

2020-2021

# 16<sup>th</sup> Japan Center Essay Competition

Sponsored by Canon U.S.A.

Organized by the Japan Center at Stony Brook University

## Aim:

The aim of the competition is to provide young Americans with an opportunity to think creatively and critically about their lives by relating them to some aspect of Japan so they can broaden their horizons and develop global citizenship.

## Awards:

### Best Essay Award in the High School Division:

- 1st Place: \$3,000 and a Canon camera
- 2nd Place: \$1,500 and a Canon camera
- 3rd Place: \$750 and a Canon camera

### Best Essay Award in the College Division:

\$3,000 and a Canon camera

### Uchida Memorial Award:

\$750 and a Canon camera

## Essay Topic:

Contestants should discuss one or more aspects of Japan including art, culture, tradition, values, philosophy, history, society, politics, business, and technology in relation to their personal experiences, views, and/or future goals. (Contestants do not need to have any experience in visiting Japan or studying Japanese.) The judging criteria and additional guidance (FAQ) can be viewed at the Japan Center's website: [www.stonybrook.edu/japancenter](http://www.stonybrook.edu/japancenter)

## Entry Qualifications for Contestants:

1. They must be 13 years old or older and enrolled in high schools or undergraduate programs in the New York Metropolitan area during the **2020-2021** school year.
2. They must be able to release the copyright of their essay to the JCSB and present their essay orally at the award ceremony.
3. They must be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents of the U.S. except void in Maine and wherever prohibited by law.

## Judging:

Submitted essays will be evaluated by the JCSB Essay Competition Organizing Committee and the panel of Stony Brook faculty judges (Chief Judge: Sachiko Murata, Director of the Program in Japanese Program) on the bases of their insight, creativity, and originality of expression as well as their style, form, and organization. (See the judging criteria and FAQs posted on the JCSB's website.)

## Honorary Judges:

Kanji Yamanouchi, Ambassador and Consul General of Japan  
Kevin Ogawa, President and CEO, Canon U.S.A., Inc.

**Submission:** Submit your essay by **January 8, 2021** through the official *Essay Submission Form*, found on the JCSB's website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/japancenter>  
Acknowledgement of receipt will be sent automatically after submission. If you do not receive it, please contact us by e-mail ([japanessay@stonybrook.edu](mailto:japanessay@stonybrook.edu)).

## Rules:

- Your essay must be written in English, typed (12 pt. font size, single space) and saved in MS Word or RTF format (doc, docx, or rtf).
- The file name should have the division code (**H** for high school; **C** for college), author's first and last name initials, and the first three words of the essay title. (Use only letters. Do not use symbols or spaces.) For example:

HJSTeaTheEmbodiment (High School Division, John Smith, *Tea: The Embodiment of Japanese Values*)

CEKJapansLanguageof (College Division, Ellen Kaplan, *Japan's Language of Art and Music*)

- Your file must include only the following:
  - File name (see above)
  - Full essay title
  - Essay body (**500 - 750 words**)
  - Works cited, if any
- Do NOT type your name or your school name in the file. You can enter the author's information in the designated fields in the official *Essay Submission Form*.
- All use of external information must be properly attributed in the essay body and their sources must be listed. Plagiarism will result in disqualification.
- Do not use footnotes or endnotes.
- Do not include photos, illustrations, diagrams or tables.

**Recognition of Award Recipients:** The award recipients and their essays will be posted on the JCSB website ([www.stonybrook.edu/japancenter](http://www.stonybrook.edu/japancenter)) by the end of the first week in April in 2021. The award recipients in the Japan Center Essay Competition will be formally recognized at the Charles B. Wang Center at Stony Brook University on **Saturday, April 24, 2021**.

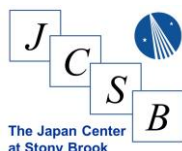
## Organizing Committee:

Eriko Sato (Chair), Roxanne Brockner, Carolyn Brooks, Peg Christoff, Mary Diaz, Marlene Dubois, Makiko Fukaya, Akie Naito Gears, MaryAnn Hannon, Feng-Qian Li, Jane McNulty, Patricia Marinaccio, Hiroko Matsuzaki, Eva Nagase, Francesca Nakagawa, Chikako Nakamura, Atsuko Oyama, Mitsuko Post, Gerard Senese, and H. Mae Sprouse

**JCSB Board Member in Charge:** Yoko Ojima

**Canon U.S.A. Representative in Charge:** Dawn Shields

\*For more information,  
visit: [stonybrook.edu/japancenter](http://stonybrook.edu/japancenter)  
email: [japanessay@stonybrook.edu](mailto:japanessay@stonybrook.edu)



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