HOUSTONFEST   SPRACHFEST   WINTERFEST

TEXAS STATE GERMAN CONTEST

Research Paper
Critique Sheet – VIRTUAL EVENT

<u>**INSTRUCTIONS TO JUDGES**</u>**:** Please make sure you have read the "Instructions to Judges" sheet in your packet.

<u>**RULES**</u> **- This is a "virtual event."**

<u>Entry Limit</u>: 2 research papers per school, with 1-2 authors each; if 2 entries are submitted, they must be written by 2 different authors or pairs of authors (i.e., no contestant may work on more than one paper)

<u>Length Limits</u>: minimum 700 words, maximum 1000 words, not including Works Cited

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, 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 three sources, at least two of which must be non-Internet. Digitally archived sources originally published in hard copy are acceptable 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: All entries **must be written solely in Google Docs**. 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.

<u>**Submission Process:**</u>
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 <u>after</u> 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 Google Form instructions, which will include <u>BOTH</u> the link* to the Google Doc of the completed research paper, including the Works Cited and any appendix according to the instructions provided **AND** a PDF of the full document.
   *Link settings must be set on "Editor" under "General Access - Anyone with the link"

See page 2 for Judging Criteria

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Contestant(s): _____

School: _____

Judges' Names: _____ _____ _____

<u>CRITERIA FOR JUDGING</u>

1. **Topic and Thesis Statement**: The paper includes an introduction establishing a topic and thesis statement related to German-Texan culture and/or history. The topic should grab the reader's interest and lend itself to a compelling thesis. If the topic is well-known, the paper should be deeply researched, include detailed and specific information that is not well-known, and provide the reader with new insight. (0-20 points)

2. **Development of Thesis and Style**: The paper develops the thesis in a well-organized, logical manner and includes a strong summarizing conclusion. Style and voice should be appropriate to an academic research paper, with an emphasis on clarity, while also showing originality of thought. (0-20 points)

3. **Use of Sources (Primary/Secondary)**: The paper includes at least one appropriately cited primary source (see rules), in addition to any secondary sources. Visual primary sources are reproduced in the paper, and audio primary sources are linked. The paper shows a balance of research and commentary. Point consideration should be given to papers showing a breadth of research (i.e., more than the minimum 3 required sources). (0-20 points)

4. **Credibility and Reliability of Research**: The paper includes well-researched, detailed, and historically-accurate information, which clearly supports the paper's thesis. Consideration should be given to attributions establishing credibility and/or reliability of sources. (0-20 points)

5. **Mechanics and MLA Formatting**: The format of the paper, internal citations, and Works Cited adhere to MLA standards (see rules). The paper has been proofread for spelling and grammatical errors. (0-20 points)

TOTAL POINTS: (100 possible) _____

MORE COMMENTS TO HELP THE CONTESTANT