

2010
TEXAS FRENCH SYMPOSIUM

CONSTITUTION
& BY - LAWS



2008 Constitution and By-Laws; Texas French Symposium

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Article I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be Texas French Symposium.

Article II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Texas French Symposium is to promote education in the French language and civilization through its annual state contest for students of French in grades 9-12.

Texas French Symposium is comprised of teachers of French, who volunteer their time, and their students, who choose to become members through their participation in the annual state contest.

Both teacher and student members are governed by the Constitution and the General Rules for Student Participation contained herein.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Student Membership

- a. Student membership shall be open to all students currently enrolled in French in grades 9-12, but participation in the annual state contest shall be subject to the limits defined in the General Rules for Student Participation.
- b. No student membership fee shall be assessed, but no student shall be allowed to participate in the annual state contest unless:
 - (1) The student has paid the required registration fee; and
 - (2) The student, his/her parent or legal guardian, and his/her teacher have signed the Texas French Symposium Participation Agreement acknowledging that the student, his/her parent or legal guardian, and his/her teacher have read and understand the Participation Agreement.

Section 2. Teacher Membership

- a. Membership in the Texas French Symposium shall be open to all teachers of French, grades 9-12.
- b. Membership dues per school year shall be an amount determined by the Board of Directors. Dues for the school year shall be payable at the time of the registration for the state contest. Teachers who do not pay dues by the registration deadline shall not be eligible to enter their students in the contest.
- c. Teacher members are responsible for submitting all state contest registration materials for their students. Registration materials for each student participant must include a copy of the Texas French Symposium Participation Agreement signed by the student, his/her parent or legal guardian, and his/her teacher.

- d. Teacher members shall convene in an annual meeting at the time of the state contest.
- e. All teacher members obligate themselves through their membership to contribute to the planning and execution of the annual contest, and they share equally in the responsibility for a successful contest.

ARTICLE IV: FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall begin January 1 and end December 31.

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Composition

The Board of Directors shall be composed as follows:

- a. Officers of the Board of Directors, who shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Publicist.
- b. The present and immediate past host School Coordinators;
- c. Elected Representatives;
- d. A vacancy occurring before the expiration of a term of office may be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Terms of Office of Members

- a. Elected members shall serve staggered three-year terms.
- b. The Treasurer, Host School Coordinators, and ex-officio members shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Duties of the Officers

Officers of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the Board members for a one-year term. Officers and their primary responsibilities shall be as follows:

- a. President
 - 1) to call, organize, and chair all meetings,
 - 2) to coordinate and supervise all activities of the Board of Directors,
 - 3) to apprise board members of their duties,
 - 4) to supervise the carrying out of those duties,

- 5) to represent Texas French Symposium at all professional meetings.
- b. Vice-President
 - 1) to preside in the absence of the President,
 - 2) to oversee the election of new Board members,
 - 3) to preside at the election of Board officers,
 - 4) to assist in the preparation of the agenda for each meeting.
 - c. Recording Secretary
 - 1) to record, maintain, and distribute minutes of all meetings,
 - 2) to maintain a list of all Board members and the date of expiration of their terms.
 - d. Corresponding Secretary
 - 1) to create and maintain a mailing list of Board members,
 - 2) to perform any other necessary correspondence duties.
 - e. Treasurer
 - 1) to maintain accurate financial records,
 - 2) to pay bills and reimburse expenses in a timely manner,
 - 3) to file annually with the Internal Revenue Service,
 - 4) to prepare an annual financial statement for distribution to all teacher members.
 - f. Publicist
 - 1) to contact media (print, broadcast) and French organizations such as Alliance Francaise, French Chamber of Commerce, AATF, etc.
 - 2) to write and supply appropriate texts, photos, etc.

Section 4. Responsibilities of the Board

- a. The Board of Directors will be the executive authority and the policy-making body of the Texas French Symposium. It will transact all Symposium business between annual meetings of the teacher members.
- b. The Board of Directors will establish the dollar amounts of all fees and dues assessed for the Symposium, and it will supervise the expenditure of fees, dues, and any funds raised or donated.
- c. The Board of Directors will review income and expenditures after each state contest and will provide a financial statement to the teacher members the following annual contest.

- d. The Board of Directors will designate a Scholarship Committee whose responsibility shall be to solicit donors of student and teacher scholarships and to establish a procedure for awarding any such scholarships obtained.
- e. The Board of Directors shall implement registration for the annual contest.

Section 5. Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet at such times as deemed necessary.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

The By-Laws may be amended at any business meeting. Proposed amendments shall be balloted upon, and if carried by a majority vote of those present, shall become part of the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII: TAX EXEMPT STATUS

Section 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Texas French Symposium shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by organizations exempt from Federal Income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law) or (b) by an organization contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Section 2. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by an organization contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Section 3. Upon dissolution of the organization, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the organization, dispose of all of the assets of the organization exclusively for the purposes of the organization in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the District Court of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

BY-LAWS
DETAILS OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR TEXAS FRENCH SYMPOSIUM
(MAJOR CATEGORIES)

This section is intended to describe and delegate the tasks associated with the planning and execution of the annual state contest. The term “responsibility” as used here shall not be construed to mean that those teachers who voluntarily fulfill these tasks in any given year have any greater real responsibility for the success of the contest than any other teacher member.

I. HOST SCHOOL COORDINATOR

- A. The Host School Coordinator is that person who makes arrangements for facilities in which the contest will be held in a given year, who assumes direct responsibility for the fulfillment of the tasks outlined in Section I, C, below, and who supervises the person or persons responsible for fulfillment of the tasks outlined below.
- B. The current Host School Coordinator shall inform the Board of Directors as to the services to be rendered and monies donated by the host school/district for the upcoming Symposium.
- C. Following are direct responsibilities of the host school under supervision of the Host School Coordinator, in conjunction with the Board of Directors:
 - 1. Housing lists (motel space, special rates, and complimentary rooms, when available);
 - 2. Food service;
 - 3. Fund raising (Symposium souvenirs, snack foods);
 - 4. Physical facilities and equipment (security, promotional services, volunteers, etc.) and reservations of all areas to be utilized,

5. Entertainment, exhibits, and special events (arrangement and scheduling);
6. Special guests (housing, any other services needed).

II. BALLOT ROOM COORDINATOR

- A. The Ballot Room Coordinator is that person who is directly responsible for computing and compiling competition results.
- B. The following are direct responsibilities of the Ballot Room Coordinator:
 1. Preparing the competition schedule;
 2. Grading and ranking of written tests;
 3. Receiving and processing of ballots and ranking sheets from judges;
 4. Posting results which lead to further subsequent rounds;
 5. Tabulating final results;
 6. Keeping a running tally of final winners, individually and by school, for computation of scholarships and sweepstakes;
 7. Preparing the final list of winners for awards presentation.

III. COORDINATOR OF JUDGES

- A. The Coordinator of Judges is that person who arranges for judges for all events.
- B. The following are direct responsibilities of the Coordinator of Judges, in conjunction with the Board of Directors:
 1. Recruiting qualified judges for all phases of the contest;
 2. Preparing all forms and packets to be used by judges;
 3. Coordinating judges, including scheduling into sections, orientation to all rules, forms, procedures, and the proper handling of final results.

IV. TEST COORDINATOR

- A. The Test Coordinator is that person who supervises the preparation and printing of written tests.
- B. The following are direct responsibilities of the Test Coordinator:
 1. Arranging for the preparation and verification of written tests by qualified persons;
 2. Printing all tests in quantities sufficient for anticipated numbers of participants;
 3. Preparing, verifying, and providing multiple copies of each test key to the Ballot Room Coordinator;
 4. Supervising the administration of the tests.

V. AWARDS COORDINATOR is that person who prepares and purchases all trophies, ribbons, and other special awards. Additional duties include overseeing distribution of awards at the awards program.

VI. SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR

A. The Scholarship Coordinator is that person who, in conjunction with the Scholarship Committee, arranges for special awards and scholarships.

B. The following are direct responsibilities of the Scholarship Coordinator:

1. Developing and maintaining contact with potential scholarship donors;
2. Providing the Board of Directors with specific information regarding the nature and number of scholarships to be awarded, communicating this information as soon as possible;
3. Setting up the procedure to screen teacher applicants for scholarships;
4. Inviting scholarship donors and VIP guests and providing Host School Coordinator with names and housing and transportation needs.

GENERAL RULES
FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION

This competition is designed for students enrolled in French during the current academic year.

Correct placement is the responsibility of teacher members, student participants, and parents/guardians. When a teacher member is in doubt about the correct level of placement of any student, he/she MUST contact a member of the Board of Directors. The Board will render a decision.

ANY VIOLATION OF PLACEMENT RULES
WILL RESULT IN THE DISQUALIFICATION
OF THE STUDENT AND/OR SCHOOL.

(See Section V.)

I. Levels of competition and placement of participants

A. There will be competitions for French I, II, III, IV, V-VI, and Experienced.

B. The following placement rules must be observed:

1. Students whose schools follow accelerated block scheduling compete at the level that they completed in the fall session, provided that they are not enrolled in the next level for spring session. They may compete in all events.

- a. Students who are enrolled in spring session only, or in both fall and spring sessions, must compete at the level in which they are enrolled for spring session. They may compete in all events.
- b. In order to determine how many students a school on accelerated block scheduling is allowed to bring to the contest, schools must count the number of students enrolled in French for the fall session, plus any new students projected for the spring session and not previously counted.

Students whose schools follow traditional scheduling compete at the level in which they are enrolled at the time of the contest.

- 2. Experienced Students. students who meet any one of the following criteria are classified as Experienced, and are eligible to compete in all events except the *Baccalauréat*
 - a. Level V-VI students who have any one of the advantages listed under Section 3, below;
 - b. Level I, II, III, or IV students with a combination of advantages listed under Section 3 below, may be placed in the experienced category at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Final placement decisions will be made by the Board of Directors.
 - c. Competition in this category is contingent upon there being sufficient enrollment.
 - d. Students who are considered advantaged due to section 3 below and who are placed at the experienced level will not outlive this advantage in future TFS competitions.
- 3. Advantaged Students. Students with any one of the following advantages must compete at Symposium for one year at least one level higher than their current level of study of French:
 - a. Students who attended a French school or a school where French was the language of instruction for one semester or more;
 - b. Students who lived in France, Belgium, Québec or any French-speaking community for an accumulated total of six months or longer after the age of 5;
 - c. Students who had French instruction and/or other subjects conducted in French:
150 minutes/week in elementary school
and/or

225 minutes/week in middle school
and/or
300 minutes/week in high school;

*TFS Board of Directors recognizes the fact that accelerated block students may exceed these minutes.

- d. Students who took French in 7th and/or 8th grades and who were placed in Level I and who were placed in Level I in high school;

EXAMPLE: The student had French in 7th and/or 8th grades, but received no high school credit. In ninth grade, the student was placed at Level I. The student must compete at Level II.

EXAMPLE: The student had French in 7th and 8th grades and was placed in French II in ninth grade. The student competes at Level II.

- e. Students who are currently repeating a year of French;

EXAMPLE: The student had French II last year and is repeating French II this year. The student must compete at Level III.

- f. Students who have completed a summer study program of four (4) weeks or longer in a French-speaking country or environment such as a language camp;
- g. Students who attend or have attended French conversational or composition classes in addition to their routine high school curriculum (EXAMPLE: courses at the Alliance Française, special college classes, Destination France, etc.) within the calendar year prior to the competition.

Students not enrolled in French during the academic year of the contest must compete at the last level of French completed, and they may compete only in areas where a knowledge of French is essential. A student may compete only one time without being enrolled in French.

EXAMPLE: A student took French II last year, but was unable to fit French III into his schedule this year. He really enjoys competition, and wants to compete at Symposium this year. If the teacher has space for the student in the teacher's allotted number of students, the student may attend Symposium, but he must compete at Level II. He may not compete in music, art, or the sporting event.

5. Native Speakers. Students who are classified as Native Speakers may not compete in Texas French Symposium. The following students will be classified as Native Speakers:

- a. Students who currently reside or have resided in the past in households where they are or were routinely exposed to communication in French, or
- b. Francophone foreign nationals.
- c. Foreign exchange students may not compete.

II. Time of Competition and Registration rules and procedures.

- A. Competition will begin on Friday evening and will be concluded on Saturday. An awards ceremony will be held on Saturday.
- B. Teacher members are responsible for submitting all state contest registration materials for their students. Registration materials for each student participant must include a copy of the Texas French Symposium Participation Agreement signed by the student, his parent or legal guardian, and his teacher.
- C. Unless students have paid the per student registration fee and have properly completed and submitted the required registration materials, including the Texas French Symposium Participation Agreement, by the stated deadline, they will not be eligible to compete in Symposium competition. **LATE ENTRIES WILL BE CHARGED A LATE FEE.**
- D. Schools must pay a per school registration fee.
- E. Teacher members, other sponsors, chaperones, bus drivers, and musical accompanists must register and pay a per person hospitality fee.
- F. Registration fees help to defray reasonable and necessary expenses of the annual contest (i.e., printing of exams, forms, Constitution, stationary, etc., mailings machine grading of tests, professional secretarial services when required, trophies, etc.). There will be no refunds of any type. **ALL REGISTRATION FEES ARE DUE BY THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE.**
- G. Students will compete by name and Texas French Symposium Identification Number, not by school name. Texas French Symposium Identification Numbers will be assigned during the registration process. Students must identify themselves with their assigned TFS # on all ballots, tests, etc. at the time of competition.
- H. Only students of teachers who are members of Texas French Symposium at the time of registration may compete.
- I. Teachers must accompany their students to the competition on Friday and/or Saturday. Students not accompanied by their teachers may not compete. Teachers

with extenuating circumstances who find they are unable to accompany their students to the competition must appeal to the Board of Directors for an exception to this rule.

III. Awards

A. Sweepstakes awards

1. There will be 10 sweepstakes awards for the schools compiling the most points.
2. There will be 10 sweepstakes awards for the individual students compiling the most points.
3. Points toward sweepstakes will be awarded as follows:

- a. Points in academic events (those which require a knowledge of French, including Band Dessinée and Video) for Levels I, II, III, IV, and V-VII) will be awarded as follows:

First place, 10 points;
Second place, 9 points;
Third place, 8 points;
Fourth place, 7 points;
Fifth place, 6 points;
Sixth place, 5 points.

- b. Points in non-academic events (those in which a knowledge of French is not essential) will be awarded as follows:

First place, 6 points;
Second place, 5 points;
Third place, 4 points;
Fourth place, 3 points;
Fifth place, 2 points;
Sixth place, 1 point.

- c. Points for Experienced students will be awarded as follows:

First place, 5 points
Second place, 4 points
Third place, 3 points

- d. Students advancing to semifinals will be awarded 1 point, and students advancing to finals will be awarded 2 points.

B. Individual awards will be given in each area of competition as follows: First place, Second place, Third place, Fourth place, Fifth place, and Sixth place. (All places may not be awarded in all events).

C. Scholarship awards

1. Top individual winners in Symposium competition and teacher members are often recipients of scholarships enabling them to visit/study in francophone countries. Entities independent of the Texas French Symposium (such as the French government, the government of Québec, Air France, Air Canada, the Alliance Française, ACIS, ORCA and private benefactors) donate such prizes to reward and encourage the study of the French language and culture. Because the Texas French Symposium relies upon the generosity of such benefactors, the number and types, and the availability of such scholarships vary from year to year. In order to ensure that as many students as possible benefit from the intensive learning experience that a French-speaking environment provides, the Texas French Symposium has established the following rule:

No student shall be allowed to win a Symposium scholarship to study in a francophone country more than once.

The fact that a student does not accept a scholarship when it is offered does not alter this rule.

2. Teacher members and student participants should be aware, moreover, that all scholarships are subject to rules, conditions, and regulations imposed by the entities providing them.
3. No monies are awarded directly to scholarship recipients.

D. The decisions of all judges and the results of all competitions, once awards have been announced, are final and irrevocable.

IV. Categories of Competition. Rules for each Category of Competition.

Per school enrollment will be limited to 25% of French enrollment, or a maximum of 40 students per school. Schools with smaller French enrollments may register 25% of their French enrollment or 10 students, whichever is greater. For correct calculation of enrollment for schools on accelerated block scheduling see Section I. B, 1, b.

Enrollment limits for individual competitions are listed by event.

Enrollment limitations may be changed, if necessary, at the discretion of the Host School Coordinator and with the approval of the Board of Directors.

A. ACADEMIC EVENTS (those in which a knowledge of French is essential) are as follows:

1. Written Competition

All students are encouraged to take these tests. Tests consist of multiple choice items, with the same test, but a wide range of item difficulty, administered to all levels.

- a. Grammar: I, II, III, IV, V-VI, and Experienced;
- b. Vocabulary: I, II, II, IV, V-VI, and Experienced;
- c. Listening Comprehension: I, II, III, IV, V-VI, and Experienced;
- d. Civilization: I, II, III, IV, V-VI, and Experienced.

2. Oral Events

PROCEDURAL NOTE: Students are required to bring copies of their selections. In some cases, there will be more than one judge for the competition. Additional copies may be needed for subsequent rounds of competition. **COPY MACHINES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE. BRING ENOUGH COPIES WITH YOU.** Failure to provide a copy of the selection with title and author will result in disqualification.

- a. Poetry Recitation: I, II, III, IV, V-VI, and Experienced.
 - 1) There will be a limit of four (4) participants per level per school.
 - 2) All poetry must be memorized.
 - 3) Time limit is three minutes. Poems may be cut.
 - 4) Selection must be made by a francophone author.
- b. Prose Reading: I, II, III, IV, V-VI, and Experienced.

Same rules as for poetry, but prose must be read. Selections from poems or plays are not acceptable. Students will be allowed to use marked prose selections while reciting, however the copy provided the judge must be unmarked.
- c. Dramatic Interpretation

NO costumes and NO props will be allowed. Drama Group is limited to EIGHT students, all of whom must have speaking parts.

Drama Solo: One entry per level, per school, for Levels I, II, III, IV, V-VI, and Experienced;

Drama Groups: One group entry per school for *Débutants* (Levels I and/or II combined), and one group entry per school for *Avancé* (Levels III, IV, V-VI, and/or Experienced, combined). Each group may have from 2 to a maximum of 8 students.

- 1) Time limit will be three minutes or less for individual presentations, and 10 minutes or less for group presentations.
 - 2) Selection must be memorized.
 - 3) Selection must be by a francophone author. Scenes may be cut.
 - 4) Drama selections must come from plays or screen plays. Pantomime and skits are not acceptable.
 - 5) Teacher or student-written or paraphrased material is not acceptable.
- d. Sight Reading: I, II, III, IV, V-VI, and Experienced
- 1) There will be a limit of four entries per level per school.
 - 2) Passages will be randomly selected at the time of the round. Students will not be allowed to see the passages before the selection has been made.
 - 3) Students will enter the room one at a time and will draw one of three selections, sight unseen. They will have two minutes to prepare, i.e., to read the passage silently or aloud, prior to reading aloud to the judge.
 - 4) During the two minutes preparation time, students may not refer to the dictionaries or pronunciation aids.
 - 5) Each student will read aloud for judging until he completes the passage, or until the three minute time limit is reached, whichever comes first.
- e. Guided Speaking: II, III, IV, V-VI, Experienced

Students will narrate or describe a picture or series of pictures provided at the time of the round.

- 1) There will be a limit of four entries per level per school.
- 2) Pictures will be randomly selected at the time of the round. Students will not be allowed to see the pictures before the selection has been made, and they must describe the first picture that they choose.
- 3) Students will have up to two minutes to prepare.
- 4) Time limit for speaking will be three minutes or less.
- 5) No dictionaries or note cards will be allowed.
- 6) Contestants at level 5-6 and experienced will be asked a question by the judge at the end of their presentation.

3. Other:

a. Comic Strip (*Bande Dessinée*)

- 1) Entries are limited to one entry per level per school. A maximum of two students may work together on an entry, but both students must be registered on the same level of competition.
- 2) Entries must be drawn and printed by hand, in color or black and white, and the original work of students who enter them. Cartoon characters must not be copied or borrowed from existing cartoons. All dialogue or captions must be handwritten in French, and must be the original work of the students submitting the entries. The French may be corrected by the students' teacher.
- 3) The length of each strip must be no fewer than four frames and no more than six frames.
- 4) Entries must be submitted on paper that is legal sized (8 ½ x 14). The drawn strip does not necessarily have to fill the entire sheet. The total exterior dimensions of the entry must be 10 ½ x 16, including the mat. Entries which do not meet size requirements will not be judged.
- 5) All entries must be matted and laminated in order to prevent damage.
- 6) Content of the written and drawn material must reflect Francophone culture or the study of the French language.
- 7) All entries must be submitted by the designated deadline.
- 8) Entries must have the form with the student's Texas French Symposium identification number and the category of the entry on the front, in the lower right hand corner. Improperly labeled entries will not be judged.
- 9) The criteria for judging include craftsmanship, neatness, techniques, and relevance to Francophone culture or to the study of the French language, accuracy of written French dialogue, originality/copyright, theme (message conveyed to the reader).
- 10) Any *Bande Dessinée* previously submitted in any form may not be resubmitted.
- 11) Failure to comply with *Bande Dessinée* criteria may disqualify entry.

b. Video

- 1) Each school is limited to one video entry. The video must be in the VHS or DVD format. The entry must be formatted to be viewed on a standard

DVD or VHS player and be submitted by the designated deadline. To cover the cost of administering this event, a fee will be imposed.

- 2) The length of each video entry must be no less than five minutes and no more than ten minutes, including credits.
- 3) All dialogue must be in French and must reflect Francophone culture. The screenplay must be the student's original work, written in French, but may be corrected by the student's teacher. One typed or copy of the screenplay must accompany the video entry when it is submitted.
- 4) Criteria for judging will include the cinematography, the visual element, editing, sound quality, originality, theme (message related to the viewer), and the quality of dialogue and script (effective communication in French, i.e., pronunciation, feeling, fluency). The video does not have to reflect the current Symposium theme.
- 5) Entries CANNOT be animation or claymation. All entries must be live student performances.
- 6) No individual points or awards will be given. Sweepstakes points for the top six schools will be given. (See p. 13.)
- 7) Please remember: no native speakers are to participate in the Video competition.
- 8) Every effort will be made to return videos and written results to each school after the Awards Ceremony.
- 9) The identity of the school, its French teachers, and location should be absent in the title, script, prompts, costumes, and credits of the video.
- 10) Failure to comply with video criteria may disqualify entry.

c. *Baccalauréat*.

- 1) Each school may enter one team in this competition.
- 2) Qualifying teams
 - a. Nine teams qualify for the *Baccalauréat*. The scores of each school's four team members on all four written tests are added together, and the nine teams with the highest total scores take part in the first round of oral competition. Alternates must take all four tests. Their scores will be kept on record, but do not count in the team's qualifying total.

- b. To be eligible to compete in the *Baccalauréat*, each school's team members and alternates must indicate these four items on the answer sheet for each written test: contestant's name, level, Texas French Symposium identification number, and the name of the respective test. **STUDENTS WHO DO NOT INDICATE ALL OF THIS INFORMATION ACCURATELY ON A GIVEN TEST WILL RECEIVE NO SCORE ON THAT SPECIFIC TEST.** *Baccalaureat* team members and alternates will test in specifically assigned rooms, regardless of level.
- c. Teams will be seeded to compete against each other in the first round by ballot room officials, according to their total scores on the written tests.
- d. Teams competing in each round must be composed of the same four members, with at least one Level I student and at least one Level II student. The other members may be from any level, at the team's discretion, however, **EXPERIENCED STUDENTS MAY NOT COMPETE IN THIS EVENT.** Each team may have four alternates. The Level I team member must have a Level I alternate. The Level II team member must have a Level II alternate. Alternates for team members for Levels III and up may be from any level except Experienced.
- e. A form for reporting the final team composition will be sent with the final information letter prior to Symposium. Upon arrival at Symposium, this form must be submitted to the Bac director. Any request for a change in team composition after that time must be cleared with the BAC director by a designated deadline. Unapproved changes in team composition will result in the disqualification of the team.

3) Equipment Required.

- a. Buzzers such as those used in the Academic Challenge and similar competitions are used for this competition. Buzzers are wired so that the first contestant who buzzes in automatically blocks every other contestant's buzzer. This ensures that the person who gets to answer the question is chosen in a completely impartial manner.
- b. Questions are of the short answer variety, for the most part. Some true/false, some fill-in-the-blank and some translation questions may also be used, depending on the category. In general, if a question is asked in French, it must be answered in French, in a complete sentence. Any variation from this will be made clear by the moderator when the question is asked.

Questions are of two types:

(1) Toss-up Questions are worth ten points each. The contestant who buzzes in first must answer the question immediately, and may not consult fellow team members before answering. No penalty is assessed for an incorrect answer to a toss-up question. When a school's team member is recognized as having buzzed in first, that team member must begin the answer to that question immediately. If a contestant buzzes in before the moderator finishes reading the question, he/she has to answer the question at that point, i.e., the moderator will not finish reading the question. If this contestant gives an incorrect answer, the moderator then re-reads the question, and the other two teams are given the chance to buzz in and attempt to answer the question, for the full ten points. A round consists of twenty-five toss-up questions or twenty minutes, whichever comes first.

(2) Bonus Questions are worth five points each. The team of the contestant who correctly answers a toss-up question has the opportunity to answer as many as two bonus questions. If the first bonus question is answered correctly, a second bonus question will be asked. If the first bonus question is not answered correctly, no second bonus question will be offered. There is no penalty for missing a bonus question. Team members may confer on bonus questions. Any member of the team may answer the bonus question, but the first response given will be the one that counts. The answer to a bonus question must be begun within five seconds after the moderator has finished reading it, and it must be given with no hesitation. There is a 15-second time limit on answers to bonus questions, at the discretion of the moderator.

So that all members of a team may have a chance to answer questions, some toss-up questions will be directed to and limited to Level I and Level II students. An incorrect level student answering a question may lead to disqualification.

Questions are evenly divided among and alternately asked from two categories:

(1) Question-and-answer questions are asked in French and must be answered in French. To be ruled correct, an answer meet these two criteria: accuracy of content, and accuracy of grammar. The answer must be given in a complete French sentence, that is, it must include a subject and a verb. In addition, the verb tense(s) used in the answer must coincide with verb tense(s) used in the question.

Sample questions from this category:

Si vous aviez cinquante dollars, qu'en feriez-vous?

Nous sommes a la gare et nous ne savons pas l'heure du depart de notre train. Qu'est-ce que nous devons consulter?

(2) Civilization questions are asked in English, but will of necessity frequently include French names and expressions. They will vary in difficulty.

Sample questions from this category:

What French group is known as *les quarante immortels*?

Where are you if you are in Paris and you are using *un carnet*?

Name three painters who were known as *les impressionistes*.

4) Contest Officials

- a) Every effort is made to ensure the impartiality of officials running this event.
- b) The moderator reads the contest rules, asks the questions, and rules whether answers are correct or incorrect. This official is a fluent French speaker, although not necessarily a native speaker. He announces the type and category of question (i.e., toss-up, civilization). There may be a separate official who reads the questions.
- c) The scorekeeper verifies the name and level of each team member prior to the start of the preliminary round, tallies points as they are made, and announces the winners at the end of each round.
- d) The buzzer operator calls out the name of the school and team member who buzzes in first on toss-up questions. He operates the buzzer controls and clears the buzzers prior to each toss-up question.
- e) The timekeeper times the rounds, as well as the response times. He announces when one minute is remaining in each round.
- f) The referee rules on unsportsmanlike conduct which might disqualify a team. This could include making remarks to team members or to an opposing team. He issues a warning in the form of a yellow card. Only one warning is issued per team per round.
- g) The judge rules on the accuracy of answers when there is any doubt. He/She may confer with the moderator in such cases, but the decision of the judge will be considered final.

5) Order of Play

- a) The moderator will ask the scorekeeper to verify team composition, then will read the rules. Contestants will be allowed to ask for clarification of the rules prior to start of play.
- b) Contestants will be asked to test their buzzers in order to make sure they are in working order.
- c) The moderator will read toss-up and bonus questions, as described above, with the scorekeeper tallying correct answers on a score sheet.

- d) Contestants must wait to be called on prior speaking, attempting to answer or answering. Failure to do so will result in a yellow penalty card. A second offense will result in disqualification of the team.
- e) At the end of the twenty-five toss-up questions or twenty minutes, whichever comes first, competition ceases, the final score is tallied, and the results are announced.
- 6) The round of play will not be stopped for contestants to ask questions. Contestants who wish to question a ruling or any other matter, must wait until the round is over.
- 7) Audiences will be limited in the room during competition, in order to prevent distractions to both players and officials. Individuals creating a disturbance will be removed and the offending individual/school may be cited or disqualified.
- 8) No team will be permitted to compete with fewer than four players, on the required placement levels, as stated in section 2 b. All team members must be present and ready to compete when it is time for that team's round to begin. At the discretion of the moderator, start of play will be delayed briefly in order to allow all team members to arrive, but only in unusual circumstances.
- 9) Once competition has begun, team composition may not be changed.

B. NON-ACADEMIC EVENTS (those in which a knowledge of French is not essential) are those as follows:

1. Music Events

- a. Students do not compete by level.
- b. Competition will be held in five categories:
 - 1) Piano Solo
 - 2) Instrumental Solo (other than piano)
 - 3) Instrumental Group
 - 4) Vocal Group
 - 5) Vocal Solo
- c. Rules for music events are as follows:
 - 1) Piano solo is limited to one entry per school. Pianos will be provided.
 - 2) Vocal group, and Instrumental group are limited to one entry per school per event, with no more than eight contestants per group event. Pianos for accompaniment will not be provided.

- 3) Vocal solo and instrumental solo are limited to two entries per event per school.
- 4) Music need not be memorized.
- 5) Time limit will be five minutes or less.
- 6) Only music by recognized francophone composers and naturalized Frenchmen, such as Chopin, will be acceptable. Please provide documentation for lesser known francophone composers.
- 7) All vocal music must be sung in French.
- 8) Tapes may be used for accompaniment, with equipment provided by the student. Pianos will be provided for piano solo only. Vocal group or vocal solo contestants will sing a cappella or with recorded instrumental accompaniment only.
- 9) Every contestant or group must provide the judge a clear copy of the music and lyrics, to include the name of the composer. This includes vocal categories.
- 10) Copies of sheet music for vocal selections must have both music and lyrics.

PROCEDURAL NOTE: Students competing in areas which require copies of their selections should have several copies available. In some cases, there will be more than one judge for the competition. Additional copies may be needed for subsequent rounds of competition. **COPY MACHINES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE. BRING ENOUGH COPIES WITH YOU.** Failure to provide a copy of the selection with title and composer will result in disqualification.

2. Art Events

Note: Please do not enter any artwork that might offend our community. Entries should reflect the Francophone culture but are not required to follow the current year's theme.

- a. Categories of competition are as follows:
 - 1) Pencil/Charcoal
 - 2) Pastels/Colored Pencil
 - 3) Oil Painting
 - 4) Collage (not paper mosaic or *découpage*), mounted on a flat surface – any attachment may not exceed one inch in relief.
 - 5) Photography (one photo; not a collection or set of photos.) Digital images must be the original work of the student.
 - 6) Waterbase
 - 7) Project (i.e. jewelry, sculpture, pottery, fiber designs, etc.) Anything that is three-dimensional must be entered as a project.
- b. Each school is limited to one piece of artwork per category.

- c. The student is responsible for getting his/her artwork to the proper place for display.
- d. The form with the TFS student ID number and category must be on the lower right front corner of each artwork. All art entries must be titled. The title and Francophone cultural significance must be written on the identification form. Projects must also be identified with this form, in the lower right front corner.
- e. Artwork **MUST** be the student's original, creative idea and not copied from a published photograph, a magazine illustration or another artist's artwork. Artwork that is NOT original will be **DISQUALIFIED!** Do not submit paint-by-number paintings, découpage, ceramics, from molds or any "non-creative" craftwork that is made from a kit (hooked rugs, etc.).
- f. Any piece previously submitted in any form may not be resubmitted.
- g. Two-dimensional art (two-dimensional=flat) **MUST** be **matted, mounted** or **framed**, ready for hanging (hardware, hook, wire, etc. must be included).
- h. Two-dimensional paintings, drawings, etc., may not exceed poster board size (22x28) including mat and frame. Sculpture and other three-dimensional art cannot exceed 75 pounds.
- i. All art entries must be dry to be judged.

PROCEDURAL NOTE: Although all precautions and care are taken to ensure that no art works are stolen or damaged, the Texas French Symposium cannot be responsible for theft, loss, or damage. Failure to follow art entry rules may disqualify entry.

3. Scrapbook

- a. Contents must reflect French club, French class, and/or Symposium activities (educational, social, service, fundraising, travel, etc.), from last year's Symposium to this year's Symposium.
- b. Each school is limited to one entry.
- c. The cover and album combined must not exceed \$60.00 in cost. A cost sheet must be included with the entry, and must be placed inside the back cover of the album. The cost sheet must list all expenses incurred in producing the scrapbook, and must be accompanied by receipts for all items borrowed or previously owned by the students submitting it. Please

note that this cost limitation does not include film, developing, and/or enlargement of the photographs.

- d. Exterior dimensions of the scrapbook must not exceed 14"x 16".
- e. Criteria for judging include the current year's Symposium theme, organization, creativity, neatness/lettering.
- f. The name of the school submitting the scrapbook must appear on the title page or cover of the scrapbook.
- g. All text must be in French.
- h. Entries will be submitted at the contest along with art entries. Please be aware that scrapbooks may be placed on display.
- i. No individual points or awards will be given. Sweepstakes points for the top teams will be awarded. (See p.13. non-academic event awards)

4. Sporting Event

The only sporting event is Soccer. Each school is allowed to enroll one team in this competition. Rules will be determined by the coaches.

Basic rules are:

- a. Size of team. The size of the team will vary due to where the competition is held and the number of teams that participate. Factors relating to where the tournament is held include whether it is played on a full or half soccer field, large or small gymnasium. The coaches will make this determination. A team can be from 5 to 11 players.
- b. The team may be co-ed. However, during play, at least one girl from each team must be on the soccer field at all times.
- c. If the weather permits, the event will be held on the host schools' soccer field. During inclement weather a school gymnasium will substitute.
- d. The first and second rounds are usually 10 minutes each, then 15 minutes in the ½ and championship games. If there is a tie a total of 5 minutes overtime is given to break the tie. Should this not be successful, penalty kicks are used (5 for each team) until a winner is determined.
- d. To compete in soccer, School must enroll in Sporting Event on school scantron form (used to enroll school) and pay fee required for this event.

- e. No individual points or awards will be given. Sweepstakes points for the top three teams will be awarded. (See p.13. non-academic event awards)
5. Miscellaneous categories of competition may be added.

V. Disqualification of Student or School:

A. Causes for disqualification

1. An individual student may be disqualified for the following reasons:
 - a. Cheating;
 - b. Failure to properly identify entries;
 - c. Failure to comply with the rules for each category of competition;
 - d. Disruptive or inappropriate behavior.
2. A school may be disqualified for the following reasons:
 - a. Failure to comply with registration procedures and deadlines.
 - b. Improper placement of a student or students.

B. The process by which students/schools are disqualified is as follows:

1. Before the competition the Board of Directors determines that a student or school is not in compliance with rules or procedures.
2. When questions arise during or after the competition concerning the qualifications of a student or a school, the following procedure will be implemented:
 - a. A meeting, consisting of a quorum of the voting members of the Board of Directors will be convened.
 - b. All persons involved will be interviewed and all information evaluated. Each case will be considered on its own merits.
 - c. A decision will be rendered by majority vote.