



FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Annual Essay Contest

Prizes awarded:

[for each grade]

1st place: \$250

2nd place: \$150

Prizes
provided by
Friends of
the FBCHC

Entries

Due:

October 31

4th Grade Places Around the “Bend”

Explore the history of one of the following places in Fort Bend County. Essays should include information about when the community was established, where the people that settled there came from, whether it was associated with a particular person, industry or historical event, and why it is named as it is.

- Needville
- Kendleton
- Fulshear
- Missouri City

7th Grade People of Fort Bend

Explore the history of one of the following groups that came to Texas and settled in Fort Bend County. Essays should discuss when that group began to immigrate to Texas, where they settled, why they came here, and how they impacted the history and/or culture of Texas and Fort Bend County.

- African Americans
- Mexican Americans
- Czech Americans
- Chinese Americans



2024 ESSAY CONTEST RULES & RESOURCES

RULES

1. The contest is open to all 4th and 7th grade students that live or attend school in Fort Bend County.
2. Essays should be created using 12 point type in Times New Roman font.
3. Essays should be submitted in pdf format via email to:
HistoricalCommission@fortbendcountytexas.gov
4. Essays must be received by 5:00 pm on October 31, 2024
5. 4th Grade Essays should be between 500 – 750 words (2-3 pages)
6. 7th Grade Essays should be between 750 – 1000 words (3-4 pages)
7. All essays must contain a bibliography with at least 4 references, 2 of which must be primary sources. The Bibliography is not part of the word count.
8. All essays must contain a title page with the name of the student, the title of the essay, and the name of the school, or home address if homeschooled. The title page is not part of the word count. Essays may also contain one page of images, photographs, or original art related to the research topic, including image citations or descriptions.
9. 4th Grade Essay Topic: *Places around the "Bend"* – Explore the history of one of the following places in Fort Bend County: Needville, Fulshear, Kendleton, or Missouri City. Essays should include information about when the community was established, where the people that settled there came from, and why it is named as it is. Students should include specific information related to how life in the earliest days of the community compares to today.
10. 7th Grade Essay Topic: *People of Fort Bend* – Explore the history of one of the following groups that came to Texas and settled in Fort Bend County: African Americans, Mexican Americans, Czech Americans, or Chinese Americans. Essays should discuss when that group began to immigrate to Texas, where they settled, why they came here, and how they impacted the history and/or culture of Texas and Fort Bend County. Students should include specific examples of places, individuals, and events that represent or reflect the heritage of the selected group.

ESSAY CONTEST RESOURCES

The following are some suggested resources for the start of student's research into the topics. It is expected that the student will conduct his/her own independent research beyond these resources. For additional resources, please visit the Genealogy and Local History Department at the George Memorial Library, your local Fort Bend County Library Branch and the Fort Bend County Museum and ask for the resource guides they have put together for the essay topic of your choice.

4TH GRADE ESSAY RESOURCES

Needville

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/needville>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Needville,_Texas

<https://historicalcommission.fortbendcountytexas.gov/Oral-Histories/Delbert-Wendt-Interview.pdf>

<https://historicalcommission.fortbendcountytexas.gov/OralHistories/Kenneth-Bryce-Otto-Interview.pdf>

<https://historicalcommission.fortbendcountytexas.gov/OralHistories/Mary-Agnes-Miksch-Interview.pdf>

Fulshear

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fulshear,_Texas

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/fulsheartx>

<https://www.fulsheartexas.gov/aboutus/history>

<https://historicalcommission.fortbendcountytexas.gov/OralHistories/Zerlean-Silas-James-Viola-Gilmore-Randle-Interview.pdf>

<https://historicalcommission.fortbendcountytexas.gov/OralHistories/Joseph-Renwick-Randon-Interview.pdf>

<https://historicalcommission.fortbendcountytexas.gov/OralHistories/Eugenia-Virginia-Brown-Interview.pdf>

Visit the Fort Bend County Library Fulshear Branch to view the Fulshear history exhibit maintained by the Fulshear History Association

Kendleton

<https://texashighways.com/culture/people/kendletonin-fort-bend-county-honors-its-history-as-a-freedmens-town>

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/freedmenssettlements>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kendleton,_Texas

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/kendletontx>

<https://aaregistry.org/story/kendelton+texas-is-founded/>

<http://absolutelybrazos.com/kendleton-historical-roots-of-fort-bend/>

Visit the Fort Bend County Heritage Unlimited Museum in Bates Allen Park.

4th GRADE ESSAY RESOURCES – continued

Missouri City

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri_City,_Texas

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/missouri-city-tx>

<https://www.chron.com/neighborhood/katy/news/article/36-head-goes-here-6893365.php>

<https://historicalcommission.fortbendcountytexas.gov/Oral-Histories/Frank-John-Ferro-Interview.pdf>

<https://historicalcommission.fortbendcountytexas.gov/Oral-Histories/Allen-Owen-Interview.pdf>

7th GRADE ESSAY RESOURCES

African Americans

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/african-americans>

<https://www.thestoryoftexas.com/discover/campfire-stories/african-americans>

<https://historicalcommission.fortbendcountytexas.gov/Oral-Histories/Joseph-Renwick-Randon-Interview.pdf>

<https://historicalcommission.fortbendcountytexas.gov/Oral-Histories/Zerlean-Silas-James-Viola-Gilmore-Randle-Interview.pdf>

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/fleming-arizona>

Visit the Fort Bend County Heritage Unlimited Museum in Bates Allen Park.

Mexican Americans

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Mexican_Americans_in_Texas

Texas Historical Commission; *Hispanic Texans: Journey From Empire To Democracy*;

<https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/publications/hispanic-heritage-travel-guide-2021.pdf>

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/mexican-americans>

<https://historicalcommission.fortbendcountytexas.gov/Oral-Histories/Julia-Garcia-Moreno-Interview.pdf>

<https://historicalcommission.fortbendcountytexas.gov/Oral-Histories/Lupe-Rodriguez-Cavazos-Interview.pdf>

<https://historicalcommission.fortbendcountytexas.gov/Oral-Histories/George-Morales-Jr-Interview.pdf>

7th GRADE ESSAY RESOURCES - continued

Czech Americans

<https://historicalcommission.fortbendcountytexas.gov/OralHistories/Mary-Jane-Kocurek-Stan-Kubelka-Interview.pdf>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Texans

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/czechs>

Visit the Czech Center Museum in Houston or the Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center in La Grange

Chinese Americans

<https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/chinese>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Chinese_Americans_in_Houston

<https://asiasociety.org/texas/houstons-asian-american-journeys-heaven-chie>

<https://digitalcollections.rice.edu/documents/detail/edwardchen-oral-history-interview/8460>

<https://digitalcollections.rice.edu/documents/detail/alice-chen-oral-history-interview/333135>

The Gee Family of Houston by Laura Gao: <https://adventuresofasia.org/story/b781b58d-8138-458b-9b6b-e6d0cbf3cc7e>