

Classroom Activity: Salsa – a social, cultural and political contribution.

Objective: How do we develop our own viewpoint and voice on culture? Framing of culture from whose viewpoints, and for what intentions.

Students are in constant immersion on what is salsa, not only from the performed perspective, but also from the historical context. How can learning about the story, or shared stories of salsa contributors help students learn to answer these questions:

How did the term salsa come to be, and for who was it created for and by whom?

How can we develop point of view and voice from those stories?

The following links provide parts of the answer of what is salsa music and the dance, who created salsa, and from the contributor's point of view, how is salsa framed in our society.

From the musician perspective: (Hector Lavoe, La Fania Records, Johnny Pacheco, Celia Cruz)

<https://www.recordonline.com/story/news/2004/08/28/hector-lavoe-el-cantante-de/51135834007/>

<https://elpais.com/america/sociedad/the-beats-of-mi-tierra/2022-09-09/fania-records-the-faces-of-a-label-that-transformed-music.html>

<https://www.newyorklatinculture.com/johnny-pacheco-was-la-salsa/>

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/latinx/celia-cruz>

From the dance perspective:

<https://www.salsagente.com/history-of-salsa-music-dance/>

<https://www.masterclass.com/articles/guide-to-salsa-music>

<http://www.dancefacts.net/salsa/history-of-salsa/>

From the movie/documentary perspective (Shine, Into the Heights, El Cantante)

<https://dancespirit.com/shine-salsa-dance-movie/>

<https://www.biography.com/news/lin-manuel-miranda-in-the-heights-inspiration>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/03/movies/03cant.html>

Directions:

As a trio or group, select two articles from each section provided (Music, Dance, or Cultural Movie) expressing the notion of “what is salsa” to the given area, and follow the areas of critical analysis and guidelines towards offering your response from your research.

Areas of Critical Analysis with the articles:

- Who published the article?
- Where (site) published the article?
- What information was further cited about the subject?
- What is the main objective of the article, and as a reader, what is the point of view to be taken about salsa and its creation or expression?

- What is your take or opinion on the article's information or viewpoint of the origins of salsa, musician, or movie?
- How salsa is being framed from a social, cultural, and political perspective and why is this important?
- Last, what is your story and how do you envision it being told?