




## Assignment for the New Year Celebration Event

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For this lab assignment, you will write a short report about the New Year traditions in Japan. The report should be based on your interview with Japanese students who host the Japanese New Year event on the Wednesday, January 17, 2024. The report should be written in English and should be at least \_\_\_\_\_ in length. Please note that your answer should be based on your experience during the event as well as your conversation with fellow students. The purpose of this assignment is to develop your intercultural communication skill, especially with those from the Japanese background.

- (1) Do brief research about the Japanese New Year traditions. Start with the attached document or the following websites.
  - Introduction videos for the traditions on Japanese New Year:
    - <https://youtu.be/8-GSw2e40p0> 
    - <https://youtu.be/6jQd8cuPcJc> 
    - <https://youtu.be/yy7vk6TZKm4> 
  - Other resources
    - <https://japantoday.com/category/features/lifestyle/new-year-traditions-in-japan>
    - <https://asiasociety.org/education/japanese-new-year>
    - <https://www.tokyoweekender.com/2018/12/celebrating-oshogatsu-introduction-japanese-new-year-traditions/>
    - <http://www.discovernikkei.org/en/journal/2007/11/21/oshogatsu-traditions/>
    - <https://www.maikaisogawa.com/the-ultimate-guide-to-japanese-new-years/>
- (2) Pick two Japanese New Year's traditions and describe the activities in detail. The following activities are scheduled during the event.
 

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mochi-pounding</li> <li>• Japanese happi clothes</li> <li>• Japanese calligraphy</li> <li>• Japanese new year greeting cards</li> <li>• Votive tablets</li> <li>• Karuta (Japanese traditional card game)</li> <li>• Sushi tasting &amp; osechi food</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otedama (Japanese juggling balls)</li> <li>• Origami</li> <li>• Tako (kite)</li> <li>• Kami-fusen (paper balloon)</li> <li>• Any other activity you saw or found through your own research</li> </ul>
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- (3) Find students who are familiar with the new year traditions in Japan (e.g., international students from Japan, students in the Japanese major etc) during the event. Interview her/him for a few minutes. Write down who you spoke with. Write her/his name and which part of Japan she/he is from.
- (4) Below are some questions that you might want to use for your report.
  - Do you think the new year celebration in Japan (e.g., mochi pounding) is based on any specific religious belief?
  - In what respects has the Japanese New Year's celebration changed past few decades? What remained the same?
  - Are any aspects of the Japanese celebration similar to the traditions of new year celebration in other Asian countries such as China and Korea? How different?
  - Are any aspects of the Japanese celebration similar to an American holiday celebration? How different?