

Rules and Procedures for the 2022 Virtual Texas German Contests

For the second year in a row, our regional and state German contests will have to be conducted entirely online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, in 2022 a broader spectrum of events will be offered than in 2021:

Arts

Club Album
Crafts
Digital Logo Design
Doll Costume
Gingerbread House – Non-Traditional
Gingerbread House – Traditional
Needlework
Original Models
Photo Essay
Photography
Poster Design
Shirt Design
Video Show

Declamation

Poetry I, II, III, IV, Advantaged
Prose I, II, III, IV, Advantaged

Drama

Duet Acting, Lower & Upper Levels
Puppet Show, Lower & Upper Levels
Skit I, II, III, IV

Music

Chorus
Classical Ensemble
Contemporary Music
Einzelanz
Folk Dance
Polka Band
Vocal Solo

Oral Tests

Directed Dialogue I, II *
Extemporaneous Speaking III, IV, Advantaged *
Oral Presentation IV
Pair Discussion III *
Sight Reading I, II, III, IV *

Miscellaneous

Pass auf! (“Varsity” only) *
Research Paper

Written Tests

Timed Writing I, II, III, IV *

For most events, contestants will use Google Forms to submit their entries as PDF files. The PDF files will contain either documentation of their artwork or links to YouTube/Vimeo recordings of their performances along with scripts, texts, etc. **The deadline for submission of these PDF files is 9:00 a.m. on contest day** (February 5 for the regional contests and February 26 for State). A few events (**those marked above with ***) will be conducted “live” online via Zoom on contest day (and recorded for later judging) – or via Kahoot! in the case of *Pass auf!*. Judging will occur remotely from the Saturday of contest through the following Tuesday, and the results will be announced in the form of a video awards show released approximately one week after the contest date. Trophies, medals, and ribbons from the regional and state contests as well as state T-shirts and patches will be packaged and delivered to each teacher/school in early March.

The only events that are normally offered that will *not* be available this year are Scavenger Hunt and seven written tests (Advantaged Speaker Test, Culture, Grammar, Listening Comprehension, Reading Comprehension, Spelling, and Vocabulary). Additionally, our usual Poetry/Prose Memory and Poetry/Prose Reading events will again be consolidated into simply “Poetry” and “Prose.”

For each event, the rules and procedures will remain the same as in a “normal” year (see “Rules” tab on the contest website) except as detailed on the following pages.

General information about ALL digital submissions:

For each event involving a digital submission, the teacher or student will submit a PDF file through a **Google Form**. A good naming convention for these files would be YourLastName-School-Event (e.g., Smith-LubbockHS-TradGingerbread). Shortly before the contest date, the contest director will send teachers a set of links to several Google Forms (one for uploading Art Events + Research Paper, one for uploading Recordings, and one for Live Events (where there will be nothing to upload, but we will still request that each contestant or team fill out the form to help us automatically generate judging spreadsheets). These links will probably not be posted on the contest website, so if the teacher wants the students to upload their own work, the teacher will need to share the Google Form links with the students. Upload only ONE file (the PDF) to the Google Form. We do not want and will not accept multiple files per entry!

Arts:

The following events have been designated permanently as “digital-submission” events, even in “normal” years. Thus, the rules and procedures posted for them on the contest website need no further elaboration.

[Digital Logo Design](#)

[Photo Essay](#)

[Video Show](#)

The rest of the art events will follow the usual rules as posted on the contest website, supplemented by the following procedures:

- **Submission process:**

- Document your entry in a PowerPoint or Google Slides presentation; you may use other programs as well, but make sure that whatever program you are using has the capability to convert the slide show into a PDF file, because **all submissions must be converted to and submitted as PDF files.**
- On the first slide, include **your name(s)**, **school**, the **name of the event** (yes, sometimes there is confusion as to which category the item belongs in, so make it crystal clear by telling us which category you are entering), and the **title of the project** (if applicable).
- On the next slide (or several slides), include images of your **receipts** (if required by the rules of that event). Feel free to add explanatory comments.
- On the next several slides, include **pictures of your entry**. It is strongly encouraged to take pictures as you make the item to illustrate your creative process as well as pictures of the finished product. Take pictures from every conceivable angle. Take close-ups of details that you want the judges to notice. However, always make sure that there is at least one picture that shows the entire project. There is no upper limit on the number of pictures you can include, although you also don't want to completely overwhelm the judges. Feel free to type comments as well.
- When you are finished with the PowerPoint/Slides/etc. presentation, **convert it to a PDF file** and **upload** it according to the instructions provided.

- **Additional tips and procedures for specific art events:**

- **Club Album**: For this year, you may make a traditional physical album and document it by taking pictures of the cover and each page, or you may make a digital album directly in PowerPoint/Google Slides/etc.
- **Crafts**: The rules of this event require the creation of a backdrop or diorama. That requirement is still in place this year, and it must be a physical backdrop or diorama, not just some pictures and/or information that you include in the digital presentation. Make sure to include some pictures of your item in front of/inside the backdrop/diorama, although you can also certainly take pictures of the item itself that don't include the backdrop/diorama. If you have text on the backdrop/diorama, either take very clear pictures of it for inclusion in your presentation or copy and paste the text directly into the presentation; you want it to be easily legible for the judges.
- **Doll Costume**: The rules of this event require the creation of a backdrop. That requirement is still in place this year, and it must be a physical backdrop, not just some pictures and/or information that you include in the digital presentation. Make sure to include some pictures of your doll in front of the backdrop, although you can also certainly take pictures of the doll itself that don't include the backdrop. If you have text on the backdrop, either take very clear pictures of it for inclusion in your presentation or copy and paste the text directly into the presentation; you want it to be easily legible for the judges.
- **Gingerbread House (Traditional and Non-Traditional)**: Take LOTS of pictures of the construction process and the finished product, especially close-ups of details.
- **Needlework**: The rules of this event require some sort of documentation; make sure to include that in your PowerPoint/Google Slides/etc. presentation.
- **Original Models**: The rules of this event require the creation of a backdrop or diorama. That requirement is still in place this year, and it must be a physical backdrop or diorama, not just some pictures and/or information that you include in the digital presentation. Make sure to include some pictures of your item in front of/inside the backdrop/diorama, although you can also certainly take pictures of the item itself that don't include the backdrop/diorama. If you have text on the backdrop/diorama, either take very clear pictures of it for inclusion in your presentation or copy and paste the text directly into the presentation; you want it to be easily legible for the judges.
- **Photography**: The rules of this event require inclusion of your original, unedited photograph(s) along with the final, edited image. Include both of these in the PowerPoint/Google Slides/etc. (and it would be a good idea to clearly label which is the original photo and which is the final image so that there's no confusion for the judges). There is no need to physically print, frame, or mat the photograph this year.
- **Poster Design**: Even though we are submitting digitally this year, for this event, you will still create your design on an actual 22"x28" poster board and then take pictures of it. You must include at least one picture that shows the entire poster, but you may also include close-ups of certain areas of the poster that you want the judges to notice.
- **Shirt Design**: No additional commentary.

Declamation:

Poetry

Prose

For this year, we are consolidating our usual Poetry/Prose *Memory* and Poetry/Prose *Reading* events into simply “Poetry” and “Prose.” Because there are small differences between the normal rules as posted on the contest website and this year’s rules, refer only to the rules and procedures below:

Entry Limit: 3 contestants per event and level, per school (Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, Advantaged)

Length and Time Limits:

Level 1: 16-24 lines **OR** 1-2 minutes

Level 2: 20-32 lines **OR** 1.5-2.5 minutes

Levels 3, 4, & Advant.: 24-46 lines **OR** 2-3 minutes

The contestant may decide whether to read the text, to recite it from memory, or to use some combination of reading and memory. Typically, though, a well-memorized (or mostly memorized) presentation will come across better than one that relies heavily on reading, and the judging rubric used this year will be based on the normal *Memory* rubric. In essence, the challenge is to present the most dramatic and most entertaining interpretation of the text that you can. The selection must be by a German-speaking author, i.e., originally published in German. It may not be a translation from a non-German speaking author, even if it has been published, but it may be by a non-German who writes in German, e.g., Kishon. The piece may be edited to fit time or line limits (see above). The contestant should provide a dramatic interpretation, but without costumes and props. The contestant may use one chair and may move during the presentation. The title of the selection and the author must be listed along with the name of the student performing it on the alphabetical student list at the time of registration.

Submission process:

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

Drama:

[Duet Acting](#)
[Puppet Show](#)
[Skit](#)

These events will follow the usual rules as posted on the contest website, supplemented by the following procedures. As usual, contestants should fully memorize their parts for [Duet Acting](#) and [Skit](#).

However, for this year only, we will not police whether the contestants have memorized their parts for [Puppet Show](#). Memorized lines will, of course, create a more convincing and entertaining performance, but because the judges will not need to be concerned about checking for hidden scripts, etc., you should feel free to zoom in on the puppets themselves as you make your video, i.e., you do not have to show the (human) contestants in the Puppet Show video at all.

Submission process:

1. Record yourselves performing the selection (or have someone else record you). All performers must be in the same room when the recording is made; you may not, for instance, record from separate locations via Zoom using a split screen. For Duet Acting, don't forget the introduction required by the rules. You may do as many "takes" as you want until you're satisfied with the result, but the submitted recording must be a single continuous unedited take, not a spliced-together compilation of the best parts of multiple takes.
2. Upload the video of your performance to YouTube or Vimeo.
3. Create a single Word document or Google Doc, etc. with **the script of the selection**. If working from a published script, you can cut and paste it if you have access to an electronic version of the piece or simply take a (clear!) picture or pictures of the text if you are working from a hard copy and paste the picture(s) into the document.
4. Include a title page with **your names, your school, the name and level of the event**, e.g., "Duet Acting, Lower Level" or "Skit 3," and **a hyperlink to your YouTube/Vimeo recording**. **If you are concerned about privacy and want to password-protect your video, include the password with the hyperlink in the document.
5. Convert this document to a PDF file and upload it according to the instructions provided. Do NOT upload the video itself; the judges will access your video via the link that you include in the PDF.

Music:

[Chorus](#)

[Classical Ensemble](#)

[Contemporary Music](#)

[Einzelanz](#)

[Folk Dance](#)

[Polka Band](#)

[Vocal Solo](#)

These events will follow the usual rules as posted on the contest website, supplemented by the following procedures.

Submission process:

1. Record yourself/yourself performing the selection(s) (or have someone else record you). You may do as many “takes” as you want until you’re satisfied with the result, but the submitted recording must be a single continuous unedited take, not a spliced-together compilation of the best parts of multiple takes (even for those events such as Folk Dance and Polka Band where you are performing several distinct pieces).
2. Upload the video of your performance to YouTube or Vimeo.
3. Create a single Word document or Google Doc, etc. with **the required documentation** for that event (sheet music, lyrics, dance notes, etc.). If working from hard copies of sheet music, dance notes, etc., simply take a (clear!) picture or pictures of the text and paste the picture(s) into the document.
4. Include a title page with **your name(s), your school, the name of the event, and a hyperlink to your YouTube/Vimeo recording.** **If you are concerned about privacy and want to password-protect your video, include the password with the hyperlink in the document.
5. Convert this document to a PDF file and upload it according to the instructions provided. Do NOT upload the video itself; the judges will access your video via the link that you include in the PDF.

Oral Tests:

With the exception of Oral Presentation, the oral tests will be conducted “live” on contest day via Zoom. These events will follow the usual rules as posted on the contest website, supplemented by the following procedures:

Directed Dialogue: You will join a Zoom meeting at a specified time on the contest date. You will wait in the virtual “waiting room” until admitted by the moderator. The moderator will ask you 5 questions from the question bank that is published on the contest website (2 pre-selected questions that will be asked to every contestant and 3 other randomly selected questions from the bank). The interaction between you and the moderator will be recorded so that the panel of judges can evaluate it later.

Extemporaneous Speaking: You will join a Zoom meeting at a specified time on the contest date. You will wait in the virtual “waiting room” until admitted by the moderator. The moderator will offer you two topics from which to choose (regional) or give you one topic (State) and then send you back into the waiting room for your prep time. The prep time this year may be shorter than the 10 minutes specified in the official rules, but it will be the same for each contestant. Since it will be impossible to monitor whether you are using reference materials during your prep time, we won’t try to police that, and we will also waive the rule that you can’t use the notes you made during your prep time when giving your speech. Your speech will be recorded by the moderator so that the panel of judges can evaluate it later. For the Advantaged level, the time limit will be changed to 3-4 minutes for this year only (it’s normally 3-5 minutes).

Oral Presentation: This event has been designated permanently as a “digital-submission” event. Thus, the rules and procedures posted for it on the contest website need no further elaboration.

Pair Discussion: Both contestants in the pair will join a Zoom meeting at a specified time on the contest date. They will wait in the virtual “waiting room” until admitted by the moderator. The moderator will give them their topic and their 30 seconds of silent “reflection time” and then begin recording their conversation for later evaluation by the judges.

Sight Reading: You will join a Zoom meeting at a specified time on the contest date. You will wait in the virtual “waiting room” until admitted by the moderator. The moderator will display the reading selection by sharing their screen within the Zoom platform. It is strongly recommended that you join the virtual meeting using a desktop or laptop computer or a tablet (rather than a smart phone) so that you will be able to see the reading selection clearly. You’ll be given one minute to read over the selection, and then the moderator will record you reading the selection for two minutes for later evaluation by the judges. Don’t forget to read the title!

Miscellaneous:

Pass auf! This event will be very different from a normal year. Details are still being worked out, but we know this much so far:

- There will be no Novice division this year, only Varsity.
- We will use “Kahoot!” as the delivery platform.
- The questions for this year will not come from our main bank of *Pass auf!* questions. Rather, they will focus on this year’s special topic (The Three Bs of German Classical Music: Bach, Beethoven, and Brahms) and information from the newsletters that have been published by Gail Cope in anticipation of this year’s 40th anniversary of the state contest. (The newsletters will be published on a common site soon for those who may not have originally received them.)
- All contestants signed up for this event will need to be available to join a Zoom meeting for live access to the Kahoot! quiz at 1:00 p.m. on contest day. All contestants from all entering schools will compete simultaneously, i.e., there will not be the usual tournament format of two teams competing against each other at a time.
- Schools may enter between 4 and 7 students. The top 4 scores on the Kahoot! quiz from each school will be added to get the school’s overall score. If 5, 6, or 7 students from a school take the quiz, the 5th-, 6th-, and 7th-best scores will be discarded. If a school has fewer than 4 students take the quiz, the school will be at a distinct disadvantage because they will have fewer than 4 scores going into their total, but they’re welcome to give it their best shot anyway.

Research Paper: This event has been designated permanently as a “digital-submission” event. Thus, the rules and procedures posted for it on the contest website need no further elaboration.

Written Tests:

Timed Writing: This event is normally offered only for levels 1 and 2, but for this year only, it will also be offered for levels 3 and 4. There can be one contestant per level per school. Contestants will receive a prompt (in English, perhaps in German for level 4) and have 15 minutes to handwrite a response (in German). (Under normal contest circumstances, the time limit is 25 minutes, but to streamline things this year, we will reduce that to 15 minutes.) Logistics for this year: You will join a Zoom meeting at a specified time on the contest date. Make sure that you have paper and a black pen. You will need to position your webcam so that the proctors can monitor you as you write and clearly see that you are not using any aids, electronic or otherwise. When the 15 minutes are up, you will use your smart phone to take a picture of your text. The proctors will provide you with the link to a Google Form through which you will upload the picture. This must be completed within 10 minutes of the end of the writing session.