

2012
TEXAS FRENCH SYMPOSIUM

CONSTITUTION
& BY - LAWS



PLEASE NOTE: 2012 CHANGES ARE HIGHLIGHTED IN YELLOW

2012 Constitution and By-Laws; Texas French Symposium

Table of Contents

I.	Organizational Requirements:	
	Article I Name of Organization	p. 3
	Article II Purpose of TFS	p. 3
	Article III Membership Requirements	p. 3
	Article IV Fiscal Year	p. 4
	Article V Board of Directors	p. 4
	Article VI By-Law Amendments	p. 6
	Article VII Tax Exempt Status	p. 6
II.	By-Laws (Description and Tasks for the Annual Contest)	
	1. Host Coordinator	p. 7
	2. Ballot Room Coordinator	p. 8
	3. Judge Coordinator	p. 8
	4. Test Coordinator	p. 8
	5. Awards Coordinator	p. 8
	6. Scholarship Coordinator	p. 9
III.	General Rules for Participation	
	1. Levels of Competition and Placement of Participants	p. 9
	2. Time of Competition and Registration Rules and Procedures	p. 12
	3. Awards	p. 13
	4. Enrollment	p. 15
IV.	Categories of Competition	
	1. Academic Events:	
	A. Tests	p. 15
	B. Oral Events	
	a. Poetry Recitation	p. 16
	b. Prose Reading	p. 16
	c. Dramatic Interpretation	p. 16
	d. Sight Reading	p. 17
	e. Guided Speaking	p. 17
	C. Other Events	
	a. Bande Dessinée	p. 17
	b. Video	p. 18
	c. <i>Baccalauréat</i>	p. 19-23
	2. Non-Academic Events:	
	A. Music Events	p. 23
	B. Art Events	p. 24
	C. Scrapbook	p. 25
	D. Sporting Event	p. 26
	E. Miscellaneous Events	p. 27
V.	Disqualification	p. 27

I. ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

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.

The 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 execution of the annual contest, and they share equally in the responsibility for a successful contest.
- f. All teacher members are expected to read the constitution annually to familiarize themselves with the rules of the competition. Teacher members must adhere to the rules of the contest set forth in this constitution.

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 Executive Board of Directors, who shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer.
- b. The present and immediate past host School Coordinators
- c. Executive, Advisory and At-Large Board members.

Section 2: Duties of the Officers

Officers of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the Board members.

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 the Texas French Symposium at professional meetings.
- b. Vice-President
- 1) to preside in the absence of the President,
 - 2) to assist the judge coordinator in the recruiting of non-teacher judges,
 - 3) to select a judge coordinator and to oversee the role of the judge coordinator,
 - 4) to coordinate test preparation each year (including speakers),
 - 5) to coordinate video and bande dessinée judging,
 - 6) to collaborate with the president in the preparation of the agenda for each meeting.
- c. Secretary
- 1) to attend all board meetings,
 - 2) to record, maintain, and distribute minutes of all meetings within two weeks of the meeting,
 - 3) to maintain a list of all Board members,
 - 4) to perform any necessary correspondence duties.
- d. 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,
 - 5) to prepare and file paperwork for the French government financial assistance.

Section 3: 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 during regularly-scheduled 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 following the 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 coordinate registration for the annual contest.

Section 4: Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet at such times as deemed necessary by the demands of the state competition.

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.

II. 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.

1. 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 1, 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; Hospitality room
 - 3. Physical facilities and equipment (security, promotional services, volunteers, etc.) and reservations of all areas to be utilized
 - 4. Custodial services
 - 5. School reservations:
 - a. Auditorium/Student Technician
 - b. Athletic areas (Gymnasiums/Soccer fields)
 - c. Technology needs: Computer, Printer, Copy machine, Internet access

2. BALLOT ROOM COORDINATOR

- A. The Ballot Room Coordinator is that person who is directly responsible for computing and compiling competition results.
- B. 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 the 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 the awards presentation

3. JUDGE COORDINATOR

- A. The Judge Coordinator 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
 - 4. Orientation to all rules, forms, procedures, and the proper handling of final results

4. 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 the 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

5. AWARDS COORDINATOR

- A. The Awards Coordinator is that person who prepares and purchases all trophies, ribbons, and other special awards. Additional duties include overseeing the distribution of awards at the awards program.

6. 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 and 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 to the annual contest and providing the Host School Coordinator with names, housing and transportation needs

III. GENERAL RULES FOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION

This competition is designed for students enrolled in French grades 9-12 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.)

1. 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 must compete at the level that they completed in the fall session, provided that they are not enrolled in the next level for the spring session. They may compete in all events.
 - a. Students who are enrolled in the spring session only, or in both fall and spring sessions, must compete at the level in which they are enrolled for the 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.
 2. Students whose schools follow traditional scheduling compete at the level in which they are enrolled at the time of the contest.
 3. Experienced Students are those students who meet **any one** of the following criteria. These students 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 4, below.
 - b. Level I, II, III, or IV students with a combination of advantages listed under Section 4 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 4 below and who are placed into the experienced level will not outlive this advantage in future TFS competitions.**
 4. Advantaged Students are those students with **any one** of the following advantages. They 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 **their 6th birthday**
 - 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

*The 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 grade(s) 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 will compete 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

- h. Students who currently reside or have resided in the past in households where they are or were routinely exposed to communication in French

- 5. 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 within the 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.

6. 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. Francophone foreign nationals
 - b. Students who were taught French as their first or primary language
7. Foreign exchange students may not compete in the Texas French Symposium.

2. TIME OF COMPETITION; RULES AND PROCEDURES

- A. The 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. Students who have not paid the per student registration fee and/or properly completed and submitted the required registration materials, including the TFS Participation Agreement, by the stated deadline, will be ineligible to participate in the Texas French Symposium competition.
- D. Schools must pay a per school registration fee.
- E. Teacher members, other sponsors, chaperones, bus drivers and student assistants 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, stationery, etc., mailings, machine grading of tests, professional secretarial services when required, trophies, etc.). There will be no refunds of any type. **ALL REGISTRATION FEES AND STUDENT PARTICIPATION FORMS ARE DUE BY THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE PUBLISHED ON THE TFS WEBSITE.**
- G. Students will compete by name and Texas French Symposium (TFS) identification number, not by school name. TFS identification numbers will be assigned during the registration process. Students must identify themselves with their assigned TFS number on all ballots, tests, etc. during the 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 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.

3. AWARDS

A. Sweepstakes awards

1. Sweepstakes awards will be given in two divisions: Small School and Large School.
2. There will be a minimum of three awards and a maximum of ten awards in each division for the schools compiling the most points.
3. The divisions will be determined by the total French program enrollment at the time that the RSVP, which must be signed by the school principal, is submitted.
4. There will be 10 individual awards for the students who compile the most points.
5. Points toward school sweepstakes will be awarded as follows:

- a. Points in academic events (those which require a knowledge of French, including Bande Dessinée and Video) for Levels I, II, III, IV, and V-VI will be awarded as follows: (See p. 15-22)

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: (See p. 23-26)

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; students advancing to finals will be awarded 2 points.

B. Individual awards

1. Individual awards will be given in each area of competition as follows: First place, Second Place, Third place, Fourth place, Fifth place, Sixth place.
2. All places may be 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, type and 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 the rules, conditions and regulations imposed by the entities providing them.
3. No monies will be 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.

4. ENROLLMENT

- A. Per school enrollment will be limited to 40% of French enrollment, or a maximum of 40 students per school. Schools with smaller French enrollments may register 40% of their French enrollment, or 10 students, whichever is greater. For correct calculation of enrollment for schools on accelerated block scheduling see Section 1. B, 1. b.
- B. Enrollment limits for individual competitions are listed by event.
- C. Enrollment limitations may be changed, if necessary, at the discretion of the Host School Coordinator, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

IV. CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION/RULES FOR EACH CATEGORY OF COMPETITION

1. ACADEMIC EVENTS (Those in which a knowledge of French is essential.)

A. Tests

All students are encouraged to take the academic tests. Tests consist of multiple choice items, with a wide range of item difficulty. The same test is administered to all levels. However, each level is scored independently.

- a. Grammar: I, II, III, IV, V-VI, and Experienced;
- b. Vocabulary: I, II, III, 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.

B. Oral Events

PROCEDURAL NOTE: Students are required to bring copies of their selections. In some cases, there will be more than one judge for each level of 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 the judge with a copy of the selection, including title and author, will result in disqualification of the student from that event.

- a. **Poetry Recitation:** I, II, III, IV, V-VI, and Experienced.
1. There is a limit of four (4) participants per level per school.
 2. All poetry must be memorized.
 3. The time limit is three minutes. Poems may be cut.
 4. *The selection must have been written by a francophone author.*
 5. Each copy provided to the judge must include the title and author of the piece.
- b. **Prose Reading:** I, II, III, IV, V-VI, and Experienced. (See poetry)
1. The rules are the same as for poetry, but prose must be read.
 2. Selections from poems or plays are not acceptable.
 3. While reciting, students will be allowed to use prose selections that have been previously marked. However, the judge must be provided with an unmarked copy which includes the title and author.
- c. **Dramatic Interpretation – Solo and Group**
1. NO costumes and NO props will be allowed.
 2. Drama Group is limited to **eight** students, all of whom must have speaking parts.
 3. An unmarked copy of the play, including title and author, must be provided for the judge.
 4. All dramatic interpretation selections must be memorized
 - a. **Drama Solo:** One entry per level, per school, for Levels I, II, III, IV, V-VI, and Experienced.
 - b. **Drama Group:** One group entry per school for *Débutant* (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 **two** to a maximum of **eight** students.
 1. The time limit will be three minutes or less for individual presentations, and ten minutes or less for group presentations.
 2. The selection must be memorized.
 3. The selection must have been written by a francophone author.
 4. Scenes may be cut.
 5. Drama selections must come from plays or screen plays.
 6. Pantomime and skits are not acceptable.
 7. Teacher or student-written material is not acceptable.

d. **Sight Reading:** I, II, III, IV, V-VI, and Experienced

1. There is a limit of four entries per level per school.
2. The passage will be provided for the student at the beginning of each level of competition.
3. Students will enter the room one at a time and will be given the passage.
4. Students will have two minutes to prepare. Students may not refer to dictionaries or pronunciation aids.
5. Each student will read aloud for the judge until the passage is completed, or until the three minute time limit is reached, whichever comes first.
6. Students will not be penalized for not completing the passage.
7. Students must return the passage to the judge before exiting the room.

e. **Guided Speaking:** I, II, III, IV, V-VI, and Experienced

Students will narrate or describe a picture or series of pictures that will be provided at the beginning of each round of competition.

1. There is a limit of four entries per level per school.
2. Pictures will be randomly selected at the time of the round.
3. Students will have two minutes to prepare. Students may not refer to dictionaries, note cards or pronunciation aids.
4. The time limit for speaking will be three minutes or less. Students are not required to speak for the entire three minutes.
5. Contestants at level V-VI and Experienced may be asked an open-ended question by the judge at the end of the presentation.

C. **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. Both students must be registered at 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 the students who enter them. Cartoon characters may 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 less than four frames and no more than six frames.
4. Entries must be submitted on legal-sized paper (8 ½ x 14). The drawn strip does not have to fill the entire sheet.

5. The total exterior dimensions of the entry **must be** 10 ½ x 16, including the matte.
6. All entries must be matted and laminated in order to prevent damage.
7. Content of the written and drawn material must reflect an aspect of francophone culture or the study of the French language. The entry **does not** have to reflect the current year's Symposium theme.
8. All entries must be submitted by the designated deadline, which will be prior to the date(s) of the competition.
9. Entries must be submitted with the art identification tag, which must contain the student's TFS identification number, the category of the entry and the cultural significance. This tag must be on the front of the entry in the right-hand corner. Improperly labeled entries will not be judged.
10. The criteria for judging include craftsmanship, neatness, technique and relevance to francophone culture or the study of the French language, accuracy of written French dialogue, originality/copyright, and the message conveyed to the reader.
11. Any Bande Dessinée previously submitted in any form may not be resubmitted for judging.

b. **Video**

1. Each school is limited to one video entry. The video must be in DVD format. The entry must be formatted to be viewed on a standard DVD player and must be submitted by the designated deadline. To cover the cost of administering this event, an entry fee will be charged at the time of registration.
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 original work of the student(s). All dialogue must be written in French. The dialogue may be corrected by the French teacher.
4. One typed copy of the screenplay must accompany the video entry at the time of submission.
5. Criteria for judging will include the cinematography, the visual element, editing, sound quality, originality, theme (message related to the viewer), and the quality of the dialogue and script (effective communication in

French, i.e. pronunciation, feeling, fluency). The video does not have to reflect the current Symposium theme.

6. Entries CANNOT be animation or claymation. All entries must be live student performances.
7. No individual points or awards will be given. Sweepstakes points for the top six schools will be given. (See p. 13)
8. Native speakers are not allowed to participate in the Video competition.
9. Every effort will be made to return DVDs and written results to each school following the competition.
10. The identity of the school, its French teachers and its location may not appear in the title, script, props, costumes or credits of the video.
11. Failure to comply with the video criteria may disqualify the entry.

c. **Baccalauréat (Bac)**

Team composition:

1. Each school may enter one team in this competition.
2. 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.
3. Each team may have four alternates. If a team designates 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.
4. No team will be permitted to compete with fewer than four players, at the required placement levels, as stated above. 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, the start of play may be delayed briefly in order to allow all team members to arrive.
5. Once the *Baccalauréat* has begun, the team composition may not be changed.
6. For the purpose of forming a *Baccalauréat* team, senior high schools that do not offer a level I French course will be allowed to "borrow" a maximum of two level I students (one competing and one alternate) from their feeder

pattern ninth grade campus. These two students will be allowed to compete fully in all events for which they are eligible. All points earned by these two students will count toward the senior high school's sweepstakes point total.

Qualifying teams:

1. Nine teams qualify for the *Baccalauréat*. The scores of each school's four team members from 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 and must test in the designated Bac testing room. However, their scores will be kept on record and will not count in the team's qualifying total unless it is necessary to substitute a team member with an alternate.
2. To be eligible to compete in the *Baccalauréat*, each school's team members and alternates must indicate these three items on the answer sheet for each written test: student name, TFS identification number, and the name of the respective test. **STUDENTS WHO DO NOT PROVIDE ALL OF THIS INFORMATION ACCURATELY ON A GIVEN TEST WILL RECEIVE NO SCORE ON THAT SPECIFIC TEST.** *Baccalauréat* team members and alternates will test in designated *Baccalauréat* rooms, regardless of the level of the contestant.
3. 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.
4. A form for reporting the final team composition will be submitted one week prior to the competition. Any request for a change in team composition after that time must be cleared with the *Baccalauréat* coordinator. Unapproved changes in team composition will result in the disqualification of the team.

Questions:

1. Questions are short answer. 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.
2. 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 team disqualification.

Type of questions:

- (1) Toss-up Questions are worth ten points each. The contestant who buzzes in first must answer the question immediately, without consulting 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 must answer the question at that point, i.e., the moderator will not finish reading the question. If the contestant gives an incorrect answer, the moderator will then re-read 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 up to 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.
3. Questions are evenly divided among and alternately asked from two categories:
- (1) Question-and-answer: These questions are asked in French and must be answered in French. To be ruled correct, an answer must 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 match the verb tense(s) used in the question.

Sample questions from this category:

- *Si vous aviez cinquante dollars, qu'en feriez-vous?*
- *Nous sommes à la gare et nous ne savons pas l'heure du départ de notre train. Qu'est-ce que nous devons consulter?*

- (2) Civilization questions: These 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*.

Equipment:

1. 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.

Contest Officials:

1. Every effort is made to ensure the impartiality of officials running this event.
2. The moderator reads the contest rules, asks the questions, and rules whether answers are correct or incorrect. The moderator will be a fluent French speaker, although not necessarily a native speaker of French. He announces the type and category of question (i.e., toss-up, civilization, etc.). There may be a separate official who reads the questions.
3. 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.
4. 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, controlling and clearing the buzzers prior to each toss-up question.
5. The timekeeper times the rounds as well as the response times. He announces when one minute is remaining in each round.
6. The bac coordinator rules on unsportsmanlike conduct, which may disqualify a team. This could include making remarks to team members or to an opposing team. The bac coordinator will issue a warning in the form of a yellow card. Only one warning is issued per team per round.

7. The judge rules on the accuracy of answers when there is any doubt. He may confer with the moderator in such cases, but the decision of the judge is considered final.

Order of Play:

1. The moderator will ask the scorekeeper to verify team composition, and then will then read the rules. Contestants will be allowed to ask for clarification of the rules prior to the start of play.
2. Contestants will be asked to test their buzzers to make sure they are in working order.
3. The moderator will read toss-up and bonus questions as described above, with the scorekeeper tallying correct answers on a score sheet.
4. 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.
5. 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 decision must wait until the end of the round.
7. A limited audience will be allowed in the Bac room during competition. In order to prevent distractions to both players and officials, individuals who create a disturbance will be removed. The individual/school may be disqualified.

2. **NON-ACADEMIC EVENTS** (those in which a knowledge of French is not essential)

A. **Music Events:**

- a. Students do not compete by level.
- b. Categories of competition:
 1. Piano Solo
 2. Instrumental Solo (other than piano)
 3. Instrumental Group
 4. Vocal Group
 5. Vocal Solo

c. Rules for music events:

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. The time limit will be five minutes or less for each performance.
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. Recordings 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 may sing a cappella or with recorded instrumental accompaniment only.
9. Every contestant or group must provide the judge a clean copy of the **music and lyrics**, which must include the title and the name of the composer.
10. Sheet music for vocal selections must have both music and lyrics.
11. Students who wish to use music stands must provide them.

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 each round of 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.

B. Art Events:

NOTE: Please do not enter any artwork that might offend our community. Entries must reflect the francophone culture and are required to follow the current year's theme.

a. Categories of competition:

1. Pencil/Charcoal
2. Pastel/Colored Pencil
3. Oil Painting
4. Collage (not paper mosaic or découpage),
NOTE: Collage must be 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.)
NOTE: All digital images must be the original work of the student.
6. Waterbase
7. Project (i.e. jewelry, sculpture, pottery, fiber designs, etc.)
NOTE: Any three-dimensional artwork must be entered in the project category.

- 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 location for judging and display.
- d. The form with the TFS student ID number and category must be attached to the lower right front corner of each piece of artwork. All art entries must be titled. The title and the francophone cultural significance must be written on the identification form. All entries must relate to the current year's theme.
- 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. Schools may 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**.
- 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.

NOTE: Although all precautions and care are taken to ensure that no piece of art is stolen or damaged, the Texas French Symposium cannot be responsible for theft, loss or damage to artwork.

NOTE: Failure to follow art entry rules will result in disqualification.

C. **Scrapbook:**

1. Contents must reflect French Club, French class, and/or French-related activities (educational, social, service, fundraising, travel, etc.) from last year's Symposium to this year's Symposium.

2. Each school is limited to one entry.
3. The cover and album combined must not exceed \$60 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 purchases by the students submitting it. Please note that this cost limitation does not include film, developing, and/or enlargement of the photographs.
4. Exterior dimensions of the scrapbook must not exceed 14"x 16".
5. Criteria for judging include the current year's Symposium theme, organization, creativity, neatness/lettering and quality of French.
6. The name of the school submitting the scrapbook must appear on the title page or cover of the scrapbook.
7. All text written and added by students preparing the scrapbook must be in French.
8. Entries will be submitted at the contest along with art entries. Please be aware that scrapbooks may be placed on display.
9. No individual points or awards will be given. Sweepstakes points for the top teams will be awarded. (See p.13)
10. The form with the TFS student ID number and category must be attached to the lower right front corner of the scrapbook.

D. **Sporting Event:**

The only sporting event is soccer. Each school is allowed to enroll one team in this competition. Rules not listed below will be determined by the coaches at the time of competition.

1. The size of the team will vary due to the location of the competition and the number of teams that participate. A team can be from 5 to 11 players, depending upon the location.
2. 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.
3. The tournament may be played on a full or half soccer field or in a gymnasium. If the weather permits, the event will be held on the host school's soccer field. The coaches will make this determination.

4. The first and second rounds are usually 10 minutes each, then 15 minutes in the semi-final and championship games. In the case of a tie, a total of 5 minutes of 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.
5. To compete in soccer, schools must register when the initial registration is submitted and pay the fee required for this event. Schools will not be allowed to register for the sporting event on the weekend of the competition.
6. No individual points or awards will be given. Sweepstakes points for the top three teams will be awarded. (See p.13)

E. **Miscellaneous categories** of competition may occasionally be added.

V. DISQUALIFICATION

A. CAUSES FOR DISQUALIFICATION

1. Cheating
2. Failure to properly identify entries
3. Failure to comply with the rules for each category of competition
4. Disruptive or inappropriate behavior
5. Failure of the school to comply with registration procedures and deadlines
6. Improper placement by the school of a student or students

B. PROCESS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

1. Prior to the competition, if the Board of Directors determines that a student or school is not in compliance with the rules or procedures set forth in this document, the coordinating teacher will be notified.
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 TFS 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 of the TFS Board of Directors.