

Recitations, Speeches and Skits

Junior and Senior High School Perspectives

Introduction



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Let's Warm Up!

- ▶ Shoulder rolls and standing side bends

Let's Warm Up!

- ▶ Tongue twisters
 - ▶ Red lorry yellow lorry
 - ▶ She sells sea shells by the sea shore
 - ▶ Susie works in a shoe shine shop. Where she sits she shines and where she shines she sits.

Contest Outlines: Recitation

- ▶ Junior high school only
- ▶ Students recite a unit of the text book in a group
- ▶ Contest in October
- ▶ Up to 5 students per grade
- ▶ Typically 2 – 4 students

Contest Outlines: Speech

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Junior High School | Senior High School |
| ▶ 3 rd grade only | ▶ Any grade |
| ▶ 1 student per school | ▶ Up to 2 students per school |
| ▶ Original speech | ▶ Original speech |
| ▶ Up to 2 minutes long | ▶ 4.5 – 5.5 minutes long |

Recitations and Speeches: Content

- ▶ Based on something close to the student
- ▶ Memorization
- ▶ Volume
- ▶ Speed / time
- ▶ Pronunciation
- ▶ Intonation
- ▶ Gestures
- ▶ Pick a unit
 - ▶ Parts
- ▶ How are you going to stand out?

Recitations and Speeches: Practice Time

- ▶ Work out a schedule
- ▶ Over time (voluntary)
- ▶ Rehearsal time management
- ▶ Students may have other commitments
- ▶ Practice little and often – before school, lunch break, after school

Recitations and Speeches: Challenges

- ▶ Time management
- ▶ Finding students
- ▶ Picking a unit
- ▶ Intonation
- ▶ Students' commitment and motivation
- ▶ Writing in English from the start
- ▶ Keep focused on the topic
- ▶ Get the speech written early
- ▶ Communication between ALTs/JTEs/students
- ▶ Gestures

Discussion: to gesture or not to gesture?

- ▶ Make groups of ALTs and JTEs
- ▶ How do you teach students to use gestures?
- ▶ Are they really necessary?

Activity: Trading Places

- ▶ JTEs are coaching ALTs for a Japanese recitation contest
- ▶ Focus on pronunciation of Japanese words and intonation
- ▶ Try to make the ALTs sound as natural as possible!

Guidelines

- ▶ In your groups of ALTs and JTEs
- ▶ ALTs decide which section to read
- ▶ JTEs – give help in MOSTLY Japanese

Discussion

- ▶ Talk in your groups
- ▶ ALTs - What did you learn about Japanese pronunciation and intonation?
 - What was it like to receive feedback in a foreign language?
- ▶ JTEs – What was it like to explain Japanese pronunciation?
 - Was it easy to make yourself understood?
- ▶ What did you learn from this activity?

Contest Outlines: Skit

- ▶ Senior high school only
- ▶ Groups of 3 students
- ▶ Up to 3 minutes
- ▶ Up to 2 groups per school
- ▶ Accessible to students of all levels

Skits: Content

- ▶ Have a discussion/ encourage students to discuss the topic freely
- ▶ Previous topics are: possibilities, bond, belief
- ▶ Very broad and can be interpreted many ways
- ▶ Encourage students to use their imagination!

Skits: Practice time

- ▶ First step: topic discussion and forming a storyline
- ▶ Write the script and grammar check / check the story is relevant
- ▶ Think about movement and voice projection
- ▶ What props do they need?
- ▶ Practice on a stage and with an audience

Skits: Challenges

- ▶ Try not to limit students ideas by explaining the topic in detail
- ▶ Let them think freely to develop a storyline
- ▶ Include the topic word somewhere in the skit
- ▶ Think about voice projection when you are moving on stage
- ▶ Be entertaining
- ▶ Be original

General Hints and Tips

- ▶ Encourage the students to think and write in English to make a more natural speech and avoid translation troubles
- ▶ Record the first and last practices to show improvement and build confidence
- ▶ Record yourself reading the speech for students to take home to listen to – can help with intonation and pronunciation

General Hints and Tips

- ▶ Practice together as soon as possible to avoid learning incorrect pronunciation and intonation
- ▶ Use vocal warm ups and exercises for diction, intonation and volume
- ▶ Ask JTEs for help – they may see things you don't

General Hints and Tips

- ▶ Practice in front of groups and on a stage
- ▶ For speeches – practice using a microphone
- ▶ Practice little but often – lunch times are good for this
- ▶ Be encouraging
- ▶ Have fun!

Summary

- ▶ English speaking competitions can develop many different skills
- ▶ These skills can be useful in all aspects of life
- ▶ Students should use their ideas and experiences as inspiration
- ▶ Keep the topic / goal in mind
- ▶ Enjoy it!

Thank you for listening!

We now invite any questions