

Unexpected Values Puzzle Contest Rules and Details

Rules

1. Unless otherwise specified in the posts, you are allowed to consult outside resources such as the internet. Indeed, many puzzles are not realistically solvable without outside resources.
2. The contest ends by the date specified in the post (if there is such a date), or when all prizes have been claimed, whichever is earlier. Until the end of the contest, please do not post any thoughts on the puzzle that might give away anything about its solution (though you are welcome to share the puzzle with others). Doing so is grounds for disqualification.
3. You may work in groups of any size, but are only eligible for one prize as a group. I cannot enforce this rule, so this is on the honor system. For the purpose of award distribution, a “group” is defined as the transitive closure of the “worked with” relation. That is, (1) if A worked with B, A and B are in the same group, and (2) if A and B are in the same group and B and C are in the same group, then A and C are in the same group. An alternative way to phrase this is that if you construct the graph where vertices are people who worked on this puzzle and edges are people who worked together on the puzzle, then your group is the component of the graph that you belong to.
4. If you worked on the puzzle before it was released on the blog (e.g. because you helped test-solve it), you are not eligible and anyone you help with the puzzle is also not eligible. If you are upset about this, let me know.

Prizes

5. To submit an answer, email me at the email listed on my About page.
6. Cash prizes will be given out via Venmo. Let me know if this does not work for you and we can make alternative arrangements.
7. By default, if you win a prize I will list your name and time of victory on the blog. If you prefer that I not do this for you, please indicate so in your email and I will not post your name.

Meta

8. These rules are superseded by any information in the post containing the puzzle.
9. I reserve the right to make the final judgment in all matters regarding this contest, including but not limited to which answers are correct, eligibility for prizes, and who gets what prizes. Additionally, I reserve the right to end the contest without working. Finally, I reserve the right to make exceptions to any of the above rules.