

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL JAPANESE LANGUAGE SPEECH CONTEST GUIDELINE

1. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

These criteria apply to all contestants.

- 1) All contestants must be currently studying Japanese as a foreign language.
- 2) All contestants must be of a nationality other than Japanese (individuals possessing dual nationality, including dual Japanese citizenship, are eligible to apply).
- 3) All contestants must be 18 years of age or over.
- 4) All contestants must be the first-place winner in their category in the district speech contest in which they were entered (district speech contest must have been held within three months of national contest). However, if for any reason a category winner is unable to attend the national contest, then, based on the recommendation of the district contest's organizing committee, the runner-up in that category may attend the national contest as the representative in the relevant category for that district. The names and contact information of the contestants should be notified by the regional organizer WITHIN TWO DAYS of the regional contest, and before the application deadline, as set up by the hosting institution.
- 5) Past participants in a Canadian National Japanese Speech Contest cannot compete again in the same category or a lower category.
- 6) As a rule, entry is limited to students currently studying Japanese at an educational institution recognized by the organizing committee of the district speech contest. However, potential contestants who are adjudged by the organizing committee of their district contest to meet the eligibility requirements for a given category (as outlined below) are eligible to participate in the national contest.

2. ELIGIBILITY BY CATEGORY

In addition to the general eligibility criteria, contestants must also follow these specific category guidelines. If any questions arise regarding a contestant's eligibility or the level of the entry, the organizing committee's decision will be final.

1) BEGINNER

- i) Neither parent of the contestant is a native speaker of Japanese. *
- ii) The contestant has studied Japanese for less than 130 hours or one year.
- iii) The contestant has not stayed in Japan for more than three months in total since the age of six.

2) INTERMEDIATE

- i) Neither parent of the contestant is a native speaker of Japanese. *
- ii) The contestant has studied Japanese for up to 260 hours.
- iii) The contestant has not stayed in Japan for more than six months in total since the age of six.

3) ADVANCED

- i) Neither parent of the contestant is a native speaker of Japanese. *

- ii) There is no limit on the hours of study.
- iii) The contestant has not stayed in Japan for more than three years in total since the age of six.

4) OPEN

- i) Both or either of the parents may be native speakers of Japanese language as long as applicants are studying Japanese as a foreign language.
- ii) There is no limit on the hours of study.
- iii) There are no restrictions on length of stay in Japan.

Note: The hours of Japanese study are defined as the hours of post-secondary study up to the date of the contestant's district Japanese speech contest.

*** Exceptions can be made dependent on the contestants' level of Japanese language. The final decisions will be made by the organize committee.**

3. TITLE AND SUBJECT OF SPEECH

- 1) Title and subject of speech are the choice of the contestant. The contestant must solely prepare his/her speech.
- 2) Materials prepared by contestants.
 - i) Speeches read from a prepared script will be subject to severe point deductions.
 - ii) When registering on the day of the contest, contestants must submit one copy of the script of their speech. Speeches which deviate substantially from the content of the submitted script will be subject to penalty.
- 3) The speech lengths for each category are as follows:

Beginner	3 min.
Intermediate	4 min.
Advanced and Open	5 min.

Speeches deviating substantially from these time constraints will be subject to penalty.

4. COMPOSITION OF JUDGING PANEL, AND JUDGING STANDARDS

- 1) The judging panel shall consist of five to seven members, who may include Japanese consular staff, Japanese industry, and Japanese community groups.
- 2) The judges shall judge the content, presentation, pronunciation, grammar, and other elements of the speeches in accordance with the standards for each.

5. AWARDS

- 1) Prizes for category winners will be allotted by the organizing committee.
- 2) Past first prize winners shall be excluded from consideration for similar prizes.

6. SPEECH REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Length of Speech

Beginner: 3 minutes

Intermediate: 4 minutes

Advanced & Open: 5 minutes

- 2) Speeches deviating substantially from these time constraints will be subject to penalty.

5. TITLE AND SUBJECT

1. Title and subject of the speech are the choice of the contestant
2. The contestant must solely prepare his/her speech
3. Speeches must be memorized; if the speech is read from a prepared script, point deductions will be considered

6. JUDGES

1. The Judging Panel consists of Japanese professors from Alberta universities and representatives from the Japan Foundation and Consul-General, Consulate-General of Japan at Calgary. The names of the judges will be announced in the Speech Contest Program.