

TEXAS FOREIGN LANGUAGES SYMPOSIUM

I. General Information

A. Entry Fee

Entry fee is \$6.00 per student (not per event).

B. Enrollment

1. Students grades nine to twelve are eligible to participate in the symposium.
2. Students must be currently enrolled in a course in the school in the language in which they are competing.
3. Students must compete on their level of study or higher.

C. Membership Dues

Each teacher who participates must send membership dues of \$20.00 along with the membership form by December 15th.

No late membership enrollments are accepted.

D. Judges

1. Participating teachers are expected to serve as judges or monitors.
2. Each teacher should provide at least two additional qualified adult judges.
3. If necessary, teachers who are unable to provide additional judges may be required to provide monetary funding to pay extra judges hired by the university.

E. Luncheon

The NET OLÉ business meeting is conducted during the teachers' luncheon. All NET OLÉ members are encouraged to attend.

F. Student Behavior

1. Students are to use the stairs unless physically challenged.
2. Food should remain in appropriate lounge areas only.
3. Students should be quiet and orderly in contest areas.
4. Students must make sure that they clean up after themselves.
5. Students should cooperate with all adults instantly.
6. Student attire and demeanor should reflect high school policies.

G. Levels of Competition

1. All Languages.

Students must be registered for the appropriated level of study. Students may not compete below their current level of study.

Levels of competition: **Beginner-** first year of study
 Intermediate- second year of study

Advanced- third and fourth year of study
Advantaged- fifth year and up/ prior or additional experience outside of classroom

2. Spanish Only

Advantaged Competition (5th/6th year and Advantaged Speakers)

- a. An **advantaged speaker** is defined as having **any** experience in the target language outside of the classroom with the exception of trips of less than a month's duration to countries where the target language is spoken.
- b. A **bilingual speaker** is defined as anyone who is equally proficient in English and the target language.
- c. A **heritage speaker** is defined as someone who was born and educated in a country where the target language is spoken by caretakers.
- d. Material for these students will be selected by contest directors. Events will be scheduled for 5th/6th year Advantaged and Bilingual/Heritage **only if requested by three or more schools.**

H. Ratings Sheets

1. All competitors should submit two (2) copies of ratings sheets to the judges.
2. Ratings sheets should be completely filled out with the student's name and school number prior to arrival. Ratings sheets will not be provided at the competition.
3. The school name should NOT appear on the ratings sheets or on other performance materials.
4. Students without ratings sheets will not be allowed to compete.

I. Materials

1. Materials for all languages are available online.
2. Copies of materials for memorized poetry, memorized prose, and sight-reading poetry will be provided for the judges.
3. Competitor in prepared speech, drama, and vocal must submit TWO (2) copies of their material to the judges with their names and school numbers written on the material.

J. Nametags

1. Participating students must wear a nametag with name and school number at all times, except **when in costume** for a performance competition.
2. In all non-costumed events, students without a nametag will not be allowed to compete.
3. Teachers should provide nametags that include the student's name and school number.

1. **French - Blue**
2. **German - Red**
3. **Spanish - Green**

K. Trophies

1. There will be no awards ceremony.
2. **All** awards will be available at the rules committee meeting to be held within ten days of the symposium. Each school should send one representative to participate in the meeting and to pick up the awards. Schools that are not represented at the meeting will be responsible for picking up their students' awards from the main office in the Hall of Languages.

II. Event Rules

A. Entry Limits

1. Most Academic Events: 2 entries per level per language per school
2. Drama and Spelling Bee: 1 entry per level per language per school
3. Dance and Vocal: 2 entries per language per school
4. Food: 1 entry per category per language per school, but no more than 3 per language per school

B. Judging Criteria

1. The judges' decisions are final and may not be challenged.
2. Judging criteria will be based on meritorious performance with awards given on that basis when standards are met. For example, a category in which only one student enters might be awarded an honorable mention rather than a first place if the performance is not meritorious.
3. See individual ranking sheets for specific point values.
4. The judges carry out their responsibilities in good faith and should be respected.
5. Challenging a judge's decision, berating a judge, or impugning his/her honesty and impartiality is considered unprofessional and may result in a school's being excluded from future competition.

C. Academic Events

1. Spelling Bee (available on all levels)
 - a. The competition will be oral and in the target language, including diacritical markings (accent marks and dieresis).
 - b. Each school is limited to one entry per level per language.
 - c. Words will be taken from the appropriate level of state-adopted textbooks.
 - d. Before the session begins, judges should pronounce the alphabet and answer any questions.
 - e. Each student should be allowed to spell one practice word in warm-up as an opportunity to relax and gain test awareness.
 - f. One judge, preferably the native speaker, should act as a pronouncer. The other should record the spelling of the word.
 - g. The student may request that the second judge pronounce the word if there are problems with comprehension.

- h. As each student misses a word, he/she is excused until only six are left.
- i. If necessary, after each remaining competitor has spelled three words correctly, judges will refer to a list of tie-breakers which the students have not seen.
- j. Two copies of ratings sheets should be presented to judges prior to the competition.

2. Drama (available on all levels)

- a. Drama is limited to ten (10) minutes, **including** setup and exit. Entries exceeding this time limit will be disqualified.
- b. Memorization of lines is required. Using scripts or prompts will result in disqualification.
- c. Only one entry per level per language will be allowed.
- d. Two copies of the script should be presented to the judges.
- e. Two copies of ratings sheets should be presented to the judges.
- f. The monitor should ask each group if it is ready, say, "Begin," and start timing at that point.
- g. 5th/6th year students and Advantaged students may work together in a drama. In the case of a single student enrolled in 5th/6th year, or a single advantaged student, he/she may participate in advanced level drama.
- h. All sound effects and musical accompaniment must be taped or furnished by the competing school.
- i. Judging criteria are: Pronunciation/enunciation, intonation, audibility, characterizations, staging (costumes and props), memorization, and appropriateness to level.
- j. Audiences are allowed, but must remain quiet and should not enter or exit during a drama.
- k. All props and other competition material must be completed before arrival at TAMU-C. No painting is allowed on the TAMU-C campus.
- l. Props are restricted to designated areas. Do not store them at other locations on campus.
- m. Students may remove their nametags while in costume.

3. Memorized Prose and Poetry (available on all levels)

- a. Students must choose one of the pre-approved selections.
- b. Copies of selections will be provided to judges by the contest directors.
- c. Each school is limited to two entries per level per language in each event.
- d. Judging criteria are: pronunciation, intonation, movements and gestures, interpretation, comprehension of material, and projection of voice.
- e. The poem and prose **MUST** be memorized. Failure to memorize will result in disqualification.
- f. Audiences are not allowed.
- g. Contestants will be admitted into the room one at a time.

4. Sight-reading Poetry (available on all levels)

- a. Each school is limited to two entries per level per language.
- b. Students will be given a selection and allowed three minutes to study it before recitation.
- c. Dictionaries are not allowed.
- d. Judging criteria are: pronunciation, interpretation, and projection of voice.
- e. A teacher/sponsor should be present inside the room to monitor students' preparation time.
- f. Students studying should have different selections from those reading for the judges.
- g. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the monitor if he/she has prior knowledge of the selection he/she has been given.

5. Verbal Fluency (available on Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced)

- a. Each school is limited to two entries per level per language.
- b. Beginning students will converse with a judge for 1-2 minutes.
- c. Intermediate students will converse for 2-3 minutes.
- d. Advanced students will converse for 3-4 minutes.
- e. Judging criteria are: comprehension, correct vocabulary, pronunciation, correct grammar, and response without undue hesitation.
- f. Judges should speak with students one at a time, using the sample questions provided in the packet as a starting point.

6. Prepared Speech (available for all levels)

- a. Topics are to be selected from the official list.
- b. Schools are limited to two entries per level per language.
- c. Speeches should not include any identifying characteristics (school, town, teacher's name).
- d. Speeches must be written by the student in the target language.
- e. Teachers may assist the student by pointing out grammatical errors.
- f. Speeches should be level-appropriate.
- g. **The speech must be memorized.** Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- h. Student must submit two typed or clearly written copies of the speech to the judges.
- i. The student should be prepared to answer three or four questions about his speech in the target language at the judge's discretion.
- j. Judging criteria are: pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar that is both correct and level-appropriate, comprehension, intonation, and memorization.
- k. Speeches are limited to three (3) minutes in length.

7. Reading Comprehension Tests (available on all levels)

- a. Schools are limited to two entries per level per language.

- b. Students will read a short selection in the target language and answer 10-15 questions.
- c. There will be a thirty-minute time limit.
- d. Judging criterion is number of correct answers.
First place: 10 correct, superior
Second place: 8 or 9 correct, excellent
Third place: 6 or 7 correct, good
- e. An unlimited number of ties will be allowed.
- f. This event is excluded from calculation of sweepstakes.
- g. Students who are not present at the beginning of the time period will not be allowed to compete.

8. Scholarship Exam (available to juniors and seniors only)

The **Spanish Scholarship Exam** is available to heritage and non-heritage speakers of Spanish. Two separate exams will be administered and two scholarships will be awarded.

The **Spanish Scholarship Exam** is proctored and reviewed by Texas A&M University- Commerce faculty for **identification of student placement in Spanish classes at the Texas A&M University- Commerce campus**. Students may, with an appropriate score, place out of up to 3 classes at the Texas A&M University- Commerce campus. (4 semesters of placement may be awarded based upon how the individual student does on an optional composition.

Winning Scholarship exam recipients also receive a **matching monetary award** from the Texas A&M University- Commerce scholarship fund. Placement and matching award is applicable **only at the Texas A&M University- Commerce campus** and is not transferable to any other institution of higher learning.

- a. First year students are not allowed to compete in the scholarship exam.
- b. A student may take the exam only one time in his/her high school career.
- c. Scholarships will be awarded to the winners upon high school graduation.
- d. One test will be given regardless of the level of the students taking it.
- e. Students will have one hour to complete the test.
- f. Students must provide an official letter signed by the high school counselor and foreign language teacher verifying level of study and enrollment.
- g. One scholarship of \$500 will be awarded in each language and one scholarship will be awarded to the bilingual/ heritage Spanish speaker winner. Winners will receive a letter of notification of winning from the NET-OLÉ treasurer.
- h. To claim the scholarship, students must inform NET-OLÉ treasurer (see address below) of expected dates of university enrollment by June 1 of this year.

- i. To receive the scholarship, students must provide proof of paid enrollment and copy of the letter of notification of winning to NET-OLÉ treasurer:

**NET-OLÉ
Dr. Philippe Seminet
Department of Literature and Languages
Texas A&M University- Commerce
P.O. Box 3011
Commerce, TX 75429-3011**

- j. This even is excluded from calculation of sweepstakes.

9. Essays (Bilingual/Heritage speakers only)

- a. Each school is limited to two entries per teacher per language.
- b. Essays must be written by the student with no help from teachers.
- c. Essays should be typed: triple-spaced with 1 ½ inch margins.
- d. Essays should be no more than 3 pages in length.
- e. Essays must be mailed to the Spanish Contest Directors by April 1. No late entries will be accepted.

**NET-OLÉ Contest Directors
Dr. Inma Lyons
Department of Literature and Languages
Texas A&M University- Commerce
P.O. Box 3011
Commerce, TX 75429-3011**

- f. Topic: Piense en un problema ecológico que le preocupe. Puede ser nacional o local. ¿Cómo podría solucionarse/mejorarse? Tome una posición al respecto y defiéndala con detalles y ejemplos.
- g. Judging criteria are: form, content, and mechanics (see ratings sheet for specifics).

D. Cultural Events (open enrollment)

1. Dance

Spanish dance is divided into two categories: **regional/folklorico** and **ballroom** (Salsa, Merengue, Cumbia, Tango, Cha-Cha, Mambo, and Samba). Dances must be authentic, not interpretive.

- a. Schools are limited to two entries per language.
- b. Two copies of material must be submitted to judges.
- c. **A CD/Cassette tape player will be provided at the contest site.** No piano will be available.

- d. Performances are open to the public. Audience members should not enter or exit during a performance and should remain quiet.
- e. Performances are limited to four minutes **including** setup and exit.
- f. Judging criteria are: skill/mastery, costuming, reflection of culture, general effect, and introduction.

2. Vocal

- a. Schools are limited to two entries per language.
- b. **A CD/Cassette tape player will be available at the contest site.** No piano will be available.
- c. Musical performances will be open to the public. Audience members should remain quiet and should not enter or exit during a performance.
- d. Lyrics must be memorized. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- e. Two copies of the material to be performed should be presented to the judges including the lyrics to the music.
- f. Winners will receive academic points.
- g. Performances may not exceed 4 minutes from setup to exit. Entries exceeding this time limit will be disqualified.
- h. Judging criteria are: pronunciation, interpretation, memorization, tone, general effect, and introduction.
- i. Heritage speakers of Spanish will be judged separately from non-heritage speakers.

3. Food

- a. Schools are permitted to enter up to three entries per language. However, no school may present more than one entry in a single category.
- b. Categories include: entrées, hors d'oeuvres, salads, and desserts.
- c. All entries must be labeled with student name, school number, and category.
- d. A recipe on a 5 X 8 card must accompany the entry. **RECIPE CARD MUST INCLUDE REGION OF ORIGIN** (recipe must be authentic, not Americanized). To authenticate recipe, provide web site address or title of book from which recipe was taken.
- e. The card must bear a colored stripe to signify the category of the entry as follows:

Hors d'oeuvres: blue

Salad: red

Entrée: green

Dessert: pink

Entries which do not bear the required colored stripe may be disqualified at the discretion of the judges.

- i. Entries should be displayed in disposable containers, but will not be disqualified by this factor.
- ii. Entries will be given away after the judging.

- iii. All foods and containers will be disposed of at the end of the competition.
- iv. Judging criteria are: taste, color, texture, aroma, garnishment, and complexity of preparation.

E. Awards

1. Academic Events

- a. 1st place will receive a medal.
- b. 2nd place will receive a red rosette.
- c. 3rd -6th places will receive ribbons.
- d. 7th-8th places will receive ribbons- Spanish contests only.

2. Drama

- a. 1st place will receive a trophy and individual blue rosettes.
- b. 2nd place will receive red rosettes.
- c. 3rd-6th places will receive ribbons.

3. Reading Comprehension

- a. 10 correct questions will receive a “Superior” ribbon.
- b. 8-9 correct questions will receive an “Excellent” ribbon.
- c. 6-7 correct questions will receive a “Good” ribbon.
- d. There will be an unlimited number of these awards.

4. Cultural Events

1st-4th places will receive ribbons.

5. Overall Awards

- a. **High Point**- this award is presented to the school receiving the highest number of points in each language.
- b. **Excellence Awards**
 - i. One Excellence Award will be presented in each language.
 - ii. Calculation: total points divided by enrollment.
 - iii. This formula allows smaller schools to compete more fairly with larger ones.
 - iv. Scholarship exam and reading comprehension are excluded from sweepstakes calculation.
 - v. Schools which fail to provide enrollment figures will not be eligible for this award.
- c. **Sweepstakes**
 - i. One Sweepstakes Award will be presented to the top school of the Symposium.

ii. Calculation: total number of points, divided by number of languages taught at the school.

iii. POINT VALUES:

Academic Events

1st: 30 points

2nd: 25 points

3rd: 20 points

4th: 15 points

5th: 10 points

6th: 5 points

Drama

1st: 40 points

2nd: 35 points

3rd: 20 points

4th: 15 points

5th: 10 points

6th: 5 points

Cultural Events

1st: 20 points

2nd: 15 points

3rd: 10 points

4th: 5 points