

DeutschFest 2012 -- COMPETITION CATEGORIES AND JUDGING CRITERIA



Teachers are encouraged to have at least half of their students who come to DeutschFest participate in one or more performance categories. Students may use notecards as a memory aid, but performances should be learned by heart as much as possible.

PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES

Please try to have half of your students or more do a performance of some kind.

1. Commercials Levels 1, 2, 3+

Presentation of any advertisement which markets things “made in Germany.” The slogans can be real or invented and the product may be displayed in the original or in picture or any other mock-up form. Presentation should reflect something characteristically German and/or have intercultural content. Marketing/ advertising props and techniques such as those used in the various media are permissible. **Individual presentation or groups of two or more students.**

Time limit: 2 minutes

Judging criteria:

- a. Language proficiency (including pronunciation)
- b. Quality of memorization
- d. Cultural content
- c. Originality
- e. Overall effect

2. Grimm for our Times Levels 1, 2, 3+

Enactment of any well-known German fairy tale (Schneewittchen, Tischlein Deck Dich, Rotkäppchen, Dornröschen, etc.) or episode from a fairy tale, applied to modern life or put into a modern setting. Levels I and II may use some English; Levels III and IV, German only. **Presentation in groups of two or more students. Time limit: 6-8 minutes**

Judging criteria:

- a. Language proficiency (including pronunciation)
- b. Quality of memorization
- c. Cultural Content
- d. Creativity
- e. Overall effect

3. Skits Levels 1, 2, 3+

Short humorous episodes with real or imaginary connections to German life. Comical/ satirical events from German political, social and cultural life would be appropriate material for this category. Skits must be invented and are not to be copied from a dramatic source. **Presentation in groups of two or more students. Time limit: 4-6 minutes**

Judging criteria:

- a. Language proficiency (including pronunciation)
- b. Quality of memorization
- c. Originality
- d. Cultural content
- e. Overall effect

4. Drama Levels 1, 2, 3+

Staging of a short one-act play or a scene or excerpt from a play. Material from any period may be used, but must be by a recognized German dramatist. Scenes or excerpts must be cohesive enough to allow for presentation outside the context of the whole play. No major props please. **Presentation in groups of two or more students. Time limit: 6-8 minutes**

Judging criteria:

- a. Pronunciation
- b. Quality of memorization
- c. Expression
- d. Cohesiveness of passage
- e. Overall dramatic effect

5. Recitation Levels 1, 2, 3+

Passage may be either a poem, a dramatic monologue, or a literary prose selection appropriate for oral presentation. Particular attention should be paid to the accurate rendering of the piece and to the reflection of its emotional content. The student must furnish the judge with a copy of the material to be presented. **Individual presentation. Time limit: 2-4 minutes**

Judging criteria:

- a. Pronunciation
- b. Quality of memorization
- c. Expression
- d. Accuracy of memorization

6. Solo Songs Levels 1, 2, 3+

Performance of a "Lied" or song from the German musical tradition. Selection may be from popular, folk, or classical music.

Time limit: 3-5 minutes

Judging criteria:

- a. Clarity of enunciation c. Expression
- b. Quality of memorization d. Musical quality

7. Chorus open category -- mixed levels

Performance of a song from the German musical tradition or from other traditions translated into German. Selection may be of a popular, folk, or “serious” nature. Each performance should involve some singing in harmony. **Performance in groups of four or more students. Time limit: 3-5 minutes**

Judging criteria:

- a. Clarity of enunciation
- b. Quality of memorization
- c. Expression
- d. Musicality

8. Folk Dancing open category -- all levels together

Performance of an authentic German folk dance. Costumes may be worn but are not required. A spokesperson for each group must give a brief presentation in German on such things as the significance of the dance, its salient features, and the region in which it originated. **Performance in groups of four or more students. Time limit: 3-5 minutes**

Judging criteria:

- a. Cultural authenticity
- b. Skill of execution
- c. Informativeness of oral presentation in English or German
- d. Expression of enthusiasm

DISPLAY CATEGORIES

All displays must be constructed so that they can be exhibited on a table in a format not larger than a space of 3 feet x 3 feet. The method of display is included in the judging criteria.

9. Costumes open category -- all levels together

Each costume must authentically represent a region of one of the German-speaking countries. A picture must be supplied to attest to this authenticity. Costumes are to be handmade and must be modeled by the entrant.

Judging criteria:

- a. Authenticity
- b. Skill of workmanship
- c. Informativeness of student commentary -- oral, about 20 words.
- d. Aesthetic appeal
- e. Display format and method

10. Frameable Art Levels 1, 2, 3+

The work may either depict some aspect of German culture (a German landscape, building, cultural event, or portrait) or it may be a copy of a drawing/painting by a well-known German artist. The medium may be water color, oil, charcoal, pencil, "Scherenschnitt," or any other medium not considered "handicraft." All works must carry a descriptive title in German. No photography please.

Judging criteria:

- a. Cultural content -- MUST have something to do with German culture
- b. Skill of workmanship
- c. Artistic merit
- d. Informativeness of student commentary -- written, about 20 words.

11. Models and Sculptures Levels 1, 2, 3+

Models are to be replicas of man-made edifices which once existed or still exist in any of the German-speaking countries. Possibilities include buildings, monuments, vehicles, instruments of some historical or current significance. Work must be original, kits are not permitted. Model may be either an individual or a group project.

Judging criteria:

- a. Cultural authenticity MUST have something to do with German culture
- b. Skill of workmanship
- c. Informativeness of student commentary -- written, about 20 words.
- d. Quality of design

12. Maps **Levels 1, 2, 3+**

Hand-drawn maps of any or all of the German-speaking countries. Design may be topographical, political, cultural (birthplaces of famous Germans, for example), demographic or economic. Maps should be 12” by 15” or larger, on poster board or other firm surface, and multi-colored. Any suitable medium may be used.

Judging criteria:

- a. Geographical accuracy
- b. Accuracy of labeling
- c. Readability
- d. Overall eye-appeal

13. Posters **Levels 1, 2, 3+**

Hand-designed displays of current or historical events in Germany. The poster must carry a political or social message designed to enthuse and stimulate a viewer to thought or action.

Judging criteria:

- a. Clarity of the event
- b. Accuracy of the message
- c. Stimulation to action/thought
- d. Overall eye-appeal

14. Media and Computer Presentations **Levels 1, 2, 3+**

PowerPoint, video, computer or audio presentation of materials created by one or more students for purposes of learning German. The materials must focus on cultural and grammatical aspects of learning German. This section would also include a demonstration of “how to do something” (for example, a presentation of cooking, à la Julia Child). Entries must be emailed or sent to mthamert@csbsjus.edu by March 2, 2012 (one week before DeutschFest on March 9).

Judging criteria:

- a. Cultural authenticity
- b. Grammatical accuracy
- c. Language-learning value
- d. Organization of materials

15. T-Shirts **open category -- all levels together**

Each T-shirt must authentically reflect some aspect of German-speaking countries.

Judging Criteria:

- a. Cultural Content -- MUST have something to do with German culture
- b. Skill of workmanship
- c. Artistic merit
- d. Informativeness of student commentary-- written, about 20 words.

DeutschFest 2012 Awards

For each of the fourteen categories of competition there will be first, second, and third place awards at each level listed. These awards will be presented to the individual winners before an assembly of the participants. Awards will be in the form of medals and/or trophies intended for display in the school; they are intended not just for the individual, but for the German program and the entire school to share in the accomplishments of its students. There will be no cash prizes.

Note: The idea of a state-wide German competition for high school students was brought to Minnesota by Karl Fink of Saint Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota. We are grateful to Professor Fink for setting up the various categories and for leading the first Minnesota Deutsches Fest at Saint Olaf in the early 1980's.

This promises to be an exciting opportunity to celebrate achievement in the study of German in Minnesota. If you have a question or comment, please email at mthamert@csbsju.edu.

See you soon!