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Level 3

Japan Bowl was a fun and unique experience. I loved learning about Japanese culture and competing. The variety of topics in the study guide was great, ranging from basic knowledge to fun and unique aspects of Japanese culture. The diverse subjects, including culture, history, sushi, and more, were very intriguing and helped maintain my interest in Japanese culture. My favorite things to learn about were the unique cultural aspects of certain time periods and prefectures. The balance between questions about the Japanese language and culture was well-balanced, allowing for all topics to play a role. These comprehensive questions help me learn skills that would be useful to know in Japan. Some critiques I have: the sushi deep dive topic could have dove deeper, and the history section covered such a wide range of time that a couple of the periods weren't able to be included in the questions at all. Even so, every topic was fun and unique, adding depth and complexity to the competition while helping us competitors learn about the Japanese language and culture.

The event's organization was amazing. The food and programs provided during the event really helped make it feel very accommodating, creating a fun environment. The event was well organized, with clear pamphlets that ensured everyone knew what was going on. The decoration made the place feel fancy, while the food gave a sense of hospitality. Although this event was quite formal, the opportunities given to connect through dinner and activities really helped bring a sense of connection with this community. During the second day of the competition, I chose the games corner for my cultural workshop. This gave me an opportunity to make friends while learning how to play a board game. Overall, the opportunities given to me helped me realize the importance of community. As I heard in many speeches, Japanese is a useful skill that allows people to connect in a world of growing international relationships.

Overall, my understanding and interest in Japanese culture have grown as a result of this event. Although it was a lot of work to memorize a ton of different things, my interest in Japanese culture has really developed. The events and speakers helped broaden my perspective. In addition, learning about specific places and cultures has made me want to experience those things myself. Japan Bowl has really spiked my knowledge and interest in Japan.