

# What are the UIL essay competitions anyway?

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LISA PARKER

ESSAY COMPETITION DIRECTOR



# Before We Get Started

Remember to register your attendance and complete session evaluations.

Session numbers are in your program.



Attendance



Online Handouts



Session Evaluations

# Hello!

Lisa Parker

UIL Academics

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Nice to meet  
you.

WHAT IS YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THE ESSAY CONTESTS?

# Session Overview

- Whole Group Discussion
  - Reasons for entering
- Writing Activity
  - Topic analysis
- Whole Group Discussion
  - Essay guidelines
  - Questions



Why should you enter?

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# Hector P. Garcia

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Mexican-American physician, surgeon, World War II veteran, civil rights advocate, and founder of the American GI Forum

# Dr. Gary Souffrant

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DOCTOR WHO MAKES AN IMPACT  
IN HARLINGEN





# John Mason Brewer

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SCHOLAR AND WRITER





# Bessie Coleman

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FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN  
AND FIRST NATIVE AMERICAN TO  
HOLD A PILOT LICENSE



# Benson Collection

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# Briscoe Center

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# Money, money, money, money (scholarship eligibility)...

2016

- Anthony Garcia Harlingen South HS, \$1000
- Katrina Garcia, Center HS \$1000

2017

- Victoria Baltierra, Mason HS \$1000
- Brianna Miranda, Weslaco HS \$1000

2018

- Imelda Pacheco, Waller HS, \$2500
- Spencer Keith, Kaufman HS \$1000

2019

- Jacob Murphy, Kountze HS \$1000

2021

- Zachary Jones, Lindale HS, \$4000
- Yulissa Rodriguez, Laredo Alexander HS \$1000
- Kelsey Sheets, Gladewater Sabine HS \$4000
- Joshua Smith, Lindale HS \$1000

2022

- Eric Broan, Longview Pine Tree HS
- Diego Cerda, Brownsville IDEA Riverview
- Claire Clark, Andrews HS
- Gavin James, Lindale HS
- Abril Ramirez, Mount Pleasant HS
- Eshal Warsi, Cypress Woods HS

	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	4 <sup>th</sup> Place	5 <sup>th</sup> Place	6 <sup>th</sup> Place
Barbara Jordan	10	8	6	4	2	1
Latino History	10	8	6	4	2	1

Championship Points  
(awarded at State Meet)



# It's All Online

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## Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition

Founded in 1995 as an event sponsored by The University of Texas at Austin, the Barbara Jordan Historical Essay Competition moved to its new home with UIL Academics in 2011-2012. The competition provides students an opportunity to explore the contributions of African Americans to Texas history, as well as honoring the legacy of its namesake, Barbara Jordan.

### Competition Theme

African Americans in Texas: Past and Present

Essays should focus on individuals or groups who are not well-known figures but who have made positive, significant contributions to African American history or culture in Texas. Students should look first to their local communities for possible essay topics.

### Entry Deadline

February 15, 2023

Entries will be submitted electronically. All essays received on or before February 15, 2023, that meet the basic requirements of the competition will be entered for judging.

[ESSAY COMPETITION MAIN PAGE](#)

#### FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

- [BJHEC Entry Instructions](#)
- [BJHEC 2023 Entry Form](#)
- [Essay Evaluation Form](#)
- [Download a promotional flyer](#)

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Biography of Barbara Jordan](#)
- [Packet of 1st Place Essays](#)

## Latino History Essay Competition

Founded in 2011 by the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at UT-Austin, the Latino History Essay Competition has found a new home with UIL Academics beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. In its initial year the competition was open to students in South Texas; beginning with 2012-2013 the competition was opened to students statewide.

### Competition Theme

Historical and cultural legacies of Latinos in Texas history

Essays should focus on a prominent or relatively unknown Latino individual, organization or movement in Texas history. How has the subject of the essay positively and significantly influenced today's Latino communities?

### Entry Deadline

February 15, 2023

Entries will be submitted electronically. All essays received on or before February 15, 2023, that meet the basic requirements of the competition will be entered for judging.

[ESSAY COMPETITION MAIN PAGE](#)

#### FORMS AND DOCUMENTS

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# It's All Online

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# Recap

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- History
- Archives
- Scholarship eligibility
- Championship points
- Online competition

# Barbara Jordan Essay Topic

## African Americans in Texas: Past and Present

Essays should focus on individuals or groups who are not well-known figures but who have made positive, significant contributions to African American history or culture in Texas. Students should look first to their local communities for possible essay topics.

# Latino History Essay topic

Historical and cultural legacies of Latinos in Texas history

Essays should focus on a prominent or relatively unknown Latino individual, organization or movement in Texas history. How has the subject of the essay positively and significantly influenced today's Latino communities?



# Essay Guidelines

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- Essay with a word count between 1,500 and 2,500 words
- Research paper format- MLA format or APA format recommended
- Source citations and bibliography required
- Essays should display original research; use of primary sources and interviews are strongly encouraged.



What  
questions do  
you have?

# Word to the Wise

- Topic selection is crucial
- Choose quality sources
- Follow research paper guidelines
- Proofread your essay

# Essay Evaluation Form

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ENTRY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_



## University Interscholastic League Essay Evaluation Form

**PLEASE RECORD THE ENTRY NUMBER IN THE SPACE ABOVE!**

**Instructions:** Judges evaluate each essay about the following criteria: thesis statement, research, paragraph construction, grammar, and parenthetical citations and bibliography. The sections below are intended for judges to provide brief constructive comments for contestants based on those criteria — strengths of the essay, areas needing improvement, and some suggested ways to improve.

Strengths of the Essay	
<b>Select all that apply:</b>	
Paper effectively addresses the essay prompt	Commentary bolsters key ideas
Thesis statement is effectively proven about far-reaching topic	Paper moves beyond a summary of the subject's life
Purposefully utilizes a variety of sources including primary sources	Contains very few grammatical mistakes
Paper is clear, well organized, and coherent	Parenthetical citations & Works Cited are mostly correct
Concrete details (quotes, paraphrases, summaries) are effectively incorporated	Essay is memorable
	Other _____
<b>Additional comments:</b>	
Areas Needing Improvement	
<b>Select all that apply:</b>	
Thesis statement is unclear and/or weak and/or not proven and/or topic is not far-reaching	Commentary about research is lacking
Paper does not move beyond a biography	Multiple errors exist that hinder understanding
Paper needs more source variety	Awkward sentences and/or word choice
Lack of clarity, organization, and/or coherency	Parenthetical citations and/or Works Cited page is inaccurate or missing
Concrete details are ineffective	Other _____
<b>Additional comments:</b>	
Constructive Comments and Suggestions for the Contestant:	

# Here to help.

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