

2012
Student & Parent Guide
Contest Information and Rules



**FOR THE COMPLETE VERSION OF THE TFS CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS,
PLEASE REFER TO THE DOCUMENT LABELED “2012 CONSTITUTION” ON
THE WEBSITE. (www.texasfrenchsymposium.org)**

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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 choose to become members through their participation in the annual state contest and their students.

HISTORY

The Texas French Symposium (TFS) began in 1964 at Mac Arthur High School in San Antonio, Texas. It is an annual statewide contest which allows students to compete against their peers in academic and non-academic events.

PARTICIPATION

In order for a student to compete, the following requirements must be met:

1. The required registration fees must be paid.
2. The student, his/her parent or legal guardian, and his/her teacher must have signed the Texas French Symposium Participation Agreement acknowledging that the aforementioned parties have read and understand the Participation Agreement.

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.

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. **THE USE OF AN INACCURATE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF THE STUDENT FOR THAT EVENT.**

LEVELS OF COMPETITION AND PLACEMENT OF PARTICIPANTS

There will be competitions for French I, II, III, IV, V-VI, and Experienced. For detailed rules regarding levels and placement, please see the Texas French Symposium constitution on the website (www.texasfrenchsymposium.org).

Any violation of placement rules will result in the disqualification of the student and/or school.

AWARDS

There will be 10 individual awards for the students who compile the most points.

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:

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; students advancing to finals will be awarded 2 points.

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.

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

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

CATEGORIES OF COMPETITION/RULES FOR EACH CATEGORY OF COMPETITION

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.
 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.
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. All team members must be present and ready to compete when it is time for that team's round to begin.
5. Further rules and procedures are available in the Texas French Symposium constitution on the TFS website (www.texasfrenchsymposium.org). Please see pages 19-23 in that document.
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.

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

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.

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: 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. 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.
10. The form with the TFS student ID number and category must be attached to the lower right front corner of the scrapbook.

Sporting Event: 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.
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.