

TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES 2020

Organizing Questions

- What measures is Tokyo taking to prepare for the 2020 Olympic Games?
- What does Tokyo hope to achieve from hosting the Games?
- What are some challenges facing Tokyo leading up to the 2020 Olympic Games?
- Why is the legacy of the Olympics important for a host nation to consider?

Introduction

In 2020, Tokyo will host the Summer Olympic Games. Major preparations are underway, as the city hopes to use its moment in the international spotlight to dazzle the world with its state-of-the-art facilities, technological innovations, impeccable hospitality, and triumphant recovery from the 2011 Tohoku earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster. Tokyo hosted the Summer Olympics in 1964 and underwent a complete transformation to prepare for those Games. While Tokyo is not rebuilding itself quite so dramatically as it did in 1964, the preparations for the 2020 Games have engulfed the city and region since 2013, when it won the Olympic bid. It has not been a smooth process so far, with budget issues, controversies, and setbacks, but Tokyo is moving forward optimistically, determined to prove that it was indeed the best choice of cities to host the 2020 Summer Games.

In this lesson, students learn about how Tokyo won the bid to host the 2020 Olympics, what measures are being taken to prepare for the Games, and what challenges the city faces as it prepares to host. Students work in groups to research either a controversy surrounding the 2020 Games or a technological innovation in progress for the Games. Students use the information they gather to prepare a news broadcast on their topic to present to the class. The lesson concludes with a debriefing discussion.

Objectives

In this lesson, students will

- understand Japan's goals for the 2020 Olympic Games and the significance of hosting;
- learn about the preparations necessary for hosting the Olympic Games;
- consider various challenges for Tokyo in preparing for the Olympic Games; and
- conduct independent research on a technological innovation or a controversy leading up to the 2020 Olympic Games.

Connections to Curriculum Standards

This lesson has been designed to meet certain national social studies and common core standards as defined by the National Council for the Social Studies and the Common Core State Standards Initiative. The standards for the lesson are listed here.

National Social Studies Standards (from the National Council for the Social Studies)

- Culture; Thematic Strand I: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of culture and cultural diversity.
- Time, Continuity, and Change; Thematic Strand II: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the past and its legacy.
- People, Places, and Environments; Thematic Strand III: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of people, places, and environments.
- Individuals, Groups, and Institutions; Thematic Strand V: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions.
- Power, Authority, and Governance; Thematic Strand VI: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people create, interact with, and change structures of power, authority, and governance.
- Science, Technology, and Society; Thematic Strand VIII: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of relationships among science, technology, and society.
- Global Connections; Thematic Strand IX: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of global connections and interdependence.

Reading Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies (from the Common Core State Standards Initiative)

- Standard 1, Grades 9–10: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.
- Standard 2, Grades 11–12: Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships among the key details and ideas.
- Standard 3, Grades 9–10: Analyze in detail a series of events described in a text; determine whether earlier events caused later ones or simply preceded them.
- Standard 7, Grades 11–12: Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

- Standard 9, Grades 11–12: Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.

Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects (from the Common Core State Standards Initiative)

- Standard 4, Grades 6–12: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- Standard 6, Grades 9–10: Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology’s capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.
- Standard 7, Grades 9–12: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
- Standard 9, Grades 6–12: Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Materials Handout 1, *2020 Tokyo Olympic Games*, 30 copies
 Handout 2, *News Broadcast*, 6 copies
 Handout 3, *Notes on News Broadcasts*, 30 copies
 Handout 4, *News Broadcast Evaluations*, 6 copies
 Answer Key, *2020 Tokyo Olympic Games*

Teacher Preparation Instructions and materials are based on a class size of 30 students. Adjust accordingly for different class sizes.

1. Make the appropriate number of copies of handouts.
2. Become familiar with the content of the handouts and answer key.

Time Three 50-minute class periods

Procedures Day One

1. Pose the following questions to the class, and allow students to share and discuss their responses.
 - Why would a city want to host the Olympic Games?
 - What might be some challenges involved in hosting the Olympics?
 - What city is hosting the 2020 Summer Games?
2. Explain that in this lesson students will learn about Tokyo’s efforts and challenges leading up to the 2020 Olympic Games.

3. Distribute one copy of Handout 1, *2020 Tokyo Olympic Games*, to each student. Instruct students to read the handout and answer the questions at the end. Collect students' written responses for assessment. Review the information and discuss the answers as a class.
4. Divide the class into six groups. Distribute one copy of Handout 2, *News Broadcast*, to each group. Inform students that each group will prepare a news broadcast about either a technological innovation or a controversy surrounding the 2020 Olympics to present to the class during the next class period. Assign each group one of the following topics: (1) self-driving taxis; (2) automatic translation devices; (3) smart cards with facial recognition; (4) status of the Fukushima nuclear power plant and related environmental and safety issues; (5) controversy over the Olympic Stadium design; and (6) rising costs of hosting the 2020 Games.
5. Review the steps and expectations outlined on Handout 2 with the class. Allow groups the remainder of class time to plan their broadcast and decide what each group member should research for homework.

Day Two Allow the entire class period for groups to work on their scripts and rehearse for class presentations.

- Day Three**
1. Allow 5–10 minutes for groups to finalize preparations for their news broadcasts.
 2. Distribute one copy of Handout 3, *Notes on News Broadcasts*, to each student. Instruct students to take notes on the information shared in each broadcast while other groups are presenting. Students can leave their own topic blank on the handout.
 3. Facilitate group presentations. During the presentations, evaluate news broadcasts, using Handout 4, *News Broadcast Evaluations*, as a guide.
 4. Collect one script from each group as well as Handout 3 from every student for assessment.
 5. Distribute one completed copy of Handout 4, *News Broadcast Evaluations*, to each group with your scores and comments for that group's presentation.
 6. Facilitate a debriefing discussion using the following questions as a guide.
 - In your opinion, do the benefits of hosting the Olympic Games outweigh the costs?
 - What do you think is the biggest challenge to any city hosting the Olympics?
 - What is Tokyo's biggest challenge in preparing to host the 2020 Games?

- The primary goal of the Olympic Games is to promote global unity and international relations. Do you think it achieves this goal? Why or why not?
- In your opinion, what is Tokyo's potential for hosting a successful Olympic Games in 2020? Explain.

Assessment The following are suggestions for assessing student work in this lesson:

1. Assess student responses to questions on Handout 1, *2020 Tokyo Olympic Games*, based on Answer Key, *2020 Tokyo Olympic Games*.
2. Assess group scripts for news broadcasts, based on completion, quality, and thought demonstrated.
3. Informally evaluate student notes taken during presentations on Handout 3, *Notes on News Broadcasts*, based on completion and quality.
4. Evaluate student performances of news broadcasts, using Handout 4, *News Broadcast Evaluations*, as a guide.
5. Assess student participation in group and class discussions, evaluating students' ability to
 - clearly state their opinions, questions, and/or answers;
 - provide thoughtful answers;
 - exhibit sensitivity toward different cultures and ideas;
 - respect and acknowledge other students' comments; and
 - ask relevant and insightful questions.

2020 TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES

BY SELENA LAI

2011 Tohoku earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster—a series of calamities that began with a 9.0-magnitude earthquake that struck off the coast of Tohoku, Japan on March 11, 2011 (with the epicenter approximately 200 miles from Tokyo). The earthquake was the strongest ever recorded in Japan. It triggered an even more destructive tsunami with waves reaching as high as 133 feet, which destroyed coastal towns along Japan’s northern islands. The tsunami also caused the meltdown of three nuclear reactors at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant and the expulsion of radioactive material into the ocean and surrounding environment. This nuclear disaster is one of the worst the world has ever seen, on par with the Chernobyl nuclear disaster of 1986, and continues to be a crisis.

candidature—the state of being a candidate or campaigning

iteration—a procedure in which repetition of a sequence of operations yields results successively closer to a desired result

1936 Berlin Games—an Olympics held in Berlin, Germany, which gave Adolf Hitler the opportunity to promote his racist ideologies

In 2020, Tokyo will host the Summer Olympic Games. Major preparations are underway, as the city hopes to use its moment in the international spotlight to dazzle the world with its state-of-the-art facilities, technological innovations, impeccable hospitality, and triumphant recovery from the 2011 Tohoku earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster. Tokyo hosted the Summer Olympics in 1964 and underwent a complete transformation to prepare for those Games. While Tokyo is not rebuilding itself quite so dramatically as it did in 1964, the preparations for the 2020 Games have engulfed the city and region since 2013, when it won the Olympic bid. It has not been a smooth process so far, with budget issues, controversies, and setbacks, but Tokyo is moving forward optimistically, determined to prove that it was indeed the best choice of cities to host the 2020 Summer Games.

The Candidature Process

Throughout modern history, the Olympic Games have served as a tool to further international relations and foster a sense of global unity. Hosting the games is widely regarded to be a great honor, and countries put enormous effort into the lengthy candidature process that begins a decade earlier. The Olympics are routinely described as an economic engine for its host country. While spending billions of dollars to host big sporting events such as the Olympics may not necessarily yield immediate payoffs in the form of tourist dollars and foreign investment, it does accomplish something else. It gives the host global recognition and legitimacy, signaling to the world that it is open for business.¹ Emerging economies have long viewed hosting the Olympics as an effective way to announce their arrival on the global playing field, as was the case with Tokyo in 1964, China in 2008, and Russia in 2014.² Aside from potential economic benefits, hosting the Olympics boosts domestic morale and elevates national pride, which can be intangible but invaluable benefits for countries that have faced recent struggles, disasters, wars, or other debilitating events.

Regardless of what a country hopes to gain by hosting the Olympics, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has its own criteria, as outlined in its governing charter and principles. The selection process takes years, and bids go through multiple iterations before the final decision is made. Especially after the 1936 Berlin Games, the IOC takes the goals of the Olympics seriously—to use sports as a way to promote international peace, harmony, and solidarity. It places strong emphasis on a potential host’s commitment and ability to not only deliver excellent Games, but also to meet the needs of the city and region to ensure a positive, long-term, sustainable legacy.³ In addition, close attention is paid to human rights issues, social unrest, armed conflicts, ethical conduct, and any situation that might call into question the host’s integrity and adherence

to Olympic values and/or its ability to deliver a safe and smooth Olympics.

During the candidature process, the IOC first examines a city's vision and strategy for the Games, and how the Games align with the city's long-term development plans. The next stage focuses on governance, legal affairs, and venue funding, to make sure that the potential host city has the proper legal and financial mechanisms in place to host the Games.⁴ The final stage analyzes how a city would deliver the Games and ensure a sustainable legacy as well as a positive athlete experience.⁵

Tokyo Wins the Bid

In 2013, the IOC chose Tokyo over Istanbul and Madrid to host the 2020 Summer Olympics. It will be Tokyo's second time hosting the Summer Olympics. Japan has also hosted two Winter Olympic Games, in 1972 and 1998. To win the bid, the Japanese Olympic Committee was able to convince the IOC that Tokyo would be the safest choice of the three contenders, despite fears of radiation leaks and contaminated water from the 2011 Tohoku earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster.⁶

Istanbul's bid was tarnished by the ongoing Syrian war at Turkey's border, as well as the Turkish government's recent harsh crackdown on anti-government protestors. Madrid's bid was weakened by Spain's economic recession and high unemployment rates. Both countries' bids were tainted considerably by its athletes' recent doping violations, which stood in stark contrast to Japan's clean anti-doping record.⁷

The nuclear radiation concerns notwithstanding, Tokyo's bid seemed to shine in comparison. Having hosted the 1964 Games, Tokyo had already proven its ability to successfully host and organize the Olympics. Moreover, the massive infrastructure growth and urban development that accompanied those Games—the *shinkansen*, new sports venues, hotels, highways, airports, and railway lines—are not only still in use today, they strengthened Tokyo's bid for the 2020 Games.⁸ These enduring legacies of the Olympics, along with the city's high-quality infrastructure and efficient transportation networks, a government reserve fund of US\$4.5 billion to build new stadiums, usage of existing sports venues, and proximity of proposed venues to the Olympic village all set the stage for a reliably smooth operation. With emphatic assurances from the Japanese government that the nuclear contamination issue was under control, Tokyo easily convinced the IOC that it was indeed the best choice of host cities for the 2020 Summer Olympics.

shinkansen—in Japan, a railroad system carrying high-speed passenger trains

US\$—United States dollar, the currency used in the United States

A City Prepares

With its role as host city secured, Tokyo is undergoing massive preparations for the Games. The 2020 Olympics will not change the Tokyo landscape nearly as dramatically as in 1964, since much of the

infrastructure from those Games still remains in use today. The aging infrastructure is being updated, expanded, improved, and brought to current safety standards, including extensive seismic retrofitting. New roads, stadiums, and facilities are under construction. The already-efficient transportation system will be further improved to ensure smooth traveling into and within Tokyo. Maps and signs are being created with more universally recognized symbols so that foreign visitors will be able to navigate the city with ease. Signage that has always been in Japanese is being modified to include English.

While Tokyo's efficiency, safety, and cleanliness make it an easy and pleasant place for tourists, there are still some aspects of Tokyo that present inconveniences. English is not widely spoken. The transportation system is complicated and confusing. ATMs that accept foreign bank cards are scarce. Free wi-fi hot spots are difficult to find. And for visitors with disabilities and Paralympic athletes, much of the city is not accessible. Not all of these issues are easily or cheaply remedied, but Tokyo is committed to making the city as welcoming as possible to tourists and athletes alike. Meanwhile, the Japanese Olympic Committee is also working towards its goal of establishing an Olympic legacy that will endure for generations.

Creating a Legacy

Long after the Games end, Olympic legacies are a powerful reminder of a country's moment in the international spotlight and what purpose the Games achieved. There are the physical structures left behind, such as stadiums, training and housing facilities, hotels, and other infrastructural improvements. There are also new technologies and economic revitalization that can occur for years after. Legacies can also take a much darker form, such as Hitler's manipulation of the 1936 Berlin Summer Games to be a Nazi propaganda tool, or the massacre of 11 Israeli athletes and coaches at the 1972 Munich Summer Olympics, a tragedy for which those Games will forever be known.

impetus—something that provides motivation to accomplish something

Hosting the 1964 Games gave Tokyo the impetus and opportunity to completely transform itself into one of the most technologically sophisticated and efficient cities in the world.⁹ Before 1964, Tokyo was a war-scarred, dilapidated, and polluted city in the backwaters of Asia.¹⁰ To prepare for the Olympics, the city was rebuilt almost from scratch, and in the years leading up to the Games, Tokyo became an enormous construction site with projects that included new roads, subways, stadiums, hotels, and even a sewer system. While most of that infrastructure remains in use today, perhaps the greatest legacy of those Games is the shinkansen bullet train, launched just 10 days before the 1964 Games began.¹¹ As the world's fastest train, no one could deny that Japan had reached entirely new heights with this technological innovation. The shinkansen continues to be an integral part of Japan's highly efficient transportation network, renowned for its speed, punctuality, and unparalleled safety record.

Japan hopes that hosting the 2020 Games will inspire its youth to participate in sports, and that it will provide the next generation with hope for the future and give them something to aim for. The Games will symbolize Japan's recovery from the 2011 earthquake and be an expression of gratitude to the entire world for its support in Japan's recovery efforts.¹² It is also hoped that the Games will help lift Japan out of its long-term economic slump, although this is unlikely given Japan's massive national debt.

Tokyo is preparing to astound the world once more with technological innovation that they hope will benefit Japan and the rest of the world long after the Olympics end.¹³ Olympic organizers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and academics are all working on ambitious projects that will show off Japan's technological fortitude and remain as Tokyo's Olympic legacy long after the Games are over.¹⁴ It is hoped that visitors will use automatic translation devices or mobile phone apps to communicate easily. They will ride in self-driving taxis to get around the city. They will use smart cards with facial recognition technology to verify identity, access Games venues, pay for goods and services, and even serve as a hotel key. They might even get to see an artificial meteor shower created by pellets ejected from microsatellites launched 50 miles into the atmosphere.¹⁵

Challenges and Controversies

The road to 2020 has not been smooth, and the city is struggling with multiple challenges and controversies that have arisen during the process. Money is one of the biggest ones. The estimated cost of the Games is rising quickly and is projected to exceed US\$18 billion, which is almost six times the original budget.¹⁶ Even with a government reserve fund of US\$4.5 billion, much of the cost burden falls on citizens, who are already paying higher taxes to help pay for the Games. As the costs continue to rise, their taxes will rise in tandem. With Japan facing a national debt of nearly US\$11 trillion, there is little room for skyrocketing costs.¹⁷

The preparations for 2020 have not been smooth in other regards as well. The original stadium design by British-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid was abandoned after projected construction costs doubled to nearly US\$2 billion. Her design was replaced by a smaller, simpler, cheaper design by Japanese architect Kenzo Kuma, which then led to Hadid's claim that her design was dumped because she was a foreigner.¹⁸ She also accused Kuma of plagiarizing several elements of her original stadium design. The delay caused by this controversy also meant that the 2019 Rugby World Cup, originally scheduled to be played at the stadium, had to be relocated.

Kuma's stadium design is not without its own problems. Because his design utilizes wood latticework, the intended location of the ceremonial Olympic cauldron inside the stadium violates Japanese building codes because of a potential fire hazard. According to IOC criteria, the Olympic cauldron and flame should be within view of spectators.¹⁹ The Japanese Olympic Committee is opposed to placing the cauldron outside

latticework—interlacing strips of wood, metal, or other material forming a lattice

the stadium, and as of this writing, a suitable location has not been determined.

There has also been controversy surrounding the original Olympic logo design, which was scrapped after allegations of plagiarism. Japanese designer Kenjiro Sano has denied copying anything, but critics point out extreme similarities between his design and that of a Belgian designer for his country's Theatre de Liege.²⁰ Ultimately, Sano pulled his design because of mounting public pressure and negative press, and the National Olympic Committee solicited new designs by way of a national competition. Over 14,000 entries were submitted, and Japanese designer Asao Tokolo was announced as the winner of the competition in Spring of 2016.²¹

In February 2016, French prosecutors announced their criminal investigation of 82-year-old Lamine Diack, former president of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), for suspected corruption and bribery. Diack was already under suspicion for taking bribes from Russian athletes, and he is now suspected of allowing money to sway his vote in the bidding process for the 2016 Rio Olympics and the 2020 Tokyo Games. With an influential vote in the Olympic bidding process, Diack had initially backed Istanbul's bid for the 2020 Games, but is believed to have changed his mind in favor of Tokyo when a Japanese company paid the IAAF US\$5 million in sponsorship money.²² While the IOC president maintains that there is no evidence of corruption, and both the Rio and Tokyo Olympics Committees argue they won the bid fairly, the probe continues.

Perhaps the biggest question is whether Tokyo really is capable of producing a safe Olympics, as it claims. Despite Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's assurances to the IOC that the TEPCO nuclear plant in Fukushima has been stabilized as of 2013, naysayers argue that the contamination is still largely uncontained and will remain a threat for decades. According to Japan, nuclear contamination is under control with the construction of an "ice wall" to prevent the continued release of contaminants into the ocean.²³ Fishing has resumed in all regions except those within 6 miles of the reactors, and the government claims that produce grown in the Fukushima region is safe for consumption. J-Village, the current basecamp for cleanup workers only 12 miles from the nuclear reactors, is the designated Olympic training center for the Japanese national soccer team, scheduled to be repurposed for the Olympics by 2018.

These milestones obscure the fact that the Japanese will be wrestling with the cleanup for decades.²⁴ They also minimize the threats posed by millions of gallons of highly contaminated water on the power plant grounds and the likelihood that storms and other natural events will continue to expose contaminants to the air and water.²⁵ Contaminated water continues to present an ongoing problem, with no perfect solution in sight. As groundwater flows into the reactor buildings, it becomes contaminated and then must be properly disposed of. Currently, TEPCO is building tanks to store the water for 20 years.²⁶ But water is still flowing

TEPCO—the entity responsible for the Fukushima nuclear power plant and other power plants around Tokyo

naysayer—one who denies, refuses, opposes, or is skeptical or cynical about something

into the damaged reactors at a rate of 300 tons per day, which means that a more permanent solution is in order.²⁷ Meanwhile, cleanup workers are removing contaminated soil from the grounds surrounding the nuclear plant and storing it in black plastic bags that are then left to sit in local fields.²⁸ In 2015 alone, 700 of those bags were swept away by floods, some ending up in rivers 100 miles away, underscoring the need for a more reliable and permanent disposal method for the soil as well.²⁹ The biggest task of cleaning up the melted nuclear fuel remains undone because no one even knows its exact location inside the containment vessels. This part of the nuclear plant is so dangerous that humans cannot even go there, so robots are being used to search for the debris.³⁰ TEPCO estimates the cleanup process and decommissioning of the plant to take 30 to 40 years.³¹

decommission—to make (a nuclear reactor or weapon) inoperative, and dismantle and decontaminate to make it safe

Japan's former ambassador to Switzerland feels the situation is so dire that in October 2015 he publicly called for Japan to withdraw from hosting the Olympics while there is still enough time to identify and prepare an alternate location. "The future of the Olympic Games is at stake. It is as a believer in the spirit of the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement that I am pleading for an honorable retreat, and this, in order for Japan to devote maximum efforts to controlling the Fukushima crisis."³²

Despite the many challenges, controversies, and setbacks that have plagued the process, Tokyo continues to move forward with its preparations for the 2020 Summer Games. The city earned its hosting privileges with the most favorable bid over Istanbul and Madrid, and it intends to deliver what it promised. Whether it succeeds remains to be seen.

Questions

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why would a country want to host the Olympics, given the expense and effort required?
2. What does Tokyo hope to gain from hosting the 2020 Summer Games?
3. Why is the legacy of the Olympics important for a host nation to consider?
4. What measures has Tokyo taken in preparation for the 2020 Games?
5. How are Tokyo's preparations for the 2020 Games similar to/different from the preparations made for the 1964 Games?
6. What are some technological innovations underway for the 2020 Olympic Games?
7. What are some challenges facing Tokyo in preparing for the 2020 Olympic Games?

NEWS BROADCAST

Develop a short news broadcast based on your research. In preparation for your broadcast, follow the steps outlined below.

1. Decide which member of your group will be the anchor of the broadcast. At the beginning of the broadcast, this person will introduce himself/herself and the topic that will be discussed.
2. Include at least one interview in your broadcast. Decide which members will be interviewees and which will be reporters.
3. Include one “live” scene (in which a member of your group is broadcasting “live” at the scene of an important event or scenario related to your topic). Decide where this scene will take place and who will report from the scene. This can be combined with the interview mentioned above.
4. Write the script for your news broadcast. The broadcast should include important events, issues, people, places, etc. Since everyone in your group will be participating in the broadcast, every person will need a copy of the script (unless it is memorized). Submit one copy of the script to your teacher at the end of your broadcast for assessment.

Your group will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Is well rehearsed, creative, informative, and provides a balanced perspective
- Is between three and five minutes in length
- Reflects equal participation among group members
- Includes one “live” scene and at least one interview
- Includes a clearly written and organized script

NOTES ON NEWS BROADCASTS

During the group presentations, take notes in the space below. Leave your own topic blank.

Group	Notes
Group 1: Self-driving taxis	
Group 2: Automatic translation devices	
Group 3: Smart cards with facial recognition	
Group 4: Status of the Fukushima nuclear power plant and related environmental and safety issues	
Group 5: Controversy over the Olympic Stadium design	
Group 6: Rising costs of hosting the 2020 Games	

NEWS BROADCAST EVALUATIONS

Your group's news broadcast assessment is based on the following criteria.

Criteria	2 (Yes)	1 (Somewhat)	0 (No)
Well rehearsed			
Creative			
Informative			
Provides a balanced perspective			
Is between three and five minutes in length			
Reflects equal participation among group members			
Includes one "live" scene and at least one interview			
Includes a clearly written and organized script			

<p>Comments</p> 	<p>Total Score: /16</p>
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2020 TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES

1. Why would a country want to host the Olympics, given the expense and effort required?
There are many reasons why countries want to host the Olympics. Hosting the Olympic Games is considered a great honor; the Olympic Games is an economic engine for the host country; hosting provides global recognition and legitimacy; there are potential economic benefits; and hosting boosts domestic morale and elevates national pride.
2. What does Tokyo hope to gain from hosting the 2020 Summer Games?
Tokyo hopes to inspire more participation in sports and give its young people hope for the future; to prove Japan's recovery from the 2011 Tohoku earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster; to express its gratitude for the world's support in recovery efforts; and to bolster its struggling economy.
3. Why is the legacy of the Olympics important for a host nation to consider?
An Olympic legacy can have a long-term impact on the host city and nation and is a powerful reminder of the country's moment in the spotlight and what the Games achieved.
4. What measures has Tokyo taken in preparation for the 2020 Games?
Preparations for the 2020 Games include updating and improving aging infrastructure and seismic retrofitting; construction of new roads, stadiums, and facilities; further improvement of the transportation system; and creation of new signage with universal symbols and the inclusion of English.
5. How are Tokyo's preparations for the 2020 Games similar to/different from the preparations made for the 1964 Games?
They are similar in that the country is hoping to prove its recovery from a recent disaster (in 1964 it was World War II; for 2020 it is the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and its aftermath) and Tokyo is expecting to astound the world with its technological innovations. Preparations are different in that the city had to be rebuilt from scratch for the 1964 Games and now much of the infrastructure is already in place.
6. What are some technological innovations underway for the 2020 Olympic Games?
Some innovative projects in the works are automatic translation devices; mobile phone apps to help visitors communicate; self-driving taxis; smart cards with facial recognition; and an artificial meteor shower.
7. What are some challenges facing Tokyo in preparing for the 2020 Olympic Games?
Tokyo faces many challenges and controversies, including rising costs, controversy over the design of the Olympic Stadium and the design of the Olympic logo, allegations of bribery and corruption of the former president of the International Association of Athletics Federations, and the stability of the Fukushima nuclear power plant and water contamination from the disaster.

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