

Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica

INITIATION RITUAL



President: Members, old and new, of this Hispanic society, greetings! We are gathered here for the initiation of this group of students who have shown and proven a deep interest in the beautiful Spanish language. Let us listen to our Secretary who will give us a short summary of the history and purposes of our society.

Secretary: This Spanish Honor Society was founded by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in 1953, for the students of North American secondary schools; and this chapter is due to the efforts of _____ of _____ School who established it in _____. The name of this chapter is: _____. Our motto is: "All together." Our colors are: red and gold. Our insignia and seal are those of the mother association. (Candles will be handed out to the candidates.)

Pres.: (very slowly) Now we are going to be quiet. . . . This is our initiation, serious and significant. Let all listen carefully. . . . This is our mother candle. It serves us each year. It represents inspiration.

Sec.: (Another poem may be chosen.) As an example of this inspiration, let us repeat the words of the poet Núñez de Arce who wrote the poem ¡EXCELSIOR! All together.

"Why do humble spirits, why do lowly souls,
In the fierce combats of life, neither struggle nor resist?"

The human spirit is more constant the more it rises!
God put mud in the lowland, and he put the rock on the mountains.

The white snow, which in the deep valleys melts away slowly,
On the high peaks remains unchangeable and eternal."

Pres.: Each has a candle in his (her) hand. This typifies our course of life. Thus, without burning, it exists, but does not live. That candle is saying: "If they burn me, I live; if not, I die." May our lives never be candles unburned! Now each of you will come, in turn, to this mother candle, to receive from it the symbolic flame, the flame which symbolizes with its heat the inspiration toward high ideals. Each will come forward on hearing his name.

Sec.: I have the honor of presenting these candidates whose names are:

Pres.: You will repeat the oath of the society, phrase by phrase:

"As a member of the _____ Chapter, I promise to devote myself to the study of the Spanish language in order to master it some day, remembering that a language can be a strong tie between persons of differing origins of race or religion. As a citizen of my country, I promise to promote friendship and understanding between it and the other lands of the world. This is my promise and my oath.

Now each will blow out the flame of his candle . . . all! . . . but *never* that of your spirit! Let us remember this. Let each member keep his candle as a remembrance of his initiation into this society. Friends, by the authority granted me by the presidency of the _____ Chapter, I declare you members of this chapter. Come forward now to receive in turn your certificate and to sign the register and to receive the welcome due you.