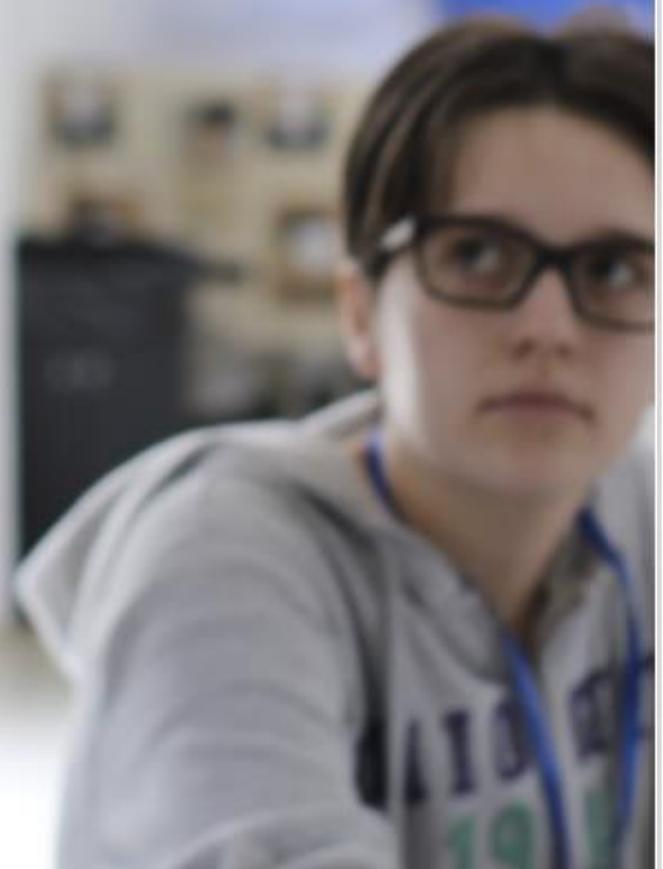
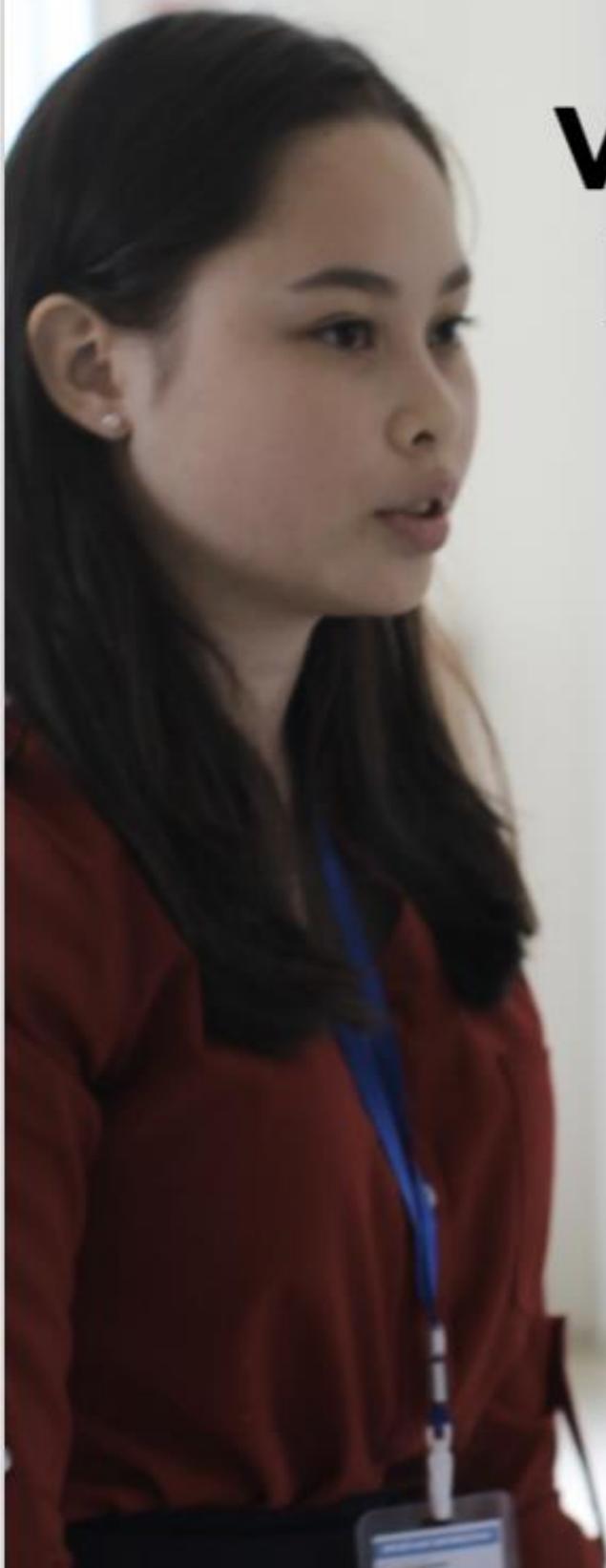




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VOICE WA Handbook





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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 national and international affairs, while developing their presentation and public speaking skills in a unique forum.

The competition is a fantastic opportunity to improve research and communication skills, and to meet and form friendships with other students from across WA. It's a chance like no other for you to engage with, and find your role in, the world around you. You'll explore issues of personal and global 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. You will also be introduced to the crux of the competition; pitching a solution to a pressing issue and answering questions about your solution posed by a panel of judges. We encourage innovation, sustainability, and originality of solutions.

Additionally, the five highest placing students from each division of Voice WA will be invited to represent their school and state in the Voice National Finals.

This participant guide contains all the information you need about the 2020 competition. If, after reading this, you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the convenor, Midaiah at midaiah.harnett@unyouth.org.au



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WHY PARTICIPATE IN VOICE?

Through participating in WA's largest public speaking competition, you'll gain heightened skills in communication and the ability to convey your opinions convincingly and emotively. You will not simply compete - you will be directly taught valuable public speaking skills that will help you in school, in the community, and in other competitions. In addition, you'll gain an in-depth understanding of complex global issues through independent research.

Furthermore, you'll find Voice a wonderful opportunity to interact with and befriend like-minded students while learning from leading speakers and advocates - an opportunity not available in conventional public speaking competitions.

Voice will give you the opportunity to develop

- critical reasoning and problem-solving skills
- independent formulation of ideas
- research and information gathering skills
- innovation and creativity
- confidence and personal presentation skills
- knowledge of current events and issues.

Public speaking competitions such as Voice also have the potential to contribute to your preparation for life beyond school. 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 you to develop and practice these crucial communication skills in a 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. This is important to attend, firstly, because it is where you will receive your speech topics. If you absolutely cannot make it, contact Midaiah, the convenor. Secondly, this is where you'll learn valuable public speaking skills and tips on preparing your presentations. You'll be briefed on how to construct your solutions and defend their validity. There will also be an opportunity for you to ask questions about the competition and the best way to prepare for it.

Presentation Events

Following the public speaking workshop, you'll attend a presentation event, where you'll deliver a speech to the audience and a panel of judges. In your speech, you'll outline a solution to a problem facing Australia or the world that you've selected from a list of given topics. These topics will be given to you at your workshop on the 11th of October. You may discuss new solutions to long-standing issues, or present solutions to largely unexplored problems.

After each participant has spoken, you will answer two impromptu questions from the judging panel. These questions will be related to the solution that you've presented.



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 to finalists two weeks before the presentation evening.

National Finals

The top five 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.

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.

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

1. All participants will present a four minute pitch in response to the problem presented;
 - a. One bell will sound at three minutes and two bells at four minutes,
 - b. Speeches should be 3-4 minutes, certainly no longer than four minutes and fifteen seconds.
2. After all pitches have finished, the judges will have 10 minutes to deliberate. Participants will then be called up one by one in order to answer questions on their speech;
3. Participants will be asked two easy to moderately difficult questions, and will be given up to one minute to consider their response to both questions;
4. Participants will have two minutes to respond to both questions;
 - a. One bell will sound at one minute, two bells at two minutes,
 - b. The time taken to respond to both questions should not exceed two minutes and fifteen seconds.



Structure of the Senior Voice Competition (Years 9 and 10)

1. All participants will present a five minute pitch in response to the problem presented;
 - a. One bell will sound at four minutes, two bells at five minutes,
 - b. Speeches should be 4-5 minutes, certainly no longer than five minutes and fifteen seconds.
2. After all pitches have finished, the judges will have 10 minutes to deliberate. Participants will then be called up one by one in order to answer questions on their speech;
3. Participants will be asked two moderately difficult to difficult questions, and will be given up to one minute to consider response to the questions;
4. Participants will have two minutes to respond to both questions;
 - a. One bell will sound at one minute, two bells at two minutes,
 - b. The time taken to respond to both questions should not exceed two minutes and fifteen seconds.

Question Time

Question time (the impromptu section) will follow the presentations. It is based on your knowledge of your chosen topic and focuses on the research that supports your speech.

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!

You may not refuse to answer a question, however, please feel free to ask for clarification or for the question to be reworded.



JUDGING CRITERIA

In Voice, you will be judged on both your pitch and on your answers to the impromptu questions. The three judging criteria are, in order of importance, Matter, Manner, and Method.

Matter

- There should be good knowledge and analysis of the 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 and effective
- The proposed solution should be reasonably original
- The proposal should be equitable

Manner

- Clarity, speed, and tone of voice should be appropriate
- There should be appropriate use of gestures and expression
- The use of notes or palm cards should be non-intrusive
- The speech should employ persuasive techniques

Method

- The structure should be unobtrusive and persuasive
- 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

Remember to attend the Public Speaking Workshop for tips on how best to prepare your solution and speech.



LOGISTICS

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

State Finals

The winners of each division and the WA delegation to the Voice National Finals will be announced at their state finals.

Dress Code

Participants should wear school uniform when attending their presentation session. Wearing school uniform to the public speaking workshop is optional.

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 that empowers 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.



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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.

REGISTER TO COMPETE

To register as a competitor in Voice WA, head to the website at <https://unyouth.org.au/event/voicewa/>. Before registering you should talk to your coordinating teacher.

The registration fee for Voice WA in 2020 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, however some schools may have a preference so please check with your coordinator.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If, after reading this handbook and viewing the website at <https://unyouth.org.au/event/voicewa/>, you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Midaiah at midaiah.harnett@unyouth.org.au