

Slam Dunk Stories: March Madness Amira Competition

How it Works:

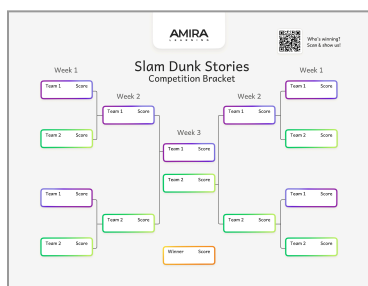
- Teams are organized into brackets (choose from one of two templates, depending on how many teams are competing).
- Each week, teams compete in head-to-head matchups to see who reads the most stories or logs the most minutes.
- The winning team from each matchup advances to the next round of the bracket.
- The competition continues weekly, with teams advancing through the bracket until a champion is crowned.

[Click here](#) for detailed guidance on how to plan, prepare and launch an Amira Competition in your school.

What's Included:

- "Slam Dunk Stories" Banner
- Spot & Amira Posters
- Competition Brackets (2 Versions)
- Progress Trackers
- Certificates

How to Use Brackets and Progress Trackers:



March Madness Brackets

A visual tournament board that shows team matchups and progression throughout the competition.

How to Use: Choose the bracket template closest to the number of teams competing (8 or 16). Add team names to the first-round matchups. At the end of each week, identify the winning team from each matchup and advance them to the next round. Continue updating the bracket weekly until one team is crowned champion.

The form is titled "Slam Dunk Stories Daily Matchup Progress Tracker". It has a table with columns for "Monday Score", "Tuesday Score", "Wednesday Score", "Thursday Score", and "Friday Score". There are rows for "Team 1" and "Team 2". At the bottom, there is a "Winner:" field and a "WINNER" button.

Daily Matchup Progress Tracker

A simple log for tracking two teams' reading progress during a weekly head-to-head matchup.

How to Use: Write in the team names and label columns by day (or by session). Record each team's total stories read or minutes logged in Amira each day. At the end of the week, compare totals, declare the winner, and advance that team on the bracket.

Ways to Extend Learning:

While the competition centers on reading with Amira, learning is most effective when it connects to students' interests and shows up throughout their day. Slam Dunk Stories is a great opportunity to extend the theme beyond reading time and bring basketball energy into learning across the school.

Ideas to connect basketball and learning:

- Read aloud books or articles about basketball, teamwork, and perseverance
- Study famous basketball players and connect their stories to goal-setting and resilience
- Use basketball statistics for math lessons such as graphing, averages, and comparisons
- Have students write opinion or persuasive pieces about their favorite teams or players
- Create vocabulary lessons using sports-related and game-day language
- Connect geography by mapping professional and college basketball teams
- Tie social studies lessons to the history of basketball and its cultural impact
- Encourage students to write "play-by-play" summaries of stories they read
- Connect story characters to themes of teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship

Ideas to build school-wide energy:

- Dress up in basketball jerseys or referee outfits for launch days
- Allow classrooms to borrow basketballs for recess or movement breaks as a reading participation incentive
- Share weekly shout-outs or short hype videos with students
- Invite basketball players (e.g., from local high schools or colleges) to visit winning classes
- Celebrate participation, growth, and effort, not just winners