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Voice WA

Public Speaking Competition 2014

2015 STUDENT HANDBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Voice, the innovative and exciting public speaking competition of UN Youth Australia! It's also the largest public speaking competition in Western Australia

This annual event is an exciting opportunity for students in years 7 to 10 to broaden their knowledge of global affairs and international relationships, while developing their presentation and diplomacy skills in a unique forum.

Voice gives you the chance to make your voice heard on key international issues that are shaping the future of your society. Through the presentation of a prepared speech and answering impromptu questions, you will explore topics of global and personal significance as you persuade, entertain and inspire your audience.

So that you're not thrown in the deep end, the competition includes an evening public speaking workshop where you will be given public speaking training from some of Western Australia's best public speakers, including Ignite Mentoring founder Ilona Quahe. You will also be introduced to the crux of the competition; pitching a solution to a pressing global problem, and answering questions about your solution posed by a panel of judges.

All students will attend a second event following the public speaking workshop where you will deliver your speech. You will speak about matters of significant global importance utilising the skills and knowledge gained from the public speaking workshop in addition to that gained from your own research.

Additionally, following on from this year's National Finals, held in April in Sydney, the four highest placing students from each division of Voice WA will be invited to represent their school and state in the Voice National Finals, to be held in the heartland of Australian democracy, Canberra, in 2016

This student guide contains all the information you need about the 2015 competition. If after reading this you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the convenor, Hugh Hutchison, by email at: hugh.hutchison@unyouth.org.au



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WHY PARTICIPATE IN VOICE?

Voice WA is the only public speaking competition of its type to include a comprehensive educational component.

Students compete as delegates for their school, however students do not simply compete - they are directly taught valuable public speaking skills that will help them in school, in the community, and in other competitions. In addition, students gain an in-depth understanding of complex global issues through independent research.

Furthermore, Voice WA competitors will find that the public speaking workshop provides a wonderful opportunity to interact with and befriend like-minded students - an opportunity that is not available in conventional public speaking competitions.

- **Voice WA is a superb introduction to the world of international affairs**, which is an area of study that is becoming increasingly significant in our globalised society.
- **Delegates gain heightened skills in communication and self-confidence**, and the ability to convey their opinions convincingly and emotively. These skills are directly relevant to essay writing, creative writing, debating, Model UN, and other school and community leadership pursuits.
- **Voice WA provides a readily accessible forum** for students to meet and learn from their brightest and most passionate peers.
- **The unique educational component** ensures that students will be readily able to achieve success in other public speaking forums in the school and in the community.

Public speaking competitions such as Voice also have the potential to contribute to students' preparation for life beyond school. In an age of digital communication and social media, basic communication skills may be neglected. The power to communicate what you mean in a precise and convincing manner is often overlooked. Many people fear speaking in front of audiences, and struggle with it even through their professional life. Voice WA is an opportunity for students to develop these crucial communication skills in a safe, fun and educational environment.



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HOW THE COMPETITION WORKS

Voice WA consists of two divisions. Year 7 and 8 students compete in the Junior Division. Year 9 and 10 students compete in the Senior Division.

Public Speaking Workshop

The first component of the competition is a public speaking workshop. All students will attend this evening event, at which they will learn valuable public speaking skills that will help them to prepare their presentations. Students will also be briefed on how to construct their solutions and defend their validity. There will be an opportunity for students to ask questions about the competition and the best way to prepare for it, as well as work alongside UN Youth Facilitators in refining their speech in a workshop environment.

Presentation Events

Approximately one week after the public speaking workshop, each student will attend a presentation event, where they will deliver a three minute (junior division) or five minute (senior division) speech to the audience and a panel of judges. In their speech, delegates will outline a solution to a global problem. These problems (the 'topics') will be released one week prior to the public speaking workshop. Delegates may discuss new solutions to long-standing issues, or present solutions to largely unexplored problems.

Immediately after their speech, delegates will answer two impromptu questions from the judging panel. These questions will be related to the solution presented, and answers will last for approximately one minute.

State Finals

The top ranking competitors from each division will be invited to participate in the state final of Voice WA. Finalists will be required to deliver a new speech addressing a new global problem. Finals topics will be released closer to the date.

National Finals

The top four delegates from each division in the state finals will be invited to participate in the Voice National Finals, where they will represent their school and the state of WA. The national finals will be held in Canberra in 2016.



PRESENTATIONS

Voice sees participants propose solutions to pressing global issues, lobby for their consideration, and defend their validity. Each presentation consists of two components: the pitch, and question time.

The Pitch

One week prior to the public speaking workshop, delegates will be provided with a number of global problems. At their presentation session, students will deliver a three minute (junior division) or five minute (senior division) speech outlining a solution to their chosen problem in as much detail as they deem necessary.

These are some examples of topics for each division. Actual topics given to delegates will be different from these examples:

Junior:

- How can we prevent racism and discrimination on the global stage?
- How can we boost levels of education around the world?

Senior:

- How can we balance the right to privacy with national security?
- How can we prevent gender-based violence in communities around the world?

Delegates are not expected to be entirely unique in the solution they present. Nor are they expected to provide a comprehensive and infallible solution to the problem at hand. Rather, the best delegates will be the ones that can innovate on failed solutions and make logical arguments to justify their new answer.

Question Time

Question time (the impromptu section) will immediately follow each presentation. It is based on the student's knowledge of their original topic and focuses on the research supporting the speech. Delegates will be asked two questions relating to their original speech and will answer each one in 30-60 seconds.

Judges may ask any question relating to the solution presented. Questions will only be directed towards the topic chosen, but may include aspects of the topic not highlighted in the speech. This means comprehensive research of the chosen topic is important!

Delegates are welcome to ask for clarification of any question. They can also choose not to answer a question, although this is to be avoided if possible.



HOW TO WIN

Delegates are judged on both their pitch and on their answers to questions. The three criteria under which students are assessed are, in descending order of importance: Matter, Manner, and Method.

Matter

- There should be good knowledge and analysis of the current situation
- Sophisticated research into the proposed solution should be demonstrated
- Potential obstacles to the solution's success should be identified
- The proposed solution should be reasonably feasible
- The proposed solution should be reasonably original

Manner

- Clarity, speed, and tone of voice should be appropriate
- There should be appropriate use of gestures and facial expressions
- The use of notes or palm cards should be non-intrusive
- The speech should be generally persuasive

Method

- Ideas should be organised logically and be easy to understand
- Ideas should flow smoothly from one to another with no significant breaks in structure
- Plain English should be used with minimal jargon

In addition to the above criteria, delegates' responses to questions will be reviewed against the following guidelines:

- Addition of new information
- Evidence of strong research/knowledge
- Justification of response
- Succinctness and brevity of response

Delegates are welcome and encouraged to use notes in the form of palm cards during the delivery of their speech. Speeches are not required to be memorised. However, students should bear in mind that any over-reliance on palm cards is likely to negatively affect their manner. Delegates should be highly familiar with their speeches prior to presenting it, and should only use palm cards as prompts.



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LOGISTICS

All dates, times and venues are provisional only and subject to change. Any changes will be reflected on the website and will be communicated directly to teachers and delegates.

Metropolitan

The public speaking workshop will be held on Thursday the 10th of September, from 6pm to 8pm. All competitors are expected to attend this workshop; however it will be recorded for delegates who are unable to attend.

Presentation events will be held on the following dates:

- Monday 14th September 7pm-8:30pm
- Tuesday 15th September 7pm-8:30pm
- Wednesday 16th September 7pm-8:30pm
- Thursday 17th September 7pm-8:30pm
- Friday 18th September 7pm-8:30pm
- Monday 21st September 7pm-8:30pm
- Tuesday 22nd September 7pm-8:30pm
- Wednesday 23rd September 7pm-8:30pm

Each presentation event will be divided into two sessions of ninety minutes duration. Delegates need only attend their designated session.

Regional

A video recording of the public speaking workshop will be made available to regional delegates along with a public speaking guide tailored for Voice 2015.

Presentation sessions will be held on the following dates:

- Thursday 22nd October (Bunbury)
- Friday 23rd October (Mandurah)
- Thursday 29th October (Albany)
- Friday 30th October (Geraldton)

Each presentation session will be divided into two sessions of ninety minutes duration. Delegates need only attend their designated session.



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State Finals

The junior final will be held on the evening of Thursday 16 October.

The senior final will be held on the evening of Friday 17 October.

Dress Code

Delegates should wear school uniform when attending their presentation session. If uniforms have a formal variant available students should, if possible, wear this in preference to a regular uniform.

The wearing of school uniform to the public speaking workshop is optional.



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UN YOUTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA

UN Youth Australia is a national youth-led organisation that aims to educate and empower young Australians on global issues facing the world.

We know that young leaders have the vision and the passion to create meaningful change within their communities and the world, and aim to equip them with the skills and inspiration to do so.

At UN Youth Australia, we educate over 15 000 young Australians each year about international issues, the role of the UN, and the part they themselves can play in creating change within the global community. Our activities are run for youth and by youth, and everything we do is aimed at empowering young people to be leaders on the world stage. UN Youth Australia is run entirely by a team of over 1000 extremely dedicated volunteers, all aged 16-25. We are one of the only organisations brave enough to empower young people with skills in education, in design, in leadership, in organisation, in diplomacy and in negotiation to execute their vision.

UN Youth Western Australia Inc. is a divisional branch of the national organisation, UN Youth Australia. UN Youth WA runs a number of programs for high school students. State Conference is a weekend residential camp filled with workshops, social events and an introduction to Model United Nations in a General Assembly Setting. Evatt WA is the divisional round of the Evatt Trophy Competition, which is Australia's largest and most prestigious high school Model UN competition. Voice WA is our junior public speaking competition for students in years 7 to 10, and it has grown into the largest public speaking competition in Western Australia. We also run a number of Young Leaders Forums throughout the year, and deliver educational programs directly to schools in line with the national curriculum.

All of the work that we do at UN Youth is rooted in the belief that young people can and do make a difference in their communities. We foster ideas and innovation, and we give people the inspiration and support they need to create change.



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REGISTER TO COMPETE

To register as a competitor in Voice WA, head to the website at unyouth.org.au/event/voice-wa. Before registering you should talk to your coordinating teacher, as your school may be registering students as a group.

The registration fee for Voice WA in 2014 is \$30 per student. Students competing in regional rounds are eligible for a discounted fee of \$20. Payment may be made by individuals or by schools.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If, after reading the delegate guide and viewing the website at unyouth.org.au/event/voice-wa, you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Hugh Hutchison, at hugh.hutchison@unyouth.org.au