

JAPN 311 Midterm Paper

Discrimination and Health Issues

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Our members in the group are Kamau, William, Marsha, Jessica, and Matthew. We had a diverse and interesting discussion on our social issues. Marsha's topic discusses the social issues of gay marriage in America versus Japan. William brought up that Japan also shares issues with gay rights just as America does. Although Marsha disagreed on the excess of gay issues in Japan, for the most part, the group agreed that both countries have issues with gay rights.

Kamau's social issues relate to racism in Japan. We researched his topic together and brought up what we learned in class. The key examples of racism we thought of was with Okinawa and Hokkaido. William stated that he has a Japanese friend from Okinawa and people would think she was less intelligent. In Hokkaido, Marsha brought up that people portray these people as barbarians.

William's social issue is of the aging population of Japan and the barriers that hinder health care for the fast growing aging population. William brought up information about how the population is declining because women in Japan aren't wanting to stay home and raise kids. They want to have their own money and independence. Marsha stated that she also learned about this issue in her JAPN 380 class. The group agreed that this is a common issue not only in Japan but also in America.

Jessica's social issues is the cause and reasons of suicide in America and Japan. The main aspects her research focused on is why people commit these actions. The group found her findings interesting because suicide happens in both cultures but is seen differently in Japanese versus American culture. In Japanese culture, Jessica states that there isn't any crime in suicide in Shintoism or Buddhism. In addition, most Japanese people aren't as desperate to stop it.

However, they are working towards having suicide hotlines just as America does.

Matthew's social issue is the social effects of the atomic bomb droppings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and comparing it to the collapse of the World Trade Center. I know it's a stretch as Marsha told me but it can be used for various health research as the amount of radiation and lung cancer are remarkably high and each one and also the striking similarities they both share in total devastation of an area and the rebuilding effort afterwards. In order to get some discussion on my topic I have a few questions for you guys. 1. What's your opinion on it? 2. How can I tweak it to relate to your topics or a certain group. These questions are crucial for me to get a good grasp on my topic so I can write a good paper so your best and honest feedback would be greatly appreciated. Thanks guys!

From our discussions, we've realized that it would be better to form into smaller groups to form stronger themes for our social issues. The main social issues we're focusing on for our paper would be discrimination and health issues. Jessica and William will be discussing health issues while Kamau and Marsha will be discussing discrimination.