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 (1st Place: $2,000; 2nd Place: $1,000; 3rd 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 have 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

Entry Qualifications: Contestants must satisfy all of the following conditions.
1. They must be 13 years old or older and enrolled in high school 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).