

2017



HANDBOOK

2017 TEXAS STATE JAPANESE LANGUAGE SPEECH CONTEST HANDBOOK

Presented by



JAPAN
AMERICA
SOCIETY OF
HOUSTON



**Consulate-General
of Japan in Houston**



Introduction

The 2017 Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest will be held on **March 4th, 2017** at Rice University.

This handbook describes the format and content of the 2017 State Speech Contest and is also applicable to each Regional Contest as it describes who is eligible to compete.

The handbook's purpose is to help students and teachers better understand and prepare for the contest. Please read it carefully and thoroughly. The Japanese Language Speech Contest Committee (JLSCC) reserves the right to make the final decision on all matters related to the 2017 Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest.

Inquiries should be submitted to speech.contest@ho.mofa.go.jp .

Statement of Purpose

It is the goal of the Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest is to inspire Japanese language learners of all levels and ages to challenge themselves and improve their Japanese by providing an opportunity to demonstrate oral language communication skills. The contest also strives to bring together the Japanese and American communities to advocate for and to celebrate Japanese language learning, and to encourage students to further their understanding of Japan, its people, and its culture.

What's New In 2017?

This year the Committee is continuing the Haiku division, which fuses the presentation and memorization skills of Intermediate Poetry with the creativity and composition skills required of the speech divisions. We hope that this intermediate division will act as a smooth, encouraging transition to the more advanced categories. Learn more about the Haiku division in the Haiku Appendix at the end of the Handbook.



Congratulations to all of last year's participants including

2016 Aurora Division 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prize Winners:



Mr. Heeyong Huh, Aurora Speech Contest First Place



Ms. Amy Nguyen,
Aurora Speech Contest Runner-Up



Ms. Fiona Yeung,
Aurora Speech Contest Second Runner-Up



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Event Information

This information applies to the Texas State Contest. Please contact your local organizing body for information about the regional contests in Houston, San Antonio, Austin, and Dallas/Fort Worth.

Attire

We ask that all participants please dress appropriately and professionally.

Food

Lunches will not be provided at the State competition. Participants and guests are welcome to bring their own refreshments.

Audience Etiquette

Students have worked very hard to prepare for both the Regional and State Contest. Please respect that effort by being courteous audience members. That means silencing cell phones, games, iPods and other electronics. Please, **TURN OFF ELECTRONICS** to ensure you don't accidentally distract a contestant with excessive noise and light.

Also, please limit the times you enter and exit the auditorium. Contestants may easily lose their concentration if you are frequently whispering, shuffling past others, or opening and closing doors. We ask that you only enter and exit during the pause between performances unless it is an emergency.



Registration Information

Eligible Contestants

Those who have placed first or second in their division of the Regional Contests are eligible to register for the State Contest. In the event that a first or second place contestant is not able to attend the State Contest in Houston, the third place contestant will be notified and given the opportunity to compete. The Open Division is not offered at the regional level, so there are no additional criteria for eligibility in this category.

Registration Instructions

Applicable contestants will be contacted by their local member of the Advisory Committee when State registration is open. Registration will be hosted on the Japan America Society of Houston (JASH) website, found at www.jas-hou.org.

Registration Timeline

Registration will open on Monday, February 20 and close at midnight on Sunday, February 26. Those who do not complete registration by the closing date will not be eligible to compete and third place contestants will be notified. ***Due to limited time, all contestants, including those in third place, should be prepared to register on short notice.***

Late Registration

LATE REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Students who attend the State Competition and have not registered will be allowed to perform although they will not be scored and will not place in the competition.

Teacher / Student Accountability

Teachers . . .

Teachers must encourage students to enroll in the category that best suits them, taking into consideration years of formal and non-formal study, skill-level, and past participation. Teachers must notify the Speech Contest Committee if they become aware of a student registering inappropriately.

Students . . .

Students must challenge themselves to enroll in the category that most suits them, and must divulge all useful and truthful information to the Speech Contest Committee when registering for the State Contest.

Note:

Students who are found to have enrolled in an inappropriate division may be barred from competing at the State level or may be relocated to the Open division. The Speech Contest Committee reserves the right to make decisions on a case by case basis.



Eligibility and Division Guidelines

	Beginner	Intermediate		
General Info . . .	Poetry	Haiku	Speech w/ Text	Skit
Year (HS / JHS Students)	1st H.S. / 1st – 2 nd J.H.S	2nd H.S. / 2nd – 3 rd J.H.S.	2nd, 3 rd H.S.	2nd, 3rd, 4 th H.S.
Number of Participants	1	1	1	2 to 4
Can Enter This Category	Once / Twice for JHS	Once / Twice for JHS	Twice	Three Times
Time Requirement	1:00 – 2:00 min	0:30 – 2:00 min	2:00 – 3:00 min	0:00 – 2:00 min to prep; 3:00 – 5:00 min to present
	Beginner	Intermediate		
Students must . . .	Poetry	Haiku	Speech w/ Text	Skit
Create original content	N/A	✓	✓	✓
Memorize content	✓	✓	N/A	*See next page for additional notes
Not be a native speaker	✓	✓	✓	✓
Not have <u>any</u> native Japanese parents	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Not have <u>more than one</u> native Japanese parent	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓
Not have lived in Japan more than six months after age six	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Not be a past or present Hoshuko student	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Be a Texas resident or enrolled in a Texas school.	✓	✓	✓	✓



Eligibility and Division Guidelines

	Intermed. – Adv.	Advanced	
General Info . . .	Open	Aurora	College / University
Year (HS / JHS Students)	Adults, Grad Students, Hoshuko students, etc.	3rd, 4th	College and University
Number of Participants	1	1	1
Can Enter This Category	Unlimited	Twice	Unlimited
Time Requirement	2:00 – 3:00 min	2:00 – 3:00 min	2:00 – 3:00 min
	Intermed. – Adv.	Advanced	
Students must . . .	Open	Aurora	College / University
Create original content	✓	✓	✓
Memorize content	*See next page for additional notes	*See next page for additional notes	*See next page for additional notes
Not be a native speaker	N/A	✓	✓
Not have <u>any</u> native Japanese parents	N/A	✓	N/A
Not have <u>more than one</u> native Japanese parent	N/A	N/A	✓
Not have lived in Japan more than six months after age six	N/A	✓	N/A
Not be a past or present Hoshuko student	N/A	✓	N/A
Be a Texas resident or enrolled in a Texas school.	✓	✓	*Be currently or previously enrolled in a Japanese class as an undergraduate student.



Division Descriptions

****Please do not identify your school when introducing yourself to judges****

Beginner

Poetry: The poetry division is aimed at beginner students. Contestants must memorize the provided poem before the competition. During the competition, each contestant must state the title and author of the poem before reciting it from memory. ***The use of notes is not allowed.***

Intermediate

Haiku: The Haiku division is aimed at beginner intermediate students. Contestants must choose one of the haikus provided by JTAT and compose one original, complementary haiku. This haiku must be submitted during registration. During the competition, contestants must recite the prompt haiku twice, present their English or Japanese explanation, and then recite their original haiku twice. ***The use of notes is not allowed. *See the Haiku Appendix on pg. 13.***

Speech With Text: The Speech with Text division is designed for intermediate students to prepare them for the more advanced Aurora division. The speech theme should be chosen by the contestant, and they must state the speech title before reciting it during the competition. ***The use of notes is allowed. No points will be awarded or deducted based on the use of notes.***

Skit: The Skit division is aimed at intermediate students who would like to work creatively in a group. During the competition, each group must state the title of the skit before presenting. Groups may request that up to three chairs and up to one table be provided as props. ***The use of notes is allowed, but groups who do not rely on notes will be scored more favorably.***

Judging Criteria

Division	Evaluation Criteria
Poetry	Poetry recitation will be judged on pronunciation, flow and clarity, accuracy of memorization, and overall delivery and presentation.
Haiku	Haiku will be judged on structure (5-7-5 <i>mora</i> , and a <i>kigo</i>), understanding of original haiku, connection between original and new haiku, and expression of students' personal feelings.
Speech with Text	Free speeches will be judged on pronunciation, grammatical ability, overall ability, content, delivery, creativity, enthusiasm, and understanding.
	Skits will be judged on originality and creativity, role-play and enthusiasm of the group, and overall delivery and presentation.



Division Descriptions

****Please do not identify your school when introducing yourself to judges****

Advanced

Aurora: The Aurora division is aimed at strong intermediate or advanced students. The speech theme should be chosen by the contestant and they must state the speech title before reciting it during the competition. Judges will then ask several questions in Japanese about the speech which contestants must also answer in Japanese. ***The use of notes is allowed, but those who do not rely on notes will be scored more favorably.***

College / University: The College / University division is aimed at undergraduate students. The speech theme should be chosen by the contestant, and they must state the speech title before reciting it during the competition. Judges will then ask several questions in Japanese about the speech which contestants must also answer in Japanese. ***The use of notes is allowed, but those who do not rely on notes will be scored more favorably.***

Open: The Open division is aimed at graduate students, hoshuko students, or students who are otherwise disqualified from participating in lower divisions, e.g., a student with native Japanese parent(s). The speech theme should be chosen by the contestant, and they must state the speech title before reciting it during the competition. Judges will then ask several questions in Japanese about the speech which contestants must also answer in Japanese. ***The use of notes is allowed, but those who do not rely on notes will be scored more favorably.***

Judging Criteria

Division	Evaluation Criteria
Aurora	Free speeches will be judged on pronunciation, grammatical ability, overall ability, content, delivery, creativity, enthusiasm, understanding, as well as answers to judges' questions.
College / University	Free speeches will be judged on pronunciation, grammatical ability, overall ability, content, delivery, creativity, enthusiasm, understanding, as well as answers to judges' questions.
Open	Free speeches will be judged on pronunciation, grammatical ability, overall ability, content, delivery, creativity, enthusiasm, and understanding.



Poem for Poetry Recitation Division

できなくともいい にしむら えいじ
西村 栄治

どんなにがんばっても

できることがあれば

できないこともある

どんなにまじめにやっても

できるものがあれば

できないものもある

どんなにうまくやっても

できるときがあれば

できないときもある

そんなのあたりまえ

できればいいし

できなくともいい

なにもしないより

ずっといい



Conduct on Stage and Microphones

Introduce Yourself

No matter your division, you should greet the judges on stage respectfully and in Japanese. Consider a simple こんにちは。 Give them your name. エミリーガービスです。 Do not mention your region or your school. If you know a more formal or advanced way to introduce yourself, feel free. End your introduction with the typical よろしくおねがいました and a small bow. Then begin your presentation.

Be Heard and Speak Clearly

Only stand microphones will be provided this year, no lapel / pin microphones or hand-held microphones. Prepare any gestures, and control any desire to walk around the stage with this restriction in mind. Practice speaking at a comfortable pace and in front of many different people. Not too slow and not too fast. Although you are speaking in Japanese and most judges are native Japanese speakers, they want to hear your thoughts and your pronunciation clearly. Try to stand about 1-2 inches from the microphone and pay attention to the judges' faces. If they are sitting forward or look confused, speak up or move closer to the microphone.



How to Answer Q&A

The Aurora, College/University, and Open Divisions require you to answer questions in Japanese after your speech. For these categories, after your speech judges will engage you a short conversation about your speech. This is the style of Q&A used at the national level for which we aim to prepare you. Following this short back-and-forth will be more direct questions.

In order to prepare for the Q&A, we suggest you become familiar with the following types of responses so that you can employ them when necessary:

- 1) すみません。もういちどゆっくりおねがいします。
Excuse me. Can you say that one more time, slowly?

This is a simple and polite way to ask the judge to repeat the question slowly and clearly. Don't be afraid to use this phrase liberally.

- 2) すみません。「ことば」のいみは何ですか。
Excuse me. What does (this word) mean?

Use this phrase with a specific word. Don't simply say you don't understand the question because that will end your interview prematurely. If judges know which word is difficult for you, they may change their phrasing and vocabulary choice to better match your speaking ability.

Prepare to answer questions based on your speech by becoming familiar with vocabulary based on your speech topic or that you use in your speech.

You may also be asked some of these more familiar sample questions:

- 1) 日本語が好きですか。どうしてですか。
- 2) 日本語のクラスはいつありますか。
- 3) 日本の食べ物が好きですか。何が一番おいしいと思いますか。
- 4) どうして日本語を勉強していますか。
- 5) 日本で一番したいことは何ですか。
- 6) 日本にどんなおみやげを持って行きますか。
- 7) アメリカの何について日本人に知ってほしいですか。



What is a Haiku?

A haiku is a traditional, three-line Japanese poem. Each line has a set number of *mora* that follows the pattern 5-7-5.

“What is a *mora*,” you ask? A *mora* is the Japanese version of a syllable, but it’s counted a little differently than in English. Each hiragana or katakana character is counted as one *mora*.

For example: はいく has three *mora*. する has two *mora*. まって can have either two or three *mora*. Small つ are sometimes counted and sometimes not. This decision is up to the poet.

Even though when you say these words out loud you may be tempted to count according to English syllables, *mora* must be based upon the correct spelling of the word in Japanese.

Also, haiku traditionally include a seasonal word called a *kigo*. A *kigo* indicates the season that the haiku takes place in and helps to evoke an emotion in the audience. *Kigo* are traditionally nouns, but we will accept any part of speech such as *autumn*, *cold*, *sweaty*, *rafting* which all indicate a specific season. *Kigo* can also be more subtle like *football*, *green*, *hot chocolate*, *watermelon* which also indicate specific seasons. Select a single *kigo* and try to write your haiku around it. You will be asked to identify your *kigo* on your application. *Kigo* do not have to be too obvious. Feel free to use *kigo* that has significance in your life or culture.

What are the Haiku Criteria for the State and Regional Speech Contests?

Making a haiku sounds difficult because it is a high form of art in Japanese society.

Don’t worry! We don’t expect you to be Matsuo Basho.

Each haiku must adhere to the 5-7-5 standard and include *kigo*, a season word. Beyond this, use your creativity! We look forward to seeing serious haiku, thoughtful haiku, silly, funny and clever haiku. Show us your personality.

How Will Haiku be judged?

Haiku will be judged on the following criteria:

- Structure (5-7-5 *mora* and a *kigo*)
- Understanding of original haiku
- Connection between original and new haiku (which can be expressed, in part, by your English or Japanese explanation)
- Expression of students’ personal feelings



What is the Structure of the Haiku Division?

First, select one of the provided haiku prompts to be your inspiration. These haiku are written by the masters! Pick one that you really enjoy. Then, write one original haiku that is inspired by the prompt haiku you selected. Your finalized haiku must be submitted during registration and cannot be changed after this point. At this point you will also be asked to identify your *kigo*. It is possible that there may be multiple *kigo*, or seasonal words, in your haiku, but only one should be the focus of your poem. Be careful to craft your haiku around the *kigo* that you identify for us during registration.

Your haiku are meant to be derivative works. They do not have to match the style or level of grammar present in the prompt haiku.

To make the connection between your haiku and the prompt haiku clear, you will be asked to give a three to four sentence explanation, in English or Japanese, of your inspiration and feelings on these haiku before you begin the recitation of your original poem.

This short explanation helps to give the audience and judges context and insight into the meaning of your poem. Because haiku are short and are often abstract, please take this opportunity to give a clear subject to your recitation.

Helpful Haiku Hints

Many haiku use the short form of verbs instead of the long form because it uses fewer *mora*. For instance, *します* uses three *mora*, but *する* only uses two. This can free up space for a particle or possibly even another word. Conversely, if you are a few *mora* short, consider using the long form.

Embrace the use of short phrases. Sometimes writing full sentences will work well, but many haiku, as you will see in the examples, use short phrases or individual words to express greater emotions.

Katakana is appropriate to use when natural or when it serves the purpose of the haiku. Names, places, holidays and the odd word or phrase that you are used to seeing in katakana can be used without penalty in your haiku. However, we caution you against being too liberal with katakana. If a word or phrase is more generally seen in Japanese, it is best to use Japanese.

Write your haiku without using kanji and ensure that your spelling is correct. This will help you create a haiku with the right number of *mora*. Kanji should be added later when submitting the final haiku during registration.



Student Haiku Examples

あさぎり まつ き なつ やま
朝霧は 松の木にある 夏の山 - セイヂィ・ワード
The morning fog / on the mountain trees / summer mountains – Sadie Ward

You can see the performance of Ms. Sadie Ward of McCullen High School in Austin as an additional example. Ms. Ward won 2nd Prize in the 2016 State Speech Contest Haiku Division.

View her haiku performance here: <https://utexas.app.box.com/s/m1y3xjl1epqzd4is7xi5akfwc1op5e6s>

Haiku Prompts

Select one poem to serve as the inspiration for your original haiku.

はる はっとり らんせつ
春 服部 嵐雪

うめいちりん
梅一輪

いちりん
一輪ほどの

あたたかさ

なつ まさおか しき
夏 正岡 子規

やど
宿もなき

たび よ
旅の夜ふけぬ

あま がわ
天の川

あき まさおか しき
秋 正岡 子規

とりな
鳥鳴いて

あか こ み
赤き木の実を

こぼしけり

ふゆ まさおか しき
冬 正岡 子規

さらさらと

たけ おと
竹に音あり

よる ゆき
夜の雪



Recitation Format

First, introduce yourself in Japanese. Then recite the prompt poem and poet’s name twice, with a short pause between each recitation. Next, contestants will present a three to four sentence explanation of their haiku in English. Lastly, present your original haiku twice, with a short pause between each recitation. Taking your time is not only good for your presentation, but helpful to judges. You may be asked questions about your haiku, in English, by the judges after your reading. The entire recitation must be done from memory.

For example: “こんにちは。エミリー ガービスです。

てん ち
天も地も

(x2) なしただ^{ゆき}雪の

ふ
降りしきる

— かじわら はしん

(slight pause before reading again)

I’m originally from Indiana, which is very far north. The first haiku reminds me of how winter can seem unending in Indiana and in the colder months people almost forget the happy feeling of spring. I decided to write my haiku about that feeling of sadness and anticipation I get in the middle of winter.

さび
寂しすぎ *Too lonely*

(x2) ひさびさ はる
久々の春 *A spring from long ago*

はや き
早く来て *Come quickly*

(slight pause before reading again)

ありがとうございます。”

Good luck writing your own haiku! Remember, whether it be serious or funny, we are looking for your honest expression and personality to shine through.