

Advice for teachers and students

In this text, we offer a few recommendations that may make it easier for teachers to guide students who are interested in joining our contest, and for students to enhance their skills and catch the positive attention of the jury.

A presentation contest is not a speech contest. Using papers to read your lines without looking at the audience has a negative impact on the jury's evaluation.

The focus of evaluation can be summed up as follows: 1) interaction with the audience, 2) interaction between the two presenters, 3) language ability, 4) stage presence, 5) critical thinking and creativity.

1 **Interaction with the audience** means, firstly, acknowledging that there is an audience. Make eye-contact, talk loudly and clearly facing the audience. Use visual aids, such as cards, pictures, objects....

2 **Interaction between the presenting students** means that each team, which consists of two speakers, should try to find an equal balance between both speakers in terms of length and difficulty of what is being said.

3 **Language ability** is the backbone of all speech and presentation contests. Speak clearly, using an appropriate vocabulary. Do not worry about mistakes, the jury loves it when teams are able to overcome them. Students should convey a clear message and master their lines. Avoid reading text from a piece of paper.

4 **Stage presence** is the element that makes presentation contests so much more interesting than the average speech contest. Smile, and make the audience believe in what is being shown. Use as much of the full 10 minutes as you can.

5 **Critical thinking and creativity** is the highest stage and most valued part of any presentation contest. We welcome socially relevant topics, or critical introductions to problematic issues. If you choose to talk about the tea ceremony or kimono, find an unusual approach.

Good luck!