

Writing Task for German I 09-10

People all over the world have holiday traditions that are unique to their culture. In our German class our discussions and readings have given you many insights into how the holiday customs of the Germans differ from those of our own culture.

Writing Task:

- Choose a holiday custom, such as Oktoberfest, Erntedankfest, Tag der deutschen Einheit, Allerheiligen, Nikolaustag, Weihnachten, etc.
- Write a feature article that would be appropriate to publish in *The Cardinal Spirit*, *The Georgetown News Graphic*, or the travel section of other newspapers, in German. You might also write a feature article for a German travel magazine. You may choose from a variety of purposes and audiences; however **the piece must be completed completely in the German language.**

If you make a different choice, but you need to have teacher approval.

Here are a few *possible* options:

- an article for other teens to help them understand that the customs of some of our exchange students may differ from theirs
- an article for people planning a trip to Germany in September to prepare them for the excitement of Oktoberfest
- an article for American families to show them the contrast between the frivolous Halloween celebration in the U.S. and the very serious Allerheiligen (All Saints Day) in Germany
- an article for our SCHS peers comparing Weihnachten (Christmas) customs (throughout the month of December in Germany) with those in the U.S.

You'll first need to identify your target audience and your narrow, focused purpose.

- Decide on the audience by determining who needs, or can use the information you include in the article.
- Decide on your narrow purpose by analyzing the needs for your target audience and deciding what angle you will choose.

These questions will help you choose your angle and narrow focus:

How will they use the information?

Why do they even need the information?

What is going to give them a reason to even read your article?

What kinds of information will they want to know?

What will they do with the information when they finish reading your article?

Here are some tips that will help you write a effective article your audience will want to read:

1. Your opening paragraph should hook your audience by
engage your reader's interest
enticing them to what to keep reading

Make your first sentence powerful.

2. Be sure your opening paragraph establishes the context, situation, or background that your audience will need to understand what perspective you will take.
3. The last sentence of your opening paragraph must establish the purpose of the article. **That purpose should be tied to the audience's need-to-know.**
4. If you include research results in your article, **select** the information you choose to include in your article based on **audience** interest and **need-to-know** (research must be citing in text).
5. Select a unique angle - skip the overdone, boring approach.
6. Remember that your conclusion needs to circle back and echo your purpose. Plus, the conclusion needs to give the reader something to think about when they finish reading your article.