

## 2025 PNW Japan Bowl Report

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Westview Team 1 (Level 3)

This year was my second time at Japan Bowl. Last year, my team competed in Level 2 and placed 2nd, so we were really excited to compete again this year. I really enjoyed the breakfast that was provided. The bread was really good and all the drink options were very nice as well. I think all of us were looking forward to the Oyatsupan and it was a very nice start to the day.

After that, we had a dance time, which was really unexpected and it was pretty fun. I felt a little pressured once or twice to dance but otherwise the staff left me alone to film my friends instead of dancing so I was grateful they weren't forcing us to participate. I think it brightened the atmosphere and made us more energized.

The first round was very fun, we had a good time trying to guess and getting excited when we knew an answer to the question. I'm glad that we got to review the answers right after a round/section so we weren't completely in the dark about how well we had done. Our team also enjoyed the snacks that were provided.

Lunch was very delicious and the provided soda was also really nice because some events don't really provide anything other than water but Japan Bowl always has various options like coffee, soda, and juice. I liked how they gave us time to relax with our teacher and other students from our school.

The college booths were nice. I think they were a good opportunity for students to discover new programs and colleges and talk with people from different universities. It was very similar to last year but it was still fun to walk around and talk with the people at the various booths. The only college I was interested in there was University of Washington, and I'm likely not going to go into a Japanese-related major or program, so it wasn't incredibly helpful for me personally but I think a lot of others enjoyed getting to know more about the colleges and programs. I did like learning about the study abroad programs, though, so I think overall the college booths were a great part of the Japan Bowl experience.

For the group/community activity, I was in a group with native Japanese students and one of my teammates so I had a very nice time talking and getting to know other people that were

placed in our group. It was interesting to hear about life in Japan from native people and learn about things that were more personal and harder to find in a textbook or on some general website.

The guest musicians were skilled and looked like they truly enjoyed performing so it was even nicer for the audience to watch. It's definitely something I don't get to see normally so I really liked it!

The championship rounds I really liked. They were entertaining and I also got to learn a lot about Japan and Japanese during the rounds. Naturally, it was the most fun when my group got called up and we were able to compete in the championship round, but watching other levels was honestly a great experience as well.

Overall, I had a wonderful time at Japan Bowl and definitely would love to go again next year to compete in Level 4. There were so many opportunities to learn about Japan and its language and culture, and the fact that it wasn't solely focused on the competition but also on the experiences for the students makes it stand out compared to other competitions.