

RULES OF HOUSTONFEST (AND WITH SLIGHT VARIATIONS THE OTHER TEXAS STATE GERMAN CONTESTS)

GENERAL RULES

- **Only German teachers may register students for Houstonfest;** we do not accept registration from individual students.
- **Any German teacher who registers one or more contestants must attend Houstonfest and serve as a judge** (unless the director grants an exemption, which will be done only in extremely extraordinary situations).
- Teachers should follow their school district's policy regarding students' **academic eligibility** to participate in contests.
- Each contestant...
 - **must be in grade 7*, 8, 9, 10, 11, or 12** (* 7th-graders may enter if they are enrolled in a course that earns them credit for German I by the end of 7th grade, i.e., they will move on to German II in 8th grade; students who are taking German 1a in 7th grade and will continue to German 1b in 8th grade should wait until their 8th-grade year to start entering contest);
 - **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 2 years of German instruction AND be a current member of that school's German Club or German NHS. There are 2 exceptions to this: A Classical Ensemble may contain 1 "wild-card" student who is not currently taking and has not previously taken German. A Polka Band may contain up to 2 such "wild-card" students. "Wild-card" entries are allowed only in these 2 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, but we're willing to allow a *little* outside help to make a Classical Ensemble or a Polka Band more viable. Additionally, we do not want to exclude the occasional student who loves German and who took 2 or 3 years of it and who wants to continue participating in Houstonfest 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 they would be in if they *had* continued taking German. For example, if John stops taking German after completing German III but still wants to enter Houstonfest the next year, he should be entered in Level 4 events.
- In a given year, **a student must be entered in the same level for all events**, with the exception of drama events (Duet Acting, Puppet Show, Skit - see example 3 below). If a student competes above their enrolled level of German in a given year, they must continue to compete "up the ladder" each subsequent year. Once a student competes in any event at the Advantaged level, they must compete as Advantaged in all events for that year and all subsequent years.
 - Rationale: Generally, we strongly discourage entering students in any level of an event other than the level of German they are currently enrolled in, and we discourage entering students in Advantaged events if they are not truly Advantaged. If a teacher nevertheless elects to enter a student at a level higher than their true level, long-term consequences ensue:
 - Example 1 ("up-entering" from Level 1 to Level 2): Joe is enrolled in German I. For whatever reason, the teacher wants to enter him in Grammar 2 this year instead of Grammar 1. This means that he must enter ALL events at level 2 this year, not just Grammar, and next year, he must enter ALL events at level 3 (even though he'll be in German II), and the year after that, he must enter ALL events at level 4 (even though he'll be in German III), etc. (Of course, art events, music events, and research paper are not leveled, so Joe's ability to enter those events this year and in subsequent years is not affected by this rule.) This is a lot for Joe and his teacher to keep track of from year to year, which is why we discourage it.
 - Example 2 ("up-entering" to the Advantaged Level): Sally is enrolled in German III and is not really an Advantaged Speaker, but for whatever reason, the teacher wants to enter her in Prose Memory Advantaged this year. This means that, this year and in all subsequent years, she may enter ONLY events that Advantaged students are allowed to enter. She may not, for instance, enter Culture 3, Duet Acting Upper Level, or Sight Reading 3 this year. She is, in effect, now an Advantaged Speaker and excluded from all non-advantaged events from now on. (Of course, Advantaged Speakers are allowed to enter a number of non-language-based cultural events, so her ability to enter those events this year and in subsequent years is not affected by this rule.)
 - Example 3 (illustrating the "drama exception"): Henry is enrolled in German II this year and plans to enter Directed Dialogue 2, Poetry Reading 2, and Vocabulary 2 (i.e., he plans to enter events at his enrolled level, Level 2). However, the group that is trying to pull together a Level 3 Skit is desperate for 1 more cast member and absolutely no one else in the German III class is willing to join the cast, so they ask Henry to join their skit. Additionally, a German III student who desperately wants to enter Duet Acting Upper Level can't find a partner in the German III class or the German IV class, so she asks Henry to partner with her. Henry may participate in the Level 3 Skit and the Upper Level Duet Acting entry this year in order to help fill out those events with no consequences for the other events that he is allowed to enter this year (he can still enter everything else at his true level, Level 2) or in subsequent years (next year, when he's in German III, he can enter everything at Level 3, including even Skit 3 and Duet Acting Upper Level, the things in which he "up-entered" this year, provided of course that next year's Skit and Duet Acting scripts are different from the ones he performed this year). We didn't use Puppet Show in the specific examples, but the same principle applies to Puppet Show as well. The rationale here is that we want to do everything possible to promote drama entries. Note, however, that "down-entering" is never allowed, e.g., a German II student would not be allowed to join a Level 1 Skit to help fill out the cast.
- All participants in Houstonfest are responsible for taking care of and keeping up with their own belongings. Neither the host school (Kingwood High School), its German teacher David Kniess, Houstonfest, Houstonfest director Rustin Buck, the Houstonfest steering committee, nor the umbrella organization Texas State German Contests, Inc. is responsible for items lost or left behind at the contest, especially including art entries not claimed at the end of the contest day.
- 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 a 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 Houstonfest 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.**
- **"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 6.
 - They reside with a native speaker of German who regularly speaks German at home.
 - They speak German at home.
 - They regularly (annually or biennially) visit or have visited a German-speaking country, visiting German-speaking homes.
 - They have attended a school where the majority of subjects were taught in German for one or more years.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, they must be entered as advantaged in all events.
Advantaged speakers may compete ONLY in the following events:
 - **Advantaged speaker test**
 - **Extemporaneous speaking**, advantaged category
 - **Oral presentation** (virtual event), advantaged category
 - **Pass auf!**
 - **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)
- **Most cultural events:** classical ensemble, club album, contemporary music (as instrumentalists only, not as vocalists), crafts, digital logo design, doll costume, folk dance (*Einzeltanz* or team), gingerbread house, needlework, original models, photography, polka band, poster design, research paper, shirt design, video show. Advantaged speakers may NOT compete in photo essay or vocal solo.

Just to be perfectly clear, advantaged speakers are NOT allowed to enter the following events: contemporary music as vocalists (but OK as instrumentalists), culture, directed dialogue, duet acting, grammar, listening comprehension, pair discussion, photo essay, poetry reading, prose reading, puppet show (lower level), reading comprehension, scavenger hunt, sight reading, skit (levels 1-3), spelling, timed writing, vocabulary, and vocal solo.

Exchange students from German-speaking countries may not enter any "advantaged speaker" events. However, they may participate in the following dramatic and cultural events: classical ensemble, club album, crafts, digital logo design, *Einzeltanz*, folk dance, gingerbread house, needlework, original model, photography, polka band, and video show (non-speaking role or off-camera function only). Alternatively (or perhaps in addition), they are 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), just like their German-language learning peers.

ARTS

General rules for all art events:

- 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.
- Failure to include receipts for an artwork as required in the rules will result in a 10-point deduction from the cumulative score. Providing a link or a QR code to images of the receipts is NOT acceptable; you must provide hard copies of the receipts. Judging is hectic and stressful enough without having to follow a variety of links to find your documentation; make it easy for the judges and provide everything on paper.
- Failure to include at least the contestant's name and school on an artwork as required in the rules will result in a 10-point deduction from the cumulative score.
- It is strongly recommended that you attach a card provided on the contest website to all art entries. 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: \$60 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 \$60 total.) A craft is the creation of something new and unique. It should be representative of a style or genre, without being a copy or model of an existing item or structure; however, it must relate to German culture. **Contestants must create 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-style cathedrals, Black Forest cuckoo clock, crocheted article in Bavarian colors, 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.

Digital Logo Design: 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). Size Limits and Formats: 1-2 megabytes; 2400 x 2000 px; .jpg, .gif, or .pdf

This is a "virtual event." You must submit your entry no later than 1 week before the contest. Specific instructions for uploading the entry will be published on the contest website and/or distributed to teachers each year. The first-place logo from Houstonfest [and likewise the first-place logo from State] will become the official logo of that contest for the following year. It may be used for print and digital materials, including the contest website. Thus, if incorporating a year into the logo (it is not required), use the next year, e.g., at the 2040 contest, use the year 2041 if you use any year at all. [State qualifiers are encouraged to adapt their regional design to reflect the State contest.] Contestant(s) should NOT include their name(s) or school in the image of the logo itself. The logo must be German-related and some element of the design must relate to German contest. The logo may be animated or still. All images within the design must be original artwork and/or photos designed by or taken by the contestant(s). Images taken from the Internet or any other source are unacceptable. Contestant(s) may use pictures they have taken from prior contest years; however, no student faces may be visible. Photos of the various stages of the creation and design process by the contestant(s) must be included. Any words, except for the contest name, must be in German.

Doll Costume: Entry Limit: 2 dolls per school (may be an individual or group project, but if 2 entries are submitted, they must be by 2 different contestants or groups of contestants). Doll Size Limits: 12-36" tall; Barbie-doll-size costumes are unacceptable. Spending Limit: \$60 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 \$60 total.) The costume may be representative of traditions in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, or Liechtenstein but must be a student-made 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 historical and/or cultural significance of the costume and the region or tradition that 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: \$60 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 \$60 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. All **visible** elements of the project 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: \$60 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 \$60 total.) Only embroidery, needlepoint, cross-stitch, or quilting are allowed. Sewing machines may be used; however, handwork must be prominently featured in the finished product. 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: \$60 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 \$60 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 or 3D-printed elements. 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. **This is a "virtual event."** You must submit your entry no later than 1 week before the contest. Specific instructions for uploading the entry will be published on the contest website and/or distributed to teachers each year.

1. Write an original story in German to accompany a series of photographs. The story may not be taken in whole or in part from any print or online source, and no advantaged or native speakers may assist with the writing of the story. 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. The photos may concern any subject, but the part of the story telling what is happening in each photo should be displayed directly under/over/next to the photo.
2. Two methods of assembling the photo essay are acceptable: a) arrange the photos and captions digitally in Google Slides, Microsoft PowerPoint, etc.; or b) mount the photos and captions physically on a poster board (22" x 28", no larger, no smaller) and then take a picture of the entire poster as well as individual pictures of the photos and captions and assemble these pictures in Google Slides, Microsoft PowerPoint, etc.
3. With either method, add a first slide with **your name(s), school,** the words "**Photo Essay,**" and the **title of the project.**
4. Convert this file to a PDF and upload it according to the instructions provided.

Photography: Entry Limit: 2 entries per school (Entries consist of a single student's work – NO group entries. Photos must be submitted by two different contestants.) 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 mat/frame. For all images used, additional documentation must include 4" x 6" original, unaltered photo(s) indicating when and where taken.

Poster Design: 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). Size Limit: 1 piece of 22" x 28" poster board, no larger and no smaller. 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: 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: \$60 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 \$60 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, AND the design must be hand-applied by the contestant(s), regardless of technique used, e.g., silk-screened, copied, or painted. Photos of the design and application process would be helpful to the judges. 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.

DECLAMATION

General rules for all declamation events:

- A student may not perform the same poem or prose selection in both the Memory and Reading competitions the same year.
- A student may not perform the same poem or prose selection that he/she has performed in any previous year.
- Failure to provide at least 2 copies of the piece to the judges (in the Memory events) or the electronic copy of the piece (in the Reading events) will result in a 10-point deduction from the cumulative score.

Poetry Memory: Entry Limit: 3 contestants per level, per school (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, & Advantaged: 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. 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, and 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 and 4: 24-46 lines **OR** 2-3 minutes. **This is a "virtual event."** You must submit your entry no later than 1 week before the contest. Specific instructions for uploading the entry will be published on the contest website and/or distributed to teachers each year. 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 the time or line limits. 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. Poetry Reading selections may not be used as Poetry Memory selections or vice versa by the same person.

1. Record yourself reading the selection (or have someone else record you). Don't forget to say the title and author. You may do as many "takes" as you want until you're satisfied with the result, but the submitted recording must be a single continuous unedited take, not a spliced-together compilation of the best parts of multiple takes.
2. Upload the video of your reading to YouTube or Vimeo.
3. Create a single Word document or Google Doc with **the full text of the selection**, including the title and author. To get the text of your reading selection into the document, you can cut and paste it if you have access to an electronic version of the piece or simply take a (clear!) picture or pictures of the text if you are working from a hard copy and paste the picture(s) into the document.
4. Include a title page with **your name, your school, the name and level of the event**, e.g., "Poetry Reading 2," and a **hyperlink to your YouTube/Vimeo recording**. If you are concerned about privacy and want to password-protect your video, include the password with the hyperlink in the document.
5. Convert this document to a PDF file and upload it according to the instructions provided. Do NOT upload the video itself; the judges will access your video via the link that you include in the PDF.

Prose Memory: Entry Limit: 3 contestants per level, per school (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, & Advantaged: 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. Selections 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. 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, and 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 and 4: 24-46 lines **OR** 2-3 minutes. **This is a "virtual event."** You must submit your entry no later than 1 week before the contest. Specific instructions for uploading the entry will be published on the contest website and/or distributed to teachers each year. 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. Selections may be edited to fit the time or line limits. 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. Prose Reading selections may not be used as Prose Memory selections or vice versa by the same person.

1. Record yourself reading the selection (or have someone else record you). Don't forget to say the title and author. You may do as many "takes" as you want until you're satisfied with the result, but the submitted recording must be a single continuous unedited take, not a spliced-together compilation of the best parts of multiple takes.
2. Upload the video of your reading to YouTube or Vimeo.
3. Create a single Word document or Google Doc with **the full text of the selection**, including the title and author. To get the text of your reading selection into the document, you can cut and paste it if you have access to an electronic version of the piece or simply take a (clear!) picture or pictures of the text if you are working from a hard copy and paste the picture(s) into the document.
4. Include a title page with **your name, your school, the name and level of the event**, e.g., "Prose Reading 2," and a **hyperlink to your YouTube/Vimeo recording**. If you are concerned about privacy and want to password-protect your video, include the password with the hyperlink in the document.
5. Convert this document to a PDF file and upload it according to the instructions provided. Do NOT upload the video itself; the judges will access your video via the link that you include in the PDF.

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 2025 was "Rotkäppchen," you may not use "Rotkäppchen" for Skit 3 in 2026 or for Skit 4 in 2027 unless the casts from one year to the next are 100% different. The spirit of these first two 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.
- All drama entries must be memorized. Points will be deducted if fellow cast members or the judges have to prompt performers.
- Cell phones may not be used at any time during the performances.
- Failure to provide at least 2 copies of the piece to the judges will result in a 10-point deduction from the cumulative score.

Duet Acting: Entry Limit: 2 Lower Level pairs (German I-II) and 2 Upper Level pairs (German III-V) per school. Time Limits: Lower Level: 3-5 minutes. Upper Level: 5-7 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 (including movie or television transcriptions) 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 skit or puppet show in which the contestants are performing.

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.

Video Show: Entry Limit: 1 video per school; at least 6 contestants must be included in the video. Time Limit: 6-15 minutes. **This is a "virtual event."** You must submit your entry no later than 1 week before the contest. Specific instructions for uploading the entry will be published on the contest website and/or distributed to teachers each year. The video may be an original screenplay or a documentary and may not include animation. This may not be a video of one of your school's drama entries (puppet show, skit, etc.). All dialogue must be in German. Judging includes originality, German dialogue, and the professional quality of the video presentation. Creativity is encouraged.

1. Upload the finished video to YouTube or Vimeo.
2. Type the script in Microsoft Word, Google Docs, etc.
3. Create a title page with the student names, school, title of the video, and the YouTube/Vimeo hyperlink to the video. If you are concerned about privacy and want to password-protect your video, include the password along with the hyperlink.
4. Convert the document to a PDF and upload it according to the instructions provided. Do NOT upload the video itself; the judges will access your video via the link that you include on the title page.

MUSIC

General rules for all music events:

- It is not allowed for any contestant to perform any piece which he/she has performed in any previous year in Classical Ensemble, Contemporary Music, or Vocal Solo. (This rule does not apply to Folk Dance or Polka Band.) For example: If your Contemporary Music group performed "99 Luftballons" by Nena in 2025, you may not use that song for Contemporary Music in 2026 or 2027 unless the members of the group are 100% different in the subsequent years. The spirit of this rule is that students should be challenged to work with different material from one year to the next.
- Failure to provide at least 2 copies of the piece to the judges will result in a 10-point deduction from the cumulative score.

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: 2 entries per school: 1-5 musicians per entry (vocalists and/or instrumentalists, but no **advantaged speakers** as vocalists). No student may compete with more than 1 entry. 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 - Einzeltanz (Couple Folk Dance): Schools may enter both the *Einzeltanz* and team competitions, the *Einzeltanz* competition only, or the team competition only. If a school enters both competitions, the dancers in the *Einzeltanz* competition may be, but do not have to be, in the group entered in the team competition. Entry Limit: 2 couples per school. If a school enters 2 couples, the couples must consist of 4 different students. Selection of Dance: You must check the website for the current year's dance! All couples dance the same dance, which will be posted on the website by early fall of each school year. 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. Dance must follow posted documentation. 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.

Costumes (Tracht): *Tracht* comes from the word *tragen* meaning "to wear." Thus, *Tracht* means that which one wears. As each region has its own distinctive *Tracht*, and *Trachten* are far too diverse to describe in just a few short sentences, *Tracht* will not be judged as to whether it is worn properly or authentically, only whether it is worn uniformly. Basic suggestions: 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); hat optional. Girl: black shoes, white stockings or tights, *Dirndl* (or reasonable approximation such as a dress or skirt of roughly knee-length), blouse, apron, hat optional.

Folk Dance - Team: Entry Limit: 1 entry per school. Total Group Size: minimum 6 dancers, no maximum. Active Dancers on the Floor at Any Time: minimum 4 dancers performing, maximum 16 dancers performing. Dance Limits: 4 dances minimum, 5 dances maximum. Time Limits: 10 minutes minimum, 15 minutes maximum, including entrance, exit, and transitions, with a 30-second grace period. There is a 10-point penalty for going under the minimum time limit or over the maximum time limit. There is no required dance. Dancers must provide their own music, music-player, and extension cord, if needed. The group must provide at least 3 copies of the following: a list of the dancers' names and documentation of each dance, including the categorization (Level I, II, III) of the dance and the region of origin of the dance. Points will be deducted from "Authenticity" if documentation is not provided. Dances not already categorized in [this index](#) must be submitted to the regional director by November 1 so that they can be categorized by an expert panel.

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 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.

ORAL TESTS

Directed Dialogue: Entry Limit: 2 contestants per level, per school (Levels 1 & 2 only). The judges will ask the contestant questions on the contestant's 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 Regionals 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. They 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: Entry Limit: 2 entries per level, per school (Level 4 and Advantaged only; EXCEPTION: If a school has no Level 4 students attending contest, Level 3 contestants may enter the Level 4 contest, but with the understanding that they will be competing against Level 4 contestants.) Time Limit: 2-4 minutes. **This is a "virtual event."** You must submit your entry no later than 1 week before the contest. The contestant gives a **prepared** presentation based on a provided picture prompt. The picture will be posted on the contest website by December 1 each year and will relate to some current cultural topic. The presentation must compare cultural perspectives between one or more German-speaking countries and your own region related to the topic suggested by the picture. Contestant may use notes (maximum 10 bullet points, maximum 5 words per bullet), but the presentation is otherwise memorized. The presentation may be accompanied by a visual component (picture cards, poster, photo story, images on a tablet or laptop), but the visuals cannot include any words. Note: Contestant and note cards must remain fully in view of the camera for the entire presentation, so if close ups of visuals are necessary, the contestant must make sure they are still 100% visible. The video may not cut back and forth between contestant and visuals.

1. Record yourself (or have someone record you) giving your presentation. You may do as many "takes" as you want until you're satisfied with the result, but the submitted recording must be a single continuous unedited take, not a spliced-together compilation of the best parts of multiple takes. (See rules above regarding use of visuals.)
2. If notes were used, hold the note card(s) up to the camera for at least 5 seconds (each) at the end of the presentation so that the judges can get a good look at it (them). The time it takes to display the note cards does not count toward the time limit.
3. Upload the video of your presentation to YouTube or Vimeo.
4. Create a single Word document or Google Doc with **your name, your school**, an image (or images) of your "**visual component**" if you used one, and a **hyperlink to your YouTube/Vimeo recording**. If you are concerned about privacy and want to password-protect your video, include the password with the hyperlink in the document.
5. Convert this document to a PDF file and upload it according to the instructions provided. Do NOT upload the video itself; the judges will access your video via the link that you include in the PDF.

Pair Discussion: 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. The two team members will be scored independently of one another, but both scores will be added together to obtain the team score, i.e., contestants will be ranked and potentially advance to State as a team.

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 they have 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 they have read into the selection.

RESEARCH PAPER

Entry Limit: 2 research papers per school with 1-2 authors each; if 2 entries are submitted, they must be by 2 different authors or pairs of authors (i.e., no contestant may work on more than 1 paper). Length Limits: minimum 700 words, maximum 1000 words, not including Works Cited. **This is a "virtual event."** You must submit your entry no later than 1 week before the contest. Specific instructions for uploading the entry will be published on the contest website and/or distributed to teachers each year. Write a research paper in English on an interesting German-Texan cultural and/or historical topic. The topic should be a little-known 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 in 12-point Times New Roman or Arial font and include 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. **Contestants must use a minimum of 3 sources, at least 2 of which must be non-Internet.** Digitally archived sources originally published in hard copy may be counted as non-Internet sources. **Sources must include both primary 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. **Important:** The entry **must be written solely in a Google Doc**. The revision history of the paper will be checked from inception (blank document) to submission. Writing in/from a different platform and then pasting into a Google Doc will result in disqualification of the entry. Plagiarism, which may include insufficient internal citation or Works Cited, as well as AI-generated text will result in automatic disqualification. If using a school Google account, it is the student's responsibility to make sure that they can share a Google Doc outside of their school district. If district policy prohibits sharing, write the paper in a personal Google account.

1. Using MLA Style, include **your name(s), your school**, the **date**, and the **title** of the paper at the top of page 1.
2. To include photographs, other images, and/or audio materials, add an appendix after the Works Cited page. Images may be pasted directly into the document. Audio files should be linked, e.g., via a Google Drive link.
3. Submit the entry according to the instructions provided in the Google Form for submissions, which will include **BOTH** the link to the Google Doc of the completed research paper, including the Works Cited and any appendix, **AND** a PDF of the full document. When sharing the Google Doc (generating the link), set the "General access" to "**Anyone with the link**" and "**Editor**." If this is not correctly set, a 10-point deduction will be applied, and failure to correct the setting within 24 hours of being notified of an incorrect setting will result in disqualification.

SCAVENGER HUNT

Entry Limit: 1 team per school; 2 to 4 contestants (4 is highly recommended); a team may have 1 upper-level student (German III or above) **IF** the team consists of 4 members but **NOT** if the team consists of 2 or 3 members, and no advantaged speakers may be on a team. Time Limit: The time limit for both parts combined is 1 hour. Teams may split their time between Parts One and Two in any way, but 35 minutes for Part One and 25 minutes for Part Two are recommended. Time Penalties: For each team member who exceeds the 1-hour time limit up to 5 minutes, 20 points will be deducted from his/her quiz score. If any team member exceeds the time limit by more than 5 minutes, the entire team will be disqualified. There are TWO parts to the event. Team members will work together on Part One but individually on Part Two. All team members must be present for all of both parts. Each team should have at least one SmartPhone or tablet (iPad, etc.) with a digital QR-code reader app already installed, but it is recommended that each team member have his/her own such device along with earbuds or headphones. **Part One:** Follow written German directions to find four QR codes posted around the contest venue. At each of the four stations, teams will use their devices to access a video (max. 3 minutes per video). All team members should view all videos. (See General Instructions for more details.) Total video running time is about 12 minutes. **Part Two:** Each team member will complete a written quiz independently. The quiz will have 4 multiple-choice questions and 1 question requiring a written German response based on each of the 4 videos that have been viewed (20 items total). The questions are in German. (See General Instructions for more details.) All team members' scores will be averaged to obtain the team's final score.

PASS AUF!

1. Varsity teams and Novice teams compete in separate tournaments.
2. A **Varsity team** consists of up to 7 students who are in any level of German, with the exception of exchange students from German-speaking countries. A school may enter 1 Varsity team.
3. A **Novice team** consists of up to 7 German I and German II students who have never played in a regional or State *Pass auf!* competition (no exchange students from German-speaking countries). A school may enter 1 Novice team. **Novice teams do not advance to State** (except in rare instances in which the State director may invite one or more Novice teams to fill up the State Varsity bracket of 16 teams). **High schools may enter a Novice team only if they are also entering a Varsity team.** Middle schools may enter a Novice team, a Varsity team, or one of each (but with no duplication of players between the 2 teams).
4. **No more than 5 students per team may play at a time.** A team may begin playing with fewer than 5 players and players may be added after the game begins, if the team notifies the moderator before the game begins that certain players, who must be identified by name, will be coming late (but the number of players starting the game plus the number of players designated as potential late-comers may not exceed 5 players). Once a team starts playing, players may leave to go to other contests, but they may not be replaced. (If by coincidence a player leaves and another player arrives who was previously designated as someone who might arrive late, the arriving player can be admitted; they are not considered a "replacement" of the player who left.). Alternates will be considered as spectators and may not observe unless the game is open for spectators (see next rule).
5. **Spectators** are generally not allowed in any games at Houstonfest. At State, spectators may be allowed during the "semifinal" game (for 3rd/4th place) and the final game (for 1st/2nd place) but at no other games. In the unlikely event that spectators are ever allowed at Houstonfest, they may not communicate in any way with the teams that are playing.
6. **There will be no changes to times of *Pass auf!* games in a contest. If a team is more than 5 minutes late to a scheduled game, it may be eliminated.**
7. Each team must designate a **captain**. This is the only person from whom an answer may be accepted, unless for a particular question the captain designates one of the other team members to give the answer. This must be done verbally and it must be acknowledged by the moderator before the answer may be accepted. If someone other than the captain or an acknowledged designee gives an answer, the answer will not be acknowledged by the moderator. In this instance, the appropriate person on the team must begin to give the answer before the allotted time expires.
8. Each game consists of **25 questions**, 5 questions each from the following categories: History & Politics, Arts & Letters, Odds & Ends, *Erdkunde*, and Current Events & Special Topic. For each category, there will be 1 question each valued at 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 points, based upon difficulty. The categories may include but are not limited to the following types of information:
 - History & Politics: early German history (beginnings through the Folk Migrations), the Middle Ages, the Reformation, the 17th and 18th centuries, the 19th century, the post-WWII period, German-American history, Texas-German history, government, the European Union, political parties, etc.
 - Arts & Letters: literature, fairy tales and folk tales, drama and cinema, philosophy and theology, music and composers, art, architecture, scientists, inventors, etc.
 - Odds & Ends: proverbs, holidays, food, games, sports, education, folk festivals, customs and traditions, travel vocabulary, communication, idioms, language functions, vocabulary, days/months/seasons, etc.
 - Erdkunde: geography; questions will be asked in German and must be answered in German.
 - Current Events & Special Topic: "Current Events" covers events from the prior calendar year through the date of contest. Each year a special topic is announced. Make sure to check the special topic for each year!!
9. The questions will be read by the moderator in order as printed. The category and point value for each question will be stated before the question is read.
10. After the question is read for the first time, the teams have up to 30 seconds in which to signal. They may confer during this time. If there is no signal within the 30-second period, the question is passed. To expedite the game, teams may elect to pass a question before the 30-second period expires.
11. If a team signals while a question is being read, the moderator will stop reading immediately and may not complete the question or give any additional information or answer any questions.
12. After signaling, the team has 30 seconds to begin giving an answer. It may confer during this time, but once the team starts giving an answer, it may not pause in order to gain more time. The first attempt by a team will be considered the answer - a team may not start over once it has begun to answer a question. In any case, the determination of whether to accept an answer lies with the moderator and not with the players, assistants, or spectators.
13. If the signaling team gives an incorrect answer or fails to answer the question in the time given, the moderator will repeat the question for the other team. The other team has 30 seconds to decide whether they want to try giving an answer or to pass. After deciding to attempt the question, the team has 30 seconds to begin giving an answer.
14. If a team gives a correct answer, it will receive the designated points, but no points will be deducted for failing to give a correct answer. For multi-part questions, there is no "partial credit" for partially-correct answers.
15. Appropriate behavior is expected of all players and spectators. No interruptions will be tolerated while a team is attempting to answer a question. Clarification of rules may be addressed to the moderator between questions, before the game, or after the game, but never while a question is in play.
16. Any **challenge** to a question or ruling by the moderator must be made immediately following the question or decision that is being challenged or before the game is declared finished. The judgment of the moderator is final.
17. Should the moderator misread a question, give the answer before the other team has a chance to answer, etc., a replacement question from the same category and the same point value will be read.
18. **If the score is tied** after the 25 questions are completed, the moderator will select a tiebreaker from the alternate set of questions. If neither team answers it correctly, the moderator will continue selecting tiebreakers from the alternate set until a team answers one correctly. However, no points are added to the team's final score for a successfully-answered tiebreaker (because points earned per game may be used later when ranking the lower places, and adding points for a tiebreaker question would skew the comparison).

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. Scantron answer sheets will be used for all tests except Spelling and Timed Writing. All contestants will place their belongings (other than a pencil), especially any phones and smart watches, at the front of the room, as is also customary for standardized tests in school. Students found in possession of an electronic device during a test, whether they are actively using it or not, will be disqualified immediately.

Advantaged Speaker Test: 3 entries per school (Advantaged Speakers only). Multiple-choice, scantron test (100 questions, 20 each in the areas of culture, grammar, listening comprehension, reading comprehension, and vocabulary) plus spelling test (20 questions). The test will be given ONE time on the day of contest and will take approximately 90 minutes. It must be completed in one sitting.

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: 3 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.

Timed Writing: 2 contestants per school per level (Levels 1 & 2 only). The contestants will have 25 minutes to write a response to a prompt that is appropriate for their level of German. All contestants in each level will have the same prompt, but the prompts will change from year to year. The contestants may not use any print or electronic aids (phones, dictionaries, etc.). Either one or two writing sessions will be offered early in the day to allow sufficient time for judging.

Vocabulary: 3 entries per school per level (Levels 1, 2, 3, & 4). Multiple-choice, scantron test. The test will consist of items in which you choose the English equivalent for a given German word, choose the German equivalent for a given English word, choose the German opposite of a given German word, choose the German synonym of a given German word, determine which item does not belong in a group, determine which item fits into a given category, and choose the word that best completes a sentence. Other formats are possible as well.