

2018 Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest for NSW and NT Secondary School Students

AIM OF CONTEST

The aim of the Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest is to encourage and develop a better understanding of Japan and Australia-Japan relations, amongst secondary school students in New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

The contest is open to students—not only Japanese language students—enrolled in New South Wales and Northern Territory secondary schools, both public and private, including seventh year primary schools in the Northern Territory.

2018 TOPICS

Senior Division (Years 9-12): 1300-1600 words

Japan and Australia have long histories of scientific research and development. Discuss some of the greatest innovations that have originated in Japan and Australia and how the two countries can work together to promote even greater scientific research and development in the future.

Junior Division (Years 7-8): 700-1000 words

Australian and Japanese culture (art, business, etiquette, fashion, social customs, sport etc.) differ in many ways. What aspect of Australian culture do you think should be more widely recognised and how would you promote a better understanding of it in Japan? What aspect of Japanese culture do you think should be more widely recognised and how would you promote a better understanding of it in Australia?

DEADLINE: 22 August 2018

PRIZES

The **first place winner in the Senior Division** will receive a return economy class air ticket* to Japan, courtesy of **Japan Airlines**. In addition, the first place winner will be provided with a 7-day Japan Rail Pass (Ordinary Class) and 3 nights accommodation at Shiba Park Hotel in Tokyo (conditions apply, subject to availability), courtesy of **JTB Australia Pty Ltd**.

The **first place winner in the Junior Division** will receive \$300 worth of books of the winner's own choice.

Special Northern Territory Prizes: The first place winners in the Senior and Junior Divisions for the Northern Territory will each receive \$100 worth of books of the winners' own choice from **Books Kinokuniya**.

Other prizes: "Outstanding Essays" in both divisions will receive \$50 worth of goods from **Tokyo Mart**. Prizes will be awarded in both divisions for "Highly Commended Essays", and each prize winner will be awarded a certificate and plaque.

The **School of the Year award** will be given to the school with the highest percentage of top quality essays, as deemed by the judges. The school will receive \$400 worth of books.

Entry forms and guidelines are available on our website, or email a request to cginfo@sy.mofa.go.jp to have the documents sent to you.

* Conditions of prizes and eligibility details are available online at — www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp

A word from the new JETAA NSW President, Ms Sally Miles, who was an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) on the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program in Shizuoka Prefecture from 2009 to 2013.



Greetings from your new JETAA NSW president. It is my great honour to take up the helm this year.

It was my pleasure to once again be a part of the Pre-departure Orientation for outgoing JETs, which was held in early June. The committee worked closely with the Consulate and CLAIR to deliver presentations relevant to the departees' concerns as well as prepare them for their new lives in

Japan. Presentation topics included fundamentals such as 'Life As A JET' and 'Money Matters', with breakout sessions for participants concerned about more specific topics such as 'Female JETs', 'Asian-Australians' and 'LGBTQ!'.

When asked to sum up my JET experience in 10 words or less, I thought long and hard, and ultimately settled on what may be considered a cliché, but is 100% true: "Absolutely life-changing." Before JET, I didn't know where Shizuoka Prefecture was (though I quickly learned it has the distinction of being the home of Mt Fuji!); I was only half-fluent in Japanese; I had never banged a drum, much less a taiko, never mind performed in front of crowds; and I had never driven on the left side of the road (oh, didn't I mention

that I'm originally from the USA?). I had all of these experiences and so many more, and my 4 years as an ALT in the little town of Kanaya will forever be some of the best years of my life.

Most if not all ex-JETs have similar sentiments about their time in Japan, and one of the most exciting things about being President of JETAA NSW is getting to hear the individual stories from our members. The committee has planned a year packed full of events for networking and socialising so that all JET alums in the Sydney area can get together with like-minded individuals to reminisce. We are also excited to expand our reach a bit more this year, and plan to hold one event each in Wollongong, Newcastle and the Blue Mountains.

I strongly encourage all ex-JETs, as well as those living in NSW who are interested in meeting with ex-JETs, to visit our website, like our Facebook page, and sign up to our newsletter to get our updates so that you can get involved with us this year.

I look forward to serving the JETAA NSW community, as well as the greater community of Australians interested in Japanese culture.

Sally Miles
President, JETAA NSW (February 2018—present)

info@jetaansw.org | www.jetaansw.org