



# 2011 HIGH SCHOOL JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST HANDBOOK

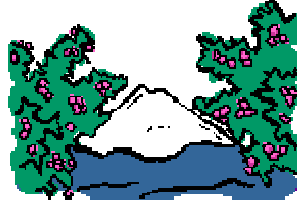
PREPARED BY



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THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA



**The 2011 High School Japanese Speech Contest will take place on Friday, March 4, 2011 at the William Pitt Union on the University of Pittsburgh Oakland Campus.**

This Handbook describes the format and content of the 2011 Speech Contest. It also describes who is eligible to compete. The Study Guide's purpose is to help students and teachers better understand and prepare for the contest.

Please read this Handbook carefully. The Asian Studies Center (ASC) and the Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania (JASP) reserve the right to make the final decision on all matters related to the 2011 High School Japanese Speech Contest.

Inquires should be submitted in writing to [kshellhammer@us-japan.org](mailto:kshellhammer@us-japan.org).

### **What's New for 2011?**

a. Contest participation categories have been edited for clarity. Students who are either currently in their first year of Japanese language study or otherwise involved in activities related to Japan are encouraged to participate in the **poster session**, with this year's theme of "A Festival (*matsuri*) in Japan". Second year and above students who had more practice with the language are encouraged to register for the speech contest according to language ability. (Beginner level for students who are in their second year of language study up to the new **advanced plus** level for students who are currently in their fifth year of language study or the equivalent). Please see **Categories** in the **Information Sheet** on page 5 for further guidelines.

b. A specific topic is assigned to each speech contest level with individual standards and instructions: **Self-Introduction** (for beginner level); **My Dream Day in Japan** (for intermediate and advanced level); **My Dream** (for advanced plus level). Please refer to the **Speech Contest Instructions** on page 6 and page 7 for more details.

c. In an effort to go green, we decided not to send out a whole packet of information by mail and make everything available **online**. Instructors are encouraged to print out the Student Registration Form for interested students, and submit them with the School Registration Form as well as the registration fee to JASP by **Friday, January 28, 2011**.

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## 2011 HIGH SCHOOL JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST

### INFORMATION SHEET

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Date &amp; Time</b>           | <b>Friday, March 4, 2011 9:00am-2:30pm</b>  |
| <b>Place</b>                     | William Pitt Union, University of Pittsburgh Oakland Campus<br>3959 Fifth Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15260   |
| <b>Purpose</b>                   | <p>The high school Japanese speech contest is a contest for high school Japanese language learners in our region (Western PA, eastern Ohio and northern West Virginia). The purpose of the contest is for students of Japanese to learn how to give a memorized speech, without notes, using language level that is appropriate to their level of learning. The speech contest is open to all high school students of Japanese in our immediate region who speak Japanese as a second language (foreign language) and who do NOT live in a household where Japanese is spoken (in other words, students cannot be heritage speakers of the language).</p> <p>The contest will provide Japanese language learners with the chance to use their Japanese language skills to talk about themselves and their interests, and to demonstrate their growing knowledge of Japan.</p> <p>The purpose of the poster contest held in conjunction with the speech contest is for students to study a topic on Japan, and demonstrate what they have learned through their poster and their ability to share their knowledge about the topic with others.</p> |
| <b>Hosted by</b>                 | The Asian Studies Center, University Center for International Studies, University of Pittsburgh, and the Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania  |
| <b>Sponsored by</b>              | As of January 17, 2011, Westinghouse Electric Company, Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc. and the Japan Foundation of Los Angeles   |
| <b>Deadline for Registration</b> | In order to ensure that we can accommodate the needs of all participants, this year's deadline will be <b>Friday, January 28, 2011</b> . Please mail the registration forms on page 13 and page 14 along with the registration fee to <b>The Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania (600 Grant Street, Room 444, Pittsburgh, PA 15219-2703)</b> or fax to <b>412-433-5020</b> .  |
| <b>Registration Fee</b>          | <p><b>\$15</b> per student. Participation students will receive a T-shirt, continental breakfast, lunch, and admission to this year's cultural event.</p> <p>Teachers will receive a memento from the contest, continental breakfast, lunch and admission to the cultural event. The student's family is allowed to attend the cultural event and awards ceremony/reception at no charge. Lunch is for contest participants and teachers only.</p>  |

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Categories</b>          | <p><b>Poster Session:</b> students are either currently in their first year of Japanese language study or otherwise involved in activities related to Japan.</p> <p><b>Speech Contest Levels:</b><br/> <b>Beginner:</b> students who are currently in their second year of language study<br/> <b>Intermediate:</b> students who are currently in their third year of language study<br/> <b>Advanced:</b> students who are currently in their fourth year of language study<br/> <b>Advanced Plus:</b> students who are currently in their fifth year of language study or the equivalent (such as having lived in Japan as a study abroad student)</p>  |
| <b>Contest Theme</b>       | <p><b>Poster Session: A festival (<i>matsuri</i>) in Japan</b></p> <p><b>Speech Entries:</b><br/> <b>Beginner: Self-Introduction</b><br/> <b>Intermediate: My Dream Day in Japan</b><br/> <b>Advanced: My Dream Day in Japan</b><br/> <b>Advanced Plus: My Dream</b><br/> (Please refer to Speech Contest Instructions for further guidelines)</p>  |
| <b>Length of Speeches</b>  | Not to exceed <b>five (5) minutes</b> for all levels (speeches can be shorter)  |
| <b>Student Eligibility</b> | <p>This contest is open to area high school students, within our immediate region of Western Pennsylvania, northern West Virginia or eastern Ohio (within easy commuting distance to Pittsburgh for the contest) who speak Japanese as a foreign or second language. <b>Please contact Dr. Brenda Jordan at <a href="mailto:jordanb@pitt.edu">jordanb@pitt.edu</a> if you have any questions about appropriate placement/level of a student.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced</b> levels: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Have not</b> lived in Japan for more than three consecutive months after the age of three;</li> <li>b. <b>Do not</b> come from homes where Japanese has been spoken regularly;</li> <li>c. <b>Have not</b> participated in the same category of this contest in the past.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. <b>Advanced Plus</b> level is open to students who are non-native speakers of Japanese but have spent a brief amount of time in Japan as study abroad students (exchange programs, etc.)</li> </ol> |
| <b>Judging Criteria</b>    | The poster session will be judged according to an established rubric (please see Poster Session Judging Criteria for guidelines). The scoring of the speech contest will be based upon the students' ability to express themselves in <b>an original speech</b> , written by themselves, in Japanese using language and   |

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
|               | vocabulary <i>that is appropriate for their level of learning</i> . Students will be expected to understand their own speeches. Judges use an established rubric (please see Speech Contest Judging Criteria for further guidelines.)   |
| <b>Awards</b> | All students who participate will receive certificate of participation, with first, second, and third place winners in each level receiving certificates for first, second, or third place. First place winners of the speech contest from each level will present their speeches to the entire group at the awards ceremony at the end of the day and will win trophies for their schools. |

### SPEECH CONTEST INSTRUCTIONS

**For All Levels:** Your speech must be your own original composition. Use vocabulary and grammar you've learned. Do NOT include the name of your town or your school so the judges won't know which school you are representing. Please note: words and grammar that are considered too advanced in the given level may be marked negatively by the judges.

**Speech Contest Topic for Beginner Level**—Basic, sentence level speech; Concrete and personal

TOPIC: **Self-Introduction**

Using the vocabulary and grammar you've learned at school, talk about yourself. You can talk about any of the following. Please be careful NOT to include the name of the town where you live so the judges won't know which school you are from. Your speech must include the following.

1. Your typical day
2. Your favorite subjects
3. Your hobby/job/special skills
4. Your family

**Speech Contest Topics for Intermediate Level**—Brief description of people/things; Sentence level discourse with some paragraph elements

TOPIC: **My dream day in Japan**

Using the vocabulary and grammar you've learned at school, talk about how you will spend a day in Japan if you have a chance. Please be careful NOT to include the name of the town where you live so the judges won't know which school you are from.

Your speech should describe your dream day in Japan. For example,

1. Your schedule of the day.
2. The places you would like to visit.
3. The things you would like to do.
4. The reason(s) why you chose the activities and places.

**Speech Contest Topic for Advanced Level**—More detailed description of people/item, detailed description of personal experience, description of thoughts and reasons; Paragraph level discourse

**TOPIC: My Dream Day in Japan**

Using the vocabulary and grammar you've learned at school, talk about how you will spend a day in Japan if you have a chance. Please be careful NOT to include the name of the town where you live so the judges won't know which school you are from.

Your speech should describe your dream day in Japan. For example,

1. Your schedule of the day.
2. The places you would like to visit.
3. The things you would like to do.
4. The reason(s) why you chose the activities and places.

**Speech Contest Topic for Advanced Plus Level**—Detailed description of people and things, detailed description of opinions, opinions are well supported; Paragraph level discourse and good flow (use of connectives, etc.)

**TOPIC: My Dream**

Using the vocabulary and grammar you've learned, talk about your dream. This can be interpreted as a dream for the future, a dream vacation, a dream career or college experience, etc. Feel free to be creative in interpreting the topic. Please be careful NOT to include the name of the town where you live so the judges won't know which school you are from.

Your speech should:

1. Have a point and supporting reasoning.
2. Have a flow that sounds natural to native Japanese.
3. Demonstrate originality and creativity.



## GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

**ORIGINALITY:** Your poster or speech must be original research, produced and/or written by you. It cannot have been presented before.

**APPROPRIATE LEVEL FOR SPEECHES:** *Speeches must be appropriate to your level of learning.* That means that grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structures (not to mention use of polite language) should be appropriate for your entry category. You are discouraged from using words or speech patterns that you do not understand. Consider this speech as a way to improve your control over the language skills that you already have.

**SPEECH MEMORIZATION:** Reference to notes is **NOT** permitted.

**DO NOT:** mention your school in either the poster session or your speech, so that judges can be more objective in their judging. Do not use props.

**DO:** learn appropriate body language from your teacher. A simple *aisatsu* (greeting) and a bow is an appropriate way to begin your speech.

**DO:** speak about your personal experiences. The speech is a good way to learn to say things that you would say if you were in Japan, talking to a Japanese. Use this contest as a way to write a speech that could be used to introduce yourself in Japan, or talk to someone you don't know well (-desu and -masu forms are most appropriate for all levels except for Advanced Plus).

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE SPEECH CONTEST:

1. The draft speeches may be written in **romaji** or **kana**, and they will NOT be judged or graded. They are only for the judges' reference.
2. The judges may ask you some very simple questions in Japanese at the end of your speech. This is NOT a test! Please be yourself and answer to the best of your ability.
3. No one will be allowed in your room except for you and the judges. No exceptions.
4. There is no recording or photography allowed of the speeches.
5. You must leave any bags, notebooks, etc. inside the door of the room after entering.
6. Pitt volunteers will escort you to and from the judging rooms. Please wait with them until you are escorted back to the main rooms of the contest.
7. Please keep the noise level down in the halls out of courtesy to the offices nearby and other speech contestants.

8. Finally, try to relax if you can! The judges are there to support and encourage you. They are all experienced language teachers who very much want you to succeed and continue your studies of Japanese.

## 2011 HIGH SCHOOL JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST POSTER SESSION GUIDELINES & JUDGING CRITERIA

### Poster Guidelines:

- Poster dimensions: 36" high by 48" wide (unfolded)
- Use a three-panel (tri-fold), heavy-duty corrugated display board or a tri-fold, foam-core presentation board. Posters must stand upright on a table once unfolded.
- The poster should focus on a topic related to the theme of "A Festival (*Matsuri*) in Japan" which students can interpret in a variety of ways. There are many traditional or non-traditional festivals throughout Japan. Any culture events named *matsuri* (festival) will be qualified. Explore the possibilities! A good resource to start finding festivals is to browse the monthly calendars at <http://www.japan-guide.com/event/>. You can also research festivals in a particular region or topic of interest.
- Posters should not merely show photographs and/or artwork about the subject, but should include sufficient information as to explain the topic to a viewer unfamiliar with it.
- Students should not copy and paste articles from online encyclopedias, but should show original work and written content based on research. For example, write the description of the festivals based on your research and consider the kind of information that would help someone who wanted to attend the festival.
- Judging will be based upon the technical merits and quality of the poster.
- Students must be available to answer general questions about their poster and research topic (in English) during competition.



**2011 HIGH SCHOOL JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST  
POSTER JUDGING CRITERIA**

| <b>Criteria &amp; Points</b> | <b>1</b>   | <b>3</b>  | <b>5</b>   | <b>Weight</b> | <b>Score</b> | <b>Points</b> |
|------------------------------|--|---|--|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Originality of Theme         | Common theme. Have seen this many times before.                | Contains many original elements. Draws your interest.                           | Very original theme. Shows a great deal of original thought.                             | .15           |              |               |
| Depth of Information Display | Very elementary.   | Clearly shows that effort was put into gathering the material.                  | Extremely detailed information. Shows much independent research.                         | .30           |              |               |
| Poster Presentation          | Poor presentation. Spelling and grammar mistakes evident.      | Neat and organized. Easy to understand. No obvious mistakes.                    | Extremely organized and neat. Creative composition.                                      | .25           |              |               |
| Oral Presentation            | No clear understanding of topics beyond what is on the poster. | Good understanding of the topic. Can answer all basic questions on the subject. | Very clear and concise explanation of subject. Shows understanding beyond what is shown. | .30           |              |               |
| <b>TOTAL SCORE</b>           |  |   |  |               |              |               |

**2011 HIGH SCHOOL JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST**  
**SPEECH CONTEST JUDGING CRITERIA**

|                                      | 4   | 3  | 2   | 1  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Communicating Meaning</b>         | Understandable by any native speaker of Japanese.   | Understandable by a sympathetic native speaker.  | Understandable to a degree by language teachers.  | Very difficult to understand for anyone.   |
| <b>Fluency</b>                       | Few unnatural pauses. Pauses filled with appropriate fillers (anoo, eeto, etc.). Pauses don't inhibit flow of speech. | Some unnatural pauses, but pauses usually are not long. Pauses generally do not inhibit flow of speech much. | Pauses are frequent, but not excessively long. Sympathetic listeners would not likely grow impatient. Japanese fillers may be used, but not consistently. | Pauses are frequent, lengthy and unnatural. Even a sympathetic listener may grow impatient. Japanese fillers not used. |
| <b>Cultural Appropriateness</b>      | Content of talk is very appropriate for Japanese culture.   | Most of the content is appropriate for Japanese culture.   | Much of the content is not appropriate for Japanese culture.  | Content of talk would not be appropriate for Japanese culture.   |
| <b>Vocabulary Use</b>                | Uses a wide range of vocabulary with high levels of accuracy.   | Uses a range of vocabulary, but with a few inaccuracies.   | Uses a limited range of vocabulary and has noticeable inaccuracies in vocabulary use.   | Uses a very limited range of vocabulary and has many inaccuracies that inhibit communication.                          |
| <b>Grammatical Accuracy</b>          | Makes few grammatical errors. Errors seldom, if ever, inhibit communication.  | Makes some grammatical errors, but these errors are usually not major obstacles to                           | Makes grammatical errors regularly. Errors sometime inhibit communication of meaning,   | Makes grammatical errors often, inhibiting communication of meaning greatly.   |
| <b>Pronunciation</b>                 | Makes few or no pronunciation errors. Sounds rather native-like.  | Makes some pronunciation errors, but errors don't inhibit understanding of meaning.                          | Makes errors regularly, and sometimes it's difficult to understand meaning because of this.   | Makes many errors, to the point that it is often difficult to discern meaning.   |
| <b>Presentation</b>                  | Very cohesive speech with well-connected ideas and natural flow.  | Somewhat cohesive speech with ideas mostly well-connected and fairly natural flow.                           | Speech lacks in cohesiveness. Ideas frequently are not connected well. Speech lacks natural flow at times.  | Speech not at all cohesive. Ideas not well-connected. Does not flow well at all.                                       |
| <b>Effectiveness of Presentation</b> | Interesting and engaging.   | Interesting but not particularly engaging.   | Somewhat interesting.   | Mundane topic; predictable, uninteresting.   |

**Speech level is appropriate for grade level/years studied.**

## 2011 HIGH SCHOOL JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST STUDENT REGISTRATION FORM

*(Please type or write clearly in black ink)*

*Please submit this form along with the \$15 registration fee to your Japanese language instructor who will then submit all completed forms to JASP. Please make the checks payable to **The Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania**. Registration forms and fee must be received by **Friday, January 28, 2011**. Please write or type clearly in black ink.*

Every section must be completed. If there is no applicable information for a section, please write N/A. Please note that information provided for 1 and 3 will be used in the program and on the award certificated as it appears.

|   |  |   |                  |           |
|---|--|---|------------------|-----------|
| <b>1. Category</b>  |  | <input type="radio"/> Poster <input type="radio"/> Beginner <input type="radio"/> Intermediate <input type="radio"/> Advanced <input type="radio"/> Advanced Plus |                  |           |
| <b>2. Title of Speech or Poster</b>   |  |   |                  |           |
| <b>3. Name</b>  |  | First:  | Middle:          | Last:     |
| <b>4. Age</b>   |  | <b>5. Past Participation</b>  |                  |           |
|   |  | <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No  | Year:            | Category: |
| <b>6. Address</b>   |  |   |                  |           |
| <b>7. Phone Number</b>  |  |   | <b>8. E-mail</b> |           |
| <b>9. Japanese Language Instructors Name</b>  |  | <b>10. Name of School</b>   |                  |           |
| <b>11. School Address</b>   |  |   |                  |           |
| <b>12. How long have you been studying Japanese?</b>  |  |   |                  |           |
| <b>13. How many hours a week are you studying Japanese at your school?</b>  |  |   |                  |           |
| <b>14. Do you come from a home where Japanese is spoken?</b> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No             |  |   |                  |           |
| <b>15. Have you lived in Japan after the age of 3?</b> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No                   |  |   |                  |           |
| If yes, please state the period that you lived in Japan. _____  |  |   |                  |           |
| <i><b>I have read and agreed to all contest rules. I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct.</b></i> |  |   |                  |           |
| _____   |  | _____   |                  |           |
| Signature of Registrant   |  | Date  |                  |           |
| _____   |  | _____   |                  |           |
| Signature of Japanese Instructor  |  | Date  |                  |           |

