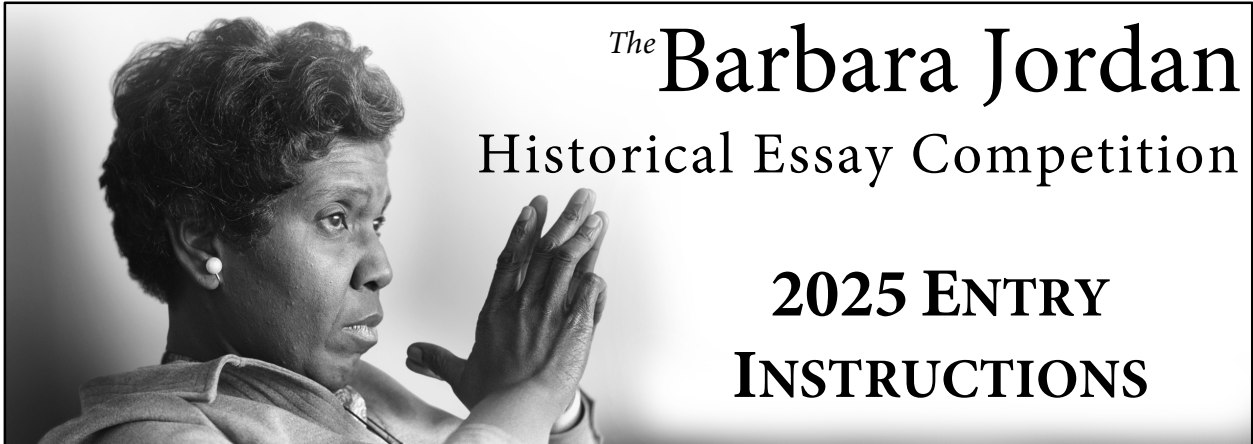




## University Interscholastic League



# The Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition

## 2025 ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS

### *Theme – African Americans in Texas: Past and Present*

#### Choosing Your Topic

- Select a topic that *clearly* fits the theme of the competition. Entries that do not address the theme will not be accepted.
- In considering topics, look to your community first. Talk to parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, family friends, teachers, clergy and other members of your local community.
  - ***The contributions of the person you write about must be far reaching and extend outside of your immediate family and friends.***
- Refer to the UIL website for additional suggestions and guidelines:  
[www.uiltexas.org/academics/essay-contests](http://www.uiltexas.org/academics/essay-contests).

#### Writing Your Essay

- You may receive help and advice from teachers and parents on conducting original research and on the technical aspects of your essay (e.g. typing and formatting).
- Essays **must** be between 1,500 and 2,500 words in length and must be the work of only one student.
- All work **must** be the entrant's own. Plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in disqualification.
- Essays should display **original** research. A focus on interviews and primary source materials is strongly encouraged. **Valid historical research can rarely be done using only Internet resources.**
- Essays **must** be written in research paper format using either MLA or APA guidelines. Refer to the UIL website for links to additional information.
- **Source citations and a complete bibliography are required.** Entries that do not include source citations or a bibliography will not be accepted.
- There is no need to include your name or school name on your paper.

#### Submitting Your Entry

- **The entry deadline is February 12, 2025.** Entries received after the deadline will not be accepted.
- Any student in grades 9-12 who attends a UIL member high school may enter. A student may submit one entry per school year.
- All entries must be submitted through the UIL website. You may find the link to submit your entry on the Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition webpage.
- PDF is the preferred file format for submitting entries. Microsoft Word format is also acceptable.

#### The Judging Process

- Entries that meet the requirements listed above will be entered in the judging process.
- A judge comment form will be returned to each entrant, along with a certificate of participation.
- Judges will be asked to nominate their best essays for consideration as state finalists. A selection committee will select state finalists from the nominated essays.

#### Awards

- All state finalists will be considered for state awards, and will be invited to attend the awards presentation at the Academic State Meet in May.
- All state finalists will be eligible to apply for Texas Interscholastic League Foundation scholarships ([www.tilfoundation.org](http://www.tilfoundation.org)).