THE BEST WORKS OF SPRING 2019 WRITING COURSE A

Instructors: Peter Parise & Thoa Nguyen

Kanagawa Prefectural Institute of Language & Culture Studies
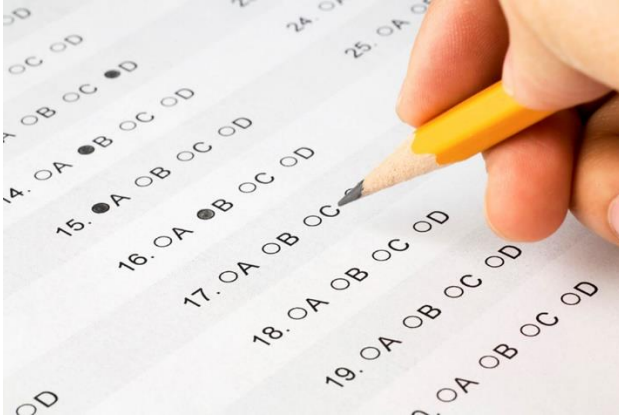
Table of Contents

Section 1: Opinion Essays

Topic: Traditional Exams vs. Continuous Assessment

Writing prompt: The current trend in education is to move away from traditional exams and instead have continuous assessment over the school year. What do you think of this trend?

Essay #1: Effective Assessment for the 21st Century

Assessment is essential in educational settings in order to examine how the program or curriculum effectively functions and for the students' realization of their achievement. The way of assessment should change as the program or curriculum is recreated based on societal change. That is why I agree that continuous assessment can assess the students' learning more effectively than traditional exams. Firstly, continuous assessment can assess the students' learning process. The students can see how much progress they have made in learning the subject over the school year. It is true that traditional exams are easy to use to check the students' knowledge, as both the teachers and the students can see how much the students know by the score they receive. If students receive a high score, they would be more motivated to learn the content. However, this way of thinking assumes that the old way of learning, which was useful when people did not have access to technology, is still relevant today. These days, due to the Internet, we are able to access a variety of knowledge quickly and easily. Because of this, it will not be important to assess whether students have memorized every piece of knowledge or information. Rather, it will be more important to assess the students' problem solving skills and creativity which will be generated by using that knowledge. For example, portfolios of the students' reports, research papers, and essays over the years will show the students' thinking skills as well as their knowledge. Assessing thinking skills or creativity is important because technologies cannot perform this skill, which is what today's society needs. Although traditional exams are easily utilized to examine the students' knowledge, this type of assessment will not be able to assess the complicated process of human learning.

Essay #2: A More Accurate Way of Assessing Academic Achievement

There is an increasing number of people in education who are in favor of shifting from conventional examinations to evaluating students continuously in the course of the school year. Personally, I believe this is a favorable tendency because it leads to students' enhanced academic ability and a more accurate evaluation of students.
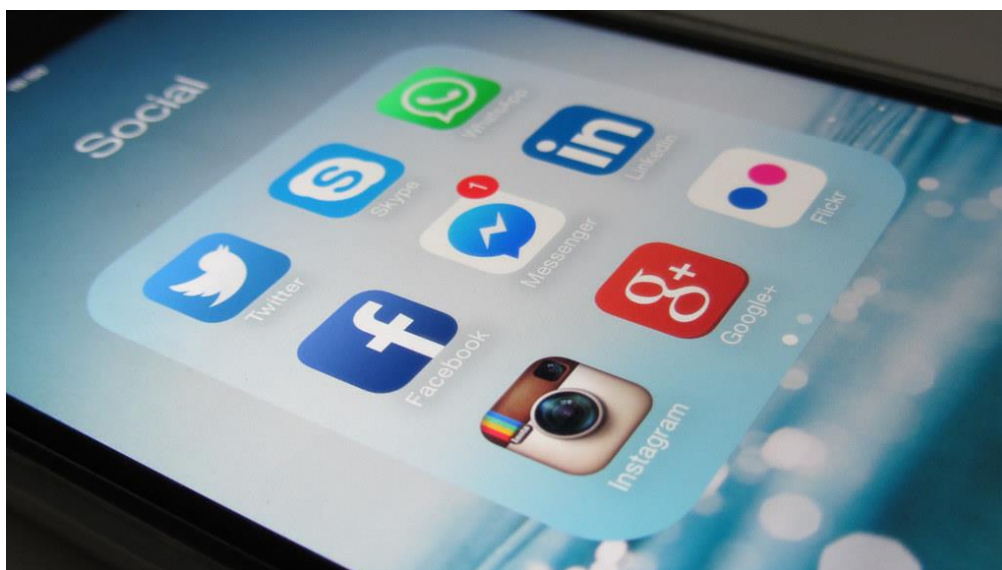
The primary reason why I agree with continuous assessment of students is that it contributes more to the improvement of students' academic ability than traditional examinations conducted once or twice per term. This is because continuous evaluation encourages students to prepare, review, and summarize about a subject on a regular basis. Such a learning style will probably contribute to the cultivation of desirable learning habits and the enhancement of their learning ability. For example, assigning students a paper on a subject once a month has better learning effects than giving an examination only once a semester.

Some people might argue that conventional examinations are necessary in order to evaluate students' academic achievement. But in fact, this can be done more accurately through continuous assessment. This is because students' academic abilities are not necessarily reflected on the scores of traditional tests. One of the possible causes of this is that some students cannot demonstrate their academic abilities because they feel too nervous before and during the test. However, having such students write a report on a subject might result in an unexpected discovery that they have profound knowledge and understanding of the subject, which would otherwise remain unknown to teachers.

In conclusion, assessing students' achievement continuously is preferable in terms of evaluating and enhancing students' academic abilities. This will encourage students to keep making an effort and various aspects of students' abilities can be measured by successive assessment.

Topic: Social Networking Sites

Writing prompt: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The rise of social media (SNS) has created more harm than good for our society.

Essay #3: SNS Can Help Us Lead Better Lives

Recently, the number of people using social networking services (SNS) has been increasing. I use *Facebook*, *LINE*, and *Twitter*. Some people say that this rise of the use of SNS has created more harm than good for our society, but I disagree.

First, thanks to SNS, we have more opportunities for keeping in touch with friends. I have a friend who lives in France. We haven't seen each other for a long time but we exchange messages via Facebook. We send birthday cards to each other every year through SNS. Like this, using SNS enables us to communicate with friends whom we seldom meet in person.

Second, if we can use SNS wisely, it is possible to get a variety of services from many shops. These days, many stores offer customers coupons from their SNS sites. For example, if we register one shop's account, we can get discount coupons regularly. We are able to use them for our daily shopping. This is a really useful service for customers who want to save money.

Those who oppose this position claim that using SNS causes the overuse of mobile phones. For most teenagers, SNS is a kind of "entertainment," so sometimes it is hard to stop using it. The overuse of mobile phones can harm their eyes and brain. This problem can be easily solved by teaching them how to use mobile phones properly. For example, parents need to make some rules about using smartphones – how much time they can use their phone in a day, what kind of websites they can look at, and so on.

By using SNS more effectively, we can contact with many people and live more economically. Knowing how to use SNS properly leads us to a more communicative, beneficial, and useful life.

Essay #4: The Advantages of SNS

Social media (SNS), such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc. has become an indispensable tool for us to communicate. You are able to contact people in the world anytime, anywhere. Since so many people use SNS, its influence cannot be ignored. Because of the increased opportunities of communicating with others via SNS and its huge influence, every citizen, especially minorities and politically oppressed people, can benefit greatly. Minorities, such as minor ethnic or religious groups and LGBTQ people, had not been able to find others in similar situations nor exchange information with them. Thus, they suffered from a lack of information and feelings of isolation. However, with the advent of SNS, they can find others who are in almost the same situation and communicate with them on the Internet. Politically oppressed people had not been able to voice their objections because their government deprived them of that right. However, thanks to the rise of the service, oppressed people, such as journalists in China, Rohingya people and girls under fundamentalist Islamic regimes, can tell us about their extreme hardships brought about by their government. Their voice will reach so many people via SNS and then the readers will try to help those oppressed people with SNS's influence. Those evil governments have no choice but to hear the public opinion and change their policy on their citizens.

Those who oppose this position might say there is a lot of false information and lies on SNS, and thus communication on it should not be trusted. Because minorities and politically oppressed people depend on the network on the Internet in particular, they might be easily deceived. For example, young people who are questioning their sexuality may rely on adults on the Internet. Thus, these youths might be easy targets for those who want to deceive and have immoral relationships with them. However, I think that opinion is not accurate. Minorities and politically oppressed people can access other information sources, like books, newspapers and television to check whether the information is correct or not. They can also consult their families and relatives face to face about the accuracy of the information. Furthermore, they can tell if the conversations on these sites are reliable or not by asking as many questions as possible to other people. With these efforts, they can acquire media literacy, that is, the ability to critically evaluate information in the media. They will also be able to communicate effectively and think critically about the discussions on social media.

For all of these reasons, it is crystal clear that not only minorities and politically oppressed people but also all of us in our society, as long as we avoid its inherent traps, can benefit from the growth of social media. I firmly believe we can build a more democratic society with the use of SNS.

Section 2: Compare & Contrast Essays

Directions: Choose a topic and write your opinion. Your paragraph should be at least 250 words. Please <u>bold and underline</u> the signal words for comparison or contrast.
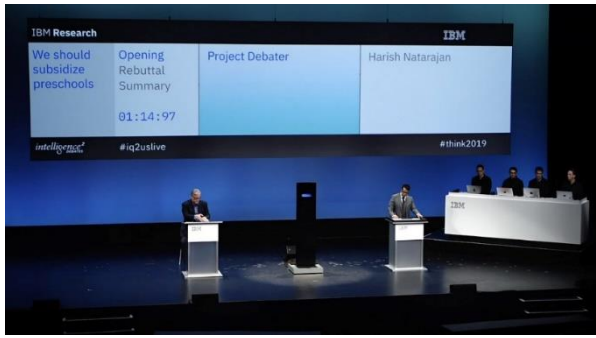

Essay #5: Japanese Curry vs. Indian Curry

Japanese people have been good at modifying imported goods to create a product unique to Japan. One typical example would be Japanese curry. Curry, which originated in India, was introduced to Japan roughly 150 years ago. Today, it has become so widespread throughout the country that it can be referred to as one of the national foods in Japan. **<u>Likewise</u>**, curry is the most common home-cooked meal in India. In other words, curry is one of the necessities in **<u>both</u>** countries, which is the main similarity.

However, despite this point in common, Japanese curry and Indian curry can be thought to be **<u>different</u>** dishes. The most marked **<u>difference</u>** will probably be the way of cooking. Japanese curry is made from curry roux, which is made from curry powder, flour and fat, **<u>whereas</u>** Indian curry consists only of a mixture of spices. Curry roux makes Japanese curry taste considerably mild compared to Indian curry. Japanese curry also **<u>differs</u>** from Indian curry in that Japanese curry has no restrictions in terms of main ingredients. Japanese people put into curry almost everything ranging from beef and pork to natto. **<u>On the other hand</u>**, Indian people are not allowed to eat beef and pork because of strict religious disciplines. The final notable **<u>difference</u>** between these two dishes may be the effect on the health. Unfortunately, Japanese curry cannot be regarded as a healthy dish due to the amount of carbohydrates and fat it contains, which makes it easy for us to gain weight. **<u>In contrast</u>**, Indian curry, composed only of spices, contributes to the recovery from fatigue and the promotion of appetite, both of which make curry indispensable to Indian people, who cannot avoid the severe heat.

In summary, Japanese curry and Indian curry are two **<u>different</u>** dishes, albeit both of them have a common feature of being a national dish. Japanese curry tastes mild, has rich variants but may contribute to gaining weight. **<u>On the other hand</u>**, Indian curry tastes **<u>much</u>** spicier, has **<u>less</u>** variants than Japanese curry but is **<u>much more</u>** conducive to our health. What is certain, however, is that both dishes will satiate our palate.

Essay #6: Debate and Presentation

It has been a very long time since English became a common language for communication among people from different countries. To meet this trend, English teachers in Japan are trying to have their students learn the language not only through reading and listening but also writing and speaking it. Today, debate has been adopted to give students an opportunity to practice speaking and writing skills in class. Also, presentations have also been a popular platform to have students develop their speaking and writing in English. Although both of them are actively adopted in English classes, there are fundamental differences between them.

The first difference is you can "rebut" in debate, which means to respond to an opponent's argument, **whereas** you cannot do so in presentations. Whether you support or oppose a motion in debate, you have to rebut what your opponent said. Otherwise, the debate will not be developed enough and your judges cannot decide which side should win. In presentations, though the audience or sometimes judges can critically listen to what you are telling, they cannot rebut your explanation. Basically they just listen to your presentation and assess your performance.

The other difference is that debate has many tournaments, but there are no presentation tournaments. Especially in impromptu debates, each round can usually finish within about 45 to 60 minutes, so we can hold four to six rounds in a tournament. Because of its relatively short time duration, there are popular impromptu debate tournaments in Japan, such as the PDA, HPDU and JWSDC tournaments. **On the other hand**, because it would be very difficult and less meaningful to have four to six different presentations in a day, there is no presentation *tournament* but presentation *contests*, such as All Japan Students Presentation Contest or Change Maker Award. Because of these two differences, debate is considered more aggressive than presentations.

Although there are those differences between debate and presentations, the ultimate goal of these activities in class is essentially **the same**. It is to persuade others. In a round of debate, you have to convince the judges that what your team argues is true and more important than the opponent's. For instance, when you support the motion "We should ban cigarettes," you have to persuade your judges that the advantages of banning cigarettes is better than not banning it. **Just like** debate, you have to convince your audience that your presentation is clear, impressive, and persuasive. For example, when your presentation topic is about reducing global food waste, you have to explain it clearly, and then inspire your audience to lead their lives with less food waste.

In summary, because you have to rebut your opponents and try to advance the next round in a tournament, debate is more aggressive than presentations. However, both of their most important objective is to persuade others. I firmly believe debate and presentations can be ideal activities for students to acquire sophisticated communication skills needed for their future.

Essay #7: Dragons in Europe vs. Japan

There are several imaginary creatures in Japan like the *kappa*, the *tengu*, the dragon and so on, but the dragon is one of the rare creatures which appear in both European and Japanese mythology. Although their shapes are slightly different from each other, **both** European dragons and those of Japan are chimerical creatures composed of the parts of several different animals.

In Europe, a dragon has a lizard-like body with a bird's wings and a snake's tail, while in Japan, it has a snake-like body with a deer's antlers and a tiger's paws with a hawk's claws. Because they had adopted strong points from other animals, **both** dragons were so powerful they couldn't easily be killed. They have powers ordinary animals don't possess and are much stronger than human beings. For example, European dragons fly **as well as** Japanese ones. The dragons in the European myths can breathe fire from their mouths, whereas the Japanese ones can breathe *ki* energy from their mouths. The dragons in Europe used to live in caves in the mountains to protect their treasure. **Similarly**, the dragons in Japan used to live in a remote countryside in places such as lakes and ponds in the quiet woods.

The biggest difference is, however, that the European dragons sometimes were described as a symbol of evil, whereas Japanese dragons were usually seen as gods. The dragon in *The Hobbit* was vicious enough to raid the town nearby and clever enough to trick Bilbo the hobbit into almost fighting among his dwarf friends. The dragon which lived in Kamakura had once been certainly evil, tearing down houses for fun or eating girls, but he finally changed into good one, even a sacred one, protecting people and property from storms or tsunami. Japanese dragons became the god of wind, rain, and water. They were painted on the ceiling of many Buddhist temples such as Shokoku-ji, Myoshin-ji and Kennin-ji. Statues of a dragon are often seen at *chozuya*, or washing basins, in Shinto shrines, where we purify ourselves.

In summary, our imagination sometimes produces a similar sort of creatures, yet they have different roles based on each culture.

Essay #8: Two Port Cities – Yokohama vs. Kobe

Port cities have prospered especially since the end of the Edo era when the Edo Shogunate (Edo-Bakufu) abolished the policy of isolationism. What is interesting is that such port cities have many similarities with one another. One such port town is Yokohama, the capital of Kanagawa prefecture in the Kanto region. Another is Kobe, the capital of Hyogo prefecture in the Kansai region. **Both** port cities have been very active as commercial ports for a long time and they are quite similar not only as trade ports but also as tourist spots though they are geographically separated. For example, they both have Chinatowns (Yamashita in Yokohama, Nankin in Kobe), famous towers (Marin Tower in Yokohama, Port Tower in Kobe), and ferris wheels. **Another similarity** is that there used to be enclaves for foreign residents. In Yokohama there are fashionable homes for foreigners who once resided in the enclaves of Yamate area. Similarly, Kobe has enclaves such as Kitano which also has many famous former foreign residents. Thanks to these areas, the culture, food, and atmosphere of these cities are very different from other parts of Japan and have been sources for latest trends. **The final similarity** between these two cities is that both cities have progressed and prospered greatly thanks to foreign trade. However, the culture of Yokohama has been influenced by America, **whereas** that of Kobe has been influenced by European countries because its trading partners were different. Thanks to that, Japan has been able to introduce several kinds of Western culture and technology such as railways, buildings and postal service since the Meiji era. We call this movement *Bunmei Kaika*. In summary, both cities have been quite essential for the economic and cultural development of Japan.

Section 3: Summary & Opinion Essays

Directions: Read one of the news articles from the assignment. Paraphrase the news article you have read and then give your opinion on the article.

Essay #9: *Tokyo wants people to go to work earlier to ease train crush*

(http://tinyurl.com/y5b2ol2w)

A July 17th article written by Kurumi Mori from Bloomberg titled "Toyo wants people to go to work earlier to ease train crush" reported that Tokyo has launched the "Jisa Biz" campaign to combat overcrowding on trains. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government is going to hold the Olympics and the Paralympics in 2020. There has been a serious problem in Tokyo with congested morning trains for over 50 years. Therefore, the government encourages companies to introduce "Jisa Biz," which translates as "time-lag business," to employees during summer seasons. It is a new working model which allows workers to start working earlier or later than usual in order to avoid the most crowded hours and enrich their private time. Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike expects not only the ease of overcrowding on trains, but also changing our way of thinking toward working and living in the country. Although the government made a lot of effort and more than 260 companies took part in this program last year, drastic changes in morning commuting have yet to appear.

I believe that "Jisa Biz" has a great potential which can help change our lifestyles and lead us to better and healthier lives. Everyday commuting in overcrowded transportation can cause stress, depression, and even crimes such as violence and molestation. By introducing time-lag business, workers can avoid the rush hours in mornings and evenings. In addition, as it is mentioned above, it gives us more flexible views regarding working hours, working styles, and our roles in society. However, there are some problems. Even though Tokyo has started this campaign, the number of companies which has adopted it was very limited. According to the survey by the Tokyo Metropolitan Bureau of Industry and Labor, there were about 250,000 companies in Tokyo in 2017. Compared with the number of companies that joined the "Jisa Biz" in the same year, it is clear that only 0.1 % of all companies adopted this campaign. Hence, we can assume that only a few participated in "Jisa Biz." One of the biggest challenges in introducing this system is that it is not profitable for companies in terms of economy. For workers, they may still have difficulties changing the norms in their

organizations. The important thing is that admitting the campaign can be very beneficial to our world, the government still needs to reconsider how to implement this system to our social system. As Japanese society is still wedded to the conventional working style, the government has to demonstrate to both people and companies a variety of options in working, new sense of value toward lifestyles, and most importantly, advantages of how the campaign can act positively in their lives.

Essay #10: *Children of poor, jobless single moms have become an underclass in Japan*

(https://tinyurl.com/yxfahewd)

An article titled "Children of Poor, Jobless Single Moms have become an Underclass in Japan" from the January 26th, 2018 issue in *The Japan Times* talks about child poverty and single mothers in Japan. A four-year-boy was killed on Christmas Day in 2017 in Minoh, Osaka and his mother and her two boyfriends were arrested. What are the reasons for such a sad case? First, most single mothers in Japan have to survive on less than half the national median income and their children are also poorer, less educated, and have fewer prospects for their future. Fewer than half of the single moms receive alimony, and they earn roughly 30 percent less than men doing a similar job. Second, stringent privacy laws and the culture of keeping up appearances make it hard to identify their poverty. In addition, public spending favors the elderly, not single parents and their children. Although under Abe's leadership since late 2012, the plight of children has eased a bit and the number of single-parent households has dropped slightly, many are still suffering. This will eventually cause us to face the social issue of a shrinking young workforce that has to look after a growing elderly population.

The social issue of child and single-mother poverty in Japan is a hidden and underestimated problem. According to the article, most single mothers have to survive on less than half the Japan's medium income, the poverty line defined by OECD and one in every seven children experiences poverty. However, because of Japan's strict privacy laws and culture of hiding disgrace, it is very difficult for not only ordinary citizens but also experts of social problems to spot their existence and provide financial support to them. Furthermore, public spending favors the elderly rather than poor children and single parents. For all of these reasons, financial support for single mothers and their children are not nearly enough to lead stable lives.

Opponents say that their poverty is their own responsibility, because they chose to divorce and raise children. In addition, because the economic situation has improved and several welfare policies for working women and their children have been adopted under the Abe administration, opponents also argue that they should have already provided enough support for single moms and their children. However, I think this opinion is not acceptable. Unbalanced social

services favoring the elderly over the poor moms and their children should not be acceptable. Elderly people are provided their pensions more than they have paid, while single moms and their children have to live on less than half of Japan's median income.

To mitigate this unfairness and increase financial support to single parents and their poor children, I'd like to propose that we gradually postpone retirement until 70. There are three reasons why I firmly believe this. First, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Japanese average lifespan is the longest (84.2 years old) in the world and many elderly people are in good shape. Thus, they can work until the age of 70 with good health. Moreover, they will maintain their health better than in retirement because people usually take care of themselves more carefully when they are working. Second, because of technological developments, the elderly will need to do less physical labor and can make good use of their experience with the help of technologies. For instance, construction workers, farmers and fishers can now rely on the advanced tools, such as nail guns, automatic farming tractors, or fishing boats with GPS. Thus their working life is lengthened and they can enjoy exercising their experience on what they are good at. In this point, they will gain a lot of satisfaction from work. Thirdly, in this system, because elderly people can work longer, young people can expand their perspective more than before. For example, elderly teachers at school can teach students what they had experienced in their childhood, which cannot be taught by their younger teachers. 60 to 70-year-old teachers would be like a generation of grandparents for young students. Thus, students can learn not only timeless knowledge from them, but also how differently their grandparent generations think about the current social matters. Thanks to this school environment, young students will widen their views and increase their receptivity.

For all of these reasons, it is crystal clear that prolonging retirement can benefit both the elderly and Japanese society as a whole. Furthermore, because the government will not need to pay pension so early, it can increase the financial support for single moms and their children. Therefore, by fairly sharing the burden among all generations, we can shape Japan into a more equitable society.

Essay #11: *How Hong Kong dads to balance work and family – and why men 'feel pressured to show commitment to their work'*
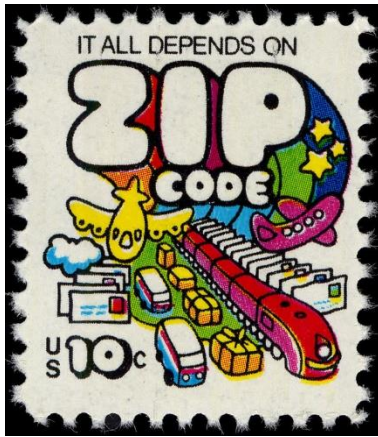
(https://tinyurl.com/y3l8b3wn)

An article published on November 24ᵗʰ in 2015 by South China Morning Post titled "How Hong Kong dads to balance work and family – and why men 'feel pressured to show commitment to their work'" illustrates why fathers in Hong Kong find it challenging to maintain a balance between work and family life and suggests possible solutions to this issue. The primary reason why men in Hong Kong who have a family struggle to achieve a work-life balance is because changing roles and views as a father at home are not compatible with companies' actual circumstances where male workers cannot put their family life before their job. Such incongruity often leads to fathers being put under pressure that they have to show more commitment to their work, which makes them even more frustrated. In order to tackle this problem, fathers themselves need to have strategies and plans to meet the needs at home as well as at the workplace, to say nothing of more support from companies. Another contributing factor is that the challenges fathers face in terms of childrearing can incline them to escape into their work. To illustrate, children tend to rely on mothers rather than fathers when they have a favor to ask. Getting fathers involved in childrearing may require encouragement from their wives, who can see to it that fathers do not refrain from childrearing. The article ended with a suggestion that fathers should take time for themselves, without which they might get exhausted to the detriment of their health.

The issue of work-life balance seems difficult to tackle and solve, but I believe companies should take the initiative to urge their employees to improve the balance between work and family life. There may be some opponents of companies' trying to improve their workers' quality of life, arguing that, for example, it is workers' themselves that are responsible for maintaining the balance between work and family life. Nevertheless, it is companies' responsibility to create a family-friendly and sustainable working environment. The first reason is because individual workers cannot alter their working conditions at the workplace. In most jobs it is nearly impossible for the ordinary worker to control the workload. Second, if individual employees make an attempt to heighten the awareness of work-life balance at their workplace, it may cause friction among workers. This is not difficult to imagine because different circumstances workers are in create differences in opinion. For instance, I cannot work on Sundays as some of my colleagues do

because I have four-year-old twin daughters, and my wife, who is the primary care-taker of them, needs to take a rest. However, some of my colleagues having to work on Sundays may argue that I should do the same as they do. Lastly, creating an environment where workers can achieve a work-life balance will contribute greatly to a company's steady and sustainable development. This is because most male workers regard work-life balance as a requisite condition at their workplace. According to South China Post, 59% of men view a family-friendly working environment as one of the top considerations when choosing a company to work for. That means achieving a work-life balance can attract capable employees, thus leading to the business's stable development. This is why companies should actively tackle the issue of work-life balance by creating family-friendly working circumstances, and raising employees' consciousness of the importance of maintaining a balance in their life, which is beneficial to employees' well-being and companies themselves.

Essay #12: *Your zip code might determine how long you live— and the difference could be decades*

(https://tinyurl.com/y5xd6b9p)

A July 8th article from TIME magazine discusses research that shows how long you live depends on where you live. A couple of factors such as genes, gender, and lifestyle usually determine life expectancy. Yet, in the US, where people live might affect their life expectancy. According to the New York University School of Medicine, there is a 20 years difference in life expectancy even within the same city. More than 10% of the largest cities in the US like Chicago, New York, and Washington DC, have around a 30 years difference among neighbors. Such huge differences emerge from factors such as environmental pollution, food, medical availability, and green space in these neighborhoods. These factors have an effect on people's health and produce significant differences in terms of life expectancy. There are also race and ethnicity factors. While the majority of white neighborhoods are less affected by socioeconomic factors, minority neighborhoods have suffered from socioeconomic factors like housing cost and inaccessible social services.   Those causes lead to the difference of life expectancy even in neighborhoods that are several blocks away. Even though this issue cannot be solved immediately, the author suggests that lawmakers or public-health officials connect with people who do not benefit from their environment and start to close the gap for average life expectancy.

The article gave me an opportunity to think about the rural area where I used to live in the US. At that time, I recognized that living areas were divided by people's economic status or ethnicity. Like the article said, their zip code shows what kind of area the place is. Even though people seemed to live in their own way to have a happy life, the difference between living areas should be corrected by a mutual aid society. Recent worldwide economic problems make people who live in fragile neighborhoods have a shorter short life expectancy. According to an article from Smithsonian Magazine on the Internet, an average of life expectancy in the US decreased 0.1 years from 2015 to 2018. The most significant reasons of shorter life expectancies are drug overdose and suicide. Moreover, these two factors are overlapped in certain areas such as Northeast, Midwest, and Mid-Atlantic States. In those areas, people lost their job opportunities since factories, which were the main source of income in their city, have been declining. Unstable

people use subscribed painkillers to escape from their anxieties and gradually have an addiction to drugs. The article from Smithsonian said that death from drug overdose increased about 45% in 2017. There is also a number of people who tend to give up on life. This situation has ruined their neighborhood and even their city. However, there is a way to solve such a tragedy. Once I read a book about the recent history of the US. In the story, I found one woman who took an action in her neighborhood. She herself had been suffering from economic problems and ethnic discrimination. She made a great effort to revitalize her town with the power of human networks. Such a human network is crucial for improving ruined neighborhoods. The woman from the story became one of the leaders of the community to improve their town's environment with volunteering networks for planting flowers in her town, helping to establish small businesses, and expressing concerns to politicians. These episodes show that the network of people could be the most powerful tool to peel off the label of unhealthy neighborhood from zip codes.

Disclaimer

The essays published in this collection are the authors' viewpoints and do not necessarily reflect the positions of the Kanagawa Prefectural Institute of Language and Culture Studies.

Some of the original content has been revised for this publication, with the consent of the original authors.

All pictures used in this collection were images that were labeled for noncommercial reuse.