

TEXAS FOREIGN LANGUAGES SYMPOSIUM

Information and Event Rules

(last modified 2/13/2023)

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Eligibility: All contestants must be enrolled in a teacher-instructed Spanish class for the current year. All contestants' teachers **MUST BE A CURRENT MEMBERS** of NETOLE.

1. Entry Fee

Entry fee is \$6.00 (non-refundable) per student (not per event) and should be submitted along with the enrollment form by the enrollment deadline of **March 10th**. A school purchase order sent by the deadline is acceptable, if payment is to be sent by the school district.

2. Enrollment

- a. Enrollment is **by school**, not by teacher, but **ALL teachers whose students compete MUST BE MEMBERS of NETOLE**. Public middle schools may participate with the feeder high schools in their district in all NET- OLE languages. No more than two entries will be allowed per *event* per *district*. Therefore, middle schools will not be considered independent from the high schools in their district in the NET- OLE competition.
- b. High schools within a district must compete as separate entities and **MAY NOT** join together as a single competing school.
- c. Students in private schools, grades seven to twelve, are eligible to participate in French **ONLY**.
- d. Students must be currently enrolled in a teacher-instructed course in the school in the language in which they are competing. Students completing their language requirement through computer programs **ONLY** are **NOT ELIGIBLE** to compete.
- e. Students must compete on their level of study or higher. Students competing at a higher level should do so in the following manner:
 - BEGINNER compete at INTERMEDIATE;
 - INTERMEDIATE compete at ADVANCED;
 - ADVANCED and ADVANTAGED A compete at ADVANTAGED B;
 - ADVANTAGED B and BILINGUAL A compete at BILINGUAL B.
- f. **TEACHERS MUST BE MEMBERS FOR THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR FOR THEIR STUDENTS TO BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE.**

3. Membership Dues

Each teacher who participates must send membership dues of \$25.00 along with the membership form by **November 11th** of each year. *No late membership will be accepted after December 15th.* **Directors MAY make exceptions AT THEIR DISCRETION.**

PAYMENT OF DUES HAS BEEN SUSPENDED FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR.

4. Judges

- a. Participating teachers are expected to serve as judges or monitors.
- b. Each teacher should provide **at least two additional qualified adult judges.**

5. Lunch

Teachers and judges will receive a food voucher for the Food Court located downstairs in the SRSC (Sam Rayburn Student Center). It is good for anything and everything you can eat within the Food Court, or you may ask for a take-out box and cup. Students and other accompanying schools (bus drivers, aides, etc.) must pay for their own for lunch.

6. Student Behavior

- a. Students when not competing should remain on the first floor until the time of their competition and return to the first floor after they've finished competing.
- b. Students are to use the stairs unless physically challenged.
- c. **ALL Food or drink should remain downstairs.**
- d. Students **MUST** be quiet and orderly in contest areas.
- e. Students/competing schools are responsible for cleaning up after themselves.
- f. Students should cooperate with adults instantly. Failure to do so will result in the student's name badge being taken by the adult, thus removing them from being able to compete, and their behavior will be reported to their teacher.
- g. Student attire and demeanor should reflect their school and district policies, but **may not contain any reference to the school, identifiable groups or the town name. This will result in disqualification.**

7. Levels of Competition

It is the teacher's responsibility to correctly determine the competition level for each student. If placement is in question or difficult to decide, the teacher should consult with the TFLS directors.

All Languages

- a. Students must register for the appropriate level of for each contest.
- b. Students may not compete below their current level of study. (See above guidelines for computing higher than their level of study)
- c. Levels of competition:
 - a. **Beginner:** first year of study (Spanish 1 or French 1)
 - b. **Intermediate:** second year of study (Spanish 2 or French 2)
 - c. **Advanced:** third & fourth year of study (Spanish 3 and 4 or French 3 and 4)
 - d. **Advantaged:** Spanish 1 - 4 with outside of classroom language experience AND ALL STUDENTS STUDYING A 5TH YEAR OR HIGHER OF SPANISH
 - e. **Bilingual/Heritage:** Spanish 1- 5 or higher with proficiency in both English and Spanish

Spanish Only

- a. An **advantaged speaker** is defined as someone having experience in the target language outside of the classroom with the exception of brief vacation focused trips.
- b. A **bilingual speaker** is defined as anyone who is proficient in English and the target language.
- c. A **heritage speaker** is defined as someone proficient in the target language who was born and educated in a country where the target language is spoken by caretakers.

8. Rating Sheets

- a. All competitors should submit **two (2) copies of current year rating sheets** to the judges. (exceptions: Only one rating sheet is need for the Spelling events and the Scholarship Exam.)
- b. Rating sheets **must be completely filled** out or students may be disqualified prior to event.
- c. Assigned school number should be included on all rating sheets. **School numbers are provided to teachers prior to the competition.** The school name **MUST NOT** appear on the rating sheets or on other performance materials or the student(s) will be disqualified.
- d. Rating sheets will not be provided at the competition. Students without rating sheets will not be allowed to compete.
- e. Handwriting must be legible on rating sheets or competitors may be disqualified.
- f. Correct rating sheets for the event should be used. Please, do not edit a rating sheet for use for a different event as each rating sheet is event specific.

9. Materials

- a. Materials for all languages are available online at **netole.org**.

- b. Copies of materials for memorized poetry, memorized prose, and sight-reading poetry will be provided to the judges. Competing students will not have to provide these.
- c. Competitors in prepared speech, drama, and vocal music events must submit two (2) copies of their material to the judges with their names and school numbers written on the material.
- d. Handwriting must be legible on all materials submitted to judges or disqualification will occur.

10. Nametags

- a. Participating students **must wear a nametag with name and school number at all times**, except when in costume for a performance (drama, dance, vocal).
- b. In all non-costumed events, students without a nametag will not be allowed to compete.
- c. Teachers will provide nametags that include the student's name and school number **ONLY**.
 - 1) French – Blue
 - 2) Spanish –Red

11. Trophies

All awards will be available at the Rules Committee Meeting to be held within ten school days of the Symposium, when possible. Each school should send a representative to participate in the meeting and to pick up rating sheets and awards. Schools that are not represented at the meeting will be responsible for arranging to have their rating sheets and awards mailed to them or must arrange picking them up at the directors' convenience.

Disqualification Notice:

Individual students may be disqualified for...

- using copies of materials for events requiring memorization
- competing at the wrong level of competition
- not providing rating sheets or additional materials required for an event
- wearing any noticeable identification of school, school related organization or town
- behavior that results in badges being confiscated

Teachers/Schools may be disqualified for...

- non-compliance with expectations of the competition
- non-payment of membership and/or student fees

Disqualified students/teachers/schools will be notified of their disqualifications...

II. Event Rules

A. Entry Limits

All entries are PER SCHOOL with the exception of the Spanish Essay.

1. **Academic Events:** 2 entries per level per language
2. **Drama and Instructional Video:** 1 entry **per level per language**
3. **Craft:**
 - a. Spanish: 1 entry per category
 - b. French: THERE WILL NOT BE A FRENCH COMPETITION FOR 2023.
4. **Dance:**
 - a. Spanish: 2 entries TOTAL
 - b. French: THERE WILL NOT BE A FRENCH COMPETITION FOR 2023.

5. **Food:** THIS CONTEST HAS BEEN REMOVED FOR THE 2023 AND FUTURE COMPETITIONS.
6. **Exceeding the entry limit in an event will disqualify all of the competitors for that event from that 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. A grade of "incomplete" may be given to a student if the score is less than "70". A grade below "70" will not be awarded 1st - 5th places.
3. See individual rating 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 competitions.
6. Judges will verify eligibility of rating sheets. If rating sheets are not legible, students will be disqualified.
7. Students will be disqualified if rating sheets are not filled out properly and completely including title of selection.

C. Academic Events

1. Spelling (available on all levels)

- a. The competition will be written and in the target language.
- b. Each school is limited to **two entries per level per language**.
- c. Words will be taken from the appropriate level of state-adopted textbooks or other authentic language sources.
- d. Instructions and words will be given by the teacher and judges will monitor throughout the entire 30-word session.
- e. The judges pick up the pencils, rating sheet, and cover sheet, and then dismiss students.
- f. Judges will grade the rating sheets as a standard spelling test. The student with the fewest errors will receive 1st place.
- g. Additional words may be given and will serve, when necessary, to break ties between two or more contestants.

2. Drama (available on all levels)

- a. Drama is limited to ten (10) minutes, including setup and exit.
- b. Memorization of the 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 rating 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. All sound effects and musical accompaniment must be furnished by the competing school.
- h. Judging criteria are: pronunciation/ enunciation, intonation, audibility, characterizations, staging (costumes and props), memorization, and level of difficulty.
- i. Audiences are allowed, but must remain quiet and should not enter or exit during a drama.
- j. All props and other competition material must be completed before arrival at A&M-Commerce. No painting is allowed on university premises.
- k. Props are restricted to designated areas. Do not store them at other locations on campus.
- l. Students may remove their nametags while in costume.

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

- a. Students must choose one of the designated selections available on the website for the current year's symposium.
- b. Copies of selections will be provided to judges by the contest directors. **INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS/TEACHERS WILL NOT NEED TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THESE SELECTIONS.**
- 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 or prose selection **MUST** be memorized.
- 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, electronic devices or any outside assistance are not allowed. (Please make sure that students do NOT bring electronic devices with them...cell phones, smart watches, etc...to use in translating materials. **ANYONE ATTEMPTING TO DO SO WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**)
- d. Judging criteria are: pronunciation, interpretation, and projection of voice.
- e. A monitor will be present to time the student's preparation of the selection.
- f. Students studying should have different selections from those reading for the judge.
- g. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the monitor if he/she has prior knowledge of the selection he/she has given.

5. Verbal Fluency (available on all levels)

- 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. Advantaged and Bilingual students will converse for 4-5 minutes.
- f. Judging criteria are: comprehension, correct vocabulary, pronunciation, correct grammar, and response without undue hesitation.
- g. 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.
- 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/ her 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)-FRENCH ONLY

THERE WILL NOT BE A FRENCH COMPETITION FOR 2023.

8. Scholarship Exam (available to Juniors and Seniors only)

STATUS FOR THIS CONTESTS WILL BE UPDATED ONCE CONFIRMATION IS RECEIVED FROM THE UNIVERSITY.

9. Essays (Bilingual/ Heritage speakers only)

- a. Each school is limited to two entries per teacher per language.
- b. Essays must be entirely written by the student with no help from teachers, translating devices, applications or websites.
- c. Essays should be typed: double-spaced with 1-inch margins.
- d. Essays should be no longer than three pages in length.
- e. A header should include the student's name and school number.
- f. Essays should e-mailed **IN PDF FORMAT** (to ensure that essay can be opened on any computer) to the Spanish Contest Directors (Cheryl Brown for 2023 Competition) to be **received** no later than 3 weeks prior to the contest date for that year. **Teachers must contact the directors to request an exception (TO BE GIVEN AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DIRECTOR) in an extenuating circumstance. Otherwise, NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- g. Topics:
 1. **La acción afirmativa**
 2. **La inmigración**
 3. **El racismo en las Américas (en los Estados Unidos)**
 4. **La influencia global de los Estados Unidos**
 5. **La libertad de expresión**
- h. Judging criteria are: form, content, and mechanics (see rating sheets for specifics)

D. Cultural Events (open enrollment)

1. Dance

Spanish dance is divided into two categories: **solo/duet** and **group**. Dances must be authentic, not interpretive.

- a. Schools are limited to two entries for Spanish, and three entries for French.
- b. Two copies of the rating sheets must be submitted to the judges.
- c. A CD/Cassette player or a Bluetooth speaker will be provided at the contest site. No piano will be available. Groups are welcome to bring their own devices for their performances but need to make sure that volume on these devices will be adequate (loud enough to be heard for the performance.)
- 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 (4) minutes including set up, introduction and exit.
- f. Judging criteria are: skill/ mastery, costuming, reflection of culture, general effect, and introduction (may be in English).

2. Vocal

- a. Schools are limited to **two entries for Spanish** per school, and **three entries for French** per school.
- b. A CD/Cassette player and a speaker will be provided 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.
- 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 four (4) minutes from setup/introduction to exit. Entries exceeding this time limit by more than 30 seconds will be disqualified.
- h. Judging criteria are: pronunciation, interpretation, memorization, tone, general effect, and introduction.
- i. There will be **two categories** in Spanish: **solo/duet** and **group**

- j. There will be **four categories** in French: **solo/duet popular, group popular, solo/duet classical, group classical.**

Food and Craft entries must be in place by 9 a.m. on the day of competition. Craft entries ONLY may be reclaimed between 2:30 - 3:00. ALL unclaimed entries WILL BE DISCARDED. (ALL FOOD entries and containers will be discarded at end of judging. Food entries and/or containers are not returnable.) No responsibility will be taken by NETOLE or the host university for craft entries which are not claimed by the end of the contest day.

3. Food

THIS EVENT WILL NOT BE PART OF THE 2023 COMPETITION OR OTHER FUTURE COMPETITIONS.

4a. Spanish Arts and Crafts (Manualidades)

- a. Schools are permitted to enter **one entry per category for Spanish.**
- b. Categories are:
 - **Drawing/Painting**
 - **3D/Sculpture**
- c. Entries must be **no larger than 3 feet x 3 feet x 3 feet.**
- d. All entries must be accompanied by a 5x8 card labeled with student name, school number, name of craft, and region of origin.
- e. The card must include a short description of what the craft signifies and how it prepared/constructed.
- f. Entries may be retrieved at the end of the competition. Contest directors will not be responsible for retrieving and returning entries that remain after the contest ends.
- g. Judging criteria are: color, neatness, complexity of preparation, skill/ mastery, reflection of culture, and general effect.

4b. French Arts and Crafts

NO FRENCH COMPETITION FOR 2023

E. CONTACT INFORMATION – PLEASE DIRECT QUESTION ABOUT EVENTS, JUDGING, AND RULES:

NET-OLÉ CONTEST DIRECTORS

Spanish: Cheryl Brown (cheryl.brown78@yahoo.com)
3890 CR 2184
Greenville, TX. 75402
(903) 268-3158

French: Arturo Castillo (acastillo@bolesonline.com *or* artcas77@gmail.com)
Boles HS
9777 FM 2101
Quinlan, TX 75474
(903) 883-2918

NET-OLÉ TREASURER

Eduardo Mendoza (emendoza@mpisd.net)
Mount Pleasant High School
PO Box 1117
Mount Pleasant, TX 75456

F. AWARDS

I. Academic Events

1. 1st place will receive a medal. (**Exception: VOCAL will receive team trophy and individual blue rosettes.**)
2. 2nd place will receive a red rosette.
3. 3rd – 6th places will receive ribbons.
4. 7th & 8th places (Spanish only) will receive ribbons.

II. Drama

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

III. Reading Comprehension--(FRENCH ONLY)

1. 10 correct questions will receive a “Superior” ribbon.
2. 8 – 9 correct questions will receive an “Excellent” ribbon.
3. 6 – 7 correct questions will receive a “Good” ribbon.
4. There will be an unlimited number of these awards.

IV. Cultural Events--Dance: 1st place teams will receive trophy and individual blue rosettes
Food and craft: 1st – 4th places will receive ribbons.

V. Overall Awards

1. **High Point**--presented to the **school** receiving the highest total number of points
2. **Excellence Awards**
 - a. One Excellence Award will be presented in each language.
 - b. **Calculation:** total points divided by enrollment.
 - c. This formula allows smaller schools to compete more fairly with larger ones.
 - d. Schools which fail to provide **accurate** enrollment figures will not be eligible for this award.

French Competition only: A school can win only one major trophy, either High Point or Excellence. If the same school scores first for both the High Point and Excellence awards, then the Excellence award passes to the school with the next highest ratio.

VI. Sweepstakes

- a. One Sweepstakes award will be presented to the **top school of the Symposium.**
- b. **Calculation:** total number of points, divided by number of languages taught at the school.

G. 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	25 points
4th	20 points
5th	15 points
6th	10 points

Cultural Events

1st	20 points
2nd	15 points
3rd	10 points
4th	5 points

Vocal music is awarded points based on the Academic points breakdown.