

2018 College English Speech Competition & High School English Poetry Recitation Competition

I. Introduction

● Objectives

Taiwan and the United States of America are connected by shared values and by a shared interest in each other's language, food, politics, education, and popular culture. The implementation of visa-free travel to the United States has further increased opportunities for mutual cultural exchange. In the context of ever-increasing globalization, Taiwanese students who can express themselves well in English gain increased global awareness, as well as a considerable competitive advantage in the job market.

To further opportunities for cultural exchange, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature of National Sun Yat-sen University has since 2013 organized an annual English Speech Competition. The theme for the first three years' competitions was "The United States of America, as Viewed from Taiwan"; the 2016 theme was "Cultural Dialogue between the United States and Taiwan"; the 2017 theme was "Cultural Interchange: Walls and Bridges." These themes have worked successfully as bases for discussion where students could share their own observations on the cultural relationship between the United States and Taiwan. The competitions have been very successful, with higher numbers of students participating each year and overwhelmingly positive feedback. We expect this to be the case for the upcoming 2018 competition as well. This year, in order to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Taiwan-U.S. relations and friendship, we have selected the theme, "U.S. and Taiwan: Strong Foundation-Bright Future," in hopes of enhancing the cultural exchange and consolidating the mutual foundation between U.S. and Taiwan. The contest theme not only serves as a launching point for students to explore the historical context and future development of Taiwan-U.S. relations but also corresponds to the American Institute in Taiwan's 2018 serial exhibitions and activities on Taiwan-U.S. long-lasting friendship and cooperation. Competition participants will examine the development and progress of Taiwan-U.S. relations from various aspects, sharing their views entirely in English. Through participation in this competition, students will have the opportunity to develop a global perspective, to cultivate their composure and public speaking skills, and to improve their command of English.

Since last year, we have opened a new division in the competition, for undergraduate English language majors. Moreover, the high school group will be working as individuals to recite and share their interpretations of selected English poems. In this more rigorous competition, these students will refine English presentation skills that will help them prepare for professional work in English.

II. Organizers and Sponsor

● Organizers

- Department of Foreign Languages and Literature combined with English Teaching Center, National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU)
- American Institute in Taiwan (AIT), Kaohsiung Branch Office

● Sponsor

- Office of Research and Development, National Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU)

III. Procedure

● The contest is divided into three groups:

1. College level, non-English majors, working in teams or as individuals to present on the topic, “U.S. and Taiwan: Strong Foundation-Bright Future.”
2. College level, English majors, working as individuals to present on the topic, “U.S. and Taiwan: Strong Foundation-Bright Future.”
3. High school level students, working as individuals to recite and share their interpretations of selected English poems.

Contestants will be judged based on their presentation content, English fluency, and deportment, with the winners receiving awards and prizes. To encourage student participation and to express the organizers’ appreciation for the contestants’ instructors, all finalists will receive certificates of participation, and all instructors will receive letters of appreciation.

● College English Presentation: “U.S. and Taiwan: Strong Foundation-Bright Future.”

What factors foreground and boost the cultural exchange between the United States and Taiwan? On what historical and cultural bases do the United States and Taiwan build diverse interrelations and steadfast friendship? What is it that binds people, increases their cultural awareness, and makes it possible for them to appreciate aspects that are unique or similar? What engagements and efforts could both the United States and Taiwan make to deepen the mutual ties and to develop positive future perspectives? How do the societies’ shared or unique experiences contribute to cultural interaction? (These experiences might include aspects of history, literature, education, popular culture, fashion, art, food, entertainment, sport, technology, politics, economics, diplomatic policy, ecology, mass media such as cinema, music, and television, and other fields.) Students are encouraged to select one or a few specific areas of focus for comparison and analysis.

The College English Presentation for non-English majors will consist of a brief presentation for teams of one or two students. Power Point or other visual aids may be used if desired. The College English Presentation for English majors will consist of prepared remarks by individual students, with no visual aids, followed by a follow-up discussion with the panel of judges.

- **High School Poetry Recitation:**

For the High School Poetry Recitation, contestants will choose and recite a poem from a collection of 10 American or British poems selected by the contest organizers. These poems are of comparable lengths and degrees of difficulty; contestants will be judged based on their understanding of the poem and their ability to interpret it in an engaging manner. Before contestants begin reciting, they will be asked to introduce their chosen poem by explaining its context, meaning, and personal appeal.

The High School Poetry Recitation is an activity for individual students. Contestants may not use audio-visual aids.

- **Eligibility**

※ **All contestants must meet the following requirements:**

College Group

Participants in the non-English major speech competition contest must be:

- 1) Undergraduate students currently studying a non-English major at a University/ University of Technology/ Institute of Technology in Taiwan.
(Students from foreign language-related departments, departments of translation, and those minoring in or double majoring in language-related departments are not eligible.)
- 2) Current students who have ROC nationality, official student status, and whose mother tongue is not English.
- 3) Students who have never lived or studied in any English-speaking country for six months or longer.
- 4) Students who have not studied in a district English/bilingual school for more than three years in total since the age of six.
- 5) Entries must consist of individuals or teams of two (**who must be from the same school**), formed either voluntarily or by their school.
- 6) Registration deadlines may be subjected to early termination or extension.
- 7) The number of participants in the final round is set at 15.

Participants in the English major individual speech contest must be:

- 1) Undergraduate students currently studying at a University/University of Technology/Institute of Technology in Taiwan.
- 2) Current students who have ROC nationality, official student status, and whose mother tongue is not English.
- 3) Students who have never lived or studied in any English-speaking country for six months or longer.
- 4) Students who have never studied in a district English/bilingual school for more than three years in total since the age of six.

- 5) Students must participate individually, either self-selected or selected by their school.
- 6) Registration deadlines may be subjected to early termination or extension.
- 7) The number of participants in the final round is set at 15.

High School Group

Participants in the poetry recitation must be:

- 1) High school students currently studying in public/private high schools in Taiwan. (Grade 1-3 junior college students are included.)
- 2) Current students who have ROC nationality, official student status, and whose mother tongue is not English.
- 3) Students who have never lived or studied in English-speaking countries for six months or longer.
- 4) Students who have never studied in a district English/bilingual school or an English speaking country (this includes exchange programs, studying abroad, and study tours) for six months or longer.
- 5) Students who are selected by their respective schools.
(Home-schooled students, according to the Non-School Mode Regulation of Experimental Education, can sign up for the competition. On the home-schooled student's registration form, he or she has to replace the Official School Seal and Teacher's Signature with the City Government Education Bureau's official seal and the guardian's signature.)
- 6) Students must be registered under the name of their schools. (Please note that only 1 to 5 contestant(s) from each school will be accepted.)
- 7) Registration deadlines may be subjected to early termination or extension.
- 8) The number of participants in the final round is set at 15.

• **The contest will be conducted in two phases: a preliminary round, and a final round.**

Preliminary Phase

In the preliminary phase, a **three-minute** video (for high school participants, an individual recitation of an English poem; for non-English major college students, a short English speech; for English major college students, an individual speech) must be sent to the **combined organizers, the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature and English Teaching Center at National Sun Yat-sen University** via post by the indicated deadline. Applicants for the college-level contests determine their own presentation titles, the contents of which must be relevant to the contest theme. Applicants for the high school poetry recitation must choose a poem from the selection provided. The scoring criteria of the preliminary phase are the same as those of the final (see below). 15 teams/persons in each respective group will be selected for the final.

※ **The three-minute video must be recorded in one-shot without any form of post-production,**

such as film-editing, background music, narration, or subtitles. The use of a microphone is forbidden, so please pay heed to the quality and volume of voice recording. The competition participants should dress formally. Wearing uniforms is not permitted.

Final Phase

※ The competition title/chosen poem for the final phase must be identical to the one used in the preliminary application phase. The contestants selected as finalists must be the ones who applied in the preliminaries.

College Group

● **Non-English Majors**

- 1) Presentation time: 10 minutes in total (7 minutes for presentation, 3 minutes for Q&A).
- 2) Participants decide their own topics and presentation content, both of which must be relevant to the contest theme.
- 3) All participating team members must present; non-contestants may not participate in or assist during the competition.
- 4) PowerPoints are allowed during presentations, but notes or scripts are prohibited.
- 5) Quoted sources must be cited appropriately.
- 6) Videos for the preliminary round must be playable on Windows Media Player.
- 7) Presentation files must be in English, and saved in PowerPoint for Windows Office.
- 8) Please dress formally. Wearing uniforms is not permitted.

Criteria

- 1) English speech skills and expression (pronunciation, intonation, fluency, accuracy, Q&A performance, etc.): 40%
 - 2) Content of presentation (relevance, creativity, structure, visual design): 40%
 - 3) Performance (coordination of members, body language, costume, deportment): 20%
- ※ If two groups receive the same score, their rankings will be determined by their respective scores in (1) English speech skills & expression and (2) the content of their respective presentations.

● **English Majors**

- 1) Presentation time: 8 minutes in total (5 minutes for presentation, 3 minutes for Q&A).
- 2) Participants decide their own topics and presentation content, both of which must be relevant to the contest theme.
- 3) Notes or scripts are prohibited.
- 4) Videos for the preliminary round must be playable on Windows Media Player.
- 5) Please dress formally. Wearing uniforms is not permitted.

Criteria

- 1) English speech skills and expression (pronunciation, intonation, fluency, accuracy, Q&A performance, etc.): 40%
 - 2) Content of presentation (relevance, creativity, structure, visual design): 40%
 - 3) Performance (coordination of members, body language, costume, deportment): 20%
- ※ If two groups receive the same score, their rankings will be determined by their respective scores in (1) English speech skills & expression and (2) the content of their respective presentations.

High School Group: English Poetry Recitation

- 1) Recitation time: 9 minutes in total (6 minutes to recite, 3 minutes for Q&A)
- 2) Participants select a poem from the collection provided.
- 3) The use of audio-visual aids is not allowed. Notes or scripts are prohibited.
- 4) Videos for the preliminary round must be playable on Windows Media Player.
- 5) Please dress formally. Wearing uniforms is not permitted.

Criteria

- 1) English expressive abilities (pronunciation, intonation, fluency, accuracy, etc.): 40%
 - 2) Understanding of the poem as evidenced by introduction and recitation: 40%
 - 3) Performance (body language, deportment): 20%
- ※ If two groups receive the same score, the ranking will be determined by the higher scores of (1) English expressive abilities and (2) understanding of the poem.

IV. Awards

Each contestant will receive a certificate of participation. After all participants have finished, judges will select the top three entries, two outstanding entries, and three superior entries for each group.

1. First Prize: Each contestant receives NT\$6,000 or an equivalent prize and a certificate of award.
2. Second Prize: Each contestant receives NT\$4,000 or an equivalent prize and a certificate of award.
3. Third Prize: Each contestant receives NT\$3,000 or an equivalent prize and a certificate of award.
4. Outstanding Prize: Each contestant receives NT\$1,000 or an equivalent prize and a certificate of award.
5. Superior Prize: Each contestant receives NT\$300 or an equivalent prize and a certificate of award.

V. Registration Information

● Important Dates

Group	College (English major)	College (Non-English majors)	High School
Deadline for signing up and submitting videos	now ~10/24 (Wed.)		
(Preliminary) Result announcements	10/31 (Wed.)		
(Final) Deadline to submit PowerPoint files	11/12 (Mon.)	-----	-----
(Final) Date	2018.11.16 (Fri.) at NSYSU		

※ The registration period may be shortened or extended.

● Registration

- 1) Completed registration forms must be sent via post to **Miss Yu-Tong Lin, No. 70, Lianhai Rd., Gushan Dist., Kaohsiung City 804, Taiwan (R.O.C.)** by 10/24 (Wed.). The title of the mail is "Sign up for 2018 College English Speech Competition and High School English Poetry Recitation Contest---(School Name)". Two registration forms are required if two teams are sent by the same school to participate in the contest.
- 2) For the preliminary phase, the video should be burned to a CD/DVD, marked with the contestant's full name, school name, and topic of the speech/presentation, and sent to **Miss Yu-Tong Lin, No. 70, Lianhai Rd., Gushan Dist., Kaohsiung City 804, Taiwan (R.O.C.)** by 10/24 (Wed.)
 - ★ Please indicate the school name, student name (full name in Chinese), and presentation topic on the disk.
 - ★ Students from the same school may burn their files onto the same disk, but must be placed in different folders.
 - ★ For the college group, if participants in a team are from different departments, they must have their registration form stamped by both departments.
- 3) A completed registration form and video are both required for successful registration.
- 4) The finalists in College group must turn in relevant files within the given time.

VI. Schedule for the Final

Time	Event	Venue (to be announced)
12:00~13:00	Check in	Registration: Theater at the College of Liberal Arts Judge Panel Meeting: Conference Room 3005
13:00~13:15	Guest remarks	Theater at the College of Liberal Arts
	Introduction of contest rules	
13:20~14:50	Competition starts: Teams 1 -7	Three respective sites for the college and high school groups, to be announced with the release of the finalists on the official website on October 31 (Wed.)
14:50~15:10	Recess (tea time)	Theater at the College of Liberal Arts
15:10~16:30	Teams 8 - 15	Three respective sites for the college and high school groups, to be announced with the release of the finalists on the official website on October 31 (Wed.)
16:30~17:00	Scoring	-----
17:00~17:30	Award Ceremony	Theater at the College of Liberal Arts

※ Finalists must check in with their own student ID cards at 12:00-13:00 at the Registration Counter on the day of the final. Finalists will be disqualified if they present in the wrong order or do not appear on stage after being called three times.

VII. For More Information

Please refer to the competition website for updates:

<https://sites.google.com/site/nsysuspeech2018/>

VIII. Notice for Contestants

1. The Organizers have full discretion to resolve any controversies regarding the contestant's eligibility.
2. The Organizers reserve the right to modify any details regarding the contest. Any alterations will be announced on the official website.
3. The contestant must guarantee his or her full intellectual property right to the speech content. Any form of plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Acts of plagiarism will lead to disqualifications of award.
4. The contestant must guarantee the validity of speech content without the violation of others' rights. Any disturbing content involving violence or social conflicts is prohibited.
5. The winner or winning team's performance during the contest will be recorded and uploaded to related official websites for the public's reference. The contestant has to authorize the Organizers to use the videos for free, including public display, online exhibition on digital

platforms, or any outreach methods, for the sake of emulation and academic interchange.

6. Materials and files sent in will not be returned. Please copy all files prior to submitting them.
7. The Organizers reserve the right of making final decisions and adjustments for any defects or disputes.

IX. Contact

For further questions and concerns, please contact:

Miss Yu-Tong Lin

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