



Voices of the World Cup 2026

Online Commentator Competition

The Goethe-Institut invites high school students to participate in our 2026 Commentator Competition! Soccer thrives on emotions, team spirit, and exciting moments. Nothing is more thrilling than watching an exciting soccer game with friends. But how can you put the atmosphere into words? This competition gives you the chance to commentate on iconic soccer moments and show the world how you experience the beautiful game.

Goal

The aim is to inspire young people to engage with the German language and soccer culture. With the 2026 World Cup as our backdrop, we're using the power of soccer to bring together participating fans and learners alike. The competition celebrates creative and linguistic talent while generating interactive, social media-friendly content that can be shared across platforms worldwide, putting student voices at the center of one of the biggest sporting events on the planet.

Format

Participants choose one of two provided soccer video clips to commentate on. Using the clip as their reference, they then record themselves delivering a short commentary of 30 to 60 seconds in German. The submission should be a video of the participant commentating, not a voiceover of the soccer clip itself, and must be uploaded online in portrait format.

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Eligibility and Participation Requirements

- U.S. high school student (levels A1–C2)
- 30-60 second video submission from one of the two provided videos
- Language: German
- Format: portrait format/vertical
- Participant must confirm the rights for us to use the video (more information below)
- Submission deadline: May 4th, 2026

Evaluation Criteria

Essays will be evaluated by a jury based on the following criteria:

- Linguistic creativity and comprehensibility (5 points)
- Commentary talent (emotion/timing/talent) (5 points)
- Originality (5 points)
- Connection to soccer culture and storytelling (5 points)

Prizes

The top three videos will be awarded following prizes:

- Trip to the the German Day of Soccer event in New York City on June 22nd (travel and accomadation costs covered by Goethe-Institut, program details TBC)
- Soccer fan package

Use of content:

By participating in and submitting a video to **Voices of the World Cup**, participants agree that the Goethe-Institut may use all submitted content for internal and external websites, social media channels, and related materials, including recap reels, World Cup 2026 campaigns, and teaching resources for German learners.

Questions? Contact: teacherservice-usa@goethe.de

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