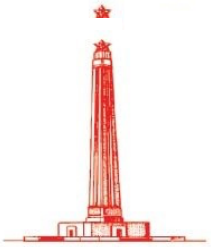
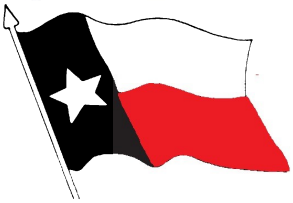
The Sons of the Republic of Texas





TEXAS HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST

SPONSOR: The Sons of the Republic of Texas

ELIGIBILITY:

For Texas residents. all graduating seniors in any: Texas public high school, accredited Texas private or parochial high school, Texas home school, or Texas online high school program qualify to apply in the competition. For non-Texas residents, a graduating senior registered in a non-Texas high school, must be a member or junior member of SRT, or show that a relative is a current active member of The Sons of the Republic of Texas by providing the member's name, relationship, member's affiliated chapter, and membership number.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

The authors of the three essays selected will be the scholarship winners The winners will be recognized by The Sons of the Republic of Texas at the Annual San Jacinto Day Celebration at the San Jacinto Monument, in La Porte, Texas, on April 21st. The winner is strongly recommended to be in attendance to receive their awards at this Historic State Ceremony. The Winning Awards include a framed Certificate, an Engraved Medallion, and a check for the level achieved to be used to attend the college of each winner's choice

FIRST AWARD	**$ 4,000**
SECOND AWARD	**$ 3,000**
THIRD AWARD	**$ 2,000**

ESSAY PURPOSE:

The uniqueness of Texas is recognized around the world. The purpose of the Texas History Essay Contest program is:

(First) To encourage students to explore the pioneer spirit of Texas on the early-day frontier, their methods of accomplishing their goals under very difficult circumstances, and the results of their efforts that we can see today.

(Second) To assist and encourage graduating seniors to pursue their education at an institution of higher learning. It is hoped that the topic chosen will inspire the thinking of our youth, who will assume the responsibility of leadership for the conduct of our affairs on local, state, national and international levels.

TOPIC:

Each year, students are invited to submit essays reflecting their research and study of our Texas History and its relevance to the development of Texas. This year's topic will be:

"The Texas Navy: The Ships, and The Battles"

RULES:

Essays are to be no fewer than 1500 words nor more than 2500 words in length (excluding endnotes and bibliography.) The essay must be computer generated using a normal layout, double spaced, on one side only of 8 ½" x 11" paper. Quotations from other authors and writers are encouraged but must be acknowledged in the bibliography. The preferred format for all essays submitted should be in Microsoft Word.

All entries will be redacted of any personal information, by The Sons of the Republic of Texas before being forwarded to the teams of readers. Each essay entry will be numbered based on the date it was received. The number becomes the identifying name of the essay throughout considerations. All essays will be sent to the judges in a redacted and non-editable PDF to maintain anonymity during the judging period.

1. The submission will require one printed copy of the essay, application, and a flash drive (with the contestant's name affixed) that includes the electronic copy of the essay and application. It is important that the application be filled out completely, including general and academic information.

2. The printed copy of the essay and application will stay at the National SRT office. The flash drive will be used to formulate digital redacted copies to be forwarded to the readers for scoring and evaluation. The top 5 essays are forwarded to Sam Houston State University for final review by a select committee to help determine the top 3 Essay Winners.

3.It is important that the writers use original source materials. The use of internet sources must be expressly noted in the bibliography by listing the internet address. Note: it is understood many original sources are available on the internet. These sources should be given credit in the endnotes and bibliography, research sources may be pamphlets (from historic sites such as the Alamo, the Missions, and Goliad, etc.), interviews with historians, magazines, newspapers and periodical, and online university libraries and museum sources.

4. Write the Essay in "your own words". Submissions using AI to generate the text of the essay will disqualify the entry from the competition.

5. The student must follow the format of the Chicago Manual of Style or Turbian's Manual for Writers. Endnotes should be listed on a separate page(s). All references cited should be listed on separate pages(s).

6. All Essays submitted become the exclusive property of The Sons of the Republic of Texas. Any reproduction will be at the discretion on The Sons of the Republic of Texas.

CRITERIA:

The criteria used by the judges in selecting the winners will be based on a system that accurately scores the essays. These criteria include historical accuracy and content, writing quality (spelling & grammar), research references, bibliography, endnotes and whether the student followed instructions. In the event of a tie, the winners will be determined by a select set of judges who will read the essays.
In the administration of the Texas History Essay Contest, The Sons of the Republic of Texas does not discriminate based on race, religion, gender, color, disability, nationality, of ethnicity.
All submitted entries will be read and graded with total anonymity of the writer.

DEADLINE:
Entries must be postmarked on or before January 31, 2027. A complete submission packet as described in the Rules should be sent to:

The Sons of the Republic of Texas
1717 8th Street
Bay City, Texas. 77414

NOTIFICATIONS:
All essay applicants will receive notification by mail upon the contest conclusion. The top three winners will also receive a phone call. Winners will be invited to the award ceremony on April 21st, 2027, at the San Jacinto Monument, La, Porte, Texas. The ceremony will feature the winners with presentation of awards.

THE SONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

TEXAS HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST APPLICATION

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FOR
ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

_____

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Current Mailing Address:

_____

Street Address City State Zip

Residence Phone#_____; Email address_____

Parent's name, address, phone number (If different from applicant) the winner's check must be made out to the parent.

_____

_____

Out of State Qualifier:

SRT Members Name: _____

Relationship to applicant: _____ _____

Current Active Membership Number. _____Chapter Affiliation _____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION:

High School Name_____

High School Address_____

High School Telephone Number_____

Faculty/Counselor Sponsor_____

Sponsor Telephone Number_____EXT:_____

Academic Grade Point Average_____

Proposed College Major Field of Study_____

Address of College or University attending: _____

TEXAS HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES

TIPS FOR WINNING ESSAYS

1. Set your goal to write a historically accurate essay following the specific instructions provided.
2. Start early and schedule time for search and writing. (September through December)
3. Thoroughly research your topic using books, newspapers, magazines and don't depend on the internet alone. **Only two internet sources are allowed**.
4. Use your library and ask the staff for advice.
5. Visit historic sites in person and interview knowledgeable history professionals. Arrange to take a guided tour of the site.
6. Use a picture to illustrate a point in your essay if appropriate.
7. Use Spell-check and check your grammar, facts, dates, footnotes, and bibliography for accuracy.
8. Properly give credit to your research sources in your notes and bibliography. Essay is checked for plagiarism.
9. Ask your teachers and advisors for suggestions and advice. Rewrite your essay to make your final improvements.
10. Submit your essay well ahead of the required date of January 31st.

EXAMPLE OF ENDNOTES AND BIBLOPGRAPHY TO BE USED AS GUIDE

Please Note: Many authors use multiple sources for a paragraph (see endnote 3 and 4) and place the endnote at the end of the paragraph. You may not use" ibid," with multiple sources. The word "ibid" refers to a single source only; therefore, footnote 6 is correct since footnote 5 has only one source.

USING UNDERLINING:

ENDNOTES:

T. R. Fehrenbach, Lone Star: A History of Texas and Texans (New York: The MacMillan Company, 1968), p. 232.

Walter Prescott Webb and H. Bailey Carroll, eds., the Handbook of Texas, I, (Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1952), pp. 248-249.

T.R.Fehribach. Lone Star, pp.245-246; David M. Vigness, "The Coming of the Anglo-Americans," The Texas Heritage, Ed. By Ben Proctor and Archie P. McDonald (St. Louis: Forum Press, 1980), pp. 20-21; Webb and Carroll. eds., Handbook of Texas, II, pp. 211-213.

Marquis James, The Raven: A Biography of Sam Houston, (Atlanta: Mockingbird Books Inc, 1928), p,91; Vigness, " The Coming of the Anglo-Americans," pp. 23-24

James, The Raven, p.92.

Ibid., p.94

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Fehrenbach, T.R., Lone Star: A History of Texas and Texans, New York: The MacMillan Company, 1968.

James, Marquis: The Raven: A Biography of Sam Houston. Atlanta: Mockingbird Books, Inc., 1929

Vigness, David M. "The Coming of the Anglo-Americans." The Texas Heritage, Ed., by Ben Procter and Archie P. McDonald, St. Louis Forum Press, 1980.

Webb, Walter Prescott, and Carroll, H Bailey, Eds. The Handbook of Texas, 2 vols. Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1952.