

GIFT CARDS FOR COMBO EDITS FORECASTING ACCURACY OFFICIAL  
CONTEST RULES, [v.2](#).

[v.2: Revised 23-April to fix gaming holes noticed by @Faber.](#)

NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.

The SciCast Combo Edits Contest (the "Contest") is sponsored by SciCast (the "Sponsor"), having an address of:

George Mason University  
C4I Center  
4400 University Drive  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030.

ELIGIBILITY:

CONTEST OPEN ONLY TO THOSE WHO ARE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AT TIME OF ENTRY. THE CONTEST IS VOID WHERE PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED BY LAW.

Contest open only to SciCast accounts created before 23:59:59 ET on 21-APR-2015.

The following individuals are also ineligible to participate in this contest: employees of SciCast and any officers, directors, investors, agents, and representatives of SciCast and their parent organizations, subsidiaries, or affiliates, including any sponsors and affiliates and advertising and promotion agencies of SciCast ("Ineligible Affiliates"). This restriction also applies to any immediate family members (defined to include parents, spouse, or children) of those Ineligible Affiliates, and to any person residing in the same household as any of those Ineligible Affiliates. The contest is also not available to any Users previously removed from the Service by SciCast. SciCast reserves the right at its sole and absolute discretion to limit the number of contests you may participate in at any given time.

CONTEST PERIODS:

The Contest will occur from April 23, 2015 to May 22, 2015. Exact start and end times will be randomized.

HOW TO ENTER:

During the Contest Period, visit <http://scicast.org/> and log into your account. Ensure that you have a verified email address. Then make forecasts in order to receive virtual points.

~~Eligible forecasts in the Combo Edits contest must be on the contest questions, and **must make assumptions**. That is, they must be conditional edits with a contest question as a target. **Other forecasts will not count for this contest.**~~

[To be eligible, at least 25% of your forecasts must be conditional forecasts.](#)

You may only use a single account at SciCast during the duration of the Contest Period.

Please note that by registering an Account, you will be subject to all notices posted on the Site, including but not limited to the Site's Informed Consent and Privacy Policy.

By entering the Contest, you agree that your Portfolio and any other information provided by you or collected by Sponsor in connection with the Contest may be used by Sponsor in accordance with Sponsor's Privacy Policy.

Sponsor expressly reserves the right to disqualify any entries that it believes in good faith and in its sole discretion do not represent the honest opinions of the User at the time the entries are made, or which violate usage guidelines, or disrupt the site. Sponsor additionally reserves the right to disqualify all Accounts submitted by a user if Sponsor determines, in its sole discretion, that such user attempted to register multiple Accounts for the Contest, regardless of whether such attempts were successful, or if the user is taking any other action that interferes with or undermines the Contest.

By registering for the Contest, you agree not to allow any other person to use or access your account for any purpose. You are responsible for maintaining the security of your Account information, including your password.

By registering for the Contest, all entrants agree to abide by these Official Contest Rules.

#### HOW NOT TO PLAY:

Sponsor reserves the right to penalize, suspend, disable, and/or destroy the account of any entrant that it suspects has engaged in any negative or cheating behavior, including:

- Registering more than once, creating and/or managing more than one account.
- Coordinating one's trading activity with any other entrant(s).
- Providing incomplete, non-current, false, or inaccurate data in the registration form.
- Engaging, or planning or threatening to engage in any activity which may result in restricting or inhibiting any other entrant from using and enjoying the Contest, including, but not restricted to boycotts, law suits, computer attacks, and harassment.
- Using third party software robots, scripts, or any other automated system to participate in the Contest outside the approved scripting API & terms, or in a manner that interferes with other forecasters or the accessibility of the system.
- Engaging in any kind of transaction meant primarily to transfer virtual funds from one account to another.
- Engaging in any kind of purposefully losing behavior.
- Using the discussion forums to spread unlawful, threatening, abusive, libelous, defamatory, obscene, vulgar, pornographic, profane or indecent information of any kind.
- Using the discussion forums for off-topic criticism of the Sponsor, its partners, staff, or other affiliated parties. (As opposed for example to on-topic objections to a judgment call, feature or rule.)
- Using the discussion forums to transmit any kind of advertising.

Engaging in any trading, order submission, or forum post that might serve to manipulate market prices, including attempts to create or maintain artificial prices, volume, or trends in any contract(s). In cases wherein Sponsor identifies market manipulation, the gains and losses from all trades that Sponsor determines to be involved in such manipulation may be reversed and entrants participating in such manipulation will be subject to permanent disqualification. In any suspected or actual cases of proscribed activity, the nature and timing of penalties and all other determinations will be entirely at Sponsor's sole discretion and may be applied without prior warning.

#### PRIZES:

\$16,000 will be awarded in prizes, **divided proportionally** among the **Top 15** final "Combo Edits" leaderboard scores.

- Payout is on straight **leaderboard expected value** chosen at **one** random time between June 4 and June 7.
  - Payout will be made **by** Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - We will **not** wait for extra resolutions past then.
- Accounts created after 21-APR are **ineligible**.
  - Verified emails are required
  - Actual ID will be required for payout
- ~~Only "Combo Edits" questions are eligible~~ All questions are in the contest.
  - Questions invalidated before payout won't count.
  - ~~New questions may get added to this topic.~~
  - ~~Although unlikely, questions may get dropped~~
- ~~Only combo forecasts targeting a "Combo Edits" question will count.~~
  - ~~Any question may be assumed or linked for assumption.~~
- All ~~such combo~~ forecasts will count.
  - Except of course those determined to be after the date known.
- A "Combo Edits" Leaderboard will be available starting around 1-May, and used for payout and announced after the Contest Period, with each Winner receiving Gift Card(s) for a merchant chosen by the Sponsor.
- Prize distribution is described here. Any clarifications will be posted to the SciCast weblog at <http://blog.scicast.org/>.

Decisions of the Sponsor are final and binding with respect to all matters related to the Contest. In no event shall the Sponsor be obligated to award any prizes other than the Prizes specified in these Official Contest Rules. The Prizes are non-transferable and no substitutions are permitted. Winners shall be responsible and liable for all federal, state and local taxes on the value of the Prizes. To receive a complete list of winners or a copy of the Official Contest Rules, within six (6) months after the end of a Contest Period, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to "SciCast" at the address listed above. Specify winner's list or rules on your request.

#### PRIZE SELECTION:

Subject to confirmation of eligibility and compliance, entrants with the 15 highest portfolio values at the end of the Contest will split the total prize pool proportionally

according to their relative portfolio value. For example, if the proportions were 15:14:12:10:8:6:4:2:1, then the top-ranked participant would get  $15/120^{\text{th}}$  of the total and the 15<sup>th</sup> ranked would get  $1/120^{\text{th}}$ .

Winners will be selected after all trades within the contest period are processed, all points are calculated, all corrections (if any) are made, and all site maintenance is performed. There is every expectation this will be completed by June 10<sup>th</sup>. By around May 1<sup>st</sup>, forecasters will be able to see a “Combo Edits” leaderboard displaying nightly snapshots of their portfolio values (details below). Values in the leaderboard constitute a good faith estimate of final standing, but are not official.

The Contest will be conducted under the supervision of the Sponsor. The decisions of the Sponsor are final and binding in all matters relating to this Contest. Winners will be notified by email; however, the Sponsor reserves the right to determine an alternate method of notification. Winners must claim their Prize within 30 days after the date of notification of such Prize. A Winner’s failure to respond to the Prize notification within the specified 30 days will be considered such Winner’s forfeiture of the Prize and an alternate Winner may be selected from the pool of eligible entries. If an entrant is found to be ineligible, an alternate Winner may also be selected from the pool of eligible entries.

In the event of a dispute regarding the identity of the potential Winner, the potential Winner will be deemed to be the person in whose name the applicable Account is registered, and proof of being the authorized account holder may be required. Decision of the Sponsor as to the identity of the entrant shall be final.

#### PORTFOLIO VALUATION AND SETTLEMENT:

The value of a Portfolio is equal to the number of points expected to be gained or lost by an entrant over all his or her forecasts on specified questions during the specified times in the prediction market. ~~Remember that in this contest, only conditional edits count, and the conditional edits must have the contest questions as a target. Any question can be used as an assumption.~~

The expectation is taken with respect to prediction market estimates of the probabilities of event outcomes. On resolved questions, the final probabilities or values are used. For regular resolutions, the final probability is 1 on the actual outcome and 0 elsewhere. On Scaled questions the final value is the actual value. For mixture resolutions, the final probabilities will represent the proportion of weight given to each outcome. For unresolved questions, a final expectation will be taken sometime after the last eligible forecast. See DETAILS section below.

Whenever possible, settlement of the outcomes underlying the contracts will be sourced to official publications. When such publications are unavailable or inapplicable, major media outlets, if in agreement, will collectively serve as settlement source. In the case of any disagreement, ambiguity or differing interpretations among such sources, or of

disputed outcomes or any other valuation-related issues, Sponsor reserves the right to make final and binding decisions on all matters, and such decisions will not be subject to appeal. SciCast provides a 48-hour discussion period after nominating a potential resolution. Forecasters are encouraged to register any objections and supporting arguments during that period.

A forecast question can settle early if its outcome becomes clearly knowable in advance of the settlement date, contract-specific rules allowing.

Sponsor may extend the advertised expiration of a forecast question if the outcome is still unknown / unknowable as of the expiration date.

~~The Sponsor will endeavor to choose questions for the Contest that will resolve prior to the end of the Contest, though the status of questions cannot be guaranteed.~~

~~There will be approximately 50 questions in the contest, and the Sponsor will attempt to add questions during the contest period to keep the target population close to 50. Questions may be introduced without announcement. Eligible questions will be added to the “Combo Edits” category and thereby marked with a gold “Au” symbol. Entrants can filter by category to find them.~~

#### DETAILS AND FORMULAS:

The portfolio value is the sum of expected point changes across forecasts across possible event outcomes. An Entrant’s rank in the contest is the order of his or her portfolio value relative to others when sorted from highest to lowest: the highest score has rank 1. Your portfolio value (for a given contest day) is the sum of the expected asset changes from all of your forecasts on eligible questions during the times they are marked as prize questions prior to that day and after the start of the contest. That is, your final portfolio value for a given day is:

$$V = 100 \sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^n q_i \log_2 \left( \frac{p_{ij'}}{p_{ij}} \right),$$

where

- j ranges over the eligible forecasts in the Contest period,
- i ranges over the possible outcomes (aka answers or possible states)
- $q_i$  is the selected market probability
- $p_{ij}$  was the market probability before your forecast
- $p_{ij'}$  was the probability to which you changed the market

The use of  $q_i$  makes this an expected value. When the resolution is known, the probabilities are typically 0 or 1 (save for mixture resolutions including scaled questions). Unlike Available Assets, your portfolio value (or expected value or score) fluctuates with the market on forecasts for which the outcome is not yet known.

#### NOTES:

The possible outcomes are defined on the full joint space that has been allowed by linking related questions. If you did not use assumptions when forecasting on a question,

then your expected value is based only on the market probability for that question (which itself may change based on linked forecasts). If you made an assumption, and that assumption has not resolved, then your expected gain (or loss) is tempered by the market probability of the assumption failing to hold.

The constant '100' above is the market liquidity parameter. SciCast will hold that fixed for this contest.

## GENERAL CONDITIONS AND RELEASES

### Limitations on Liability

By entering (including making a forecast or completing any tasks that might make you eligible to win a prize), you agree to indemnify and hold harmless SciCast from any claim or cause of action arising out of your participation in the contest. Registered Users will continue to receive correspondence as selected in registration. SciCast's time clock shall be the official clock of the contest. Any entry obtained outside of authorized, legitimate channels, not in compliance with these Official Rules will void all such entries and disqualify any entrant using such methods. SciCast reserves the right to disqualify any person found or suspected of tampering with the entry process or the operation of this contest, to be acting in violation of these Official Rules, to be acting in a non-sportsmanlike or disruptive manner, or with intent to annoy, abuse, threaten or harass any other person. If, for any reason, the contest is not capable of running as planned by reason of, but not limited to, tampering, unauthorized intervention, fraud, technical failures, or any other causes which SciCast deems could corrupt or affect the administration, security, fairness or proper conduct of this contest, SciCast reserves the right at its sole discretion to cancel, modify, suspend, or terminate the contest and select the winners from among all eligible entries received prior to the action taken, or as otherwise may be deemed fair and equitable by SciCast, in its sole discretion. SciCast shall post notice of such action at <http://blog.scicast.org> or by email to the addresses provided by registered participants. Any attempt by an entrant to deliberately damage the website or undermine the legitimate operation of this contest may be a violation of criminal or civil laws. Should such an attempt be made, SciCast reserves the right to seek damages from any such individual to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law and/or to take other actions deemed necessary by SciCast in its sole discretion to protect its rights. Each entrant agrees to indemnify, hold harmless, and defend SciCast against any and all third party claims or demands and all related liabilities, damages, settlements, costs, and expenses (including but not limited to, reasonably attorney fees) arising out of any act, or omission of entrant or violation of these Official Rules. SciCast assumes no responsibility for lost, late, mutilated, incomplete, stolen, misdirected, illegible or otherwise unacceptable entries, or for any computer, telephone, cable, network, satellite, electronic or Internet

hardware or software malfunctions, failures, delays, interruptions or garbled or jumbled transmissions, or service provider/Internet/web site accessibility or availability, traffic congestion, or unauthorized human or nonhuman intervention that might interfere with your entry to or participation in the contest. SciCast website availability during the Contest Period will be at the sole and absolute discretion of SciCast.

IN NO EVENT WILL SCICAST, ITS LICENSEES AND OR THEIR PARENTS, AFFILIATES, SUBSIDIARIES AND RELATED COMPANIES, THEIR ADVERTISING OR PROMOTION AGENCIES OR THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES AND AGENTS, BE RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGES OR LOSSES OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF YOUR ACCESS TO AND USE OF THE SCICAST INTERNET SITE ([scicast.org](http://scicast.org)) OR THE DOWNLOADING FROM AND/OR PRINTING MATERIAL DOWNLOADED FROM SAID SITE. WITHOUT LIMITING THE FOREGOING, EVERYTHING ON THIS SITE IS PROVIDED "AS IS" WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR NON-INFRINGEMENT. SOME JURISDICTIONS MAY NOT ALLOW THE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSION OF LIABILITY FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES OR EXCLUSION OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES SO SOME OF THE ABOVE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSIONS MAY NOT APPLY TO YOU. CHECK YOUR LOCAL LAWS FOR ANY RESTRICTIONS OR LIMITATIONS REGARDING THESE LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSIONS.