

The 3rd PDA Junior High School Parliamentary Debate National Competition Report

Parliamentary Debate Personnel Development Association (PDA)

Date : March 21st,2020 (Saturday)

Venue : Remote (Held using Zoom, a video conferencing system)

Hosted by : Parliamentary Debate Personnel Development Association (PDA)

Cosponsored by : Osaka Prefecture University

Supported by : The Asahi Shimbun Company, Asahi Student Newspaper and English-Speaking Union of Japan (ESUJ)

Sponsored by : The Nippon Foundation, KDDI Foundation

Cooperation : Yamaha Cooperation

Purpose of the Event :

At the Parliamentary Debate Personnel Development Association (PDA), we promote parliamentary debate as a means to nurture multiple skills including conveying ideas in English, logical thinking, acquiring wide knowledge, presentation skills and communication skills. In this event, participants will put their usual practice to the test by debating with fellow junior high school students from all over Japan.

We also hope to create an opportunity for students to improve and learn from the event. Additionally, the format of the debate is created so that it can be introduced in class.

(See also:文部科学省助成事業 <http://englishdebate.org/debate/>)

Participating schools : (Aomori Prefecture) Hachinohe St. Ursula Gakuin Junior High School※

(Tochigi Prefecture) Utsunomiya Higashi Junior High School

(Ibaraki Prefecture) Toyo University Ushiku Junior High School

(Chiba Prefecture) Shorin Global Junior High School ※

(Tokyo Prefecture) Junior High School at Komaba, University of Tsukuba ※

(Tokyo Prefecture) Koishikawa Secondary School

(Tokyo Prefecture) Ryogoku Secondary School ※

(Tokyo Prefecture) Kudan Secondary School

(Tokyo Prefecture) Shibuya Junior High School ※

(Kanagawa Prefecture) Eiko Gakuen Junior High School※

(Kanagawa Prefecture) Senzoku Gakuen Junior High School
(Kanagawa Prefecture) Seiko Gakuin High School ※
(Aichi Prefecture) Tokai Junior High School ※
(Hyogo Prefecture) Kobe University Secondary School ※
(Fukuoka Prefecture) Fukuoka Futaba Junior High School ※
(Kumamoto Prefecture) Yatsushiro Junior High School ※
16 schools signed up, 11 schools participated(※)

Time Schedule :

12:00 Opening Ceremony
12:20 Preliminary Round 1
13:30 Preliminary Round 2
14:40 Reveal of Grand Finalist
15:00 Grand Final
15:20 Keynote Speech
15:40 Awarding Ceremony
16:00 Closing

Opening Speech :

Due to the recent outbreak of COVID-19, this event was held online. I would like to thank KDDI Foundation and Yamaha Cooperation for promptly providing us with needed equipment in this time of crisis.

With severe changes in the world, we understand that students and teachers have been worried about this event. Some may be worried that they are not prepared enough because of their lack of practice. However, I believe it is important that your generation put technology into full use and keep on learning. We hope that students uncomfortable with this form of debate actively engage from their screens and learn from this experience.

Parliamentary Debate Personnel Development Association (PDA) Innovative Officer
Chihiro Nakagawa
(Osaka Prefecture University Graduate School of Engineering • Associate Professor)

Message from the Keynote speech speaker :

Congratulations on this event being held online!

The age where reality and cyberspace merge together, peers from around the world can debate regardless of location, and new values are born is just around the corner. Things that were thought impossible with distance will change via network.

Everyone here today is part of a progressive project, namely 'online parliamentary debate'. New discoveries, both good and bad, are sure to be found from using this system. I hope you all will make this experience an exciting one with your peers!

Osaka University Graduate School of Engineering Science Assistant Professor
Mr. Daisuke Iwai

Motions:

Preliminary Round 1

Bringing snacks and soft drink to junior high school should be allowed.

Preliminary Round 2

Closing schools to combat the COVID-19 has brought more benefits than harm.

Grand Final

Recreating the dead in VR does more benefits than harm.

Due to the recent outbreak of COVID-19, this event was held online. With cooperation of KDDI Foundation and Yamaha Cooperation, tablet PCs, Wi-Fi, and Yamaha speakers were sent to schools and students staying at home.



The opening ceremony began with introduction of participating and enrolled schools. Over 60 Zoom (online meeting service) accounts of students, teachers, parents, and spectators gathered in the main chat room (some schools participated using one account with multiple students). Rules of the competition were explained and POI (Point of Information) practice was held. Students who were nervous from their lack of practice due to the closing of schools seemed to relax from practicing POI. After that, procedures for judges and debate preparation using Zoom were explained.

Recording 表示設定 スライドショーの終了 オプションを表示

0:04:37 12:16

12:00~12:20 開会式

ルール確認

Government

- Prime Minister (PM) 3分
- Member of the Government (MG) 3分
- Prime Minister Reply (PMR) 2分

Opposition

- Leader of the Opposition (LO) 3分
- Member of the Opposition (MO) 3分
- Leader of the Opposition Reply (LOR) 2分

POI

定義を行い、肯定する理由1を述べる。

肯定する理由1へ反論し、否定する理由1を述べる。

前半1.5分
否定する理由1へ反論、肯定する理由1の再構築、肯定する理由2を述べる。

後半1.5分
肯定する理由1、2へ反論、否定する理由1の再構築、否定する理由2を述べる。

後半1.5分
否定する理由2へ反論し、Governmentチームが勝っている理由をまとめる。

後半1.5分
Oppositionチームが勝っている理由をまとめる。

スライド 12/42

ミュート解除 ビデオの開始 招待 参加者 44 画面を共有 チャット レコーディング 反応 ミーティングから退出

Reviewing rules and practicing POI on screen

Recording ラスク バーの表示 表示設定 スライドショーの終了

0:05:50 12:17

12:00~12:20 開会式

注意事項

- スピーチはパソコン(マイク)に向かって話す。
- プレパレーションは15分。
(ディベートをするテーブルのミーティングに入ると、スタッフがプレパレーション用のブレイクアウトルームを作成します。)
- 各チームで論点を2つ出す。それぞれのサインポストをPMまたLOが述べる。
- スピーチ / POI以外はミュートにする。
- POIは、いつ行ってもよい。(15秒以内。立って行う。)
- ラウンドが終われば、握手を交わす。

スライド 13/42

ミュート解除 ビデオの開始 招待 参加者 44 画面を共有 チャット レコーディング 反応 ミーティングから退出

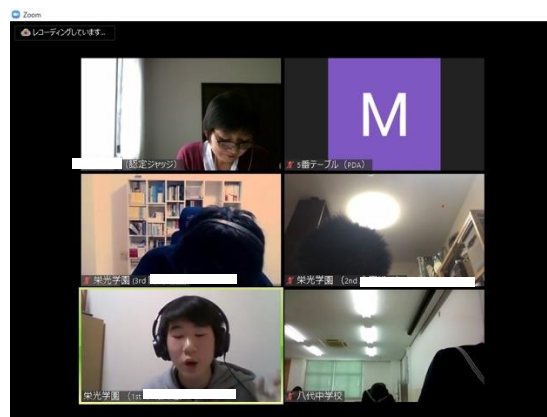
Practicing shaking hands remotely

Next, the first preliminary round began. Matchups and motions were presented in the main room, and students moved to different chatrooms, where they will debate. In each chatroom, PDA staff created breakout rooms (smaller sessions created in chatrooms) and divided students into Government and Opposition groups for preparation. The motion for round 1 was **“Bringing snacks and soft drink to junior high school should be allowed.”** Points from the student’s own experience, including harm to health and concentrating in class were debated. After the debate, the judges gave feedback, and the students asked questions to deepen their understanding.



Tsukuba (Tokyo) vs Kobe (Hyogo)

Some teams were on one account, others participated from their homes.



Eiko (Kanagawa) vs Yatsushiro (Kumamoto)

Speeches were delivered to the judges across the screen.

The motion for round 2 was **“Closing schools to combat the COVID-19 has brought more benefits than harm.”** The Government argued that it was beneficial for the prevention of spreading COVID-19, but the Opposition explained the current situation where ceremonies were cancelled and parents had to take days off for their children staying at home.



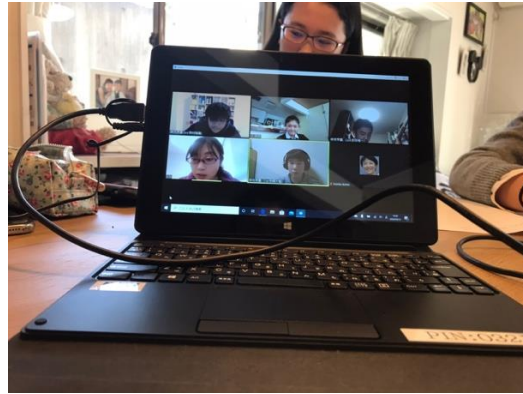
Seiko (Kanagawa) vs Ryogoku (Tokyo)



※Filmed from headquarters (OPU)



Seiko (Kanagawa) vs Ryogoku (Tokyo)
✳Shot at student's home



Eiko (Kanagawa) vs Shibuya (Tokyo)



Eiko (Kanagawa) vs Shibuya (Tokyo)



Kobe (Hyogo) from student's homes



Tokai (Aichi) vs Kobe (Hyogo)



Yatsushiro (Kumamoto) vs St. Ursula (Aomori)

(Photos) Tablet PCs, Wi-Fi, and speakers presented from KDDI foundation and Yamaha cooperation put to use. Some schools also used projector screens. The opponent's speeches were clearly heard, and students were able to debate and communicate in the same way as they usually would, face to face.

After preliminary round 2, everyone gathered again in the main room for the breakthrough

announcement after a short break.



Waiting for the reveal of breakthrough teams

The motion for the grand final was **“Recreating the dead in VR does more benefits than harm.”** As many people watched, grand finalists proudly delivered speeches made from deep analysis and strong rebuttals. The grand final became a very heated debate.



Grand finalists proudly delivered speeches as many people watched



Shaking hands after the debate, online

Before the results were announced, Mr. Daisuke Iwai gave a keynote speech about the motion of the grand final, introducing state-of-the-art technology such as VR and projection

mapping. Many students asked questions, and this event done online became a precious experience to widen their knowledge.



Keynote speech given by Mr. Iwai about state-of-the-art technology (VR, projection mapping)

After the keynote speech, the awarding and closing ceremony was held. In addition to all the equipment mentioned above, VR goggles were distributed to each school, giving a real-life experience of the awarding ceremony. Before closing, one student reflected that even without adequate practice, they were able to give their best performance. On this, PDA's Innovative officer Chihiro Nakagawa added that even without practice, taking part in this competition was a great chance for challenge and growth, and with the right tools, even more potential could be achieved. With this advice, the 3rd PDA Junior High School Parliamentary Debate National Competition came to a close.



Shots from the awarding and closing ceremony

Results of the 3rd PDA Junior High School Parliamentary Debate National Competition

<Team prizes>

Champion : Eiko Gakuen Junior High School

Runner-up : Seiko Gakuin High School

Third place : Junior High at Komaba, University of Tsukuba

Fourth place : Shibuya Junior High School

Fifth place : Ryogoku Secondary School

<Personal prizes>

Best debater prize : 12 students

Best POI prize : 9 students

<Preliminary round results>

1st Seiko Gakuin High School

2nd Eiko Gakuen Junior High School

3rd Junior High at Komaba, University of Tsukuba

4th Shibuya Junior High School

5th Ryogoku Secondary School

6th Kobe University Secondary School

7th Fukuoka Futaba Junior High School

8th Shorin Global Junior High School

9th Yatsushiro Junior High School

10th Tokai Junior High School

11th Hachinohe St. Ursula Gakuin Junior High School

12th Swing



Photo of participants and HQ staff

Opinions given in survey

1. Students

- It is an honor to be selected best debater from all the great debaters today. Also, I want to improve my English so I can convey my opinions better. (Yatsushiro • 3rd grade)
- I got to learn many things as well as communicate with other schools. Today was very fruitful. Thank you. (Kobe • 3rd Grade)
- The judges gave me detailed advice, which I hope to use in the future! Thank you for having this event in the midst of COVID-19 crisis. (Kobe • 3rd grade)
- It was great to get to know other schools. (Tokai • 3rd grade)
- It was frustrating to lose. I hope to give a better speech in the next competition in high school. (Seiko • 3rd grade)
- All the practice paid off, and our team's bond became deeper! It was a great experience to know the level of other students! I will improve my English more! (Futaba • 2nd grade)
- By debating with other schools, there was a lot to learn from. Judges gave us detailed feedback, which was very helpful. Also, we got to interact with other schools, which was great. (Kobe • 2nd grade)
- Personally, I am not satisfied with the results. However, I thank this event for giving me a valuable experience. (Shibuya • 3rd grade)
- It was fruitful to debate smoothly with other students and receive feedback from judges. (Shibuya • 3rd grade)
- I got to interact with others, the motion was great, and overall today was a great experience for my debating skills. (Tsukuba • 3rd grade)
- I realized this competitive style of debating was meaningful and a good opportunity. (Eiko • 3rd grade)
- I wasn't confident in both English and debate, but it was great to know I could communicate. Also, it was very special to participate alone. Receiving the POI prize for the first time in my life boosted my confidence. (St. Ursula • 3rd grade)

2. Teachers, spectators

- We are very happy to participate in such a high-level competition as this. Students worked

hard before and during the event, and this became a great opportunity for them and me to reach higher standards. Also, the judges were generous with their advice, which was very helpful. Thank you very much.

- I was deeply moved that even with this much people, the event was held smoothly!
- Due to COVID-19, it must have been very difficult to host this event online. However, your stance to keep learning deeply struck me. Thank you.
- Yamaha speakers enabled the students to stand while speaking, and the sound quality was great.
- Even with the effects of COVID-19, students got a special experience from this valuable opportunity.
- Even in rural areas, we found a new possibility for us to interact with other schools. If members from the same team could come together in one place, there wasn't much problem even in online debates. However, it would be a better stimulus if students could see each other face to face.

3. Keynote speech

- It was very interesting and exciting. What surprised me was that technology could be used to improve daily lives. I would like to learn more about various forms of technology.
- It was good to know the purpose of VR tech research.
- Very interesting. Technology was advanced more than I thought it was, and I learned many things.
- I took interest in helping lives become better using new technology.
- I had a personal interest in the field, so it was interesting. Also, the content was the same as the motion, which made me realize debate valued knowledge and content as well as communication. I would like to be a debater who could talk about the future.
- I got to see fun videos and state-of-the-art tech that I usually would dismiss.
- It was not my field of interest, but I got to hear from an unfamiliar field, and that was good.

<Personal prizes>

Best debater

1st —— (Eiko)

1st —— (Seiko)

1st --- (Shorin)
4th --- (Tsukuba)
4th --- (Tsukuba)
4th --- (Ryogoku)
4th --- (Ryogoku)
4th --- (Shibuya)
4th --- (Seiko)
4th --- (Kobe)
4th --- (Futaba)
4th --- (Yatsushiro)

Best POI

1st --- (Tsukuba)
2nd --- (St. Ursula)
2nd --- (Ryogoku)
2nd --- (Eiko)
2nd --- (Seiko)
2nd --- (Tokai)
2nd --- (Kobe)
2nd --- (Futaba)
2nd --- (Yatsushiro)