Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) Exhibit

*Día de Muertos* is a celebration that honors our deceased loved ones and invites their spirits to join us in a celebration of their life and memory. *Día de Muertos* is most popular in México but is celebrated in many Latin American countries on November 1st and 2nd each year. The rich history and enduring cultural significance of this event led to its recognition by UNESCO as part of the [Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity](https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/indigenous-festivity-dedicated-to-the-dead-00054) in 2008.

This year, the faculty of the Latin American Studies minor, the Latin American Student Association, and the Center for Faith and Spirituality invite you to celebrate this event with us by creating an *ofrenda* – an altar in memory of loved one(s) that is decorated with items that honor their memory. We hope that not only will you enjoy this creative challenge but it will also provide you with an opportunity to learn more about this unique celebration and its place in Latin American culture.

*Día de Muertos* is a community event. We encourage you to reach out to your family or collaborate with friends in creating the *ofrenda*. What memories do you all share? What are new stories will you learn about your loved ones? As much as it is a celebration of those who are no longer with us, it is also an opportunity for us to come together and share stories, memories, and laughter with the living. In this time of distance we hope this project will help us create community and connections. *(Additionally, you have an opportunity to win one of three gift cards for your submission.)*

**Note:** ERAU students can submit a group entry for *Día de Muertos* showcase*.* If a collaborative project is selected as a winning submission the prize is shared by the group.

# How to participate

After learning more about *Día de Muertos* and the components of a typical *ofrenda* by watching the videos posted to the Scholarly Commons site, create your own *ofrenda* in honor or a deceased loved one (friend or family) or other important person in your life. Your submission should include the following:

1. Picture of your *ofrenda*
2. Short (2-5minutes) video to explain the elements of your ofrenda
3. Short introduction that is posted with your submission and briefly describes its main elements.

## Create your *ofrenda*

### WHAT TO INCLUDE

1. A typical *ofrenda* generally include a photo of the person honored, flowers, candles, decorations such as *papel picado* (paper garlands)and *calaveras* (sugar skulls), as well as other items, foods, and beverages that the person honored enjoyed during their life. We encourage you to watch the *Día de los Muertos: Ofrenda* video to learn more about *ofrendas* and the elements they traditionally feature.
2. Make the *ofrenda* your own in a way that best honors the person whose life you are remembering and celebrating. For example, if they hated marigolds (the flowers traditionally included on altars) but loved hydrangeas feel free to make that change.

### FORMAT

We ask you to share a picture of your ofrenda. This can be

1. a photograph of an altar you create,
2. a photograph of a painting or collage you create, or
3. a virtual design of an *ofrenda* (for example using PowerPoint, Canva, AdobeSpark, etc.)

## Record a video

In your video share something about your experience creating the *ofrenda* and how the elements you chose to include honor your loved one(s).

1. **Explain why you celebrate.** Share what you know about the practices and significance of *Día de Muertos* and how that resonates with you. What elements and values of this celebration are especially meaningful to you? How did preparing the *ofrenda* help you gain a better understanding of this tradition? How did it connect you to your community and/ or family?
2. **Tell a story.** Tell a story of the loved one(s) you are remembering with your *ofrenda* and how the elements you chose to include are honoring them. Maybe you included the image of a guitar because together you used to sing songs at family gatherings; or you put a dish of *pozole* on your altar because they always prepared it for you when you visited.

## Write a short introduction

The introduction is intended as a short overview of some of the important insights you address in your video. In 2-3 sentences summarize your learning and how you chose to celebrate the life of a loved one.

# Award Review Criteria

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Excellent | Strong | Basic | Reviewer Rating |
| Cultural Significance and Insights | Speaker shows an excellent understanding of cultural significance of *Día de Muertos* and provides a detailed explanation of insights gained from participation. | Speaker shows a good understanding of cultural significance of Día de Muertos and provides a good overview of insights gained from participation. | Speaker shows a basic understanding of cultural significance of Día de Muertos; their presentation may leave some questions about insights gained from participation. |  |
| Discussion of *ofrenda* elements | Speaker can clearly and confidently explain why elements were added to *ofrenda*. | Speaker can clearly and confidently explain why most elements were added to *ofrenda*. | Speaker can clearly and confidently explain why some elements were added to *ofrenda*. |  |
| Presentation | The content is presented clearly and presentation engages the audience through story-telling and/ or effective incorporation of visual elements.  Speaker enunciates in a way to be understood by most anyone. Speaker neither rushes when speaking nor speaks too slowly. | The content is presented clearly and presentation is mostly effective in engaging the audience through story-telling and/ or effective incorporation of visual elements.  Speaker enunciates with relative clarity. It is evident that the speaker practiced. Timing may be somewhat off (at times too fast or too slow). | The presentation attempts to engage the audience through story-telling and/ or effective incorporation of visual elements but is not always effective.  Speaker’s enunciation needs some work. Timing needs some work (has trouble maintaining steady rhythm when speaking). |  |

Total points: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_/9