

2. Debate

Most Japanese students do not like debate. However, this can be fun, too, if you just it!
In the class, we will first find a topic, which the class is interested in.

Before the debate, students will research about the topic and chose their arguments.

Then, students will choose the Pro- or Contra- side (about 3 students each).

Next is the actual debate. Now, students in the pro- and contra-groups will deliver their speeches (about 2-3 minutes per speaker). The audience group will actively join the floor discussion.

At the end of the debate we will discuss, whether the pro- or the contra-group delivered the more convincing speeches.

[Course objectives]

This seminar focuses on developing the students' ability to present and discuss scientific matters in English. This class mainly aims at (i) raising the students' confidence in talking about non-trivial things in a foreign language, (ii) making sure that the points presented by the students are indeed logically connected and (iii) being able to deal with questions and answers.

[Course schedule and contents]

1. Course Introduction [Weeks 1-2]
2. Presentation Preparation [Weeks 3-5]
3. Presentation Design [Weeks 6-8]
4. Presentation Delivery [Week 9]
5. Final Presentation by the Students (evaluation) [Week 10]
6. Debating [Week 11-14]

Total:14 classes and 1 feedback

[Course requirements]

None

[Evaluation methods and policy]

Active participation is absolutely required in this seminar. In the debating part, students are expected to talk about scientific matters in English. In the presentation section, not only the presenter, but all students are expected to ask questions or share their opinion about the subject in English.

Attendance and Active participation [60%]
Assignments (presentation and debate) [40%]

[Textbooks]

Instructed during class

We use a textbook called "Presentation Zen" and several other reference books but students do not have to buy them. These books will be introduced in the class and all of them are available in the library.

[References, etc.]

(References, etc.)

Introduced during class

[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

- * Research on assigned presentation topics.
- * Preparation of presentations.
- * Research about debate topics.

[Other information (office hours, etc.)]

Office hour: any time (please send an email before coming to the office) or online (zoom etc.)