



Immigration Policy: College Students' Perceptions in Japan & the U.S.

Christian McGlothlin-Clason

Advisors

Dr. Yoshiko Saito-Abbott

Dr. Shigeko Sekine

Outline

- Significance of the study
- Research Questions
- Literature Review
- Research Method
- Survey Findings
 - Research Question 1
 - Research Question 2
- Conclusion
- Limitations of the Study/ Future Study
- Bibliography
- Acknowledgements



Significance of the Study

- While studying as an exchange student at Okayama University, I studied about immigration in Japan
- I noticed that Immigration Policy continuously changes in the U.S. & Japan
- As a U.S. citizen, I have a vested interest in U.S. immigration policies as a social issue
- Would like to pursue what college students think about immigration policies that permit/refuse entry in the US and Japan

Research Questions

1. How aware are college students of current immigration policies in the U.S. and Japan?
2. What are college students' opinions of immigration policies and what influences them?



Literature Review

Outline

- History of Immigration Policy I. (1700 – 1918)
- History of Immigration Policy II. (1939 – 1954)
- Current Immigration Policy I. (1960 – Present)
- Current Immigration Policy II. (Visa Program)
- Education on Immigration Policy
- Sources of Influence I. (News Sources & Family)
- Sources of Influence II (Social Networking & Peers)

History of Immigration Policy I.

(1700 – 1918)

Immigration Policy in the 1800's

Japan

Commodore Matthew Perry (US) forced Japan to open its borders in 1853

First official immigration policy

United States

Importation of slaves was prohibited

Immigration Policy in World War I

Japan

Worker immigrants were brought into Japan for heavy labor

Immigration increase

United States

Mass immigration led to new restrictions and processes required for entrance to the country

History of Immigration Policy II.

(1939 – 1954)

Immigration Policy in World War II

Japan

Worker immigrants and their families were considered and treated as foreigners

New sets of rules and regulations placed on immigrants

United States

The Immigration and Naturalization service started fingerprinting, increased border control and internment camps

Immigration Policy in Post World War II

Japan

In 1952, the Immigration Control Law was formed, based off US immigration law

New regulations on immigration

United States

In 1954, Operation Wetback illegally deported Mexican migrant workers

Current Immigration Policy I.


(1960 – Present)

Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (Japan)

Lists the standards of which immigrants must meet to enter as immigrants or refugees

Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) (United States)

Dictates the standards under which immigrants may enter the country

- 
- Both of these policies are the underlying basis of Immigration Policy.
 - They are similar, as one took after the other, but they focus on different perspectives of immigrants that may/not be permitted to enter

(Chung, 2010; DeSipio & de la Garza, 2015; 日本法令外国語訳データベースシステム)

Current Immigration Policy II.

(Visa Program)

Visa Exemption Arrangements (Japan)

This exemption applies differently to people from different countries

Example: citizens from U.S. may visit for 90 days, but citizens of Indonesia may only visit for 15 days

Visa Waiver Program (United States)

People from countries that the U.S. has made agreements with may enter without a visa for 90 days without a visa

- Grants citizens of certain countries temporary visitation to the country without a visa

(Chung, 2010; DeSipio & de la Garza, 2015; 日本法令外国語訳データベースシステム)

Education on Immigration Policy

Japan

- **No discussions** of Japan's immigration policy in schools
- **Only a few points** are taught **about migration**, but not Japan's immigration policies

United States

- **Teaching of immigration policy is limited to small discussions** of the topic **as a social issue**
- Teaching materials available from the Immigration Policy Center in joint with the American Immigration Council



(Pathways to America: Teaching about Immigration; An Educator's Guide to the Immigration Debate; Lesson Plans;中学校 社会科のしおり 2013)

Sources of Influence I.

(News Sources & Family)

News debates in Japan

Is Japan a land for Japanese only?

- **Immigration increases the workforce** but it **takes jobs away** from native Japanese
- Immigration **diversifies** the country, but Japan is a **homogeneous** country
- Immigration brings **tourism** and **economic benefits**

Family influence in Japan

- **Very little** to no **communication between family members** regarding political & social issues

News debates in United States

A country at the front of immigration reform

- **Building a wall** to refuse Mexican immigrants
- **Whether to admit Syrian refugees** or not

Family influence in United States

- **More open conversations** between family members regarding political & social issues

Sources of Influence II.

(Social Networking & Peers)

Social Networking

- In both countries, social networking connects people all across the globe
- This setting allows people to share different opinions and ideas that creates dialogue
- Example: The use of a hashtag to drive attention for a cause or social issue
- This form of opinion sharing is more popular in the United States than in Japan

Peers

- “Peer Pressure” is common amongst social groups, where sharing the same opinion creates a sense of togetherness
- Except in Academic circles, peers do not talk often if at all about Immigration Policy and their opinions

Research Method

Research Participants

- 66 College Students
 - 27 American Students
 - 16 female college students
 - 9 male college students
 - 2 non-binary college students
 - 39 Japanese Students
 - 25 female college students
 - 14 male college students

Research instruments

- Online Survey using Google Form
 - [Survey in English](#)
 - [Survey in Japanese](#)

SURVEY FINDINGS

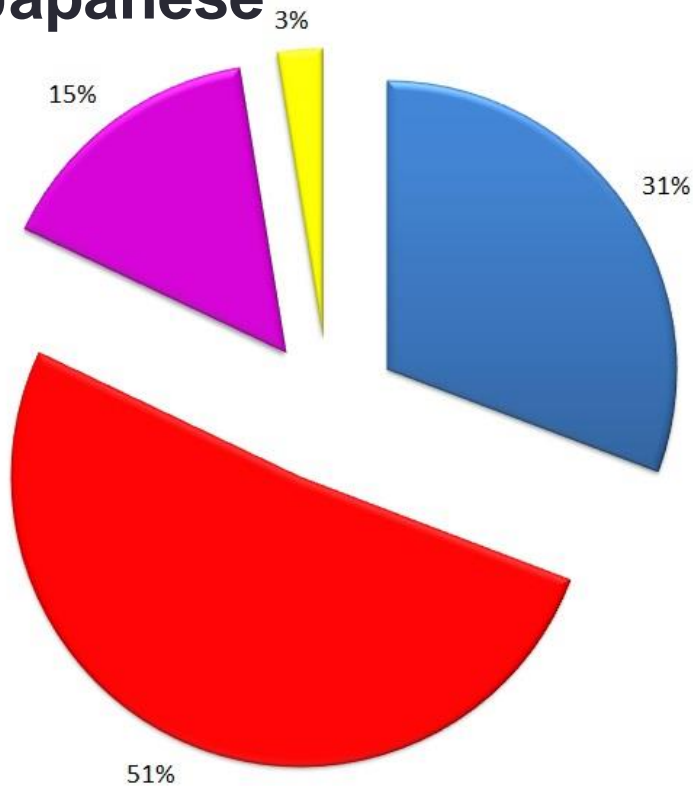
RESEARCH QUESTION 1:

How aware are college students of current immigration policies in the U.S. and Japan?

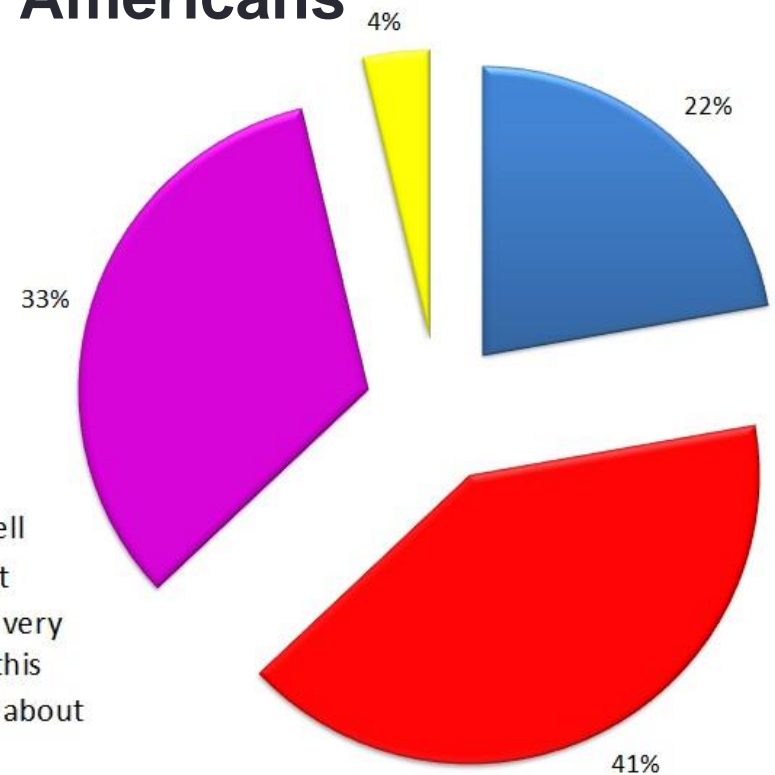


Do you know the difference between an immigrant, a refugee and an asylee?

Japanese



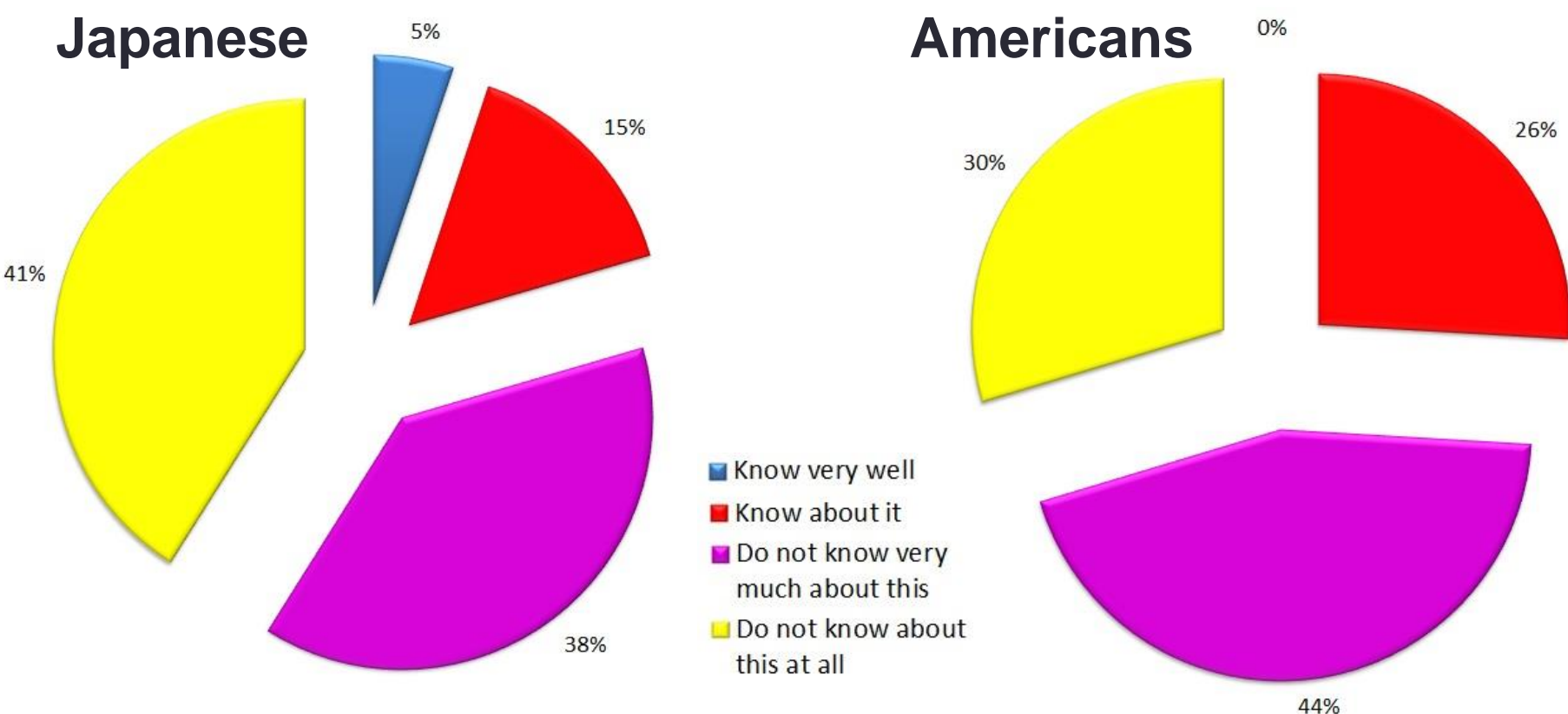
Americans



- Know very well
- Know about it
- Do not know very much about this
- Do not know about this at all

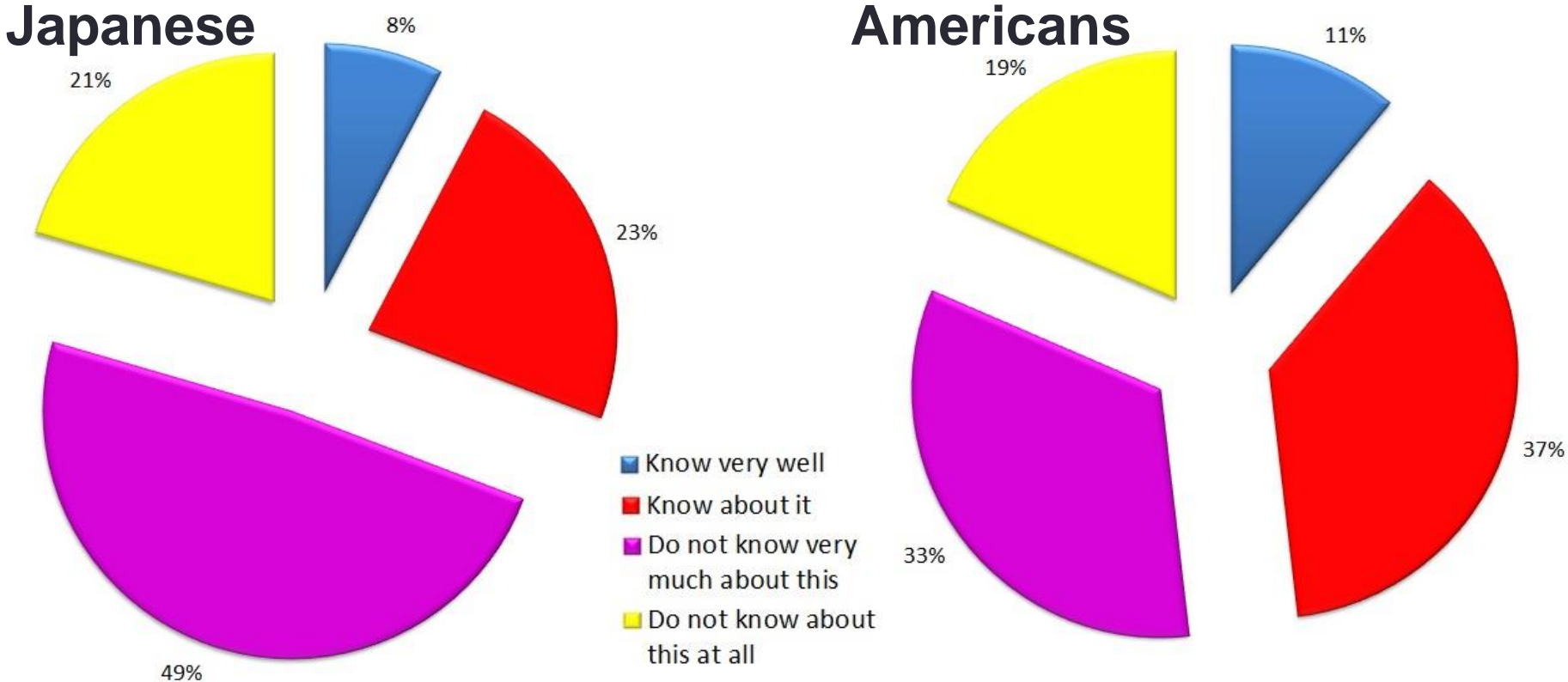
82% of Japanese and **63%** of Americans responded that they know the difference.

Do you know what the “Immigration and Control Act” is and what it does?



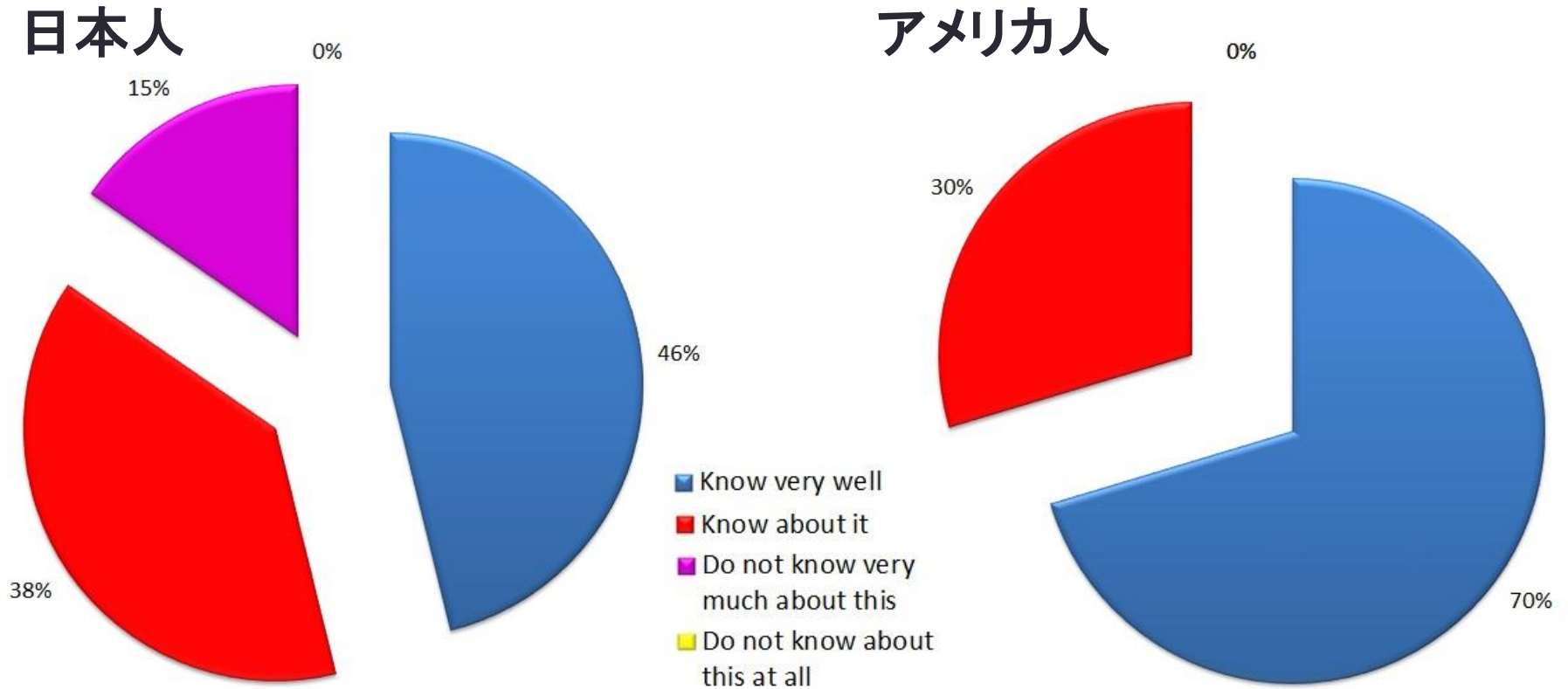
20% of Japanese and 26% of Americans responded that they know this policy

Do you know what the “Visa Waiver Program” is and what it does?



31% of Japanese and 48% of Americans responded that they know about this visa program.

Do you know what a visa is?



84% of Japanese students and all of the American students said that they know about what a visa is

Findings Summary

Research question 1:

- The majority of Japanese students know the difference among immigrants, refugees and asylees
- The Americans who said they know the differences are about 20% lower than Japanese
- Respondents are unaware of the policies and laws, and what they require of immigrants to enter the country

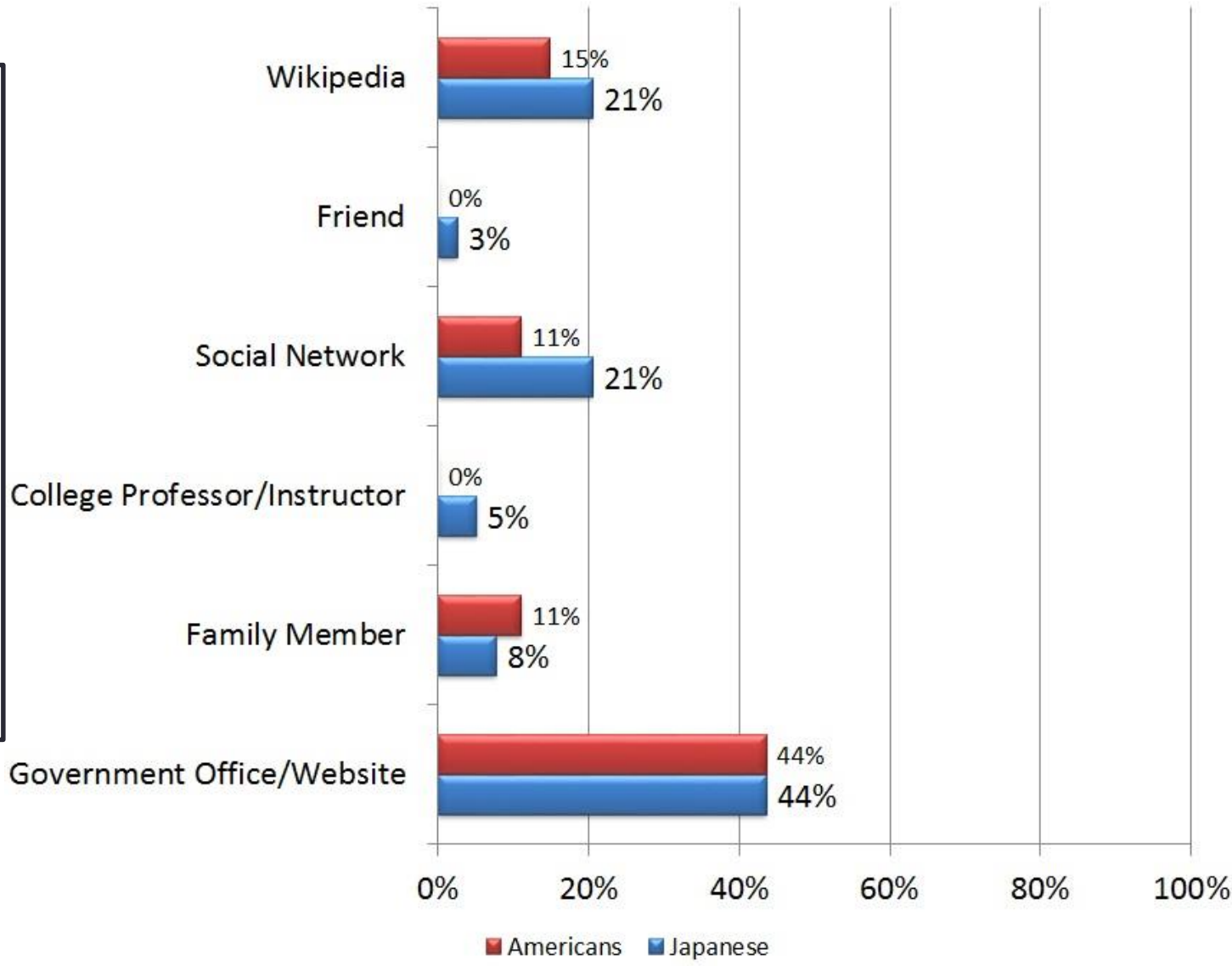
SURVEY FINDINGS

RESEARCH QUESTION 2:

What are college students' opinions of immigration policies and what influences them?

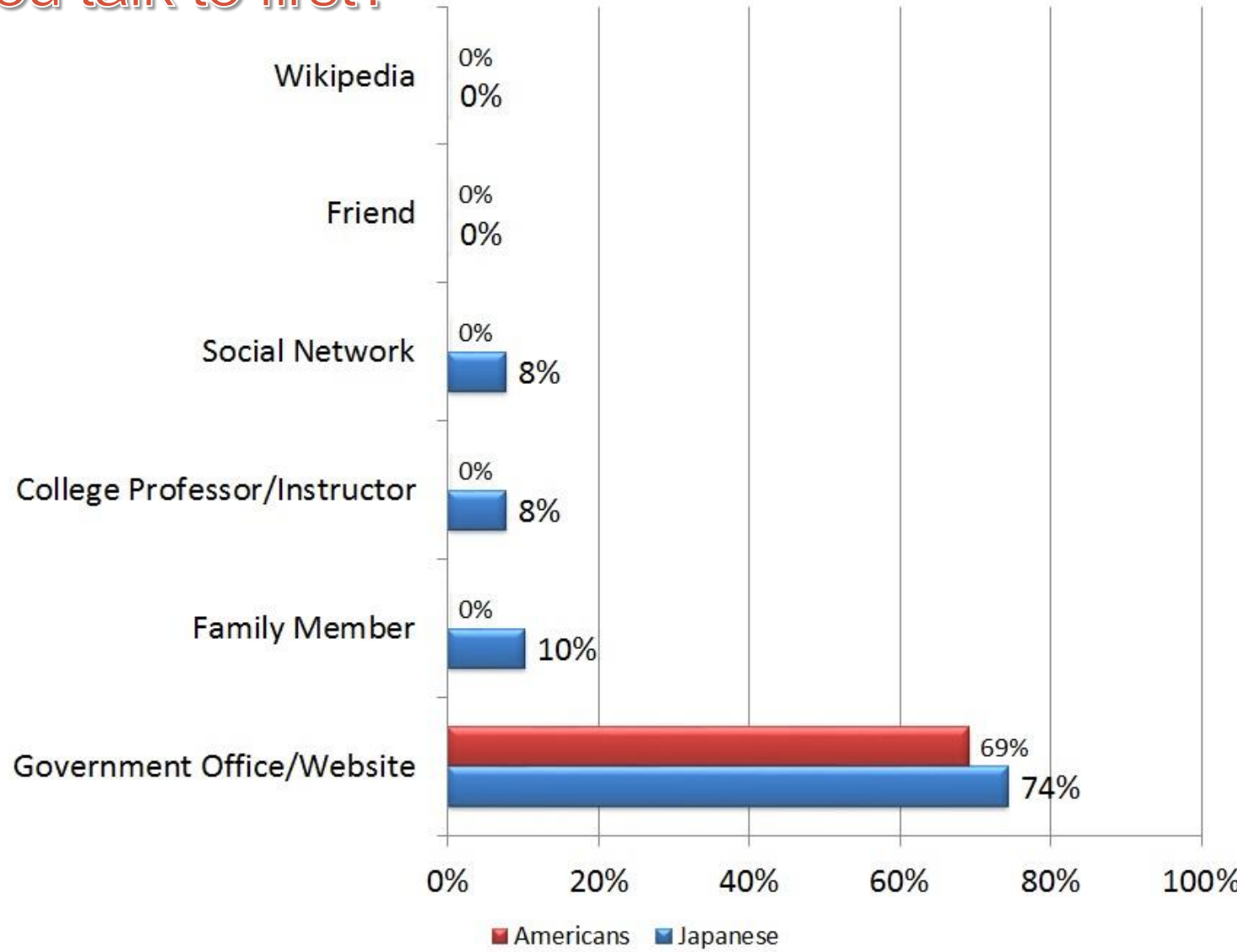
If you had a question about immigration policy, where would you go to or who would you ask first?

Both Japanese and American participants chose government office or website as the best resource.



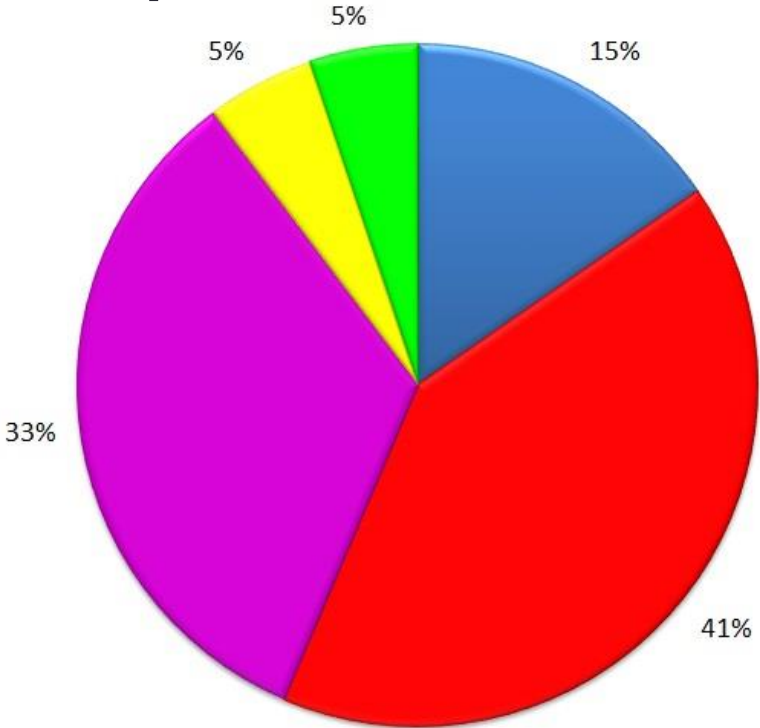
A friend wants to immigrate to your country. You want to help them find out information. Where would you go to or who would you talk to first?

Both Japanese and American respondents chose government office or website as the best resource.

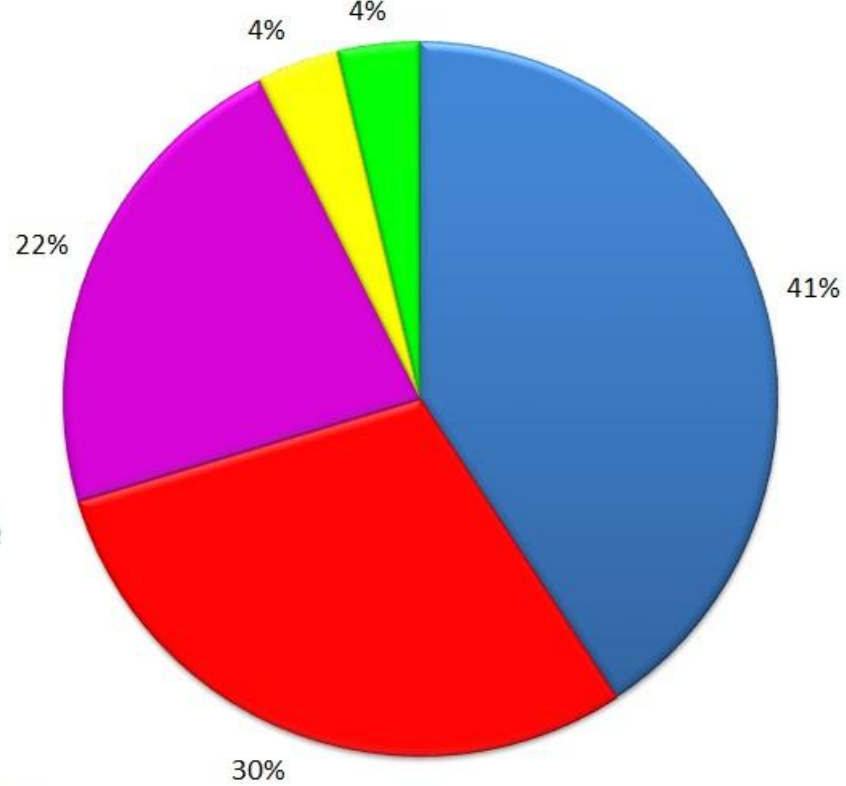


I believe that current immigration policy in my country should focus on: “Increasing the workforce”

Japanese



Americans

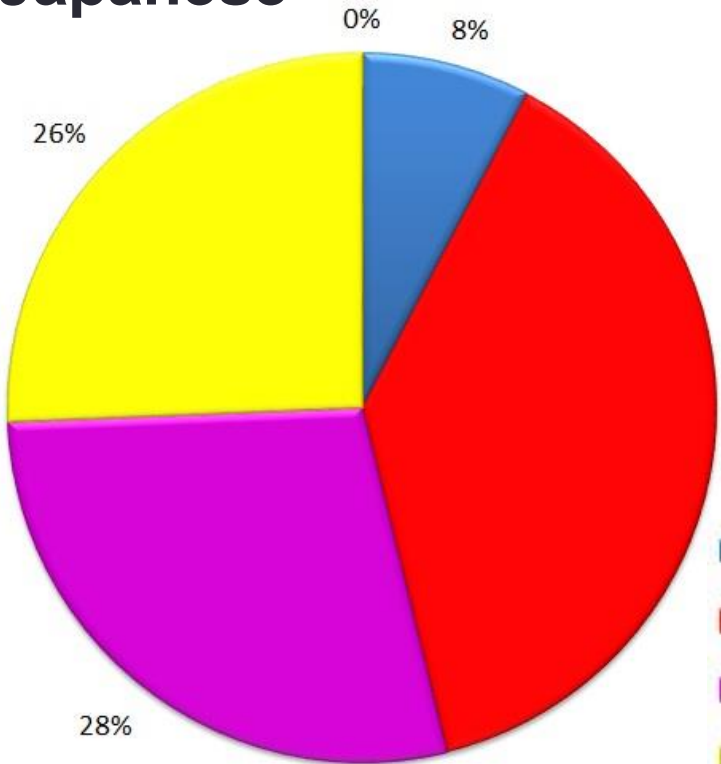


- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

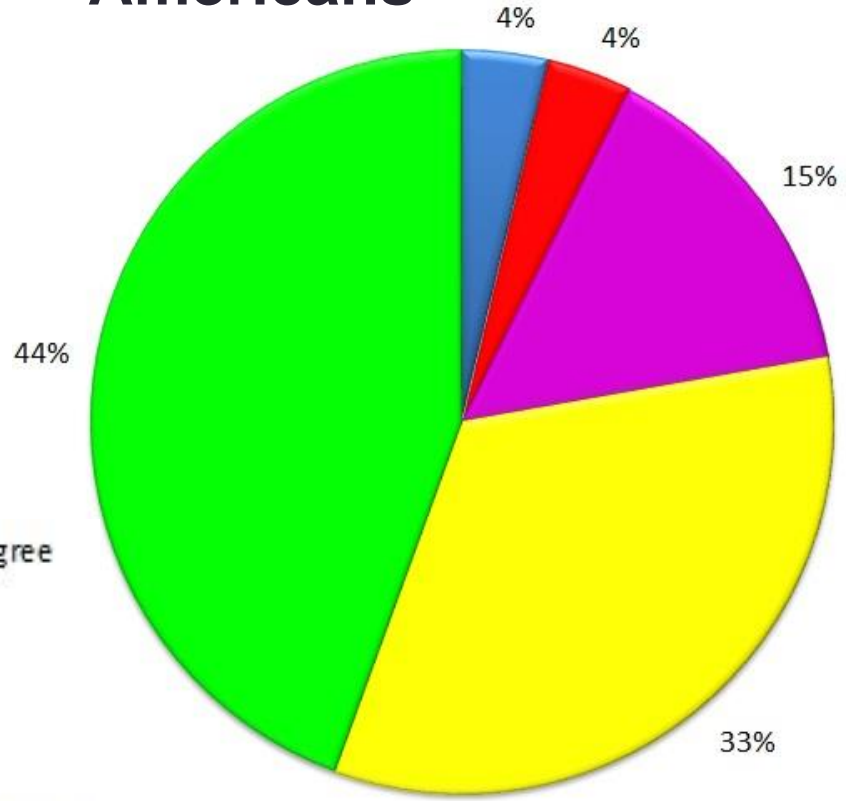
56% of Japanese and 71% of Americans respondents said they agreed that “increasing the workforce” should be a focus

I believe that current immigration policy in my country should focus on: “Numbers of immigrants from certain countries should be limited”

Japanese



Americans

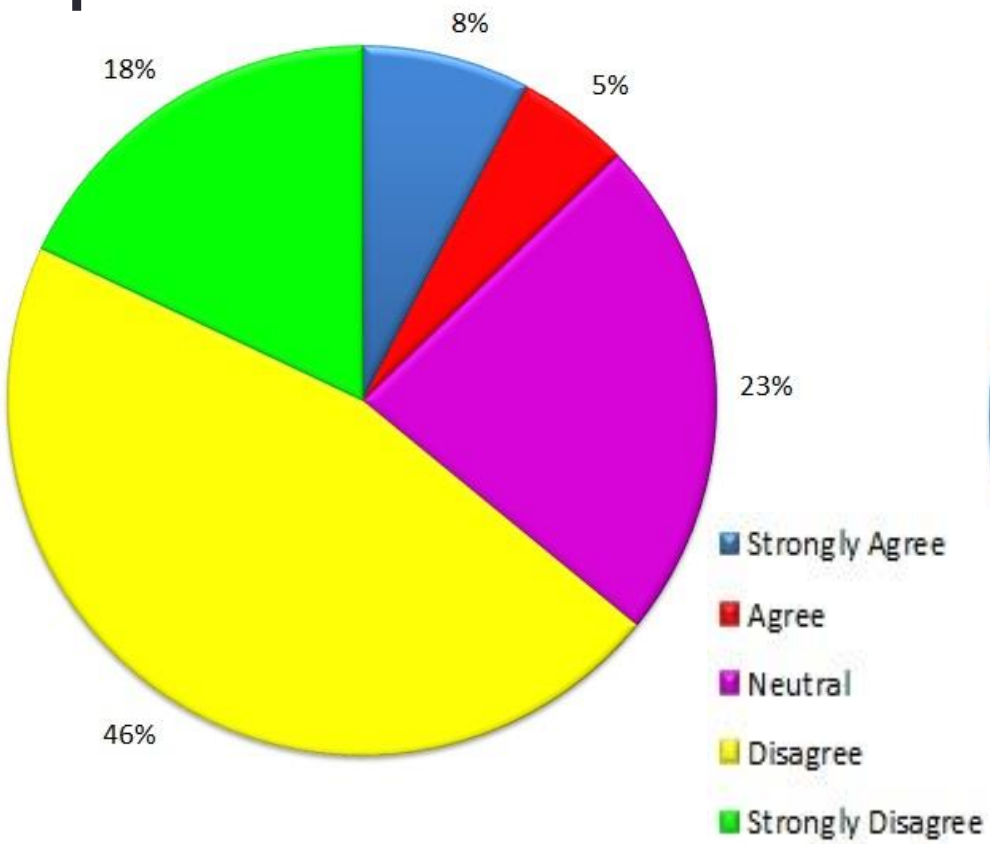


- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

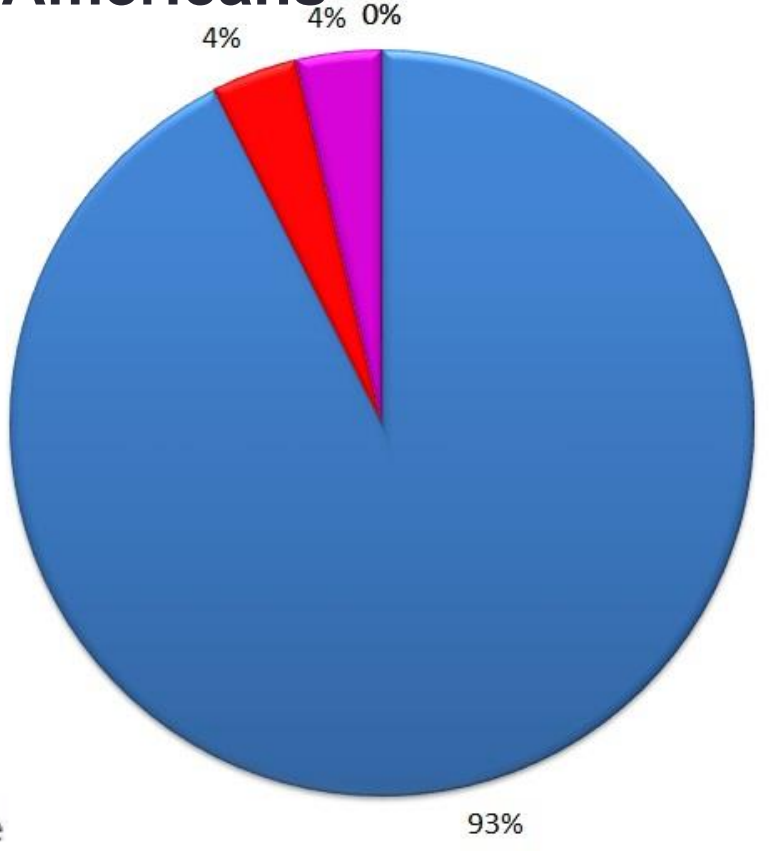
46% of Japanese and **8%** of Americans respondents said they agreed that immigrants from certain areas should be limited

Current immigration policy in my country should focus on: “NOT rejecting immigrants based on religious background”

Japanese

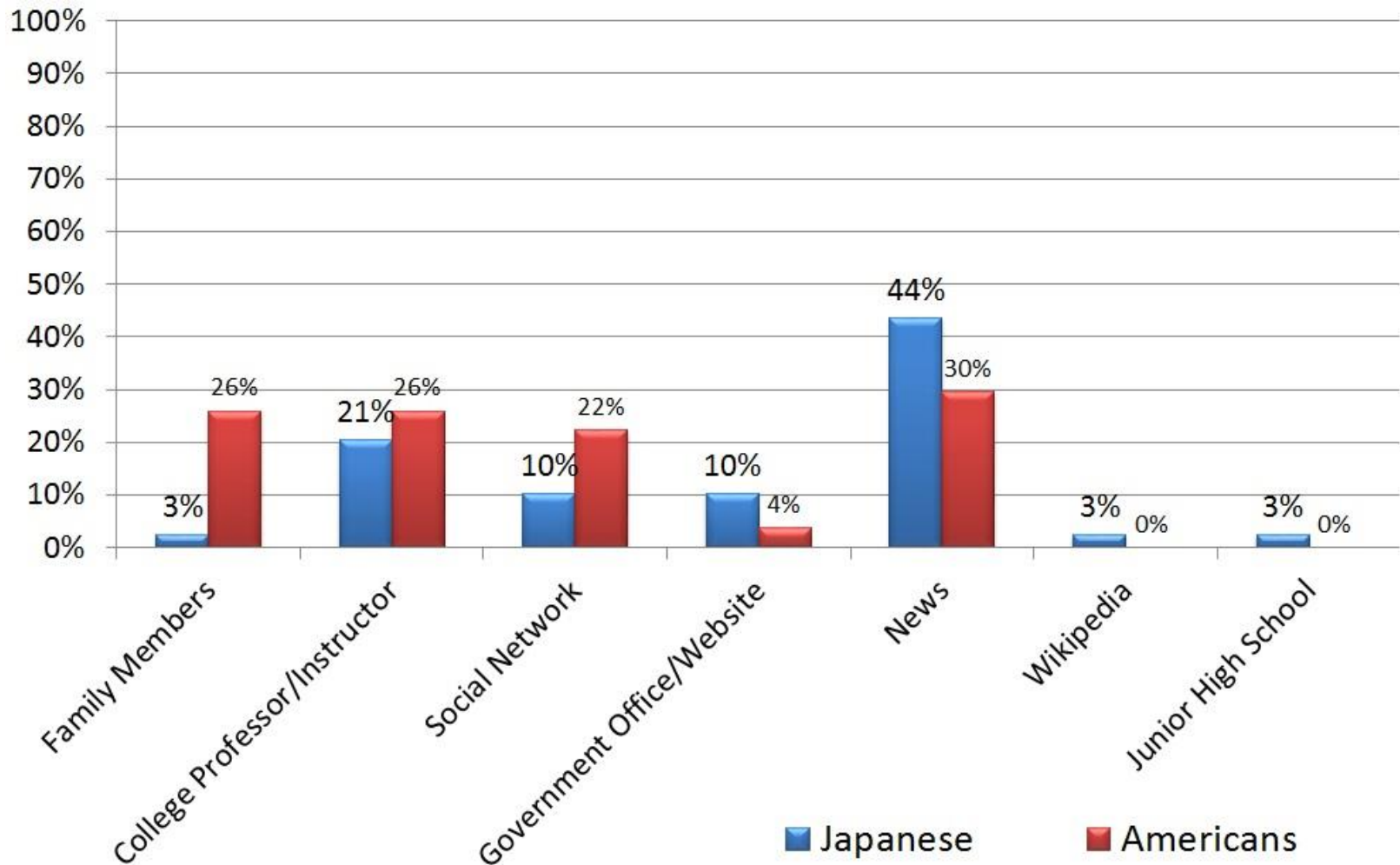


Americans



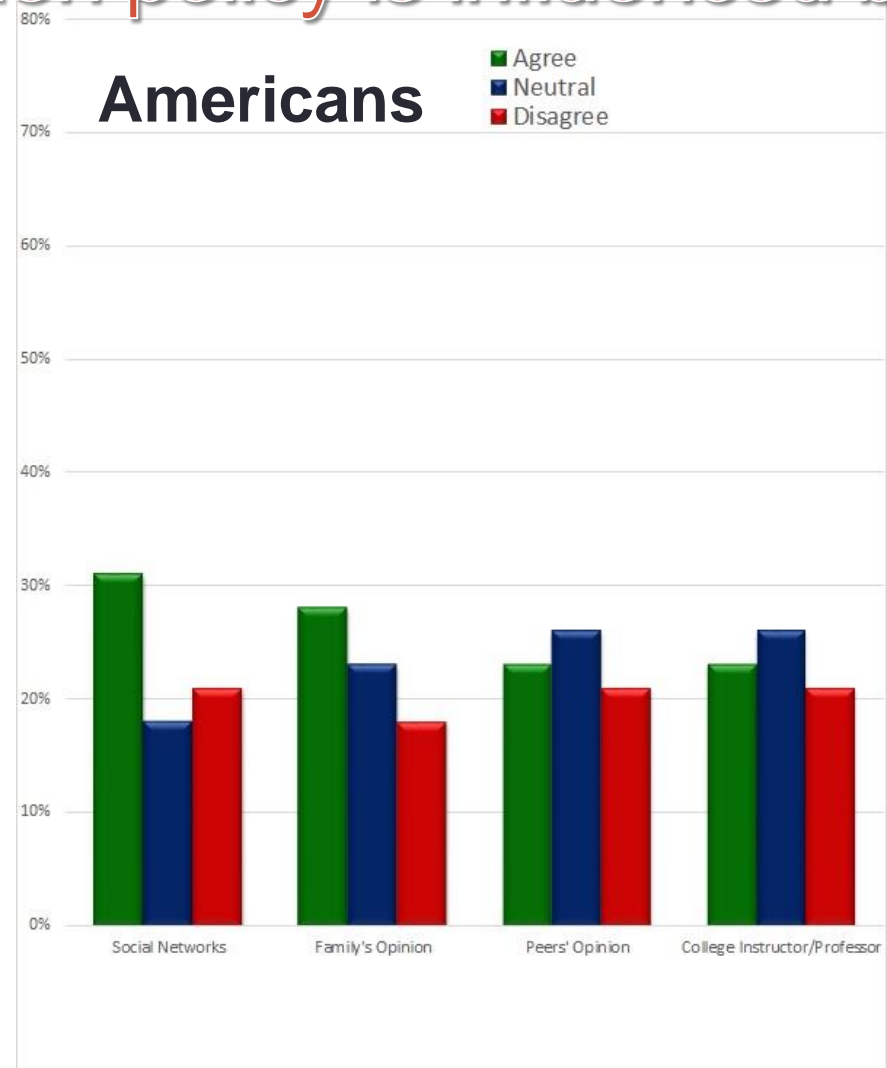
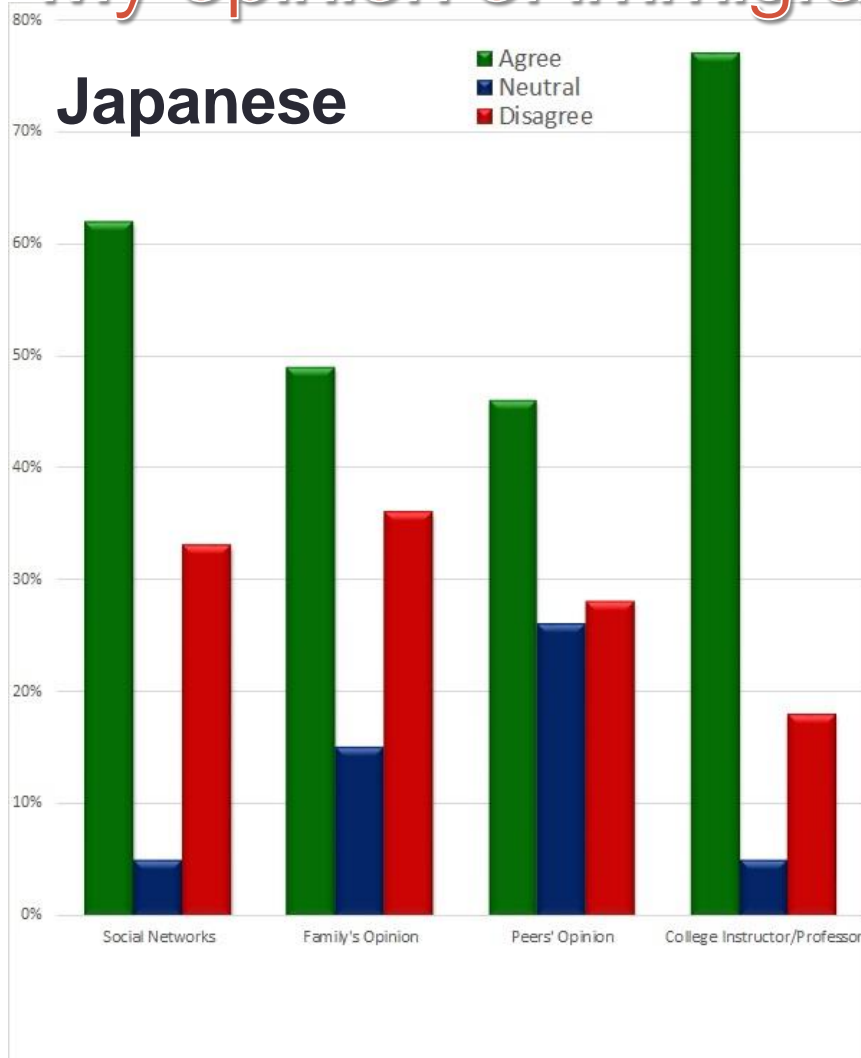
13% of Japanese and 97% of Americans respondents agreed that “NOT rejecting immigrants based on religious background” should be a focus

Where do you feel you have learned the most about immigration policy?



Both Japanese and Americans chose **news sources** as the **biggest influence** on what they know about immigration policy

“My opinion of immigration policy is influenced by”



Social Networking influences 62% of Japanese and 44% of Americans in their opinions

For **Japanese**, **College Instructor/Professor's** opinion is the **top influence**

For **Americans**, **social networks** is the **top influence** on their opinion of immigration policy

Findings Summary

Research question 2:

- When faced with important questions about immigration policy, most American and Japanese students will go to a reliable/original sources, such as a government office/website
- Japanese learned the most from news and secondly college instructor/professors, while Americans learned most from news and secondly family and college instructor/professors
- Japanese students' opinions are influenced by college instructor/professors the most while Americans are influenced by social networks the most
- Japanese disagreed that immigration policy should focus on not discriminating based on religious background, while the majority of Americans agreed that this should be a focus of immigration policy

Conclusion

- Both groups did not know about Immigration Policy or Visa Program, education is needed from Middle School and High School level
- Japanese students' opinions of immigration policy are influenced by college instructor/professors, while Americans are influenced by social networks, so they need an education on how to decide on and obtain reliable information about immigration policies
- American students have a strong opinion about policies regarding religion; the higher population of immigrants in America has an influence on the sources that American Students learn from and are affected by
- Japanese students' opinions of this are weaker; this is likely due to the fact that Japan is a homogeneous country

Limitations of the Study/ Future Study

- Geographical limitations
 - The majority of **American respondents** involved were from **California universities only**, whereas the data may be different if universities from other states were included
 - A **small number of participants** makes the results **difficult to generalize** across the demographic
- Sensitivity of the topic
 - Immigration and immigration policies are a **sensitive topic** for both groups
 - Students may have felt uncomfortable expressing their true feelings
- Explore this issue on a grander scale
 - **Stretch the reach of the survey** to college campuses across the United States and Japan, comparing a wider population
 - Survey and compare opinions of **various groups** of people across gender, race, religion, etc.

Bibliography

- Chung, E. (2010). *Immigration and citizenship in japan*. New York, New York: Cambridge University Press.
- DeSipio, L., & Garza, R. (2015). *US immigration in the twenty-first century: Making Americans, remaking America*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.
- Douglass, M., & Roberts, G. S. (2000). *Japan and global migration: Foreign workers and the advent of a multicultural society*. London: Routledge.
- Estimates of the Unauthorized Population for States. (n.d.). Retrieved October 7, 2015, from <http://data.cmsny.org/>
- Exemption of Visa (Short-Term Stay). (n.d.). Retrieved December 1, 2015, from http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html
- Hernández, K. L. (2006). The Crimes and Consequences of Illegal Immigration: A Cross-Border Examination of Operation Wetback, 1943 to 1954. *The Western Historical Quarterly*, 37(4), 421.
- Hing, B. O. (1993). *Making and remaking Asian America through immigration policy, 1850-1990*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Hoffman, L. (2012, July 16). How Family Communication Can Influence Our Political Identities. *Huffpost College*. Retrieved February 19, 2016, from http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lindsay-hoffman/how-family-communication-_b_1664970.html

Bibliography

- Imamura, A. E. (1990). *The Japanese Family* (Unpublished doctoral dissertation). Columbia University, New York City.
- Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, 3359 U.S.C. § 99-603 (1986).
- Japanese Newspapers : 日本の新聞. (n.d.). Retrieved February 19, 2016, from <http://www.w3newspapers.com/japan/>
- Kashiwazaki, C., & Akaha, T. (2006). Japanese Immigration Policy: Responding to Conflicting Pressures. *The Online Journal of the Migration Policy Institute*. Retrieved January 3, 2016, from <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/japanese-immigration-policy-responding-conflicting-pressures>
- Mallaby, S. (1998). In *Asia's Mirror: From Commodore Perry to the IMF*. *The National Interest*, (52), 13–21. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/42897100>
- Mass Immigration and WWI. (n.d.). Retrieved December 28, 2015, from <https://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/our-history/agency-history/mass-immigration-and-wwi>
- Social Networking Fact Sheet. (2013). Retrieved February 11, 2016, from <http://www.pewinternet.org/fact-sheets/social-networking-fact-sheet/>

Bibliography

- Today's Top Headline: 111 Million Americans go on the Web for Daily News. (2013, November 1). Retrieved January 30, 2016, from <http://www.nielsen.com/us/en/insights/news/2013/todays-top-headline-111-million-americans-go-on-the-web-for.html>
- U.S. Immigration Before 1965. (n.d.). Retrieved January 1, 2016, from <http://www.history.com/topics/u-s-immigration-before-1965>
- Visa Information. (n.d.). Retrieved January 14, 2016, from <http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/arrange/essential/visa.html>
- Visa Waiver Program. (n.d.). Retrieved November 3, 2015, from <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/visa-waiver-program>
- Weiner, M. (1994). *Race and migration in Imperial Japan*. London: Routledge.
- Wohns, A. (2013, November 20). Calling all gaijin! immigration reform for Japan. *Harvard International Review*. Retrieved October 11, 2015.
- Wong, K. (n.d.). Top Japanese Social Media Networks [Web log post]. Retrieved February 11, 2016, from <http://blog.btrax.com/en/2015/04/27/2015-top-japanese-social-media-networks-2/>
- Yamanaka, K.. (1993). New Immigration Policy and Unskilled Foreign Workers in Japan. *Pacific Affairs*,66(1), 72–90.

Bibliography

- Zong, J., & Batalova, J. (2015, February 26). Frequently Requested Statistics on Immigrants and Immigration in the United States. Retrieved December 20, 2015, from <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/frequently-requested-statistics-immigrants-and-immigration-united-states>
- 日本法令外国語訳データベースシステム - [法令本文表示] - 出入国管理及び難民認定法. (n.d.). Retrieved October 20, 2015, from <http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp/law/detail/?id=1934&vm=&re=>
- 平成25年 情報通信メディアの利用時間と情報行動に関する調査. (2014). 総務省情報通信政策研究所. Retrieved February 16, 2016, from http://www.soumu.go.jp/iicp/chousakenkyu/data/research/survey/telecom/2014/h25mediariyou_1sokuhou.pdf

Media Resource

- 3/13: Most Americans Perceive Immigration Policy as a Priority...Majority Says Border Control Key. (n.d.). Retrieved May 17, 2016, from <http://maristpoll.marist.edu/313-most-americans-perceive-immigration-policy-as-a-prioritymajority-says-border-control-key/>
- Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit在デトロイト日本国総領事館. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2016, from <http://www.detroit.us.emb-japan.go.jp/en/events/archives.htm>
- Difficulties Obtaining Visas. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2016, from <http://teamup-usjapan.org/challenges-2/visa-difficulties/>
- Education. (n.d.). Retrieved April 19, 2016, from <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/topics/education>
- St. Kitts-Nevis and Brazil sign visa waiver accord. (n.d.). Retrieved May 12, 2016, from <http://realfmgy.com/2015/04/01/st-kitts-nevis-and-brazil-sign-visa-waiver-accord/>
- Tag Archives: Japan Doesn't Want Immigrants. (n.d.). Retrieved May 10, 2016, from <http://www.vdare.com/tag/japan-doesnt-want-immigrants>

Acknowledgements

- Dr. Yoshiko Saito-Abbot
- Dr. Shigeko Sekine
- Friends and Family

Special Thanks to

- Ayane Hirai
- Ryosuke Kaku
- Kanako Miyake

Thank you for listening.

Do you have any questions?