spelling bee.

Options for your Spelling Bee:

In a serious competition, the organizer may want to consider a stage, seating for people that want to watch and a sound system so everyone can hear clearly. The beauty of a Bee is that it can be done in a classroom setting or simply with a group of students outdoors as a learning exercise. You can also do a Bee at home with your family, or get some friends together for some friendly competition. It is important to think about what level of spellers you have when deciding word difficulty. Usually, a competitor is one person, though in some Spelling Bees small groups may be used to encourage cooperation and teamwork as well as to have more fun.

The Rules used here and other great tips can be found at: www.spelling-words-well.com/spelling-bee-rules.html

