

# Texas Renaissance Festival School Days 2019 Essay Contest Rules and Registration

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## Registration Information

- ❖ Students may enter an original work the 2019 School Days Essay Competition in one of the four following categories based upon their age or grade:
  - **Intermediate** (grades 5-6/ages 10-12)
  - **Middle School** (grades 7-8/ages 12-14)
  - **High School** (grades 9-12/ages 14-18)
- ❖ Entry deadline is **October 15, 2019**. Entry link is at the School Days section of the TRF website: [www.texrenfest.com](http://www.texrenfest.com). Limit one entry per student.
- ❖ All submissions become the property of the Texas Renaissance Festival, Inc., and may be considered for publication in a forthcoming anthology and may appear on the website [www.texrenfest.com](http://www.texrenfest.com) . The Texas Renaissance Festival, Inc. will acquire all copyrights to submitted materials.

## Contest Guidelines

- ❖ Essay Themes and Guidelines

**Intermediate:** An essay of no more than 400 words on one of the following topics:

- ❖ What sort of games and sports were played in the Renaissance period?
- ❖ What are the different types of magical creatures in the mythology of England, Scotland, and Ireland?
- ❖ What sorts of foods were popular? Study both rich and poor.

**MS:** An essay of no more than 800 words on one of the following topics:

- ❖ What are some of the most important inventions of the Renaissance period? How does their invention continue to impact the world today?
- ❖ Discuss the holidays of England, Scotland, and Ireland during the Renaissance period. Which holidays had roots in pagan traditions? Which in religious traditions?

- ❖ Write a biographical essay about King Henry VIII. What was his youth like? His education? What important laws did he make?

**HS:** An informative essay of no more than 1200 words on one of the following topics:

- ❖ How did women contribute to and experience the Renaissance? Did the Renaissance lead to an improvement in women's lives?
- ❖ Discuss music of the Renaissance period. What styles, composers, and instruments were finding influence in the era?
- ❖ Were pirates viewed as 16th century Robin Hoods or barbarians while they were alive?

**Students must cite a minimum of three sources of research on their subject and provide appropriate documentation (MLA or APA).**

- ❖ Essays judges will consist of history and English language educators approved by the Texas Renaissance Festival. All judges' decisions are final.
- ❖ Awards will be given to the first, second and third place finalists in each age category. Awards will be presented to the winners at the Royal Awards Ceremony held at 2:00 at the Sea Devil Tavern.

**NOTE: Commercial photography and filming activities are conducted at the Texas Renaissance Festival. You may appear in the resulting pictures or films that may be used in connection with advertising, news reporting, entertainment or other activities. Entry into the park and/or purchase of an admission ticket constitutes your consent for the Texas Renaissance Festival to use the pictures and films.**