



## United Nations Youth New South Wales 2020 Voice Public Speaking Competition FAQ's

### **What is Voice?**

Voice is a unique public speaking competition that asks participants to propose solutions to pressing global issues, lobby for their consideration, and defend its validity.

### **Who can participate?**

All students in Years 7-12 in New South Wales are eligible to participate in Voice 2020.

Usually, the competition is only open to students in Years 7-10, but UN Youth NSW is opening the competition up to Years 11 & 12 students in 2020, in light of the many opportunities these students might have missed out on due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### **When and where are the preliminary rounds?**

There are no preliminary rounds in 2020 in the traditional sense because the Voice Competition is being held online this year. Students must record a video of them delivering their prepared speech (The Pitch) and upload that to the video submission platform before the Video Submission Date (Sunday 11 October at 11.59PM AEDT).

There are, however, preliminary rounds for the Question Time portion of the 2020 Voice Competition. The preliminary rounds of the Question Time portion of the Voice Competition are taking place online on Zoom in Term 4 from Friday October 16 to Sunday November 8. Students need to attend only one (1) preliminary round. The complete list of Question Time round dates and times for this year can be found on our website: <https://unyouth.org.au/event/voice-nsw/>. Please note that students will need access to a computer with a working microphone and webcam for the duration of their preliminary Question Time Zoom round as well as a camera to film their prepared speech in order to be able to compete in Voice 2020.

### **How long is each Question Time preliminary round?**

Each round is approximately two (2) hours long. Students will be provided with a fifteen minute time-slot within that two hours in which they will respond to their two questions. Students, however, need to be available for the entire duration of the round, the whole two hours, as these specific time-slots will not be confirmed and communicated to students until a few days before each Question Time round.

### **What is the fee to participate?**

It costs \$20.00 per participant; this can be paid for at the time of online registration through an online payment form using a credit or debit card or at a later date through a bank deposit (electronic funds transfer). UN Youth New South Wales can offer discounted registration (equity scholarships) for those experiencing financial difficulty; all equity scholarships are awarded at the Convenor's discretion. Please contact the Convenor, Selena You, for further information at [selena.you@unyouth.org.au](mailto:selena.you@unyouth.org.au).

### **Is there a limit on the number of students from each high school who can compete in Voice?**

There is no limit to the number of students allowed to participate from each school. Everyone is welcome!

### **What do I wear to each round?**

School uniform should be worn to every Voice round, this goes for both your digital video submission of The Pitch and for your Question Time Zoom round.

### **What is the draw for the competition?**

Every student competes in a preliminary round. Students in Years 7 & 8 compete in the Junior Division. Students in Years 9 & 10 compete in the Senior Division. Students in Years 11-12 compete in the Advanced Senior Division. The top competitors from each division, after all the preliminary rounds have ended, will proceed to the State Semi-Final. The top speakers from each division from the State Semi-Final will then proceed to the State Grand Final. The top students from the Junior and Senior Divisions from the Grand Final will be selected for the UN Youth Australia Voice National Finals to be held in April 2021.

### **Do I need to be a public speaking expert or debating champion to do Voice?**

Not at all! Voice is open for all interested students, whether you're a debating hack or if this is your first time speaking to people. The Voice experience is quite unique from conventional public speaking and debating and there will be plenty of friendly UN Youth NSW facilitators to help introduce students to this style of speaking.

### **Will there be a general topic area for our speeches or will we be able to choose freely?**

UN Youth NSW provides a list of set topics that students must select from. Students choose one (1) topic and deliver one (1) prepared speech on that topic. The list of set topics is the same in the Junior Division, the Senior Division and the Advanced Senior Division. Topics will be emailed to all students four (4) weeks before the Video Submission Date (Sunday 11 October at 11.59PM AEDT). Students who register less than four weeks before the Video Submission Date will receive their topic list via email shortly after registration. It is encouraged that students register as early as possible so that they have the maximum possible time to prepare for the competition.

### **How do I win?**

The main thing to remember is that the Voice Competition wants students to provide a solution (one that is both innovative and feasible) to a pressing global problem. It is not enough to just tell the judges that the issue is problematic. Students have to break down that problem for the judges and tell us how this problem could be fixed (by the solution they are proposing) and why their solution is valid and credible and achievable. More information about the 2020 Voice Competition Judging Criteria can be found at: <https://unyouth.org.au/event/voice-nsw/>.

### **When will registrations close?**

Registrations for the 2020 Voice Competition will close at the Video Submission Date deadline on Sunday 11 October at 11.59PM AEDT. UN Youth NSW highly recommends that students register before Sunday 13 September (four weeks before the Video Submission Date) so that they have the full four (4) weeks to prepare their speech.

### **What do I do if my question wasn't answered here?**

Just flick our Convenor, Selena You, an email at [selena.you@unyouth.org.au](mailto:selena.you@unyouth.org.au) and she'll be able to help you.