

Human Expression through Ritual

Choose one of the ceremonies listed below and answer the questions that follow. To help with the process, consider the following elements that are found in many rituals: processions, presentations, gestures, speeches (including readings, proclamations, and so on), silence; use of symbolic objects such as candles, water, oil, special clothing; tone, group responses, and so on.

- inauguration of a politician
- debut or cotillion ball
- opening ceremony for the Academy Awards
- opening ceremony for a rodeo
- opening ceremony for the Olympic Games
- opening ceremony for the Miss America Pageant

1. Describe in a step-by-step process how the ceremony you have chosen traditionally proceeds.

2. List the individuals or groups that participate in this ceremony and what the ceremony means for each.

