

# 2011-2012 7th Japan Center Essay Competition

Sponsored by Canon U.S.A.

Organized by the Japan Center at Stony Brook University

**Aim:** The aim of the Japan Center Essay Competition is to promote awareness and understanding of Japan in the United States and to help young Americans broaden their international horizons.

## Awards:

**Best Essay Award:** three awards in the High School Division (1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$2,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$1,000; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$500) and one award in the College Division (\$2,000)

\*Complementary awards (Canon cameras) will also be provided.

**Honorable Mention:** maximum of six in the High School and College Divisions combined (\$200 each)

**Essay Topic:** Contestants should discuss one or more aspects of Japan including Japan's arts, cultures, traditions, values, philosophy, history, society, politics, business, and technology in relation to their personal views, experiences, and/or future goals. (Contestants do not need to have any experience in visiting Japan or studying Japanese.) The previous award winning essays and judging criteria can be viewed at the Japan Center's website:

[www.stonybrook.edu/japancenter](http://www.stonybrook.edu/japancenter)

**Entry Qualifications:** Contestants must satisfy all of the following conditions.

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 2011-2012 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 if they are selected to be a recipient of an award or honorable mention.
3. They must be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents of the U.S. except void in Maine and wherever prohibited by law.

## Conditions and Procedure:

**Length:** Maximum 750 words excluding title, footnotes, and bibliography for the High School Division. 1,000-1,500 words, excluding title, footnotes, and bibliography for the College Division.

**Language:** English

**Format:** The text is 1.5-line spaced and uses a 12-point font. The manuscript is formatted for standard 8.5 x 11 paper with 1" margins all around.

**Use of External Information and Sources:** All use of external information or sources must be properly cited in the essay and the sources must be listed in a bibliography. Use of any external materials without proper citation will be considered plagiarism and grounds for disqualification.

**Submission:** Send your essay in MS Word or RTF format by e-mail attachment to:

**Japan\_Center\_Essay\_Contest@notes.cc.sunysb.edu**

Teachers may send their students' submissions on their behalf.

**Submission Deadline: January 5, 2012**

Acknowledgement of receipt will be sent by January 10, 2012. If you do not receive it, please contact the Japan Center by e-mail ([Japan\\_Center\\_Essay\\_Contest@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:Japan_Center_Essay_Contest@notes.cc.sunysb.edu)).

Your electronic file to be submitted should include:

**File name:** Division–Author's Initial–Essay Title

Example 1: High School–JS–Cherry Blossoms and My Bird

Example 2: College–EK–Spirit of Japan and My Dream

## The first page:

- a. Author's full name
- b. Essay title and word count
- c. E-mail address
- d. Affiliated school and grade level
- e. Name and e-mail address of the faculty member who informed or advised the author regarding this competition, if any
- f. Legal status (a citizen or a permanent resident of the U.S.)
- g. Mailing address and home address
- h. Telephone number
- i. Name and e-mail address of the author's guardian(s), if the author is a minor
- j. Others (any experience in studying Japanese)
- k. How did you learn about this competition?

## The second page and after:

- a. File name (see above)
- b. Essay text (no image should be included)
- c. Bibliography, if any

**Judging:** Entries in the Japan Center Essay Competition will be evaluated by the following panel of judges on the bases of their insight, creativity, and originality of expression as well as their style, form, and organization. (The detailed judging criteria can be viewed at the Japan Center's website.)

## Honorary Judges:

Shigeyuki Hiroki, Ambassador and Consul General of Japan  
Joe Adachi, President & CEO of Canon U.S.A., Inc.

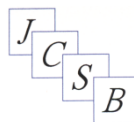
**Judges:** Sachiko Murata (Chief Judge, Dept. of Asian and Asian American Studies), Harsh Bhasin (Dept. of Asian and Asian American Studies), Clifford Huffman (English Dept.), Janis Mimura (Dept. of History), and Gregory Ruf (Dept. of Anthropology / Asian and Asian American Studies).

**Recognition of Award Recipients:** The award recipients and their essays will be posted on the web site of the JCSB ([www.stonybrook.edu/japancenter](http://www.stonybrook.edu/japancenter)) on April 5, 2012. The award recipients in the Japan Center Essay Competition will be formally recognized at the 2012 JCSB Annual Meeting, to be held at the Charles B. Wang Center at Stony Brook University on Saturday, April 14, 2012.

**Organizing Committee:** Eriko Sato (Chair), Mary Diaz, Marlene Dubois, MaryAnn Hannon, Patricia Marinaccio, Joan Miyazaki, Eva Nagase, Chikako Nakamura, Mitsuko Post, Gerard Senese, and H. Mae Sprouse

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

**Canon U.S.A. Representatives in Charge:** Elissa LiVecchi and Mindy Miller-Roesch



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