“以卵擊石” (yi3 luan3 ji1 shi2) means “to court defeat by fighting against overwhelming odds,” “to fight a hopeless battle.”

The idiom is used to describe a weak party putting up a fight against a much stronger opponent, like an unknown candidate running against a hugely popular incumbent in an election.

The fight between David and Goliath could also be considered one in the category of “以卵擊石” (yi3 luan3 ji1 shi2), but apparently if you are clever enough, the egg can actually beat the rock.

Terms containing the character “擊” (ji1) include:

- 擊劍 (ji1 jian4) – fencing
- 擊中 (ji1 zhong1) – to make a hit; to hit a target
- 擊敗 (ji1 bai4) – to defeat; to beat
- 衝擊 (chong1 ji1) – to assault; to attack