

Final Paper Proposal

Paper Title:

Japanese Customs and Values: An Analysis of How Japanese Customs, Values and Wisdom are Portrayed in Various Literatures

Thesis Statement:

How do Japanese authors infuse their stories with Japanese culture/values and how has this changed when comparing older/modern works?

Major Analysis:

I. Analysis Overview:

For my essay to progress more naturally, I would like to do quick analysis of more ancient works and work my way up to more modern authors for comparison.

- i. Since I will be starting my essay with older stories, I would like to focus on 4 stories in *Japanese Tales*. I have yet to decide on which 4 I would exactly like to use, but I would like to put more thought into which stories I choose as it will dictate the flow of my essay.
- ii. Since the stories in *Japanese Tales* tend to be a bit short, I would like to focus on a longer story transitioning to the next part of the essay. I would like to focus on *Young Murasaki* from *The Tale of Genji* because it gives me an old, yet extremely famous piece of literature to examine. I believe this story laid the foundation for future works, so it is essential to mention. In this part I would also like to incorporate *Tale of Heike* to examine a more historical approach to storytelling.
- iii. Lastly, I would like to finish up with a more modern work, but not necessarily the most recent. I believe *The Dancing Girl of Izu* works well here because it is a significant work from a recent Nobel Prize winning author. Using the previously mentioned literature, I would like to compare to this work and see what elements remain the same and which ones have changed or are absent completely.

II. Literature Selection:

Japanese Tales (Various authors)

Young Murasaki from *Tale of Genji* (Lady Murasaki)

Tale of Heike

The Dancing Girl of Izu (Kawabata Yasunari)