



UN Youth New South Wales Voice Public Speaking 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 7-10 in New South Wales are eligible to participate in the Voice competition.

When and where are the preliminary rounds?

The preliminary rounds of the Voice competition will be in Term 4 from Monday October 14 to Wednesday November 6. They are located at various high schools across the state and at the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS). The Convenor has aimed to host rounds in as many regions of New South Wales as possible. Students attend only one preliminary round. The complete list of Voice round dates and locations for this year can be found on our website: <https://unyouth.org.au/event/voice-nsw/>.

How long is each round?

Each round is approximately 2.5 hours long.

What is the fee to participate?

It costs \$25 per participant; this can be paid for at the time of online registration through an online payment form or at a later date through a bank deposit. UN Youth New South Wales can offer discounted registration (subsidies) for those experiencing financial difficulty: all subsidies are awarded at the Convenor's discretion. Please contact the Convenor for further information.

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.

What is the draw for the competition?

Every student competes in a local preliminary round. Students in Years 7 & 8 compete in the Junior Division. Students in Years 9 & 10 compete in the Senior Division. The best thirty (30) competitors from each division after all the preliminary rounds have ended will proceed to the Semi Finals. The best fifteen (15) speakers from each division will the Semi Final Round will then proceed to the Grand Final. The top five (5) students from each division will be selected for the National Finals which will be held in April 2020.

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 topic and deliver one prepared speech on that topic. The list of set topics is different in the Junior and Senior Division.

How do I win?

The main thing to remember is that Voice wants students to provide a solution to a pressing global problem. It is not enough to just tell 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 and why their solution is valid and credible and achievable.

More information about the judging criteria can be found at:
<https://unyouth.org.au/event/voice-nsw/>.

When will registrations close?

Registrations for each round will remain open until the day before each round take place. UN Youth NSW highly recommends that students register as soon as they can to ensure 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, Robert Martin, an email at robert.martin@unyouth.org.au and he'll be able to help you.

UN Youth NSW Voice Website: <https://unyouth.org.au/event/voice-nsw/>