



JH/HS Speech Competition 2024

Thank you for your interest in the first annual JH/HS Speech Competition! We're very excited to be able to offer all JH/HS students the chance to compete and show off the skills you've been learning throughout the years at KA. If you're interested in participating in the competition, please read below for more information on category details and the competition itself.

Your parents or guardians have received an email with a sign-up form. If they have not received it, please ask them to contact KA in order to sign up. The sign-up period is from August 18, 2024 (12 p.m. JST) to September 10, 2024 (10 a.m. JST)

Time and Location

- Location: KA Meguro Building A
- Date: Monday, October 14 (National Holiday - Sports Day)
- Time
 - Doors Open: 12:30 p.m.
 - Start: 1:00 p.m.
 - End: 4:00 p.m.

Important Notes

- All students must participate in the Traditional Speech category.
- Participation in the Elevator Pitch and Prose & Poetry categories are optional.
- Participants should stay for the entirety of the competition, and audience members are also encouraged to stay until the end.
- Student entries must be uploaded to KA Connect prior to the competition. More information about the submission process and deadlines will be announced at a later date to participating students.

Prizes for Participants

- All participants will receive a participation medal, as well as a Certificate of Participation, which can be used for college applications. Prizes will be awarded at the end of the event during the awards ceremony.
- The top three point-getters from each category, and the top three point-getters of all categories combined, will receive a trophy and prizes.
- Prizes include an iPad, Kindle readers, and various gift cards!

Theme: Unity

Textbook definitions

1. Oneness
2. A condition of harmony
3. The state of being made one (unification)
4. A systematic whole

The theme is a general idea, and any pieces you use in the competition need to be related to the theme of "Unity". However, the theme is very broad, so feel free to take artistic license and interpret it in your own unique way.

Required Category

To compete in this competition, all students **MUST** prepare and perform one of the following types of Traditional Speech.

Traditional Speech (Time limit: 5 minutes)

Students may choose between a Persuasive Speech or a Traditional Speech.

- **Persuasive Speech:** A speech where the goal is to convince the audience to accept your point of view on a topic or idea.
- **Informative Speech:** A speech used to inform the audience about a topic using facts and evidence found through research. There are no personal opinions used in informative speeches. Example: The unity of bringing together North Korea and South Korea for the Olympics.

While these speeches do not have to be 100% memorized, they should be well practiced and rehearsed to meet the rubric requirements.

Optional Categories

Along with the required Traditional Speech category, two more categories are available to compete in: Elevator Pitch and Prose & Poetry. While these two categories are optional, choosing to compete in one or both of them not only helps you educationally, but also increases the chances of winning one of the prizes.

Elevator Pitch (Time limit: 60-90 seconds)

A short description of an idea, product, or company that explains the concept in a way that any listener can understand in a short period of time.

Example: A pitch for a new club activity or a fictional product, company, movie, etc.

While these pitches do not have to be 100% memorized, they should be well practiced and rehearsed to meet the rubric requirements.

The pitch should be read between the 60 second minimum and the 90 second maximum.

Prose & Poetry (Time limit: 3 minutes)

The art of performing prose (literature) or poetry out loud to communicate meaning to the audience.

Participants in this category can use literature or poetry written by a published author or poet; for example Ernest Hemingway or Emily Dickinson. You can also use original literature or poetry that you have written yourself!

For this category, you are allowed to have printed-out versions of scripts so that you can mark them in a similar way to the lesson from Week 1 lesson of Speak Like a Star. Usually, these scripts are kept in a small binder that can be held in one hand; however, you can use notebooks or anything that you feel comfortable with.

While these scripts do not have to be 100% memorized, they should be well practiced and well rehearsed to meet the rubric requirements.

Video-Only Competition (for DL Students Only)

We would like to encourage DL students to attend our in-person event if possible. However, we understand that this is not feasible for some families, so we will hold a separate online competition for such students.

For this competition, DL students can submit a video for each category that they would like to participate in. As a reminder, the Traditional Speech category is mandatory for participation. The videos will be judged with a rubric that is separate from the in-person competition. Winners will be announced by October 25th.

Prizes will include digital gift certificates and a digital Certificate of Participation. Unfortunately, there will not be any physical prizes, trophies, or medals provided for students who enter into the video-only competition.

Rules and Guidelines:

1. The video must be submitted to KA Connect by 12:59 p.m. (JST) on October 14, 2024.
2. The videos need to fit into the time limits for each category, as mentioned above.
3. While it is a video, you should still treat it like a formal speech and dress appropriately.
4. Before making a video, your transcript should be submitted to KA Connect so that we can check it for appropriateness.
5. The rubric for judging DL submissions and In-person submissions are a bit different. Look over the rubric before making your video so you can send us the best video possible.
6. You are allowed to take multiple videos. However, you can only send us one, so make sure it is your best. Also, the video has to be done in one take, it cannot be edited together or have any editing done in general. This is to keep it fair to everyone.
7. The video cannot be over 10GB in size.

