

**Japan Academic Challenge &
Japanese Speech Contest**

2019

Saturday March 2, 2019 - 9:30am

**Georgia Institute of Technology, Howey Physics Building
837 State Street, Atlanta, Georgia 30332-0430**

Schedule

9:30am - 10:00am

Registration

Howey L.4 (In front of the Auditorium)

10:00am - 10:15am

Opening Ceremony

Howey L.4 Auditorium

10:20am - 1:00pm

Japan Academic Challenge

Howey L.3 Auditorium

10:20pm - 1:00pm

Japanese Speech Contest

Howey L.4 Auditorium

1:10pm

Closing Ceremony

Howey L.4 Auditorium

Full Event Program is available online:

<https://gatj.weebly.com/events/jsc-and-jac-2019-event-program>



Co-organized by:

The Georgia Association of Teachers of Japanese, The Japan-America Society of Georgia, The Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Georgia, and School of Modern Languages of Georgia Institute of Technology

Sponsored by:



Atlanta Global Studies Center

Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech
College of Arts & Sciences at Georgia State University



Japan Academic Challenge: Preliminary Round

Level I (10:20 – 10:35, Howey L.3)

Level	Team #	School	Member #1	Member #2	Member #3
I	1	Riverwood Int'l Charter School A	Karina Spataru-Toma	Gabby Douglas	Neriah Moore
	2	Riverwood Int'l Charter School B	Heeba Eddouh	Hala Eddouh	Kimberly Connor
	3	Milton High School	Paula Thai	Ronald Chen	Max Moore
	4	Roswell High School A	Kylie Norton	Elvis Gonzales	Layla Adams
	5	Roswell High School B	Alec Plummer	Lorena Ornelas	

Level II (10:40 – 10:55, Howey L.3)

Level	Team #	School	Member #1	Member #2	Member #3
II	1	Columbus High School	Kyle K. Bradley	Alaysia Brown	Jamaria Q. Paige
	2	Milton High School A	Rory Salyer	Ella Rindt	Ella Bryan
	3	Milton High School B	Nalani Palmer	Zain Merchant	Ciara Zucchi
	4	Roswell High School A	Brandon Yang	Sean Robertson	Moises Cabrales
	5	Roswell High School B	Adriana Choun	Sadie Arnett	Ernesto Deza

Level III (11:00 – 11:15, Howey L.3)

Level	Team #	School	Member #1	Member #2	Member #3
III	1	Riverwood Int'l Charter School	Jordan Allen	Renee Al-Noubani	Angel Martinez
	2	Roswell High School A	Greyson Stevens	Cooper Medved	
	3	Roswell High School B	Maggie Sutton	Mohammed Uddin	Brandon Komesar
	4	Columbus High School	Anselm Wisdo	Kasey C. Karabasz	Cody J. Ells
	5	Hardaway High School	Destinie A Mims	Deandre J. Devouse	William C. George
	6	Milton High School A	Pablo Alaluf	Divya Nori	Samuel Gordon
	7	Milton High School B	Oscar Gross	Kevin Mowrey	

Level IV (11:20 – 11:35, Howey L.3)

Level	Team #	School	Member #1	Member #2	Member #3
IV	1	Riverwood Int'l Charter School	Eemil Harkonen	Isabella Newstead	Celine Al-Noubani
	2	Roswell High School	Harita Yepuri,	Maansi Shah	
	3	Milton High School A	Christina Wang	Gladis Ruiz	Natalie Ruth
	4	Milton High School B	Robert Cashin	Zachary Pedowitz	

Japan Academic Challenge: Final Round

We will post the names of the teams, which will advance to the final round as soon as possible in front of the Howey Building L.3.

This round of competition will be open to the public.

Schedule

Level 1 Final: 11:40 – 11:55

Level 2 Final: 12:00 – 12:15

Level 3 Final: 12:20 – 12:35

Level 4 Final: 12:40 – 12:55

Japanese Speech Contest (10:20 am – 13:00 pm, Howey L.3)

Category I

No.	School	Contestant	Speech Title
1	Riverwood Int'l Charter School	Isabella Newstead	私と日本語
2	Georgia State University Perimeter College	Joseph Harrell	日本語を勉強したいきさつ
3	University of North Georgia	Daniel Shearer	日本語を勉強する旅
4	Roswell High School	Jorge Puga	起死回生
5	Western Carolina University	Nathaniel Evans	私が自分になった方法
6	Georgia State University	Riley Litzenberger	私と日本語
7	Roswell High School	Lawrence Adkins	僕のラブレター
8	Western Carolina University	Dylan Smith	私の学校生活：日本とアメリカの学校の違い
9	Riverwood Int'l Charter School	Holly Hunsaker	私と日本語
10	Milton High School	Christina Wang	アニメの世界的な影響
11	Georgia Virtual School	Susana Olivo Sandoval	わたしのしゅみ
12	Roswell High School	Cameron McKinney	日本語がくれた絆
13	University of North Georgia	Alexis Reeves	私のゆめ
14	The University of Georgia	Trung, Bui	息子の幸せ
15	Riverwood Int'l Charter School	Hind Eddouh	私と日本語
16	Georgia Virtual School	Leslie Maldonado	わたしの好きなこと
17	Clemson University	Kaleb Knecht	私と日本語
18	Georgia Virtual School	Brian Lance Howard	わたしの好きなこと
19	Georgia State University Perimeter College	Eboni Goar	なぜ私が日本語を勉強するのか
20	North Cobb High School	Denise Santamaria	私の好きな物は人物です。
21	University of North Georgia	McKinley-Anastasia Brooks	私の家族

Category II

No.	School	Contestant	Speech Title
1	Georgia Institute of Technology	Jae Hee Kim	人生最大のチャレンジ
2	The University of Georgia	Amanda Gilsinger	巖島の観光
3	Western Carolina University	Gabrielle Samaha	アメリカ人のセレブと日本人のアイドル
4	The University of Georgia	Sabrina Kien	アメリカのメディアでのアジアの影響
5	Emory University	Joony Yim	43 円
6	Georgia State University	Aidan Coleman	若者の孤独感
7	University of North Georgia	Uriel Leon	私と日本
8	Georgia Institute of Technology	Jiawen Ge	日本のカラオケがアメリカで流行らない理由
9	Emory University	Ziqi (Tiger) Cai	痛み
10	University of North Georgia	Yutong Chen	私とサッカーの物語
11	Emory University	Erin Eben	オクスフォードからエモリーまで
12	Georgia Institute of Technology	Kipp Morris	近藤麻理恵さんのコンセプトや日本の節約文化の接点
13	University of North Georgia	Daniela Leyva	自分を愛すべき
14	Clemson University	Garrett Ellward	私の研究、私の目的
15	Georgia Southern University	Alexander Coleman	留学の経験

Category III

No.	School	Contestant	Speech Title
1	Clemson University	Alan Wright	私のプログラミングの趣味
2	Georgia Institute of Technology	Camden Hine	夢の重み、努力するのはなぜ
3	Georgia Institute of Technology	Eun Chang Park	ディズニーアニメーションに対する再評価
4	Emory University	Ju Mi Ha	もののあわれ

カテゴリー 1

1. Isabella Newstead (イザベラ ニューステッド)

私と日本語 (Japanese Language and I)

I moved to America from England eight years ago - that experience changed me. Many people believe the two cultures are very similar, but the customs and behaviour of the people are very different. In America, people are always friendly and welcoming; In England, people are more soft-spoken and reserved. When I started learning Japanese, I was shown another new culture - I felt that in terms of behaviour and manners, the culture of Japan was more similar to that of England. This "island culture" shared of England and Japan is connecting, and creates a great bridge between the two.

2. Joseph Harrell (ジョセフ・ハレル)

日本語を勉強したいきさつ (How I Started Learning Japanese)

For my speech, I talk about how, about two years ago, I began learning the Japanese language. At first, I didn't want to learn Japanese, as I thought it would be too difficult. It was my younger brother who convinced me to start. He had recently started learning and wanted someone to study with. Soon, my brother and I discovered that our school, Georgia State University, offered a Japanese class. We hadn't known about it before, so we transferred into it at the last moment. It was this class that helped me discover how much I enjoy learning the Japanese language.

3. Daniel Shearer (ダニエル・シェーラー)

日本語を勉強する旅 (Journey of Learning Japanese)

When I first started learning Japanese it seemed like I was in a dark room. At first it is very hard to understand. Sensei and friends helped me out. We woke up early every day in order to go to college. We tried hard late into the night. Then the lights in the dark room came on. I could speak a little Japanese. Next learning Japanese is like a dance. In the ballroom of study Japanese is like my partner. In the room of study, we dance together. At first is as though we are dancing separately. However, after 1 or two months we begin to dance together. This dance becomes more fun and interesting. It ends like a book. The final pages were turned. Even so I want to read more. Japanese is this feeling. So there is another song to dance to. My trip is not over yet. I can study more still. Japanese is like an unending story.

4. Jorge Puga (ホルヘ・プーガ)

起死回生 (Kishi Kaisee)

I wasn't very open about my emotions and I began isolating myself. I had to choose a language in middle school. Japanese wasn't my first choice in language, but it had to be one of the best things that could have ever happened to me. Being in Japanese class always gave me a breather. I felt relaxed and it was one of the times I could smile. I made many friends and have gotten closer to them and my teacher to even call them family. I wouldn't be the person I'm today without my Japanese class. Kishi Kaisee.

5. Nathaniel Evans (ナサニエル・エバンス)

私が自分になった方法 (How I became myself)

As a kid, I saw an anime which got me interested in Japan and Japanese language, but I couldn't pursue it because it wasn't offered at my public schools. Now that I am in college, I am capable of talking about myself in Japanese, and so I am talking about my hobbies as a child that I still do and that turned me from the child I used to be into the young man I am today.

6. Riley Litzenberger (ライリー・リツンバーガー)

私と日本語 (Me and Japanese)

I will discuss why I began learning the language: from how I discovered Japanese music and how I learned to read hiragana, katakana, and some basic kanji by reading lyrics. From here, I will lead into how this taught me to love language, particularly Japanese, how the language led me to my future career as a language instructor, and how I wish to become more proficient in the coming years.

7. Lawrence Adkins (ロウレンス・アドキンズ)

僕のラブレター (My Love Letter)

Two years ago, I was in a bad relationship. This relationship left me heartbroken. I didn't have trust for any girls. After that, I met my ideal girlfriend. When I fell in love with you, I felt something different. A strong, unbreakable bond that I knew wouldn't tear me down. And now I tried new things, I have a car, a job, and an important person. I think of my future with my girlfriend. My dream is to marry you, and one day be able to call you my wife.

8. Dylan Smith (ディラン・スミス)

私の学校生活：日本とアメリカの学校の違い

(My school life: Schools Between Japan and USA)

The speech is about the differences of American and Japanese schools and my own experiences while I was traveling in Japan. The differences I describe are based off my own experiences when I went to Japan and what I have seen while I was there and my experiences as a college student in America.

9. Holly Hunsaker (ホリー ハンサカー)

私と日本語 (Japanese Language and I)

Three years ago I traveled to Japan for the first time. It was so interesting yet I was completely terrified being in the country. It was my first time being in a foreign country. I stayed with a host family and they were so kind to me. I learned so much about their culture and what they taught me. I am so grateful to have them as my host family.

10. Christina Wang (クリスティナ ワング)

アニメの世界的な影響 (The Global Impact of Anime)

Because of Kimi No Nawa's record-breaking sales at the box office, I have begun to think about the global and local impact of anime as an industry. Animation has long evolved beyond Disney, and the audiences have evolved too, with teenage and adult audiences now integrated into the demographic. In addition, events where one can participate in anime-related activities have spread across all continents, creating an economy of merchandise and cosplay. Such events influence people like myself to take up Japanese, resulting in culture exchange as well. It's safe to say, anime is much more than just a passing fad.

11. Susana Olivo Sandoval (スザンナ ・オリボ・ サンドバル)

わたしのしゅみ (My Hobbies)

I enjoy spending my time in many ways, for example, practice drawing and painting to get better. I also love instruments like the guitar and flute, hearing the sound makes me happy. I like to do many things when I am not in school or in my study time, and I always try to find new things to do so I can be distracted in something. I own a beautiful ferret that is one of my responsibilities, I play with her and have fun with her. I got into the Japanese language because of the art; anime and manga. But my favorite hobby is to learn about other cultures and traditions.

12. Cameron McKinney (キャメロン・マッキンニー)

日本語がくれた絆 (Three Bonds that Japanese Brought to Me)

We're all in life together. A lot of people believe that I continue taking Japanese only because of my love of the language. While it's true, that I love the Japanese language, but I also love the people I created a bond with. I made a lot of new friends and began to understand people better. Before Japanese, I was a quiet student. When I started Japanese, I never thought I'd make lifelong friends. Talking and playing video games with them everyday boosted my confidence and gave me something to look forward to. I thank them for making me better.

13. Alexis Reeves (アレクシス・リーブス)

私のゆめ (My Dream)

My speech is about how my love for art and animation started at a young age and then blossomed into a dream of a career at Nintendo and/or the Pokemon Company that I wish to pursue. It is a dream that I am very passionate about and one of the main reasons that I had started studying Japanese. Alongside that dream, I wish to visit, live, and travel in Japan.

14. Trung, Bui (チュン・ブイ)

息子の幸せ (A Son's Happiness)

I have a wonderful family that I deeply cherish. With an admirable mother, two quirky younger sisters, and the world's sweetest grandparents, there never is a dull moment in our household. At times, we may quarrel and not get along, but even then, we continue to love and support each other in our own special ways. Living alongside them has made me appreciate their contributions in my life, and it is because of them that I have become who I am today. For that reason, I shall share why my family is my pride, my happiness.

15. Hind Eddouh (ヒンド エドゥー)

私と日本語 (Japanese Language and I)

Hello. In my speech, I discuss my love and respect for my Moroccan heritage and the joyous religious and cultural holidays in which I can participate when I visit during a summer. I relate my culture's summer holidays and customs to the Japanese New Year and discuss how similar they are. I describe the fun my big family and I have, and the games and festivities that occur throughout the nights of and over the month of Ramadan. Despite these similarities, I also mention my yearn to one day experience a joyous Japanese celebration.

16. Leslie Maldonado (レスリー・マルドナド)

わたしの好きなこと (The Things I like)

Despite the fact that I have to push myself forward often, I want to stop and enjoy the little things that life has to offer to me in the present. Everything has its time limit so I want to find a balance between what has to be done and what makes me happy. I can find endless joy in completing homework early, spending Saturday night chatting with my family, and enjoying life's little details like the aroma of my father's cooking. The things I like help me to be curious in a way that I can keep a fresh perspective.

17. Kaleb Knecht (ケイレブ・ケネッチ)

私と日本語 (Me & Japanese)

Since my topic is "Me & Japanese", I would like to talk about my trip to Japan. In autumn 2017, I began studying Japanese. Little by little, I became better at it. I saved up money to travel to Japan. I went to many places. In Fukuyama, I drank sake with a very kind couple and was able to practice my Japanese. After Fukuyama, I traveled by both shinkansen and ferry to the beautiful island of Iki, where I rode a bike over hilly terrain. The experience helped my Japanese improve, and today I wish to continue studying Japanese.

18. Brian Lance Howard (ブライアン・ランス・ハワード)

わたしの好きなこと (The Things I like)

I love to draw. I practice every day and I learn more and more. I like manga a lot so I want to be a manga-ka. I love to listen to music while drawing. Music really helps me be creative. It's very inspirational. I hope to still be listening to music while I draw in the future. I like to write stories: I love storytelling. I really like stories that talk about real topics. I pray to God that I can make a story that can help people. Thank you very much for your time.

19. Eboni Goar (エボニ ゴア)

なぜ私が日本語を勉強するのか (Why I Study Japanese)

My speech entails my story about how I self-studied Japanese after only 18 months of university study and how I managed to overcome that struggle of not having a teacher at that time to push me.

20. Denise Santamaria (デニス・サンタマリア)

私の好きな物は人物です。(My Favorite Thing Is A Person.)

In this short essay, I list all the things I like and sometimes, dislike. This includes normal things like food and animals. I also mention things from my school and what I like to do and not like to do in my everyday life. At the very end, I talk about my favorite thing in the whole world, but there's a twist. My favorite thing, however, isn't a thing. It's actually a person.

21. McKinley-Anastasia Brooks (マッキンリー=アナスタシア・ブルックス)

私の家族 (My Family)

This speech is about my found family. After introducing myself and explaining that I have not had much of a relationship with my biological family since I came out, I explain that they are no longer an important part of my life and then go on to talk about who is. I speak first about my wife Sara, and how we were in a long-distance relationship for three years before getting married. I then go on to discuss my friends Michelle, Rachel, Rebekah, Anna and Chloe, along with how we met and why we are now close.

カテゴリー 2

1. Jae Hee Kim (キム ジェヒ)

人生最大のチャレンジ (My toughest moment in life)

My toughest moment in life is definitely when I caused a car accident in late 2016. It was when I started my first internship and got the first car. Around Christmas time, I went to midtown to get a used chair from someone. Right when I came out from the parking lot, I mistakenly pressed accelerator instead of break and I straight crashed to a BMW. I really thought that was the end of my life. I will talk through how I managed to resolve this issue and some of my toughest moments from this experience.

2. Amanda Gilsinger (アマンダ・ギルシンガー)

厳島の観光 (My Time in Itsukushima)

In summer 2018, I made my first trip to Japan. I was able to spend time in Hamamatsu, Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Kumamoto, but the personal highlight of my trip was exploring Itsukushima. The splendid torii and wonderful natural scenery was captivating and provided me with many memories that I will cherish forever. Visiting Buddhist temples, eating world-renowned sushi, and viewing the torii so widely known around the world, and, finally, the gorgeous Japanese sunset, were experiences that made me love Japan even more. The most beautiful sunset I have ever witnessed, and such memories on Itsukushima were just the beginning of my exploration of Japan.

3. Gabrielle Samaha (ガブリエル・サマハ)

アメリカ人のセレブと日本人のアイドル (As a Matter of Fact, there is Such a Thing as Bad)

Celebrities across cultures face great social pressure from their fans. In America, many celebrities make their debut in their teens or twenties, however so-called "child stars," who may start as early as infancy, have a whole new level of pressure added to their shoulders. Japanese idols may debut as young as twelve or thirteen, and right from the start are given the responsibilities of older teenagers or even young adults. The pressure and unreasonable expectations forced onto children and teenagers of both cultures can result in rebellion by the children and harsh criticism by the public. (96 words)

4. Sabrina Kien (サブリーナ・キエン)

アメリカのメディアでのアジアの影響 (Asian Influence on American Media)

Despite the success of actors like Jackie Chan and Bruce Lee, Asian people are usually not represented in American movies and media. However, America is becoming more influenced by Asian culture due to increased exposure to world-famous Asian celebrities and movies with Asian casts. Recently, Crazy Rich Asians, an American movie famous for its all-Asian cast, was a huge success in America. Similarly, the Korean music group BTS became well-known in America and across the globe, showing that American people can appreciate Asian music despite language barriers. Because of these successes, more Asian representation may be seen in the American media in the future.

5. Joony Yim (イムジュニー)

43 円 (43 Yen)

Last year, towards the end of summer vacation, I went on a trip alone for the first time in my life to Kobe. Kobe was a diverse city. I went to Chinatown the first day, then to Kitano on the second day, where there were beautiful western buildings, small art museums, and a wonderful French restaurant. I went to make a wish at Ikuta shrine, but the streets near Sannomiya station at night were in stark contrast to the quiet Kitano. At night, I went to a humble store and tasted Akashiyaki, similar to takoyaki but completely different. The final day, I wanted more sightseeing and went to Nunobiki Gardens. I ended up missing the plane ride back home, so I had to buy a ticket at the spot, and I had 43 yen left in my wallet after I bought the ticket.

6. Aidan Coleman (エイデン・コールマン)

若者の孤独感 (The Isolation of the Youth)

In my speech, I plan to discuss what the concept of hikikomori is in the context of a modern Japanese society. This entails discussing what characterizes it, the history of it, what potential causes it has, and its effect on society as well as how we can begin to tackle it as a serious problem, rather than a quirk of the new generation.

7. Uriel Leon (ユリエル・レオン)

私と日本 (Japan and I)

Out of the many things that I either like or enjoy doing, Japan as the country as a whole would be number one. In addition to really being interested in the Japanese culture it is the fun, doable things that makes me really like the country. I enjoy listening to Japanese music because it has an interesting style, I enjoy eating Japanese food because I find it really tasty and it is something I don't get to eat on a daily basis. I also really hope I get the opportunity to travel to many different parts of Japan wanting to mainly visit around the Tokyo area first before exploring the rest of the country.

8. Jiawen Ge (ジー ジャウエン)

日本のカラオケがアメリカで流行らない理由

(Reasons that Karaoke is not as popular in America as in Japan)

Karaoke is an interactive entertainment that is originated from Japan and soon became popular throughout Asia. Although now more popular among teenagers, Karaoke started as and still is a form of social event among adults after work in Japan. Despite its success in Asia, Karaoke remains a non-mainstream entertainment in America. The speech is going to elaborate on the reasons of such phenomenon with respect to culture difference.

9. Ziqi(Tiger) Cai (キコ (タイガー) サイ)

痛み (Pain)

I tore my ACL during a basketball game and cannot play basketball again like I used to. I fell into depression and anxiety, pushing all my friends that tried to comfort me. I met a girl by coincidence and she did not know about my injury. We quickly became friends and it was a relief being with her because she never pitied me. I told her about the injury and she told me that basketball is not everything, I am still a great individual without it. Although there are a lot of coincidences in life, such as getting hurt or meeting someone important, these will eventually happen sooner or later. Although it might be hard, be thankful and learn from the happenings in life.

10. Yutong Chen (陳育同)

私とサッカーの物語 (My Soccer Story)

Soccer is my favorite sports. I started playing soccer when I was in senior high school. And I joined in the high school soccer team as a keeper. When I came to the US, I found out that Americans are much stronger than Asian people. And I can't play well in the soccer club. However, my kind teammate encouraged me a lot. We always had dinner together after practice. I got hurt and couldn't practice soccer a year before. But I still play it when I am free.

11. Erin Eben (イーベン・エリン)

オクスフォードからエモリーまで ("From Oxford to Emory")

The new year introduced many changes and challenges for me: attending a new campus, changing my living situation, looking for work at real, adult companies – so on and so forth. I was attending Oxford, a 2-year college under Emory University in Oxford, GA, and am now at Emory College in Atlanta. My speech addresses adjustments I have been making in the new year, such as commuting, cooking, and participating in activities outside my comfort zone, all the while learning more about myself and making the best of it.

12. Kipp Morris (キップ・モリス)

近藤麻理恵さんのコンセプトや日本の節約文化の接点

The Points that Marie Kondo's Philosophy and Japan's Culture of Using Less Have in Common)

People may disagree with me, but the main thing that I have learned from Marie Kondo's books is that being thankful for your possessions and treating them well can improve your lifestyle. Since Japan as a country doesn't have many environmental resources, I find it very admirable that Japanese people grow up learning to always look for ways to consume fewer resources, and in my opinion, using fewer resources leads to appreciating your possessions more. I think that there is a connection between Marie Kondo's philosophy and this facet of Japanese culture, and I want to talk about what I think the connections are and how applying some of these things to my way of thinking have changed my daily lifestyle.

13. Daniela Leyva (ダニエラ・レイバ)

自分を愛すべき (Love Yourself)

My favorite thing is a Korean Idol group called BTS. They spread the message of finding self-love and sharing this love to the rest of the world, hoping to change the conditions that the youth is living in today. They do this by sending meaningful messages through songs, and by starting a campaign with UNICEF called, "Love Myself" to help end violence towards the younger generations, so that they may chase their dreams in a health environment. Their music covers different forms of love and struggles that younger and current generations may be going through. BTS and their fan base, ARMY, contribute a lot to the campaign as well. They are humble people and also human beings just like the rest of us. I am thankful to have discovered their music and beliefs, and also hope to continue finding a better me. I will continue to support this wonderful group.

14. Garrett Ellward (ギャレット・エルワード)

私の研究、私の目的 (My Research; My Goal)

Humanity has accomplished many great things. However, sometimes, we overlook the importance of all roles in life. In some cases, it appears that the only way to be successful is to become famous or make enough money to be recognized as the top of the world's wealth. Because of this stress to strive for the best, many people struggle to find their place in life; even worse, many people begin to think that they have no place in the world because they do not fit into this idea of success or importance. The idea of this speech is to encourage others to pursue their dreams--to do what they want to do. By doing what we love and helping others along the way, we can save those that are trapped with the idea that they do not matter, thereby helping to make the world a better place.

15. Alexander Coleman (アレックスコールマン)

留学の経験 (My Experience Studying Abroad)

About three years ago, I went to Kyoto and studied abroad for a month, while living with a host family. It was a very good experience, and there were many things I liked. I decided to go to Japan because I have a friend who had gone to Japan before, and he told me how great it was. I liked the Japanese food and visiting famous places around Japan. While in Kyoto, I attended a Japanese language school, where I learned a lot. By the end of the program, I learned a few things about Japanese culture and Japanese people.

カテゴリー 3

1. Alan Wright (アラン・ライト)

私のプログラミングの趣味 (Programming as a Hobby)

In this speech I am going to talk about software programming as a hobby. Specifically, how and why I chose programming as a hobby, and in what way is it useful to my studies in the Japanese Language. In part one, I describe how when I was a kid, I wanted to make video games. Of course the only way to do that is to use some sort method that involves programming, and so I will talk about how the desire to program became a reality. In part two, I talk about how programming has been useful for second language acquisition, specifically Japanese.

2. Camden Hine (カムデン・ハイン)

夢の重み、努力するのはなぜ (The weight of dreams, and why we work)

I am going to talk about the weight of having a dream, and not being able to achieve it. By this, I mean the feeling of working hard towards that dream, and then not being able to realize it. This is something that I spend a lot of time thinking about, as I believe myself to be someone who sets their goals much higher than is reasonable. I will also talk about why we work hard, knowing full well that the probability of being able to realize a dream is incredibly low.

3. Eun Chang Park (ウンチャン パク)

ディズニーアニメーションに対する再評価 (Re-evaluation of Disney Animations)

Walt Disney and his works of animations are highly rated in animation industry. From Mickey Mouse to Frozen, there are so many masterpieces that most people in this world recognize. However, not everyone considers Disney animations as great animations as most people evaluate. I am going to analyze about past and present animations from Disney Pictures, comments from people who respect the reputation and who don't, and talk about if Disney animation is worth its reputation.

4. Ju Mi Ha (ハジュミ)

もののあわれ (The Pathos of Things)

Mono no aware, literally translated as "the pathos of things," refers to the beauty of things that only last for a short period of time. This sentiment has been a center of Japanese aesthetics over time. Throughout the readings of Japanese literature inside and outside of the classroom, I came to realize that "mono no aware" had a profound influence on Japanese literature. In this speech, I would like to explain what "mono no aware" means, and how it is reflected in literatures of the greatest Japanese authors.