

RULES OF THE GERMAN CONTESTS

GENERAL RULES

- All participants in contests are responsible for taking care of and keeping up with their own belongings. Neither the host school (, the teacher(s) of the host school, the regional contest, the director of the regional contest, nor the umbrella organization Texas State German Contests Inc. is responsible for items lost or left behind at the contest.
- Only German teachers may register students for contests; we do not accept registration from individual students.
- Any German teacher who registers one or more contestants must attend the contest and serve as a judge (unless the director grants an exemption, which will be done only in extremely extraordinary situations).
- Each contestant...
 - must be in grade 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12;
 - must be a student at a school where the registering teacher works;
 - must be currently enrolled in a German course at that school, or if not, must have previously completed at least two years of German instruction AND be a current member of that school's German Club or German NHS. There are two exceptions to this: A Classical Instrumental Ensemble may contain one "wild-card" student who is not currently taking and has not previously taken German. A Polka Band may contain up to two such "wild-card" students. "Wild-card" entries are allowed only in these two events.
 - The spirit of the foregoing rule is to prevent a school from stacking its entries with "mercenary" artists, dancers, musicians, writers, etc. who have no real connection to the school's German program in order to bolster the team's entries. On the other hand, we do not want to exclude the occasional student who loves German and who took two or three years of it and who wants to continue participating in Winterfest but who, for whatever reason, is not currently taking German. Please note, however, that any contestant not currently enrolled in a German course should be entered in the level he/she would be in if he/she *had* continued taking German. For example, if John stops taking German after completing German III but still wants to enter Winterfest the next year, he should be entered in Level 4 events.
- For liability reasons, video recordings are not allowed in any room where students are competing or performing. If parents and/or teachers wish to record a performance, they should plan on doing it during any rehearsal or performance at their respective school. The contest director may assign a designated contest photographer to take pictures or video footage throughout contest for informational or publicity purposes. This will be immediately submitted to the director on contest day. No student faces may be used from this footage. However, the contest director will accept video segments as well as still photos from individual schools after contest has occurred (to be used for promotional purposes, e.g., on the website). By submitting these, teachers give permission for Winterfest and Texas State German Contests, Inc. to use them for informational or publicity purposes. **Before submitting such photos/videos, teachers must make sure that students have permission forms on file at their school allowing for photos/videos to be used on the website.**

These events qualify for State

ARTS

General rule: When an event has a spending limit and requires that receipts be provided (Crafts, Doll Costume, Gingerbread House, Needlework, Original Model, Shirt Design), it is acceptable to use items that you already have at home (e.g., flour for your gingerbread house, fabric for your doll costume, etc.), but you **MUST** include with your receipts a written statement explaining which items you already had on hand along with documentation of the approximate price you would have had to pay for those items had you actually purchased them (e.g., a clipping from a store's weekly sales flyer, a price quote from an online retailer, ebay, Craig's List, etc. -- not a random number that you pulled out of the air). The value of any such items **DOES** count toward your spending limit.

It is strongly recommended that you attach a standardized card that can be found on the website to all art entries (except videos). This will help the judges greatly by standardizing the way entries are labeled. Extra copies of this card will be available at the contest site.

Club Album: Entry Limit: 1 entry per school (may be an individual or group project). The album may be dated from the day of the previous year's Regional Contest (usually the first Saturday in February) until the day before the current year's Regional Contest (usually the first Saturday in February). It should include pictures, articles, artifacts, etc., concerning activities of the German Club. Size and format is open to the choice of the contestants. Originality is strongly encouraged. This should not just be a photo album, but rather a record of the German Club's activities. Be sure to include the name(s) of contestant(s), the school, and the city in a conspicuous place on or inside the entry.

Crafts: Entry Limit: 1 entry per school (may be an individual or group project). Spending Limit: \$45 maximum (Along with receipts for purchases made specifically for the project, items used from home must also be listed, assigned a monetary value, and included in the \$45 total.) A craft is the creation of something new and unique. It should be representative of a style or genre, without being a copy of a specific item; however, it must relate to German culture. **Contestants must build all projects from scratch.** No kits. The craft must be clearly named, e.g. *Dom*, *Kuckucksuhr*, *Trachtenhut*, etc., and it should include a backdrop or diorama. Project should include some form of documentation showing the style or genre that the contestant is trying to use, e.g., gothic cathedrals, Black Forest cuckoo clock, Bavarian-style hat, etc. Possible entries are by no means limited to examples cited within these rules. Documentation should include appropriate citation of sources. Photos of the various stages of the creation process would also be helpful to the judges in determining if the project was actually constructed by the contestant(s). Receipts for expenses must also be included in the documentation. Each entry should have a card with the name(s) of the contestant(s), the school, the city, and the category "Crafts" on it.

Doll Costume: Entry Limit: 2 dolls per school (may be an individual or group project). Dolls must be submitted by 2 different contestants or groups of contestants. Doll Size Limits: 12-36" tall; Barbie-doll-size costumes are unacceptable. Spending Limit: \$45 maximum (Along with receipts for purchases made specifically for the project, items used from home must also be listed, assigned a monetary value, and included in the \$45 total.) The costume may be representative of traditions in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, or Liechtenstein but must be a student-made folk costume for a doll. The doll itself may be hand-made or store bought. Contestant(s) must include a backdrop which contains information about the costume and the place it represents. Documentation should include appropriate citation of sources. Receipts for expenses must also be included in the documentation. Each entry should have a card with the name(s) of the contestant(s), the school, the city, and the category "Doll Costume" on it.

Gingerbread House: Entry Limit: 1 house of each style per school (may be an individual or group project): Non-Traditional, Traditional. Spending Limit: \$45 maximum (Along with receipts for purchases made specifically for the project, items used from home must also be listed, assigned a monetary value, and included in the \$45 total.) Size Limits: **Length and width of primary structure:** minimum 9" per dimension, maximum 24" per dimension (measurements from wall to wall with a ½" variance). **Height:** maximum 24". **Length and width of base:** maximum 36" per dimension. There are two categories in which each school may enter: **traditional houses** (like the Hänsel and Gretel house) and **non-traditional houses** (such as tree houses, shoe houses, castles, churches, etc.). **Contestant(s) must build all houses from scratch.** No kits. Use any recipe. The entire entry must be edible, except for the base. The primary house or structure must have a roof on it. Photos of the actual building of the house would be helpful to the judges in determining if the house was actually built by the contestant(s). Receipts for expenses must also be included in the documentation. Each house should have a card with the name(s) of the contestant(s), the school, the city, and the category of house (traditional or non-traditional) on it.

Needlework: Entry Limit: 2 entries per school (may be an individual or a group project, but if 2 entries are submitted, they must be by 2 different contestants or groups of contestants). Spending Limit: \$45 maximum (Along with receipts for purchases made specifically for the project, items used from home must also be listed, assigned a monetary value, and included in the \$45 total.) Only hooked rugs, embroidery, needlepoint, cross-stitch, or quilting are allowed. Entries must be related to a German theme, such as state or national symbols of German-speaking areas, landscapes, folk traditions, fairy tales, proverbs, etc. Needlework should include some brief form of documentation either depicting an image that was replicated and/or the German relevance. Documentation should include appropriate citation of sources. Receipts for expenses must also be included in the documentation. Each entry should have a card with the name(s) of the contestant(s), the school, the city, and the category "Needlework" on it.

Original Models: Entry Limit: 1 model per school (may be an individual or group project). Spending Limit: \$45 maximum (Along with receipts for purchases made specifically for the project, items used from home must also be listed, assigned a monetary value, and included in the \$45 total.) An original model is a re-creation of a specific object that exists or existed in a German-speaking country or is/was a German-Texan structure. **Contestants must build all projects from scratch.** No kits. The model must be clearly named, e.g. Kölner Dom, Brandenburger Tor, Bavarian Battle Helmet, etc., and it should include a backdrop or diorama. Project should include some form of documentation as to how the original structure/object looked, from various angles if possible. Documentation should include appropriate citation of sources. Photos of the various stages of construction would also be helpful to the judges in determining if the project was actually constructed by the contestant(s). Receipts for expenses must also be included in the documentation. Each entry should have a card with the name(s) of the contestant(s), the school, the city, and the category "Original Model" on it.

Photo Essay: Entry Limit: 1 entry per school (may be an individual or a group project). Photo Limits: 10-20 photos. Photos must be originals taken by the contestant(s). Photos may be either black-and-white or color, or a combination of both. Any size photo is acceptable. Photos must be mounted on only ONE sheet of poster board (22" × 26"). The photos may concern any subject, but they must be accompanied by a narrative story in German. The story should be written on the poster board next to or under each of the pictures. The name(s) of the contestant(s), the school, and the city must be on the back of the poster.

Photography: Entry Limit: 2 entries per school (Entries consist of a single student's work – NO group entries.) Size Limits: 5" x 7" minimum. Entries consist of 1 photograph, which may include 1 image or multiple images. Image(s) must be original and taken by the contestant. Images taken from the Internet or any other source are unacceptable. Image(s) may be either black-and-white or color, or a combination of both. The photo must be matted and/or framed. The photo must have a German theme, which may be candid or staged. The name of the contestant, the school, and the city must be on the back of the matte/frame. **For all images used, additional documentation must include 4" x 6" original, unaltered photo(s) indicating when and where taken.**

Poster: Entry Limit: 1 entry per school (may be an individual or group project). Size Limit: 1 piece of poster board, 22" x 26". The poster may be about any German-related topic. There must be at least 10 different German words on the poster, or at least 10 words forming a complete German sentence or phrase. Posters must be made by hand-drawing and/or with hand-made extras. No computer-made posters will be accepted. The name(s) of the contestant(s), the school, and the city must be on the back of the poster.

Shirt Design: Entry Limit: 1 entry per school (may be an individual or group project). Spending Limit: \$45 maximum (Along with receipts for purchases made specifically for the project, items used from home must also be listed, assigned a monetary value, and included in the \$45 total.) No German Club shirts. The design of the shirt should be German-related. All words must be in German, with a minimum of 5 different words – no maximum. Design must be artistically hand-designed, i.e., no store bought decals. The design may be silk-screened, copied, or painted. For the design to be eligible, it must be on a T-shirt or sweatshirt. Receipts for the shirt and the supplies must be provided with the entry. Each shirt should have a card with the name(s) of the contestant(s), the school, and the city attached to it.

Video: Entry Limit: 1 video per school; at least 6 contestants must be included in the video. Time Limits: 6-15 minutes. Video may be an original screenplay or a documentary and may not include animation. This may not be a video of your play, skit, puppet show, or duet pieces. The video should be submitted on a standard DVD. A DVD-player and TV will be provided at contest. No European formats, please! All dialogue must be in German. The student filmmakers need not be present on contest day. The video and three copies of the script should be in a 9x12 envelope, clearly marked with the title of the video, the name of school, the city, and the teacher's name. This envelope should be turned in to the designated room by 9:00 a.m. on the day of contest. Judging includes originality, German dialogue, and the professional quality of the video presentation. Creativity is encouraged.

DECLAMATION

General rule for all declamation events: A student may not perform the same poem or prose selection in both the Memory and Reading competitions, and a student may not perform the same poem or prose selection that he/she has performed in any previous year.

Poetry Memory: Entry Limit: 3 contestants per level, per school (**except** for the Advantaged level, where the limit is 2 contestants) (Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, & Advantaged). Length and Time Limits: Level 1: 16-24 lines **OR** 1-2 minutes. Level 2: 20-32 lines **OR** 1.5-2.5 minutes. Levels 3 & 4: 24-46 lines **OR** 2-3 minutes. The selection must be by a German-speaking author, i.e., originally published in German. It may not be a translation from a non-German speaking author, even if it has been published, but it may be by a non-German who writes in German, e.g., Kishon. Poems may be edited to fit time or line limits (see above). Poetry Memory is dramatic interpretation, but without costumes and props. The contestant may use one chair and may move during the presentation. The title of the selection and the author must be listed along with the name of the student performing it on the alphabetical student list at the time of registration. At least 2 copies of the selection must be presented to the judges at the contest. Poetry Memory selections may not be used as Poetry Reading selections or vice versa by the same person.

Poetry Reading: Entry Limit: 3 contestants per level, per school (Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4). Length and Time Limits: Level 1: 16-24 lines **OR** 1-2 minutes. Level 2: 20-32 lines **OR** 1.5-2.5 minutes. Levels 3 & 4: 24-46 lines **OR** 2-3 minutes. The selection must be by a German-speaking author, i.e., originally published in German. It may not be a translation from a non-German-speaking author, even if it has been published, but it may be by a non-German who writes in German, e.g., Kishon. Poems may be edited to fit time or line limits (see above). Poetry Reading is judged on the basis of reading and not on any interpretation by the contestant, other than the use of voice changes, eye contact, facial expressions, and some use of hands. No props or costumes may be used. The contestant may not walk around. The title of the selection and the author must be listed along with the name of the student performing it on the alphabetical student list at the time of registration. At least 2 copies of the selection must be presented to the judges at the contest. Poetry Reading selections may not be used as Poetry Memory selections or vice versa by the same person.

Prose Memory: Entry Limit: 3 contestants per level, per school (**except** for the Advantaged level, where the limit is 2 contestants) (Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, & Advantaged). Length and Time Limits: Level 1: 16-24 lines **OR** 1-2 minutes. Level 2: 20-32 lines **OR** 1.5-2.5 minutes. Levels 3 & 4: 24-46 lines **OR** 2-3 minutes. The selection must be by a German-speaking author, i.e., originally published in German. It may not be a translation from a non-German speaking author, even if it has been published, but it may be by a non-German who writes in German, e.g., Kishon. Piece may be edited to fit time or line limits (see above). Prose Memory is dramatic interpretation, but without costumes and props. The contestant may use one chair and may move during the presentation. The title of the selection and the author must be listed along with the name of the student performing it on the alphabetical student list at the time of registration. At least 2 copies of the selection must be presented to the judges at the contest. Prose Memory selections may not be used as Prose Reading selections or vice versa by the same person.

Prose Reading: Entry Limit: 3 contestants per level, per school (Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4). Length and Time Limits: Level 1: 16-24 lines **OR** 1-2 minutes. Level 2: 20-32 lines **OR** 1.5-2.5 minutes. Levels 3 & 4: 24-46 lines **OR** 2-3 minutes. The selection must be by a German-speaking author, i.e., originally published in German. It may not be a translation from a non-German-speaking author, even if it has been published, but it may be by a non-German who writes in German, e.g., Kishon. Piece may be edited to fit time or line limits (see above). Prose Reading is judged on the basis of reading and not on any interpretation by the contestant, other than the use of voice changes, eye contact, facial expressions, and some use of hands. No props or costumes may be used. The contestant may not walk around. The title of the selection and the author must be listed along with the name of the student performing it on the alphabetical student list at the time of registration. At least 2 copies of the selection must be presented to the judges at the contest. Prose Reading selections may not be used as Prose Memory selections or vice versa by the same person.

DRAMA

General rules for all drama events: It is not allowed to use the same script (or a substantially similar script) in more than one event at the same contest if there are any common cast members in both events. For example: A school may not use the same script for a skit and a puppet show if one or more students are in both casts. It is also not allowed for any cast member to perform a script which he/she has performed in any previous year. For example: If your Skit 2 in 2013 was "Rotkäppchen," you may not use "Rotkäppchen" for Skit 3 in 2014 or for Skit 4 in 2015 (unless the casts from one year to the next are 100% different). The spirit of both these rules is that students should be challenged to work with different material in each event they enter, both within the same year and from one year to the next.

Duet Acting: Entry Limit: 1 pair per level, per school (Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4). Time Limits: Level 1: 3-5 minutes. Level 2: 4-6 minutes. Levels 3 & 4: 7-10 minutes. Contestants have a 30-second grace period (under or over). This competition follows the basic rules of the National Forensic League, which include the following: The 2 contestants may use no more than 2 chairs, no other props, and no costumes; may only pantomime actions; must have a memorized introduction in German; may have no prompting; must use a piece from a published work by a German-speaking author (no translations); must have 2 copies of this piece for the judges; and must adhere to the time limits set forth above. The merit of the selection will be a criterion in judging. Duets may not be excerpts from a play, skit, or puppet show in which the contestants are performing.

Play: Entry Limit: 1 play per school: 3 speaking characters minimum; no maximum. Time Limits: 15-20 minutes, with a 30-second grace period (under or over), plus a maximum of 10 minutes to set up. Plays with 5 or more characters will be given greater consideration by the judges. Drama and comedy are of equal value. Backdrops, props, make-up, and costumes are nice but not mandatory. A play must be a published work originally written in the German language by a recognized German-speaking author. It may not be a German translation of a play originally written in another language, nor may it be adapted from a German fairy tale. A play **may** be adapted to fit the time limit. It may be any 15- to 20-minute segment from a play, a radio drama, a cabaret play, or any other published dramatic work. Suggested authors: Brecht, Tucholsky, Dürrenmatt, Borchert, Goethe, Schiller, etc. Plays will be presented at the state contest only; **however**, if 3 or more play entries are entered at an individual regional contest, they will compete at the regional level before advancing to the state level. **If advantaged speakers are included in a play cast, this information must be given to the judges.** Two copies of the script must be provided for the judges. Excerpts from the play may not be reused in other categories by the same cast member.

Puppet Show: Entry Limit: 1 Lower Level show (German I-II) and 1 Upper Level show (German III-V, incl. advantaged speakers) per school. Time Limits: Lower Level: 4-8 minutes. Upper Level: 7-10 minutes. Contestants have a 30-second grace period (under or over) plus a maximum of 3 minutes to set up. Puppet shows may be written by the class, the teacher, German-speaking authors, or others. Fairy tales may be adapted as puppet shows. The performers must memorize all lines from the script. The judges will ensure that the performers have no scripts. No stage will be provided nor used on the contest site, but rather, contestants will perform behind chairs or desks covered by a black cloth (which is provided onsite). Backdrops should be no larger than 10' x 10'. They may be secured to the wall with painter's tape only. Each group must provide its own puppets, props, backdrops, and painter's tape. **If advantaged speakers are included in an Upper-Level cast, this information must be given to the judges.** Two copies of the script must be provided for the judges. Excerpts from the puppet show may not be reused in other categories by the same cast member.

Skit: **Entry Limit:** 1 skit per level, per school (Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4); there must be a minimum of 3 performers with speaking parts, no maximum. **Time Limits:** Levels 1 & 2: 4-8 minutes. Levels 3 & 4: 7-10 minutes. Contestants have a 30-second grace period (under or over), plus a maximum of 3 minutes to set up. Mixed-level skits must be entered on the level of the most advanced cast member. **If advantaged speakers are included in a level 4 skit, this information must be given to the judges.** Skits may be written by the class, the teacher, German-speaking authors, or others. Skits may be from fairy tales. Good pronunciation and grammatically-correct German are most important in the judging. Costumes and props may be added for flavor and effect, but are not required. Two copies of the script must be provided for the judges. Excerpts from the skit may not be reused in other categories by the same cast member.

MUSIC

Chorus: Entry Limit: 1 chorus per school: 4-12 singers. Time Limits: 5-10 minutes, with a 30-second grace period (over or under). The piece(s) must be by German-speaking composers and be recognized works of music. Song(s) must be classical and/or folk. A performance may consist of one song or a medley of songs and singers may use pantomime and choral reading to enhance their production. Song(s) must be sung in German and must be memorized. Groups are responsible for their own accompaniment, whether recorded or live, or may sing *a cappella*. No instruments or audio-players will be provided at the contest site. Two copies of the **sheet music (notes and lyrics)** must be provided for the judges.

Classical Ensemble: Entry Limit: 1 ensemble per school: 3-6 musicians; 1 member may be a student who has never been enrolled in German. Time Limits: 5-10 minutes, with a 30-second grace period (over or under). The piece(s) must be by a German-speaking composer and be a recognized work of music, e.g., Beethoven, Bach, Brahms, Haydn, Schubert, Strauss, Mozart, Schumann, Mendelssohn. Music must be classical and groups may do medleys of songs. No electric instruments, other than one electric keyboard, are allowed. No music stands will be provided at the contest site. Attire is part of the judging criteria. **If a non-German student is included in the ensemble, this information must be given to the judges.** Two copies of the **sheet music** must be provided for the judges.

Contemporary Music: Entry Limit: 1 entry per school: 1-4 singers. Time Limits: 2-4 minutes, with a 30-second grace period (over or under); contestants must be able to set up and break down in a **total** of 5 minutes (in addition to the actual performance time). One piece is to be sung from a contemporary (post-World War II) German-speaking musical artist or group, which may include rap (must be school appropriate). Lyrics must be predominantly sung in the German language and be memorized. Contestants may sing *a cappella*, with pre-recorded accompaniment, or with one or more group members playing instruments live (acoustic or electric). However, no playback devices, microphones, speakers, or instruments will be provided at the contest site; contestants are responsible for providing their own equipment and instruments. Two copies of the lyrics must be provided for the judges.

Folk Dance - Einzelplattler (Couple Folk Dance): After being piloted at Houstonfest in 2013, this event will be introduced in 2014 at Sprachfest and Winterfest, but we remain in the piloting stage, so it will NOT advance to State in 2014. If the three regions' experience in 2014 is positive, it could be introduced as a State event in 2015. Schools may enter both the *Einzelplattler* and group competitions, the *Einzelplattler* competition only, or the group competition only. If a school enters both competitions, the dancers in the *Einzelplattler* competition may be, but do not have to be, in the group entered in the group competition. Entry Limit: 1 couple per school. Costumes (Tracht): **Boy:** black shoes; white, black, or gray knee socks; leather pants (*Lederhose*) with suspenders (or reasonable approximation such as dark shorts); button-down shirt (not T-shirt or polo shirt). **Girl:** black shoes, white stockings or tights, *Dirndl* (or reasonable approximation such as a dress or skirt of roughly knee-length), blouse, and apron. Hats are optional. All couples dance the same dance, which will be posted on the website by early fall of each school year. For 2014, the dance is the *Heidauer Plattler*. Couples DO NOT need to provide dance notes or music, as judges will already have dance notes. The same recording from the website will be provided at contest. Only one couple will dance at a time, and the boy and girl will be judged/critiqued separately, i.e., one or more judges will judge the boy, and one or more different judges will judge the girl. The boy's points and the girl's points will then be added together to obtain the final score for the couple. See the critique sheet for the specific judging criteria. The dance will take place inside a four-meter circle marked on the floor, with an X marked in the middle. At least one *Hochsprung* with *Bodenfigur* (down position) is encouraged. After being introduced, the couple will walk to the middle of the circle. The boy will be asked "(Name), are you ready?" When he replies yes, the music will begin. If necessary, the couple may start over once during the *Eingangsplattler*. The boy should indicate this by stepping outside the circle.

Folk Dance - Group: Entry Limit: 1 entry per school: minimum 6 dancers, no maximum; however, only 16 may be performing at a time. Dance/Time Limits: 4 dances and 10 minutes minimum, 5 dances and 15 minutes maximum, including entrance, exit, and transitions, with a 30-second grace period (over or under). There is a 10-point penalty for violating the time limit. There is no required dance. The group must provide the following items (3 copies each) for the judges: a list of the dancers' names; documentation of the dances, including level of dance (points will be deducted from "authenticity" if no documentation is provided); recorded music, music-player, and extension cord, if needed.

Polka Band: Entry Limit: 1 band per school: 5-12 musicians + 1 director (i.e., max. 13 members); 2 members may be students who have never been enrolled in German. Time Limits: 5-10 minutes, with a 30-second grace period (over or under). All pieces of music must be by German-speaking composers. No electric instruments are allowed. No music stands will be provided at the contest site. **If a non-German student is included in the band, this information must be given to the judges.** Two copies of the **sheet music** must be provided for the judges.

Vocal Solo: Entry Limit: 2 soloists per school. Time Limits: 2-5 minutes, with a 30-second grace period (over or under). The contestant must sing a recognized classical or folk song from a German-speaking composer. The song must be sung in German and must be memorized. The soloist is responsible for his/her own accompaniment, whether recorded or live, or may sing *a cappella*. No instruments or audio-players will be provided at the contest site. Two copies of the **sheet music (notes and lyrics)** must be provided for the judges.

ORAL TESTS

Directed Dialogue: Entry Limit: 2 contestants per level, per school (Levels 1 & 2 only). The judges will ask the contestant questions on his/her level of understanding (things generally covered in first-year and second-year textbooks). Questions will be selected by a combination of students drawing 3 questions and judges asking the same 2 standard questions to all contestants. Judges will grade on pronunciation, degree of complexity and fluency, knowledge of topic, and grammatical correctness.

Extemporaneous Speaking: Entry Limit: 2 contestants per level, per school (Level 3, 4, and Advantaged only). Speech Time Limits: Level 3: 1-3 minutes; Level 4: 2-4 minutes; Advantaged: 3-5 minutes. The contestant will draw a topic at the beginning of his/her time slot. **(At Regions only, students may draw 2 topics and choose 1 of the 2 to prepare.)** The topics will not be technical and will pertain to daily life. Different contestants will receive different topics, but the topics will be of approximately equal difficulty. After drawing a topic, the contestant will have a maximum of 10 minutes to prepare. He/she may write during this time, but no books or dictionaries may be used in preparation, and NO notes, even those made during the preparation period, may be used in the speech.

Oral Presentation: This event is being piloted in 2014 by Houstonfest and Sprachfest. It will NOT advance to State. It may be adopted by all the regionals and State for 2015 if the pilot phase goes well. Entry Limit: 2 entries per school (**Level 4 only**; EXCEPTION: If a school has no Level 4 students attending contest, Level 3 contestants may enter, but with the understanding that they will be competing against Level 4 contestants.) Presentation Time Limits: 3-5 minutes; total time allotted is 10 minutes, including set-up and take-down of visuals. The contestant gives a **prepared** presentation on a current controversial topic of his/her own choosing that has at least two clear sides. He/she may not use notes of any kind. The topic may be, but does not *have to* be, directly related to the German-speaking countries; if it is not, it would still be advisable to address the perspective(s) that native speakers of German might bring to a discussion of the topic. The presentation must be accompanied by a visual component (presentation on a laptop or tablet, picture cards, poster, photo story, etc.), but the visuals cannot include any words. If the visual component is electronic, the contestant must bring all necessary equipment. No data projector or any other equipment will be supplied in the contest room, and contestants should not expect that there will be wifi access.

Pair Discussion: This event is being piloted in 2014 by Houstonfest and Sprachfest. It will NOT advance to State. It may be adopted by all the regionals and State for 2015 if the pilot phase goes well. Entry Limit: 2 entries (pairs) per school (**Level 3 only**). Discussion time: 3 minutes (not including a 30-second reflection time). A pair of contestants draws a topic instructing them to plan something (trip, purchase, celebration, etc.). Both are expected to make suggestions and voice opinions, to agree or disagree, and to make alternative suggestions. At the end of the discussion, they must come to an agreement. The topics will pertain to the daily life of teenagers. No contestant pairs will have the same topic. From the time the topic is drawn, the contestants may take up to 30 seconds to read the topic and gather their thoughts, but they may not speak to each other during this time. At the end of the 30 seconds, the contestants have 3 minutes to role-play the situation. Contestants will be judged independently of one another, not as a team...[./././Rustin Buck/Documents/My Web Sites/Hfest.Crit.PairDiscussion.doc](#)

Sight Reading: Entry Limit: 2 contestants per level, per school (Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4). Time Limits: up to 1 minute preparation time plus 2 minutes to read the piece to judges. The contestant will receive a copy of a prose piece that he/she has never seen before. The contestant may look at the prose for up to 1 minute before reading it for the judges. Contestants then have 2 minutes to read aloud the prose selection. The judges will stop the contestant after 2 minutes, regardless of how far he/she has read into the selection.

PASS AUF!

Abridged rules (see contest websites for complete rules): 1 novice and 1 varsity team per school, competing in separate tournaments. Novice teams, consisting only of students in German I and German II who have never competed in *Pass auf!* before, compete only at the regional level and do not advance to state. A team may consist of up to 7 players, with no advantaged speakers. However, only up to 5 players may compete in a given round. Two teams play head-to-head in each game. A game consists of 25 questions – 5 questions from each of the following categories: Arts and Letters, *Erdkunde*, Grammar, History and Politics, and Odds and Ends. In each category there will be questions valued at 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 points, depending upon difficulty. Before the game begins, each team must designate a team captain to give the team's answers. This person is the only person from whom an answer may be accepted. In certain instances, the captain may designate one of the team members to give an answer. From the time that a question is read for the first time, the teams have 30 seconds in which to signal. After signaling, a team has 30 seconds to confer before beginning to give the answer. If a team gives a correct answer, it receives the points designated for the question. If the team's answer is not accepted by the moderator, the moderator will reread the question for the opposing team. It then has 30 seconds to signal whether it wants to try to answer the question. After it signals, it has 30 seconds in which to answer.

RESEARCH PAPER

Entry Limit: 1 research paper per school, with 1-2 authors. **Length Limits:** minimum 700 words, maximum 1000 words, not including title page and Works Cited. Write a research paper in English on an interesting German-Texan cultural and/or historical topic. The topic should not be commonly known: a particular person, family, place, building, business, area, group, settlement, organization, church, tradition, activity, practice, etc. The paper should contribute to a greater understanding of German-Texan history and/or culture. The entry must be typed and double-spaced and have internal documentation with proper in-text citation and a Works Cited page, as per MLA (Modern Language Association) guidelines. Follow the rules in the latest MLA Style Sheet, paying special attention to rules for entering Internet sources. **Use at least three sources, at least two of which must be non-Internet.** Digitally-archived sources originally published in hard copy may be counted as non-Internet sources. **Sources should include primary sources and secondary sources.** Primary sources are evidence in the form of artifacts, photos, letters, interviews, music, charts, illustrations, etc. with a direct connection to the era being studied. They may be personally documented by the contestant(s) (photos taken, interviews recorded) or found in personal collections, archives, libraries, museums, etc. Secondary sources are documents that discuss or analyze primary sources and topics – primarily other academic work. The contestant's teacher must e-mail a copy of the paper, including the Works Cited, in a Microsoft Word-compatible format to the regional director by 11:59 p.m. on the Tuesday before the regional contest. All entries will be checked for plagiarism via turnitin.com or a similar service. On the day of contest, submit the following in a sealed 9×12 envelope to the designated room by 9:00 a.m.: (1) a hard copy of the paper and Works Cited with a title page including the name(s) of the contestant(s), the name of the teacher, the school and city, and the title of the paper; (2) a USB drive (labeled with name) that contains only the paper itself, the Works Cited, any visual material, and any digital recordings used as primary sources. All materials submitted will be returned on the afternoon of contest, but do not include irreplaceable items in your submission.

WRITTEN TESTS

Notes for all contestants in written testing: You are responsible for bringing as many No. 2 pencils as you may need to take these tests. If you forget to bring your own pencils, you may buy one at the contest for \$.50. Scantron answer sheets will be used for all tests except Spelling.

Culture: 3 entries per school per level (Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4). Multiple-choice, scantron test. The level 3 and 4 tests will be in German.

Grammar: 3 entries per school per level (Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4). Multiple-choice, scantron test.

Listening Comprehension: 2 entries per school per level (Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4). Multiple-choice, scantron test. Listen to recorded items in German and answer questions about the information you heard. Levels 1 and 2 take the same test and Levels 3 and 4 take the same test, but they are ranked separately for each level.

Reading Comprehension: 3 entries per school per level (Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4). Multiple-choice, scantron test. The test will consist of questions about a series of short readings. Questions will generally be in German.

Spelling: 2 entries per school per level (Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4). A series of words will be called out in German (the speaker will say the word, its part of speech, a sentence using the word, and the word again). The words will probably be recorded, not called live. Contestants write the called words on their answer sheets. Spelling (including umlauts) and capitalization (nouns capitalized, other parts of speech not capitalized) must be perfect in order to receive credit for a given item. Levels 1 and 2 take the same test and Levels 3 and 4 take the same test, but they are ranked separately for each level.

Vocabulary: 3 entries per school per level (Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4). Multiple-choice, scantron test. The test will consist mostly of items in which you choose the correct English meaning for a given German word, but other formats are possible as well.

The following events will take place at Winterfest but are not State qualifying (yet)

Cooking

Cooking does not advance to state. Entry Limit: 3 per school per event. The dishes must come from authentic Germanic recipes. A copy of the recipe must be included with the dish along with its source. The source may be a traditional family recipe handed down in the family. . Points will be given for presentation. Do not forget that pictures are also recommended of the student making the dish to ensure that all entries are student creations. The events are Breads, Cakes, Tortes, Other Desserts, Meats and Vegetables. There will be no refrigeration or ability to heat a dish available on the day of contest. All food and dishes not picked up by the end of the day are forfeit.

Art

Art does not advance to state. Entry Limit: 3 per school per event. All art must be a reproduction of original Germanic art. (If you have an original piece, please enter that into crafts as it is a State qualifying event) A copy of the original must accompany the piece. Photographs of the student working on the piece are encourage to ensure the spirit of the competition continues. All sizes are welcome. The categories are Black and White, Acrylics and Oils, Pastels and Watercolors. Presentation is a category of the judging criteria, please remember this when submitting your piece. Digital art is not accepted. If you are interested in digital art – considering entering photography or crafts. No stands will be provided to display the art, All art pieces not picked up by the end of the day are forfeit.

Folk Dance - Einzelplattler (Couple Folk Dance):

After being piloted at Houstonfest in 2013, this event will be introduced in 2014 at Sprachfest and Winterfest, but we remain in the piloting stage, so it will NOT advance to State in 2014. If the three regions' experience in 2014 is positive, it could be introduced as a State event in 2015. Schools may enter both the *Einzelplattler* and group competitions, the *Einzelplattler* competition only, or the group competition only. If a school enters both competitions, the dancers in the *Einzelplattler* competition may be, but do not have to be, in the group entered in the group competition. Entry Limit: 1 couple per school. Costumes (Tracht): **Boy:** black shoes; white, black, or gray knee socks; leather pants (*Lederhose*) with suspenders (or reasonable approximation such as dark shorts); button-down shirt (not T-shirt or polo shirt). **Girl:** black shoes, white stockings or tights, *Dirndl* (or reasonable approximation such as a dress or skirt of roughly knee-length), blouse, and apron. Hats are optional. All couples dance the same dance, which will be posted on the website by early fall of each school year. For 2014, the dance is the *Heidauer Plattler*. Couples DO NOT need to provide dance notes or music, as judges will already have dance notes. The same recording from the website will be provided at contest. Only one couple will dance at a time, and the boy and girl will be judged/critiqued separately, i.e., one or more judges will judge the boy, and one or more different judges will judge the girl. The boy's points and the girl's points will then be added together to obtain the final score for the couple. See the critique sheet for the specific judging criteria. The dance will take place inside a four-meter circle marked on the floor, with an X marked in the middle. At least one *Hochsprung* with *Bodenfigur* (down position) is encouraged. After being introduced, the couple will walk to the middle of the circle. The boy will be asked "(Name), are you ready?" When he replies yes, the music will begin. If necessary, the couple may start over once during the *Eingangsplattler*. The boy should indicate this by stepping outside the circle.

Remember:

- The Scavenger Hunt and the JV Pass Auf have been eliminated as contest.
- The Einzelplattler is being piloted
- Verify if your student is advantaged or not

Each student will compete on their level of German. This is normally determined by the level the student is currently entered in. (Contact the director for questions)

Verify if your student is advantaged as this will cause problems at state.

“Advantaged speakers” are students who meet **one or more** of the following criteria:

- They have lived in a German-speaking country six weeks or more at one time since the age of 13.
- They reside with a native speaker of German who regularly speaks German at home.
- They speak German at home.
- They regularly (annually or biannually) visit or have visited a German-speaking country, visiting German-speaking homes.
- They have attended a school where all subjects were taught in German for one or more years.

No exchange students from German-speaking countries may enter any event at Winterfest, including the "advantaged speaker" categories. (They are, however, welcome to help out as judges.) Exchange students from **non**-German-speaking countries may enter events for which they qualify (regular or advantaged, depending on their circumstances).

It is left to the professional judgment of the teacher to determine the eligibility of students. Questions of eligibility should be addressed to the contest director prior to the contest registration deadline. If a student is designated advantaged in one event, he/she must be entered as advantaged in all events.

Advantaged speakers may compete ONLY in the following events:

- **Extemporaneous speaking**, advantaged category
- **Poetry memory**, advantaged category
- **Prose memory**, advantaged category
- **Skit, level 4** (inform judges as to which actors are advantaged)
- **Puppet show, upper level** (inform judges as to which actors are advantaged)
- **Play** (inform judges as to which actors are advantaged)
- **Any cultural event** (chorus, classical ensemble, club album, contemporary music, crafts, doll costume, folk dance, gingerbread house, needlework, original model, photo essay, photography, polka band, poster, research paper, shirt design, video, vocal solo)

Just to be perfectly clear, advantaged speakers are NOT allowed to enter the following events: culture, directed dialogue, duet acting, grammar, listening comprehension, *Pass auf!*, oral presentation, pair discussion, poetry reading, prose reading, puppet show (lower level), reading comprehension, scavenger hunt, sight reading, skit (levels 1-3), spelling, and vocabulary.