

Final Paper Proposal

Paper Title:

Japanese Education:

Social, Cultural, and Hierarchy Influences From the Structure of the Japanese Education System

Thesis Statement: How does the Japanese education system develop and shape the Japanese mind in the sense of hierarchy, uchi to soto concepts, the group oriented mind and social developmental impacts it has on Japanese people.

Major Analysis:

Analysis Overview: (Tentative; order not decided yet, contents not finalized)

- I. Introduction
- II. Hierarchy structures development in schools
 - a. Sempai & Kohai concepts
- III. Group Orientated Mindset
 - a. Uchi to Soto
- IV. The Will and Need to Succeed
 - a. Pressures from society (meet standards)
 - b. Kiai and Seishin
- V. Conclusion

Introduction: School environment plays a profound role in the mental development in students' lives all around the world. What makes the Japanese environment unique is that students learn behaviors and cultural values within the system that can be applied to all aspects of the life. The meaning behind this is, socially accepted behaviors learned in school can be applied to their part-time jobs, being in public spaces, at home, at visiting others, their future business lives, and so on. Starting off is the early introduction of respecting elders even if the elder is only one year ahead, referring to the sempai and kohai system. Other aspects, such as being assigned to a certain class, working together to clean the schools lead in to the group oriented mindset and working together equally. This group mind further leads in to "uchi to soto" concepts, or inside and outside concepts which is extremely different than western thinking. Following this, I want to go in to explain about how there are many pressures within school such as passing tests and entrance exams that place immense weight on students' shoulders and how it forces some to even hide and try to escape Japanese society. Through this essay I will explore these concepts through research to explain and analyze with example and opinion how these shape Japanese mind and ways of thinking.