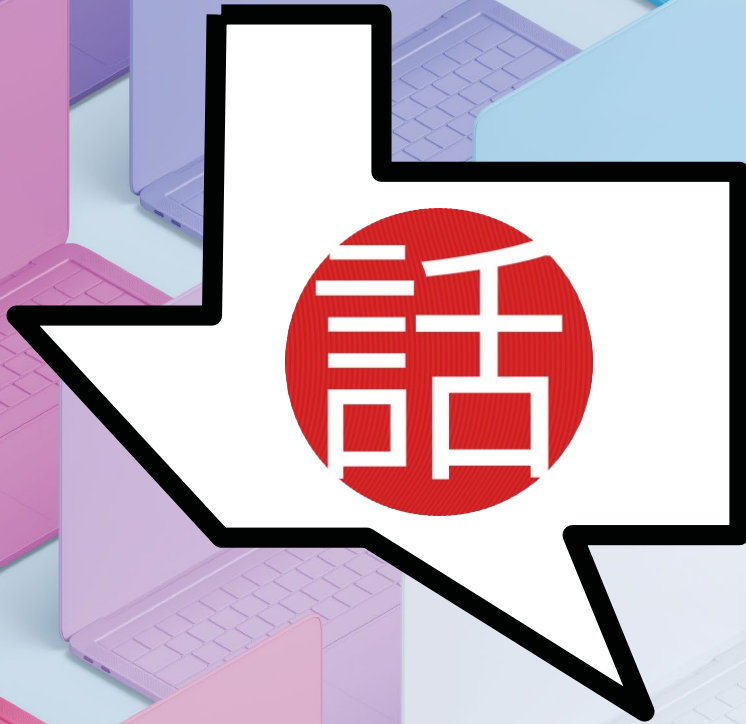


2021



2021 TEXAS STATE JAPANESE LANGUAGE SPEECH CONTEST HANDBOOK

PRESENTED BY:



Consulate-General
of Japan in Houston



JAPAN
AMERICA
SOCIETY OF
HOUSTON

Updated as of 1/05/2021

INTRODUCTION

The 2021 Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest will be held *virtually* on **March 13, 2021**.

This handbook describes the format and content of the 2021 Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest and also describes who is eligible to compete in each Regional Japanese Language Speech Contest. **Please note, however, that eligibility requirements for the National Japanese Language Contest requirements may differ from the eligibility requirements established in this Handbook. Applicants who anticipate participating in the National Japanese Language Contest should review the eligibility requirements for that contest to insure they are eligible to compete. The eligibility requirements for the National Japanese Language Contest may be accessed via this link: [<http://jlsf-aurora.org/eng/page/speechinfo>].**

The purpose of this handbook is to help students, their parents 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 2021 Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest.

Inquiries should be submitted to Lauren Hurley by email at lhurley@jas-hou.org.

Statement of Purpose

The goal of the Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest is to inspire Japanese language learners at all levels of study and of all 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 2021?

In an effort continuously to improve the Speech Contest and better to serve our students and teachers, the Speech Contest Committee has chosen to make the following changes:

For the safety and well-being of the participants, judges and attendees, **the 2021 Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest will be held virtually through Zoom Meetings.**

As was noted in the 2020 Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest Handbook, the Speech with Text Division competition will not be held in 2021.

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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.****

Students, their parents and teachers are responsible for ensuring their guests are aware of and comply with the conduct and dress requirements set forth in this Handbook.

Attire

We ask that all participants please dress appropriately and professionally.

Video Requirements

Participants should use a fixed webcam to avoid unnecessary video movements such as shaking or falling; it is recommended to avoid using a mobile device, if possible. If a participant must use a mobile device, they should ensure the device is set up to capture the best possible image and that they are able to see the timer.

Cellphones are not permitted to be within reach unless they are being used as a camera to log into Zoom. Participants should ensure that the lighting does not inhibit the judges from being able to see the participants' faces. If possible, lighting should be set up behind the webcam and should not be shone directly into the camera.

Participant Etiquette

Participants will be assigned to Zoom waiting rooms prior to their presentation. Inappropriate chats, language, or behaviors in the waiting rooms or contest will result in disqualification. Zoom display names should match the name appearing on the participant's application. Additionally, participants should have their microphones muted and videos off until it is time for them to present.

Following collegiate online testing guidelines, before presenting, participants are requested to display the four walls of their presenting area to the waiting room monitor as a standard room check. During their presentation, participants full face should be visible, no more than two (2) feet from the camera. Participants should not have any interruptions or distractions while presenting and should always maintain eye contact with the screen. For more information, see the Procedure Appendix on page 17.

Audience Etiquette

Participants have worked very hard to prepare for both the Regional and State Contest. Please make sure you and those you may invite respect that effort by being courteous audience members. The audience will be required to mute their microphones and keep their cameras turned off to prevent distractions.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Eligible Contestants

Those who have placed first or second in their divisions 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 a representative from their regional competition to advise them of the opening date of State registration. Registration information will be provided on the Japan-America Society of Houston (JASH) website, found at www.jas-hou.org.

The registration will require the completion of a waiver with the notarized signatures of the student contestant, parent of the student contestant (in the event the student contestant is a minor), and teacher of the student contestant.

Completed registration forms must be received by JASH **no later than 5:00 p.m., Thursday, March 4, 2021**. Notarized waivers may be received electronically, however, waivers bearing a raised notary stamp must be mailed in hard copy, as the raised seal is not visible in an electronic file.

Registration

Registration will open at 10:00 a.m. Monday, February 22, 2021, and close at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, 2021. Those who do not complete registration by the closing date will not be eligible to compete in a scored performance and third place contestants will be notified if first and second place finishers do not register timely. ***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 FOR A SCORED PERFORMANCE. 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/ PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Teachers

Teachers must review this Handbook and encourage students to enroll in the category that best suits them and for which they are eligible to participate, 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. Teachers must certify that their students are eligible to participate in the Contest.

Students

Students must review this Handbook and challenge themselves to enroll in the category that most suits them and for which they are eligible. Students must divulge all useful and truthful information to the Speech Contest Committee when registering for the State Contest. Students must certify that they are eligible to participate in the Contest.

Parents

Parents must review this Handbook to verify and certify that their children seeking to participate In the Contest are eligible to do so.

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 JLSCC reserves the right to make decisions on a case by case basis.

ELIGIBILITY AND DIVISION GUIDELINES

| | Beginner | Intermediate |
|--|--|---|
| General Info . . . | POETRY | HAIKU |
| Target Participant | 1st Year H.S. Japanese Language Students / 1st & 2nd Year J.H.S Japanese Language Students | 1st & 2nd Year H.S. Japanese Language Students / 2nd & 3rd Year J.H.S. Japanese Language Students |
| Number of Times Participant Can Enter Category | Once for H.S. Students / Twice for J.H.S. Students | Once for H.S. Students / Twice for J.H.S. Students |
| Time Requirement | 1:00 – 2:00 min | 0:30 – 2:00 min |
| | Beginner | Intermediate |
| Students must . . . | Poetry | Haiku |
| Create original content | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Memorize content | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Not be a native speaker | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Not live in a household in which Japanese is spoken more than any other language | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Not have lived in Japan more than six months after age six | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Not be a past or present <i>Hoshuko</i> student | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Be a Texas resident or enrolled in a Texas school. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

ELIGIBILITY AND DIVISION GUIDELINES

| | Intermed. – Adv. | Advanced | |
|--|--|--|---|
| General Info . . . | OPEN | AURORA | COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY |
| Target Participant | Adults, Grad Students, <i>Hoshuko</i> students, etc. | 3 rd & 4th Year H.S. Japanese Language Students | College and University Japanese Language Students |
| Number of Times Participants Can Enter Category | Unlimited *see pg. 9 for additional notes | 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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Memorize content | *see pg. 9 for additional notes | *see pg. 9 for additional notes | *see pg. 9 for additional notes |
| Not be a native speaker | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Not live in a household in which Japanese is spoken more than any other language | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Not have lived in Japan more than six months after age six | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A |
| Not be a past or present <i>Hoshuko</i> student | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A |
| Be a Texas resident or enrolled in a Texas school. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | *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 The Japanese Teachers Association of Texas and compose one original, complementary haiku. This haiku must be submitted during registration. During the competition, contestants must recite the provided 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].****

JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges have no prior knowledge of contestants, their schools, or their presentations.

| 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. |

Advanced

Aurora: The Aurora division is open to strong intermediate or advanced students. The speech theme should be chosen by the contestant and the student 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/Uni: The College/University division is open to undergraduate students. The speech theme should be chosen by the contestant, and the student 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 open to graduate students, *hoshuko* students, or students who are otherwise disqualified from participating in lower divisions. The speech theme should be chosen by the contestant, and the student 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. Grand prize winners are ineligible to participate for three years immediately following their winning year.***

JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges have no prior knowledge of contestants, their schools, or their presentations.

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

Special Note on AURORA and College/University Divisions: Students should not significantly change the content, topic, or meaning of their speech from the Regional Contest to the State Contest. Updates to grammar, style, speech organization, or other fundamental aspects of their speech are acceptable. Audio from the Regional Contest will be submitted ahead of the State Contest in order to ensure continuity.

POEM FOR POETRY DIVISION

ことり

かねこ

わたしと小鳥とすずと」 金子みすず

わたし りょうて

私が両手をひろげても、

そら と

お空はちっとも飛べないが、

と ことり わたし

飛べる小鳥は私のように、

じべた はや はし

地面を速くは走れない。

わたし

私がからだを ゆすっても、

おと で

きれいな音は 出ないけど、

な すず わたし

あの鳴る鈴は 私のように、

うた し

たくさんな唄は 知らないよ。

すず ことり

わたし

鈴と、小鳥と、それから私、

みんなちがって、みんないい

CONDUCT ON SCREEN AND MICROPHONES

Introduce Yourself

No matter your division, you should introduce yourself to the judges respectfully and in Japanese. Give them your name; for example, ローレン・ハーリーです。 **Do not** mention the region from which you are competing or your school. If you know a more formal or advanced way to introduce yourself, you are free to do so. End your introduction with the typical よろしくおねがいします and a small bow. Then begin your presentation.

Make Sure Judges Can Hear You and Speak Clearly

Prepare any gestures with your screen's restrictions 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 clearly your thoughts and your pronunciation. Pay attention to the judges' faces. If they are sitting forward or look confused, speak up or move closer to your screen.

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 some participants wish to prepare. Following this short conversation, the judges may ask additional 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. Do not 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. Do not 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) アメリカについて日本人に何を知ってほしいですか。



WHAT IS 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 is counted 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/participant.

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 *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?

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

Do not worry! We do not 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 the provided haiku
- Connection between provided haiku 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 provided 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 provided haiku.

To make the connection between your haiku and the provided 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.

PROVIDED HAIKU

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

| | | | |
|---|------------------|---|------------------|
| 春 | こばやし いっさ 小林一茶 | 夏 | まさおかしき 正岡子規 |
| | ゆき 雪とけて | | ゆうだち 夕立に |
| | むら 村いっぱいの | | こい うたるる鯉の |
| | こ 子どもかな | | かしらかな |
| 秋 | ないとうめいせつ 内藤鳴雪 | 冬 | のざわぼんちよう 野沢凡兆 |
| | あき くも 秋の雲 | | ながなが 長々と |
| | ちぎれちぎれて | | かわ 川ひとすじや |
| | なくなりぬ | | ゆきのほら 雪野原 |

RECITATION FORMAT

First, introduce yourself in Japanese. Then recite twice the provided haiku you have chosen and the poet's name, with a short pause between each recitation. Next, present a three to four sentence explanation of your 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: “ローレン・ハーリースです。よろしくおねがいします。

てんち
天も地も

(x2) なしただ雪の
ゆき

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 personality to shine through.

HOW SHOULD I PREPARE FOR THE VIRTUAL SPEECH CONTEST?

Participants must remain logged into Zoom for the entirety of the contest.

Be sure to check your Wi-Fi before signing into the Contest. Should your Wi-Fi become unstable, have your or another family member's cell phone available to use as a possible hotspot.

You must remain signed into the Contest while you wait to present. Students that sign off voluntarily will forfeit their position in the Contest. Keep Zoom in the maximized position on your screen for the entirety of your presentation.

Should you encounter any issues, email JASH Administrative Assistant Lauren Hurley at lhurley@jas-hou.org.

Participants' Zoom names must match their registration and notarized waivers. Use the following format: "LAST NAME, First name."

To change your name after entering a Zoom meeting, click on the "Participants" button at the top of the Zoom window. Next, hover your mouse over your name in the "Participants" list on the right side of the Zoom window. Click on "Rename". Enter the name you would like to appear in the Zoom meeting and click on "OK".

Should you encounter any issues, please ask your meeting room monitor for assistance.

Participants will be placed in meeting rooms prior to their division's presentation.

While in the meeting room, any inappropriate behaviors or chats will have you removed from the Contest. While in the meeting room and prior to your division's presentation, you are free to use the restroom, get a drink of water, practice your speech, etc. Just as in the live Contest, the timing of each presentation can vary. Therefore, you should not be away from your screen while your division's presentation is occurring.

Participants are required to conduct a room check prior to their presentation.

Your room check will be conducted by the monitor in your meeting room. With your camera, show the four walls of the room. Give the monitor five (5) seconds per wall to observe your surroundings. With your camera, show the desk or table from where you will be presenting. With your camera and a hand-held mirror, show your display screen and, if using a desktop or laptop, your keyboard.

Participants may have no materials related to their presentation in their immediate vicinity.

Prior to your room check, ensure that your desk, table, or other structure from which you are presenting is completely clear from all papers, books, or other devices.

In the divisions where notes are not allowed, such as Division I Poetry and Division II Haiku, motions indicating you are reading will result in your being disqualified from the Contest.

In the divisions where notes are allowed, such as Division III Aurora, Division IV Free Speech, and Division V Open, notes should be made on the page at the end of the handbook bearing the contest logo watermark. Any notes that may be used must be shown during your room check. Be aware that the use of notes during your speech will result in a lower score.

Participants are required to fulfill the following guidelines before and during their presentation:

- You should remove any non-religious head coverings.
- You should maintain eye contact with your screen as much as possible. Constant eye movement away from the screen or behaviors consistent with reading will be considered cheating.
- You should speak smoothly and clearly.
- You should watch the judges body language to establish whether they can hear you clearly.
- Barring an emergency, you should stay within view of your screen for the entirety of your presentation.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND SPEECH DISTURBANCES

If there is an emergency or disturbance during their presentation, participants should do the following:

If there is a disturbance during your speech, calmly inform the judges of what happened and continue with your presentation.

しつれ

Example: “失礼しました。 My mother accidentally walked into the room.”

If you have an emergency, see to your and your family’s safety first. Afterwards, email JASH Administrative Assistant Lauren Hurley at lhurley@jas-hou.org with a brief explanation as to what happened. Consideration will be given to you based on the nature of your emergency.

Examples of an emergency:

- Something caught fire.
- I suddenly became sick.
- A member of my family needed to go to the emergency room.

2021 Texas State Japanese Language Speech Contest NOTES



**Texas
Japanese
Speech
Contest**