

DEMOCRACYWORKS

Texas Only Event

These events are only offered at Texas Thespian Festival and are **not** national qualifying events.

INFORMATION

- **ESSAY:** Select one (1) of the two (2) essay choices below. All essays must be between 500-700 words (this does not include the two short answer questions).
 - Prompt 1: How does theatre support your social and emotional well being and foster a welcoming school environment?
 - Prompt 2: What is your theatre story and how has theatre made a difference in your life?
- **SHORT ANSWER:** Please answer all of the following questions. Answers should be 2-3 sentences each.
 - What is the importance of Theatre in Arts Education?
 - Why do you want to advocate for Theatre Arts Education in Texas?
- The Texas Thespians annual DemocracyWorks Essay Competition is open to all high school theatre students in the State.
- Essay and short answers will be submitted via Submittable.
- Three winners will be announced at closing ceremonies and will be awarded the following:
 - Pin of recognition
 - Cash prize: 1st Place- \$200, 2nd Place- \$150, and 3rd Place- \$100
 - Recognition on the Texas Thespians website and social media
 - Letter to. campus principal and district superintendent
- Essays are protected from the moment they are submitted. By submitting an essay to Texas Thespians, you are agreeing to allow Texas Thespians to possibly publish your essay in print and/or online.



4 (Superior)**3 (Excellent)****2 (Good)****1 (Fair)****STRUCTURE**

The introduction states the goal or thesis, captures attention and provides an overview of the argument; information is presented in a logical order with a strong convincing conclusion.

The introduction states the goal or thesis; information is presented in a logical order with a clear conclusion.

The introduction implies a goal or thesis; most information is presented in a logical order with an attempt at conclusion.

The essay lacks a clear introduction, supporting information and/or clear conclusion.

GRAMMAR, SPELLING & MECHANICS

There are no errors in grammar, mechanics or spelling.

There are minor errors in grammar, mechanics and/or spelling, however they do not detract from the writer's voice.

There are several errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling, however they do not detract from the writer's voice.

There are numerous errors in grammar, mechanics and/or spelling; detracting from the writer's voice.

ADDRESSING THE PROMPT

Essay addresses the prompt with a unique perspective, clear thesis and compelling supporting arguments.

Essay addresses the prompt with a clear thesis and supporting arguments.

Essay somewhat addresses the prompt with a thesis and some supporting arguments.

Essay attempts to address the prompt, however alignment, thesis and/or supporting argument are unclear or ineffective.

OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS

The essay uses the author's personal perspective to make a uniquely persuasive essay advocating for the importance of theatre education.

The essay uses the author's personal perspective to advocate for theatre education.

The essay uses a somewhat personal perspective and refers to the importance of theatre education.

The essay lacks a personal perspective and/or does not align with a larger goal of advocating for theatre education.

SHORT ANSWER

Author provides strong justification in the short answer prompts that thoroughly addresses prompt questions.

Author somewhat provides strong justification in the short answer prompts that Somewhat addresses prompt questions.

Author is lacking strong justification in the short answer prompts that attempts to address prompt questions.

Author did not provide justification in the short answer prompts that does not address prompt questions.

RATINGS**4 - Superior***(Score of 16-14)***3 - Excellent***(Score of 13-10)***2 - Good***(Score of 9-6)***1 - Fair***(Score of 5-4)*