

DANCE – HISPANIC

University of Memphis Language Fair 2026

i GUIDELINES

- This competition is for dances originating in Spanish-speaking regions.
- Dance groups must have a minimum of two participants.
- Maximum of three groups per class
- The time limit, including the introduction, is 10 minutes. **Only one rhythm per performance.**
- **Participants must provide their own equipment.** Speakers, pianos, etc. will not be provided.
- Dances must be appropriate to the language or culture studied and must be introduced by a short explanation as to the period, style, country, etc., delivered in English.
- The performance should be inspired by authentic variations of music, dance patterns, and dress. Costumes should correspond to the culture from which the music is derived. Again, **only one rhythm is allowed per performance.** For example, “salsa” or “bachata”, but **not** a combined performance with multiple dance styles/rhythms.
- Music selection and lyrics, costumes, and dance should be appropriate for an academic setting.
- On the day of the Fair, one student from each group will sign up for the order in which they will present at the room of 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.
- World language students, native/heritage speakers, and speakers of cognate languages are welcome to participate in this event.

i JUDGING

CRITERIA	OUTSTANDING (4)	NOTEWORTHY (3)	FAIR (2)	POOR (1)
Cultural Relevance	Represents traditional dance from a specific region where the target language is spoken	Represents traditional dance from a general region where the target language is spoken	Represents dance from the global linguistic community of the target language	Little to no relevance to the linguistic community of the target language
Complexity, Difficulty, and Execution	The dance included smooth and natural movements; fully synchronized ; no apparent errors	The dance included smooth and natural movements; mostly synchronized ; minor apparent errors	The dance included does not hold the viewer's attention; adequate ; apparent errors	The dance is inadequate ; not synchronized; many apparent errors
	OUTSTANDING (2)	NOTEWORTHY (1.5)	FAIR (1)	POOR (.5)
Style / Showmanship	The unique dance is striking and memorable . It has the power to “ wow ” the viewer; The costume is culturally relevant and enhances the performance.	The dance is cohesive . It has a lasting impact on the viewer; The costume is culturally relevant.	The dance is adequate . It holds the viewer's attention; The costume is somewhat relevant.	The dance is inadequate . There is little or no impact on the viewer; No costume
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.

If teachers have any questions about the **dance** categories, please visit www.memphis.edu/fair/ or contact flfair@memphis.edu.

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