

TEXAS HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES

TIPS FOR WINNING ESSAYS 2023 – 2024

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 BIBLIOGRAPHY 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 Procter 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.