



UN Youth NSW 2020 Voice Competition Judging Guide for Participants

The Voice competition invites students in Years 7-10 to present a prepared speech which proposes a solution to a given world problem and will also test their impromptu speaking skills through an impromptu question and answer session.

For students, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the world, as well as to present their views to their peers. This document is your guide to the UN Youth Australia Inc. Voice Competition Judging Procedure.

Voice Competition Structure

Students will present a speech or pitch outlining a solution to a given world problem. This is known as 'The Pitch'. The length of the speech depends on which age division the student is in (Junior, Senior or Advanced Senior) (see below). Students will select one (1) topic from the topic list which will be provided to students four (4) weeks before their allocated round of the competition.

After students have presented their pitch, they will leave the room whilst the judges deliberate. Students will then re-enter the room one by one and will be asked two questions on their speech or topic. This is known as 'Question Time' and this section of the competition is based on the student's knowledge of their original topic and focuses around the validity of their proposal and the research involved in their speech. Students in all age divisions will be given two (2) minutes to answer both these questions and one (1) minute to prepare their responses to these questions.

Both the Pitch and Question Time are taken into account for the judging process. The three core areas that are judged in a participant's speech in both the Pitch and Question Time are Matter, Manner, and Method, with Matter being the primary focus, supported by Manner and Method.

A guide to what the Voice Judges will be looking for:

i. Matter Most Important	ii. Manner Supporting	iii. Method Supporting
Analysis and knowledge of current situation	Clarity, speed, and tone of voice	Unobtrusive structure
Sophistication of research into solution	Use of gesture and expression	Logical organization of ideas
Identification of obstacles to resolution of the issue	Appropriate use of notes	Coherent flow of ideas
Reasonable feasibility of proposal	Persuasive techniques employed	Persuasive structure
Originality of proposal		Use of plain English
Reasonably predictable effectiveness of proposed solution		
Equitability of the proposal		

The Pitch

Participants are to outline their solution for the provided topic in as much detail as they deem necessary. Their responses will be assessed in accordance with the above criteria.

Participants may not use supportive materials to assist in their Pitch. This includes, but is not limited to, maps, charts, graphs, timelines, or presentations of any form. Participants may use palm cards or written notes during their speech.

Judges will not interact with the participants during their Pitch.

Question Time

Participants are to answer two (2) questions posed by the judging panel in regard to their solutions. Their responses will be assessed in regard to the above criteria. The only additional criteria is that answers should be directly relevant to the question asked.

Judges may ask any and all questions pertaining to the substance of the proposal as outlined in the sub-sections of the Matter judging criteria. Questions will only be directed towards the proposed solution but may include aspects the participant has not touched upon.

Participants may ask for clarification regarding a question or ask for a question to be re-worded. They may not, however, enquire as to the validity, completeness, or relevance of their question.

Structure of the Junior Voice Competition (Years 7 & 8)

1. All students present a four-minute (4) pitch in response to the problem presented;
2. One (1) bell will sound at three (3) minutes and two (2) bells will sound at four (4) minutes for the Pitch;
 - a. Speeches should be approximately four (4) minutes, certainly no longer than four (4) minutes and fifteen (15) seconds;
3. After all pitches have finished, all students will leave the room. Judges will then deliberate. Students will then return on by one in speaking order to answer their two questions on their speech;
4. Students will be asked two (2) easy to moderately difficult questions, and will be given one (1) minute to consider their response to both questions;
5. Students will be given two (2) minutes to answer both questions in that time;
6. Students will be given one (1) bell at one (1) minute and two (2) bells at two (2) minutes for Question Time.

Structure of the Senior and Advanced Senior Competition (Years 9 - 12)

1. All students present a five-minute (5) pitch in response to the problem presented;
2. One (1) bell will sound at four (4) minutes and two (2) bells will sound at five (5) minutes for the Pitch;
 - b. Speeches should be approximately five (5) minutes, certainly no longer than five (5) minutes and fifteen (15) seconds;
3. After all pitches have finished, all students will leave the room. Judges will then deliberate. Students will then return on by one in speaking order to answer their two questions on their speech;
4. Students will be asked two (2) moderately difficult to difficult questions, and will be given one (1) minute to consider their response to both questions;
5. Students will be given two (2) minutes to answer both questions in that time;
6. Students will be given one (1) bell at one (1) minute and two (2) bells at two (2) minutes for Question Time.