



COSTUMES

University of Memphis Language Fair 2026

GUIDELINES

- Participants will wear a costume interpreting an aspect of the target culture. Homemade costumes are given preference. Costumes must be appropriate to the language or culture currently studied by the student.
- The student must deliver a short explanation of the costume in English. The oral presentation should be no more than three minutes.
- On the day of the Fair, students will sign up for the order in which they will present at the room for the event. The student will also pick up a judging sheet at registration. The student must complete the top part of the form and give it to a judge of the competition before the competition begins. The judge(s) will use the form to judge the students as they perform.
- Students present in the order following the sign-up list, unless otherwise stated by the judge(s) of the competition.
- No more than **three** entries per class.
- Foreign language students, native and heritage speakers/learners, and speakers of cognate languages are welcome to participate in this event.

JUDGING

CRITERIA	OUTSTANDING (4)	NOTEWORTHY (3)	FAIR (2)	POOR (1)
Visual Impact	The unique costume is striking and memorable . It has the power to “ wow ” the viewer. The student has made substantial effort in making or improving the costume.	The costume is cohesive . It has a lasting impact on the viewer. The student has made thoughtful effort in making or improving the costume.	The costume is adequate . It holds the viewer’s attention. The student has made some effort in making or improving the costume.	The costume is inadequate . There is little or no impact on the viewer. The student has made little/no effort in making or improving the costume.
Interpretation	The design shows unique (“outside of the box”) and creative interpretation with great attention to detail.	The design shows creative interpretation with attention to detail.	The design shows an attempt at creativity with some attention to detail.	The design is not creative and shows no attention to detail.
Cultural Relevance	Represents a specific cultural aspect of a linguistic community of the target language without relying on stereotypes	Represents a general cultural aspect of a linguistic community of the target language without relying on stereotypes	Represents a cultural aspect of a linguistic community of the target language, but might rely on a stereotype	Little to no relevance to the linguistic community of the target language
Introduction	Student provides outstanding explanation of the selection within the appropriate time allotted	Student provides adequate explanation of the selection within the appropriate time allotted	Student provides a somewhat inadequate explanation of the selection and/or within the time allotted.	Student provides an inadequate explanation of the selection and/or within the time allotted.

Judges will also determine whether the **costume** has real learning value for the competitor in the event of a tie.

If teachers have any doubts about the appropriateness of a **costume**, please visit www.memphis.edu/fair/ or contact flfair@memphis.edu.