

TOPICS (CHOOSE ONE)

① Russian Invasion of Ukraine (Russia/Ukraine)

Background: The Russo-Ukrainian War which began in February of 2014-escalated to Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. The conflict continues today.

Questions:

- How did the Russo-Ukrainian War start and why did Russia invade Ukraine last year?
- What is currently happening between Ukraine and Russia?
- What other countries support Russia? How? How does Japan support Ukraine?
- What problems have been caused by the invasion?

② LGBTQ+ Rights (Global)

Background: In recent decades, the fight to ensure the rights of LGBTQ+ people has made gender equality one of the main topics of discussion around the world.

Questions:

- What does LGBTQ+ rights mean? Where did LGBTQ+ movements first start?
- What are the purposes of Pride Parades and what do people do in them?
- What kinds of opposition does the LGBTQ+ community face in Japan/other countries? Why?
- In Japan, what rules or laws are there that support or alienate people that are LGBTQ+?

③ Exoplanets (Science and Space)

Background: The discovery of exoplanets in the past decades make scientists wonder whether life on other planets exists.

Questions:

- What are exoplanets and how are they found?
- What are the types of exoplanets?
- What kind of planets are scientists trying to find life on?
- What is Kepler 452-b?

④ Global Influence of K-POP (Pop Culture and Media)

Background: With the increasing popularity of South Korean music and media, interest in Korean culture has spread around the world and is enjoyed by millions of people.

Questions:

- What is popular culture (pop-culture) and what is it influenced by?
- Why is K-pop music so popular around the world? How did it gain popularity?
- What positive effects may K-pop have on young people?
- What negative effects may K-pop have on young people?

⑤ Artificial Intelligence (Technology)

Background: With the recent development of AI, discussions about its future uses and dangers have become a hot topic.

Questions:

- What is AI and how is it already used in our daily lives by ordinary people?
- What are the benefits of using AI?
- What are/could be the possible negative effects of using AI?
- What are the latest kinds of AI robots in Japan and what function/purpose do they have?

⑥ Sustainable Toyama (Society and Aging)

Background: Japan is well known as an aging society but despite the challenges of this issue, is coming up with creative plans to sustain its cities.

Questions:

- What are the challenges of an aging society?
- What are SDGs and why are they important?
- Why was Toyama City selected as one of Japan's SDGs Future Cities?
- How has Toyama helped cities/countries abroad that also have problems due to an aging society?