

# 29<sup>th</sup> National Japan Bowl<sup>®</sup>

## Conversation Round Q&A

### **What is the new format?**

Each student will be randomly paired with another student in your level from another school. You will hold a conversation in Japanese with that student and ask each other questions about topics based on your level. The conversation will last about 4 minutes total, with each student taking the lead asking questions for about 2 minutes. A monitor will also be in the room with students to evaluate the speaking abilities of each student, and to help the discussion along when necessary.

### **Is the conversation round graded?**

Yes, students will receive a score of either “Good” or “Excellent.”

### **Do scores from the conversation round count towards the preliminary round?**

No, scores from the conversation round will no longer be added to preliminary round scores to determine the top three teams in the championship round.

### **Do I have to participate in the conversation round? What’s the point if it doesn’t count towards the competition?**

Yes, participation is mandatory for competitors. All team members must participate or a team will forfeit their right to compete in the championship round.

The conversation round is an opportunity for students to speak in Japanese in a fun, real-world scenario where they can meet their peers from other schools. Prizes will be awarded by each monitor for the student who left the strongest impression on them. The monitor can choose that student based not only on their Japanese language ability, but their willingness to try speaking, their enthusiasm, etc.

The National Japan Bowl is not just a competition, but a holistic experience, and we hope that the conversation round will be an enjoyable opportunity for students to put their Japanese to use and make friends at different schools!

### **What topics will each level have to be able to talk about?**

Please refer to pages 11-12 of the Study Guide for the specific topics for each level.

**How can we practice for this new format?**

JASWDC will be releasing resources to help you study in the coming months. We're planning on releasing a series of videos demonstrating the new format with good (and not-so-good) interview examples.

We're also planning on adding a conversation card game to the resources page. While the actual conversation round at the National Japan Bowl won't use the cards, we're hoping it can be a useful tool to help you practice speaking in Japanese.

Finally, we're hoping to hold some practice sessions in advance of the competition. That way, you can feel comfortable with the new format and get a head start on making new friends with fellow competitors!

**Who do I contact if I have other questions about the new conversation round?**

Please reach out to JASWDC at [japanbowl@jaswdc.org](mailto:japanbowl@jaswdc.org) or (202)-849-8090.