

United Nations Youth New South Wales 2021 Voice Public Speaking Competition – Frequently Asked Questions

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 Voice 2021.

When and where are the preliminary rounds?

There are no preliminary rounds in 2021 in the traditional sense, as 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 (Tuesday the 5th of October, 11:59pm AEDT). There are, however, preliminary rounds for the Question Time portion of the 2021 Voice Competition.

The Question Time preliminary rounds for the Voice Competition are taking place online over Zoom from Thursday the 14th of October to Saturday the 30th of October 2021. Students need to attend only one (1) preliminary round. The complete list of Question Time round dates and times for this year are 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, and a camera or device to film their prepared speech, in order to be able to compete in Voice 2021.

How long is each Question Time preliminary round?

Each round is approximately one (1) hour long. Students will be provided with a fifteen minute time-slot within that hour in which they will respond to their two questions. Students, however, need to be available for the entire duration of the round, the whole hour, 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 \$20.66 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 (accessibility scholarships) for those experiencing financial difficulty; all accessibility scholarships are awarded at the Convenor's discretion. Please direct any questions about our accessibility scholarships to our Equity Officer, Manu Yarram, at nswequity@unyouth.org.au. For any other questions about the event, please contact the Convenor, Iris Brown, at nswvoice@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. All NSW students in Years 7-10 are welcome!

What do I wear to each round?

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

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. 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 2022.

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 this is your first time doing public speaking. 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 competition.

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 and the Advanced Senior Division. Topics will be emailed to all students four (4) weeks before the Video Submission Date (Tuesday the 5th of October, 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 through the solution they are proposing, and why their solution is valid, credible and achievable. The 2021 Voice Competition Judging Criteria can be found at <https://unyouth.org.au/event/voice-nsw/>.

When will registrations close?

Registrations for the 2021 Voice Competition will close on the 7th of September 2021.

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

Just flick our Convenor, Iris Brown, an email at voicensw@unyouth.org.au and she will be able to help you.