

2019年度 英語スピーチコンテスト 準優勝スピーチ

かねてから関心のあった話題について、一年生の前でスピーチしてみたいという強い気持ちがあったので、今回のスピーチで準優勝することが出来てとても嬉しかったです。大会に向けて毎日一生懸命練習して、本番で上手くデリバー出来た時の達成感は何物にも代えがたく、大学生活の忘れられない思い出の一つになりました。練習期間にスピーカーやスタッフさん達と知り合い、仲良くなれることもスピコンの魅力だと思います。

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What Do You Think of Hong Kong Protests?

The pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong have been much in the news for the past six months. People in Hong Kong are trying hard to protect their democracy from the threat of the Chinese government. And they are fighting for their political right and liberties. They are fighting for democracy that We Japanese take for granted. The number of Hong-Kong residents is approximately 7.5million. And when the demonstration against Hong-Kong government started in June, about 2million people joined to protest against their government. This means over 30% of residents joined the demonstration. This number shows that a huge number of people in Hong Kong are fighting for their political freedom. But sadly, last week, a university student died a tragic death during the demonstration. And He was only 22 years old, same as me. I have been impressed whenever I saw the news of Hong-Kong people protesting so bravely against the government. I am impressed with not only the number of residents, but especially the number of young people who are joining the pro-democracy movement. I realized that so many young people in Hong-Kong are interested in their politics, and their political rights and they have become activists. Every time I watch the news about a present situation in Hong-Kong, I am thinking, "If the same thing happens in Japan, would we do what Hong-Kong people are doing?" Would young Japanese people have the courage to do anything for the situation like that? I think many Japanese, especially the young generation do not have any interests in politics. We young student all have the right to vote freely, but so many of us actually do not bother to vote. In the national election for the House of councilors(that is, Sangiin) held last July, the voter turnout among young people in their twenties was only about 32% , the overall voter turnout of all ages was also pretty low, only 49%. One of my friends told me he has never once voted. So, I asked him, "Why do you not vote?" He told me, "there is no specific reason, just because it rained." Another friend of mine said, "even if we vote, it does not affect the results at all, so why should I bother to vote?" Someone else, who did not vote in the last election, complained about tax increase. When she complained about it, I thought, "Why are you complaining about this political issue when you choose not to vote?" You may think those pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong are pitiful, and we have nothing to do with them. But if we, younger generations of Japan, keep wasting our rights to vote freely, I fear that, someday, our democracy will disappear. When I see the Hong Kong protesters, I realize how lucky I am, because I can freely express my political opinions. I myself make a point of voting at every election, Because I think We need to appreciate and take part in our democracy. We should not waste our democracy. Let's pay attention to the courage of young people in Hong Kong. I think we have a lot to learn from them.