



Date	Topic #	Topic	Preparation Score	Participation Score	Reaction Score
	1	Creativity			

**Website for Video Links and Articles**

Links for all of the videos and PDF copies of all of the articles used for this course can be found at this website.

**<http://www.pellt.org/c1>**

## 01 Topic Creativity

### Video Ken Robinson says schools kill creativity (19:29)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/ken\\_robinson\\_says\\_schools\\_kill\\_creativity](https://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity)

### Article How to Create Creativity

<https://www.webpagefx.com/blog/web-design/how-to-create-creativity/>

#### Discussion questions

- \* 2 What do you think it means to be intelligent? What do you think it means to be creative?
- \* 3 How do you feel about your experience as a student? What good and bad experiences have you had?
- \* 4 What problems do you see in the education system in your native country?
  - 5 How would you change the educational system in your native country to improve it?
  - 6 What do you think teachers can do to foster creativity in their students?
  - 7 What can we do to make creativity as important as literacy as the speaker suggests?

## 02 Topic Motivation

### Video Dan Pink: The puzzle of motivation (18:36)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/dan\\_pink\\_on\\_motivation?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/dan_pink_on_motivation?language=en)

### Article The Secret of Effective Motivation

[https://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/06/opinion/sunday/the-secret-of-effective-motivation.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/06/opinion/sunday/the-secret-of-effective-motivation.html?_r=0)

#### Discussion questions

- \* 2 What do you think about the 3 elements of the new operating system for businesses?
- \* 3 Give an example of motivation from your life.
- \* 4 What kind of class / teacher motivates students?
  - 5 Are grades useful for motivating university students?
  - 6 What motivates countries to have conflict with neighboring countries?
  - 7 When you look for a job what kind of job or employer will you look for?

## 03 Topic Robots, Automation & AI (Artificial Intelligence)

### Video Rodney Brooks: Why we will rely on robots (9:56)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/rodney\\_brooks\\_why\\_we\\_will\\_rely\\_on\\_robots](https://www.ted.com/talks/rodney_brooks_why_we_will_rely_on_robots)

### Article Robots Laws: How to Regulate Driverless Cars and Robo-Surgeons

<https://www.livescience.com/48319-laws-for-robots.html>

#### Discussion questions

- \* 2 What do you think about robots taking over blue collar / white collar jobs?
- \* 3 How should the government regulate the use of technology?
- \* 4 Is the use of military robots moral?
  - 5 Should engineers and scientists be permitted to develop humanoid robots with AI?
  - 6 What do you think about a society that has robots taking care of the elderly?
  - 7 What do you think about autonomous cars, trucks, trains and airplanes?

**04 Topic    Death & Dying**

**Video     Peter Saul: Let's talk about dying (13:17)**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/peter\\_saul\\_let\\_s\\_talk\\_about\\_dying](https://www.ted.com/talks/peter_saul_let_s_talk_about_dying)

**Article    Death is not the end: Fascinating funeral traditions from around the globe**

<https://ideas.ted.com/11-fascinating-funeral-traditions-from-around-the-globe/>

**Discussion questions**

- \* 2    How have you learned about death? What are the customs associated with death in your country?
- \* 3    What do you think of euthanasia?
- \* 4    Is talking about death acceptable in your society? Why do you think it is this way?
  - 5    What do you think you become after death? Why?
  - 6    What do you think of the funeral customs in your country?
  - 7    Do you believe there is an afterlife?

**05 Topic    Nonverbal Communication**

**Video     Amy Cuddy: Your body language shapes who you are (21:00)**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/amy\\_cuddy\\_your\\_body\\_language\\_shapes\\_who\\_you\\_are](https://www.ted.com/talks/amy_cuddy_your_body_language_shapes_who_you_are)

**Article    The Importance of Body Language**

[http://www.selfgrowth.com/articles/Van\\_Marwijk.html](http://www.selfgrowth.com/articles/Van_Marwijk.html)

**Discussion questions**

- \* 2    What do you think of the concept that your body can change your mind?
- \* 3    What kinds of body language are commonly found in your culture? Give examples.
- \* 4    Have you ever had an experience of “faking it”?
  - 5    What kind of body language do you regularly use?
  - 6    How do you think other people view you based on your body language, or non-verbal language?
  - 7    Will you change the way you prepare for an (job) interview based on this video?

**06 Topic    Information in the Digital Age**

**Video     Markham Nolan: How to separate fact and fiction online (13:29)**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/markham\\_nolan\\_how\\_to\\_separate\\_fact\\_and\\_fiction\\_online](https://www.ted.com/talks/markham_nolan_how_to_separate_fact_and_fiction_online)

**Article    In today's warp-speed world, online missteps spread faster than ever**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2012/03/06/tech/social-media/misinformation-social-media/>

**Discussion questions**

- \* 2    What do you think of SNS like Facebook, Twitter, or Line?
- \* 3    How do you judge the trustworthiness of information you get from digital devices?
- \* 4    What do you think of anonymity on the internet? Is it positive or negative?
  - 5    What do you think is the future of TV? Why?
  - 6    Share positive / negative experiences you have had sharing digital information.
  - 7    Do you worry about putting personal information on the internet?

**07 Topic Problem of People Not Voting**

**Video Dave Meslin: The antidote to apathy (7:02)**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/dave\\_meslin\\_the\\_antidote\\_to\\_apathy](https://www.ted.com/talks/dave_meslin_the_antidote_to_apathy)

**Article Japan Needs Action, Not Elections**

<https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2014-11-17/japan-needs-action-not-elections>

**Discussion questions**

- \* 2 What do you think are the main problems with the government in your country?
- \* 3 How do you feel about voting? Are you interested in politics?
- \* 4 What is the situation regarding voter turnout of young people vs. old people in your country?
- 5 What do you think about the activism of university students?
- 6 How can the government encourage people to vote or get involved in the political process?
- 7 What do you think about the current government in your country?

**08 Topic Investigative Journalism**

**Video Anas Aremeyaw Anas: How I named, shamed and jailed (12:47)**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/anas\\_aremeyaw\\_anas\\_how\\_i\\_named\\_shamed\\_and\\_jailed](https://www.ted.com/talks/anas_aremeyaw_anas_how_i_named_shamed_and_jailed)

**Article In today's world, journalists face greater dangers**

[http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/world-of-work-magazine/articles/WCMS\\_081327/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/world-of-work-magazine/articles/WCMS_081327/lang-en/index.htm)

**Discussion questions**

- \* 2 What do you think is the role of the media in society?
- \* 3 Find an example of investigative journalism in your country. What do you think of it?
- \* 4 What part of your society might be considered evil?
- 5 How do you usually get news and information? What types of news/journalism are you interested in? Why?
- 6 Do you know of an example of "named, shamed, and jailed" from your country or can you find
- 7 How do you get news in your daily life?

**09 Topic Happiness**

**Video Shawn Achor: The happy secret to better work (12:21)**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/shawn\\_achor\\_the\\_happy\\_secret\\_to\\_better\\_work](https://www.ted.com/talks/shawn_achor_the_happy_secret_to_better_work)

**Article Does success lead to happiness?**

<https://psychcentral.com/blog/archives/2012/12/02/does-success-lead-to-happiness/>

**Discussion questions**

- \* 2 Do you agree with the speaker that teachers teach their classes toward the average?
- \* 3 What do you think about the mass media focusing on reporting negative news?
- \* 4 How would you answer the question, Does success lead to happiness?
- 5 What are some positive experiences you have recently had? What is a negative experience that you turned into a positive?
- 6 Do you have positive or negative feelings about your classes at Tohoku University? Why?
- 7 Give an example of some happy news that has recently been reported by the mass media.

**10 Topic Nuclear Energy**

**Video Stewart Brand + Mark Z. Jacobson: Does the world need nuclear energy? (22:57)**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/debate\\_does\\_the\\_world\\_need\\_nuclear\\_energy](https://www.ted.com/talks/debate_does_the_world_need_nuclear_energy)

**Article Fukushima2020: Disaster-stricken area hopes to host Tokyo Olympic events**

<https://www.rt.com/news/214983-fukushima-host-olympic-radioactive/>

**Discussion questions**

- \* 2 What do you think about the situation in Fukushima?
- \* 3 Do you believe that it is possible for Japan to operate without any nuclear power at all?
- \* 4 What do you think Japan should do to be sure there is an adequate energy supply?
- 5 Do you think all countries should have the right to build a nuclear power plant?
- 6 What will your personal power choices be when you buy a car (gasoline, hybrid, or electric) or house (kerosene, natural gas, electric, or solar)?
- 7 What do you think about students charging their phones in a Tohoku University classroom?

**11 Topic Creating Change in Your Life**

**Video Matt Cutts: Try something new for 30 days (3:27)**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/matt\\_cutts\\_try\\_something\\_new\\_for\\_30\\_days](https://www.ted.com/talks/matt_cutts_try_something_new_for_30_days)

**Article Minimalism movement takes hold in consumer-driven US**

<https://www.chinadialogue.net/books/7234-Minimalism-movement-takes-hold-in-consumer-driven-US/en>

**Discussion questions**

- \* 2 Have you ever created a new habit? What is something new that you want to try to do?
- \* 3 How did your life change when you became a university student?
- \* 4 How would you describe your lifestyle now? What is your vision for how you want to live after
- 5 Have you ever tried something new but given up before completing it?
- 6 When you want to continue something new, how do you keep motivated? What is your strategy for not giving up?
- 7 Have you ever felt like you are stuck in a rut? What did you do?

**12 Topic Eating Healthy & the Food Economy**

**Video Jamie Oliver: Teach every child about food (21:50)**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/jamie\\_oliver](https://www.ted.com/talks/jamie_oliver)

**Article Global Fairtrade sales reach 4 billion pounds following 15 percent growth during 2013**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/sep/03/global-fair-trade-sales-reach-4-billion-following-15-per-cent-growth-2013>

**Discussion questions**

- \* 2 What regulations do you think there should be for food labeling?
- \* 3 How have you learned about food and cooking?
- \* 4 Is there an obesity problem in your country?
- 5 Would you buy your favorite products if you knew that they were made with genetically modified plants?
- 6 How concerned are you with food safety or the amount of additives in the foods you eat?
- 7 What do you think about the cafeterias at Tohoku University?

**13 Topic    New Technologies**

**Video     Lisa Harouni: A primer on 3D printing (14:50)**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/lisa\\_harouni\\_a\\_primer\\_on\\_3d\\_printing](https://www.ted.com/talks/lisa_harouni_a_primer_on_3d_printing)

**Article    Futurology**

<https://www.chemistryworld.com/opinion/futurology/5851.article>

**Discussion questions**

- \* 2    What do you think about the speaker's assertion that 3D printing will revolutionize manufacturing and change our lives?
- \* 3    What technological invention has had the most influence in your life so far? How has it influenced your life?
- \* 4    What technologies do you think will have the greatest impact on society in the next 5 to 10 years?
  - 5    How do you think manufacturing will change because of 3D printing?
  - 6    What is the most surprising technological development that you have heard about? How will it affect our lives?
  - 7    Should movie theaters be allowed to block cell phone signals?

**14 Topic    Success & Failure**

**Video     John Wooden: The difference between winning and succeeding (17:40)**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/john\\_wooden\\_on\\_the\\_difference\\_between\\_winning\\_and\\_success](https://www.ted.com/talks/john_wooden_on_the_difference_between_winning_and_success)

**Article    Why failure is good for success**

<https://www.success.com/article/why-failure-is-good-for-success>

**Discussion questions**

- \* 2    How is success defined in your country?
- \* 3    How important is it for your teachers to have expectations of you?
- \* 4    What experiences of success have you had? What did you learn from them?
  - 5    What experiences of failure have you had? What did you learn from them?
  - 6    What do you think about John Wooden's policy of starting on time and no profanity?
  - 7    What is the relationship between success and earning money?

**15 Topic    Demographics**

**Video     Hans Rosling: Religions and babies (13:17)**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/hans\\_rosling\\_religions\\_and\\_babies](https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_religions_and_babies)

**Article    Japan's demography: The incredible shrinking country**

<https://www.economist.com/blogs/banyan/2014/03/japans-demography>

**Discussion questions**

- \* 2    What do you think about the increase in the world's population?
- \* 3    What should Japan do about its decreasing population problem?
- \* 4    What should we do to develop the world equally?
  - 5    What influences does religion have on your society?
  - 6    Why do you think the four factors mentioned in the video lead to a lower birth rate?
  - 7    How has society changed because of the increase in one-child families?

**16 Topic Eradication of Diseases**

**Video Learning from smallpox: How to eradicate a disease (5:45)**

<https://ed.ted.com/on/J0CBDJpv#watch>

**Article A turning point in an age-old fight against a killer**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/12/28/opinions/edlund-malaria-2015-progress/>

**Discussion questions**

- \* 2 What do you consider the major health issues in your country?
- \* 3 What can you or your country do to help eradicate diseases?
- \* 4 Have you or anyone that you know had a serious illness? If yes, what was the illness and what was done to treat it?
- 5 Should the government control the entry of people because of diseases?
- 6 Should the government pay for expensive medical treatment for elderly people?
- 7 What do you think about the yearly health check system in Japan?

**17 Topic Social Problems**

**Article "Off the books" kids in Japan**

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/editors/3/20150709/index.html>

**Discussion questions**

- \* 2 What do you think of the family registry system in Japan?
- \* 3 What do you think should be done to solve this problem?
- \* 4 What do you think is important when you raise children?
- 5 What do you think is needed to make a good home environment?
- 6 What do you think about marriage and divorce?
- 7 How can domestic violence be prevented?

**18 Topic Discrimination Against Women**

**Article Law on women in the workforce lays bare the task ahead**

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2016/04/08/national/social-issues/japans-new-law-track-women-management-lays-bare-task-ahead/#.WjujIWWZhF>

**Discussion questions**

- \* 2 What do you think about discrimination against women?
- \* 3 What do you think needs to be done to solve this problem?
- \* 4 What do you think about children on the waiting list?
- 5 What changes would you recommend to improve this situation?
- 6 Do you think it is all right for companies to pay a special allowance for dependents?
- 7 What do you think about the shortage of women in science and engineering?