

# Japanese Language Speech Contest Victoria 2024 - Entry List

## Morning Session (9:00-12:00)

### High School Senior Division

#### Entry 1: Lucy Wang

##### 私たちの16性格タイプ Our 16 personalities

The recently popular MBTI test can give people data about their personalities. However, the introduction of this interesting tool has different effects among young people.

#### Entry 2: Xinyi (Elaine) Wang

##### 日本の美意識が私の生活に与えた影響 The Influence of Japanese Aesthetics on My Life

My speech explores how the Japanese aesthetic concept of "*wabi-sabi*," which finds beauty in simplicity and imperfection, has significantly impacted my life. Initially striving for perfection due to high expectations, I found new value in imperfections after seeing a cracked vase in an art class. This realisation shifted my focus from perfection to appreciating the process, reducing stress, and enhancing personal relationships. Embracing *wabi-sabi* has enriched my life and I intend to continue incorporating this aesthetic into my daily experiences.

#### Entry 3: Erica Ea

##### 今しかできないから、 Because Now Is the Time

The aim of my speech is to convey the importance of seizing the moment and making the most of unique opportunities and challenges that life presents you with. Despite my busy and somewhat hectic weekly schedule, I still love everything I do, and am forever grateful for the skills and friendships I have gained through my experiences. Initially, I was a shy and hesitant individual, but when I took a leap of faith in an attempt to overcome my fears, I was rewarded with personal development and self-confidence. I discovered that the most important ingredients for success and growth could only be cultivated within me - passion and conviction. Over time, I have learned the importance of embracing new challenges and making the most of the present, as whether it turns out to be a failure or success, every experience can be valuable.

#### Entry 4: Aleeza Farooqi

##### 書道 Japanese Calligraphy

Calligraphy is a way of expressing oneself by writing letters on paper using a writing brush and ink, and conveying one's thoughts and emotions through the letters and styles of calligraphy. It can be considered an art form as it is not only writing, but also a means of self-expression. Focused on the beauty and balance in writing, Japanese calligraphy is used as a Zen practice for harmony and wisdom and also a meditative and spiritual offering.

### Entry 5: Carmen Ng

#### アニメ産業の仕事環境 Working Conditions in the Anime Industry

The anime industry is known for its poor working conditions and low pay, but why does this happen? What is being done to change it? This speech will cover what working conditions are like for animators in the Japanese industry, and the differences between Japan and other countries.

### Entry 6: Julian Lam

#### 日本の伝統的なスイーツ、和菓子 Wagashi, the Japanese traditional sweet.

What do you think about when it comes to Japanese sweets? During my stay in Japan last year, I decided to go to a Wagashi shop. I saw a variety of Wagashi there and all looked so pretty and delicious. A staff member working in the shop introduced Wagashi to me as I couldn't decide which one to buy. She introduced me to the three main types of Wagashi and their characteristics, as well as the various health benefits to our bodies provided by eating Wagashi. I finally decided to buy the *ohanami mochi*, as I liked its backstory about how its three types of colors, pink, green and white represent different seasons. Thanks to the staff member's detailed explanation, I was able to learn much more about these traditional sweets and felt satisfied. If more people around the world understood the beauty of Wagashi, they would certainly fall in love with it.

### Entry 7: Sam McLeod

#### オーストラリアで節水する方法 How to save water in Australia

Australia is regularly affected by droughts which causes food and water shortages across the country. One of the best things we can do for people affected by droughts is to conserve water. But many Australians don't realise how much water they use, or how they can reduce their water usage. In this speech, I will look at how we can save water in everyday life through simple changes, such as using eco-friendly appliances, taking baths instead of showers, and turning off the tap when brushing teeth. It is my hope that more people will understand the importance of water conservation in Australia and begin to take action.

### Entry 8: Sean Zimmerling-Leaver

#### 私は。。。 I am...

I provide a view into the contradictions that make up the sense of self for a 17 year old, isolated, LGBT teen who seeks to find themselves in books and other media

### Entry 9: Antonio Zelada

#### 運動とスポーツの重要性 The importance of exercise and sports

An overview of the importance of regular exercise and/or sports in one's life. Exercise is beneficial for the body, and some sports, such as Japanese traditional martial arts train the mind. Exercise is key in order to live a long life in good health. Walking, cycling, and similar cardiovascular exercises improve the health of one's heart and can therefore promote their life expectancy. Sports can also be a great way to bond with other people and meet new people. Doing sports with your family or friends is very good for getting closer while working together and having a good time. Sports can also allow one to focus more and take a break from the stress of work or school.

## **Entry 10: Stephanie Claydon**

### **風の谷のナウシカと出会って How 'Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind' Impacted Me**

Watching Hayao Miyazaki's 'Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind' for the first time, I was amazed. In the movie, Nausicaa, a young girl, works independently to create harmony between humans and the giant insects that inhabit her land using a unique ability to communicate with the strange creatures. I not only admired Nausicaa's courage, but also her respect of nature, and desire to understand it. But most of all, I realised that many of my solutions to the environmental issues we face were misguided. It was difficult to overcome my prejudice against the weird-looking creatures and decaying forests in which they lived, but for the first time, I was able to witness the intrinsic value of our environment. Through Nausicaa's journey, I embraced the necessity to show empathy towards all parts of nature, not just the ones I chose, and by doing so, nurture its incredible power.

## **Entry 11: Muhammad Danial Bin Zamiri**

### **東京とメルボルンの電車文化 The Train Culture of Tokyo and Melbourne**

This speech compares the train cultures of Tokyo and Melbourne, focusing on key differences. Tokyo's trains are infamous for being packed during rush hour, with workers and students filling every inch. Despite the congestion, the trains are remarkably punctual, and staff issue delay certificates for delays over five minutes, even deeply apologising for minor ones. Navigating Tokyo's train maps can be complex due to the complex network of lines. In contrast, Melbourne's trains are less crowded and more laid-back. The simpler train maps and longer distances between stations make commuting easier. While Melbourne has train rules, they aren't as strictly followed, and talking on trains is generally accepted. The speech also compares Flinders Street Station in Melbourne with Shinjuku Station in Tokyo, highlighting that Shinjuku handles about 38 times more passengers daily. The presentation concludes with my opinion of which is the best and an overall summary of the speech.

## **Entry 12: Joel Missen**

### **勇気がある Be brave**

My speech will discuss the importance of having courage when learning a language, and how studying Japanese has helped me find courage and become the person I am today.

## **Entry 13: Gabriel Galias**

### **社会にロボットの問題 The Problem of Robots in Society**

I will talk about how in the near future robots will replace us in our own jobs and the problems this will cause. Points: robots will eventually take over our jobs, this will lead to a diminishing of our own social value (our role in society), and that will lead to a robot reliant future making us lazy.

## **Entry 14: Jessica Hwang**

### **魚釣りの方法 How to catch a big fish**

Have you ever been fishing, feeling the chilling sea breeze as you wait with just a small bait on the line? I think I've finally mastered fishing in my own way! But before I share my tips, let me introduce myself. Growing up, I often saw knowledge and success being shared, though I didn't understand it back then. Why give away what you've achieved? But during my exchange trip to Japan, I realised something that shifted my perspective, helping me truly understand the art of fishing.

## **Entry 15: Edward Ho**

### **失敗は成功のもと Failure, the Basis of Success**

This speech will address the philosophical idea that failure can lead to success. It is based on the premise that when you experience failure, rather than be discouraged by it, it is important to reflect on it and think about what you can do differently in the future. I will refer to a personal experience in which I experienced failure and was able to grow from it. This will be supported by the philosophy behind kintsugi (金継ぎ), a traditional Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with gold and lacquer, in which I metaphorically relate my experience to it. Overall, the overarching aim of this speech is to not be afraid of challenges, but to take them on, regardless if it fails as it serves as an opportunity to develop as a person.

## **Entry 16: Jules Perang**

### **日本の労働社会 Japan's Work Culture**

The speech will mainly address and highlight the various flaws (in my opinion) regarding Japan's work culture. In particular I will mention the extremely long working hours with little time off (and the reasons why workers don't take time off), the restrictive/rigid hierarchical corporate structures, and more. However, I also talk about the slight shift in societal awareness with more people coming to understand the importance of spending time with family and friends, in addition to the various companies starting to focus on developing healthier corporate environments. This ties into my concluding and overarching aim which inspires people to spend more time enjoying the true joys of life amongst family and friends, moving on from past stigmas into an overall better lifestyle for Japanese people.

## **Entry 17: Julia Lin**

### **言語の魔法 The Magic of Languages**

In my speech, I will be talking about my fascination with languages, which I see as a form of magic, that can help build stronger relationships, form bonds with the world and even change one's outlook of life. Initially my journey with studying a new language began out of curiosity and interest, but as I delved deeper, I discovered how it has opened me to a new world of possibilities and perspectives. It's like a magical gateway that reveals unique insights into each country which can help form meaningful connections with the people and culture of each country. This experience has made me appreciate the limitless possibilities that languages can offer, making me believe that the pursuit of learning a new language is one of the most rewarding and transformative experiences one can undertake.

## Entry 18: Evie Hol

### 将来の仕事の計画 My Career Plan

In my speech, I wanted to convey my experience and thoughts of choosing a career in high school. Explaining my motivations and passions and informing the audience about how I came to the conclusion of choosing what I did while also offering words of advice to others in the same position that I was previously; which was that of being unsure of what career to pursue and what path to follow after high school.

## Background Speaker Division

### Entry 1: Mai Sawaki

#### なんでやねん Why?

Picture this: on a scorching summer day, you rush to a vending machine, repeatedly pressing the button for a refreshing drink, only to receive nothing. This scenario prompts contemplation over our dependency on convenience and the frustration when it fails us. Take Japan's Shinkansen, where even a slight delay due to natural disasters can cause national commotion, disrupting the seamless travel we take for granted. The dichotomy between convenience and inconvenience blurs when the dependable becomes unpredictable. In the same way, transitioning from the predictable VCE curriculum to the exploratory nature of the International Baccalaureate (IB) in Australia mirrors the vending machine experience where suddenly, expected answers are no longer guaranteed - the quest for knowledge becomes self-driven. This journey mirrors the desire for instant solutions, much like wishing for Doraemon's magical gadgets. Such experiences ultimately instill an appreciation for taken-for-granted aspects, uncovering gratitude's hidden treasures within mundane daily life.

### Entry 2: Escher Harada-McGearey

#### 甲子園を夢見て Dream of Koshien

The speech will be about the National High School Baseball tournament of Japan. It will provide a brief section about its history, focusing on what makes the event so special to every Japanese baseball player. I will also discuss the controversies surrounding the games, and my own opinions and experiences with being a fan of Koshien. The problems surrounding Koshien also reflect on the broader societal problems in modern day Japan, hence it will also be a critique of Japanese culture.