

Finding Love in University: A Comparative Study of Japan and the United States

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Outline

- Significance of the Study
- Research Questions
- Literature Review
- Research Method
- Findings
- Conclusion and Discussions
- Limitations of the Study
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Significance of the Study

Lizet

- While in Japan I had the opportunity to take a class focused on women in Japanese society, it was in this class that I came across the term 合コン (Group style date)
- At this time I began to wonder what **other differences** there are between Japan and America's dating practices
- In this study I hope to discover **unique dating practices** in Japan and America that reflect societal values

Significance of the Study

Addie

- As a part of an international relationship, while in Japan I was often asked how my culture and my partner's culture influenced how we built our relationship (告白, meeting families, etc)
- In order to avoid any social taboo, I consulted my Japanese peers about cultural nuances that affect general dating situations

Research Questions

1. What are students' perceptions on college dating in Japan and America, and how does this affect how they find a partner?
2. How do dating practices differ between Japanese and American students as they balance dating and their studies?
3. What factors contribute to a student's desire to continue a relationship?

Literature Review Outline

- Dating values
- Six types of love
- Dating concepts
 - How relationships begin
 - Developing a serious relationship
 - Difference of “Like” and “Love”
- Social influences
- School and dating

Dating Values

- **Extrinsic values**

- standard of right and wrong
- practical application of values

e.g. Society would see promiscuity in females as a negative value (wrong)

- **Intrinsic values**

- values based on personal experience, everyday behavior

e.g. Women whom refrain from sexual activities may be seen as prudish (another negative) by some men

(Turner, 2013)

6 Types of Love

- Love can be categorized based on multiple viewpoints
 - Emotions and desires for one's partner
 - Mutual hopes and expectations
 - Whether the romantic relationship is long-term or short-term

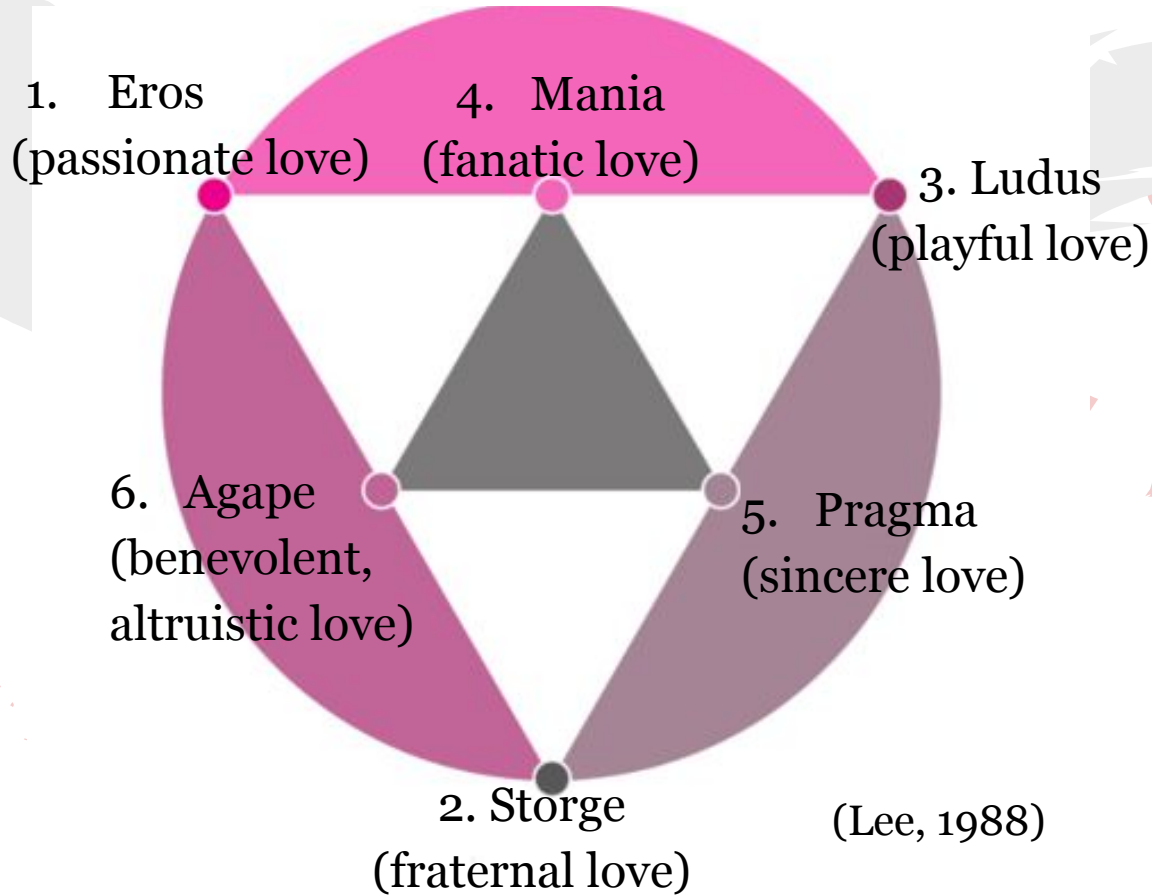
Primary Types

1. Eros (passionate love)
2. Storge (fraternal love)
3. Ludus (playful love)

Composite Types

4. Mania (fanatic love)
5. Pragma (sincere love)
6. Agape (benevolent, altruistic love)

Love Matrix



- From the **primary types** (Eros, Storge, and Ludus), the **secondary types** (Mania, Pragma, Agape) are created
- The presence of all points in a relationship is seen as **holistic**

(渋谷昌三、2013)

How Relationships Begin

Japan	United States
<p data-bbox="376 343 724 393">合コン <i>goukon</i>:</p> <p data-bbox="150 431 811 540">“combined party,” for men and women to become acquainted</p>	<p data-bbox="1284 343 1516 393">Hook-up:</p> <p data-bbox="985 431 1767 540">physical intimacy without emotional attachment</p>
<p data-bbox="357 616 743 666">告白 <i>kokuhaku</i>:</p> <p data-bbox="150 704 898 813">Confession of love; done before the start of a romantic relationship.</p>	<p data-bbox="1217 616 1574 666">Casual dating:</p> <p data-bbox="985 704 1787 944">a physical and emotional relationship between two people without the commitments of a more formal romantic relationship</p>

(Bogle, 2008)

Developing a Serious Relationship

- 紹介 *shoukai*: the introduction to one's family
- **Committed Relationship**: an emotionally invested relation between people
- **Cohabitation**: Moving in together

(Bogle, 2008)

Differences Between “Love” and “Like”

- Japanese people use the term 好き *suki*
 - e.g. to a prospective partner, “I like you”
- Americans use “love” and “like” more interchangeably
 - e.g. (When you receive a gift from a friend) “I love that!/I love you!”
- Japanese 愛している *aishiteiru* is a phrase exclusively for loved ones

Social Influences (Japan)

- 内外 *uchi to soto*: concept of dividing people into “inner” and “outer” groups. The limitations of “inner” and “outer” depend on background circumstances.
- 甘え *amae*: to be liked by those around you, the feeling of being able to depend on others, to count on the goodwill of people

(Doi, 2001)

Social Influences (United States)

- **No Strings Attached**: indifferent relationship ending without complicated/annoyed feelings, lingering affection, or remorse
- **The American Dream**: many Americans base a happy, successful life on having children, a partner, and a home

(American Psychology Association, 2013)

School and Dating (Japan)

Myths

"...46 percent of women between the age of 16 to 24 despise sexual contact. And 25 percent of the guys in that same age..."

(Aziz Ansari, 2015)

Reality

- 37.6% of singles say they don't want a romantic partner
- 60.8% voiced interest in romantic relationships
- 86.3% of men and 89.4% of women still said they "intend to marry some day"

(Japan times, 2015)

School and Dating (United States)

Myths:

“College students prefer short-term, casual relationships over long-term relationships because it allows them to focus on their academic and career goals.”

(Heather Fishel, 2010)

Reality:

- 32.5% of college relationships are long-distance (Statistic Brain)
- 25% of college Seniors are virgins (USA Today)
- 1/3 of college Seniors have been on fewer than two dates (Independent Women's Forum)

Research Method

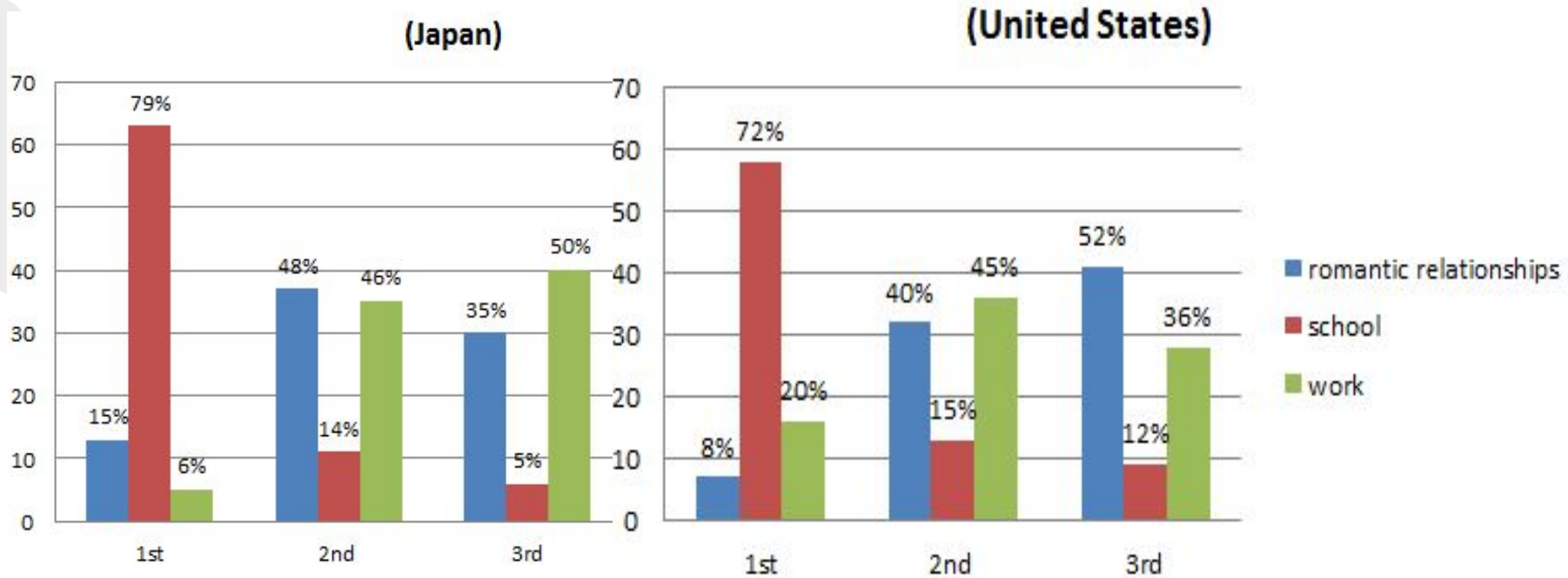
- Study Participants
 - 160 university students
 - 80 Japanese (50 female, 30 male)
 - 80 American (50 female, 30 male)
- Research Instrument
 - Online Survey (Google Forms)
 - Japanese, English

Research Findings 1

Research Question 1:

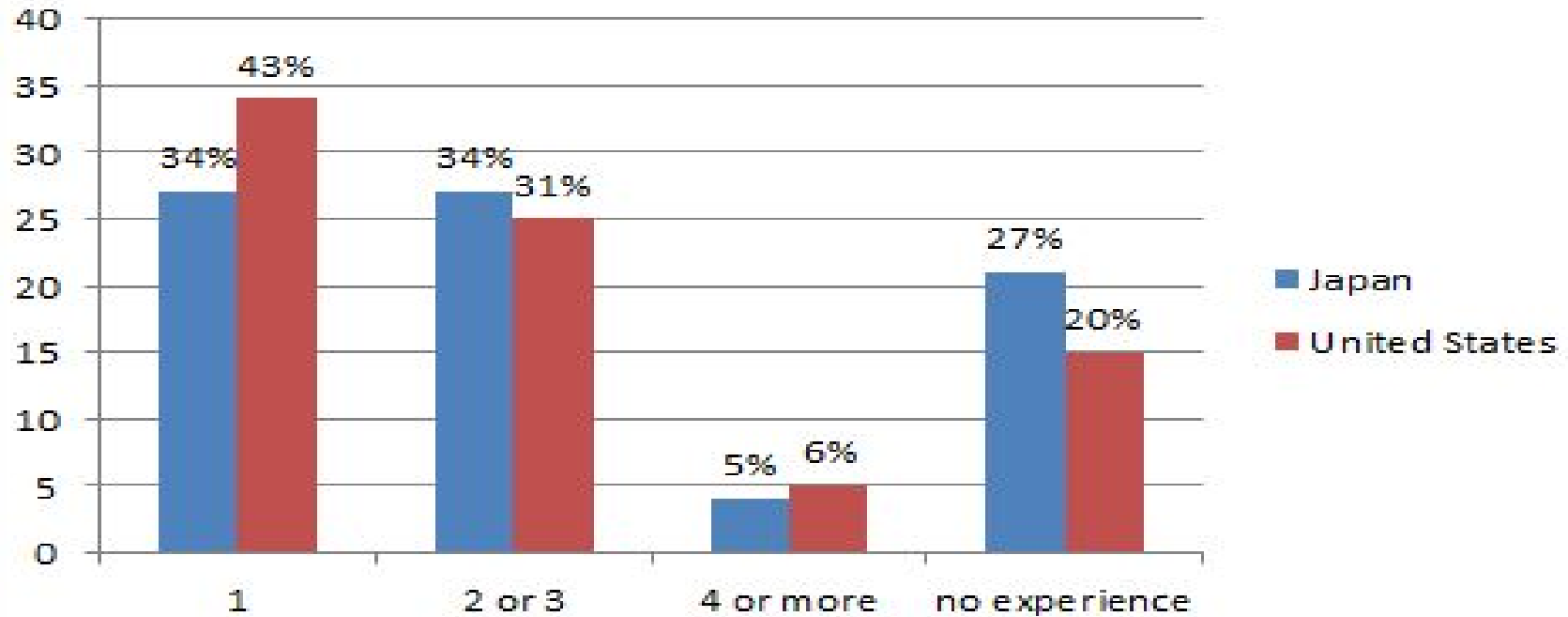
What are students' perceptions on college dating in Japan and America, and how does this affect how they find a partner?

Importance of Love/School/Work



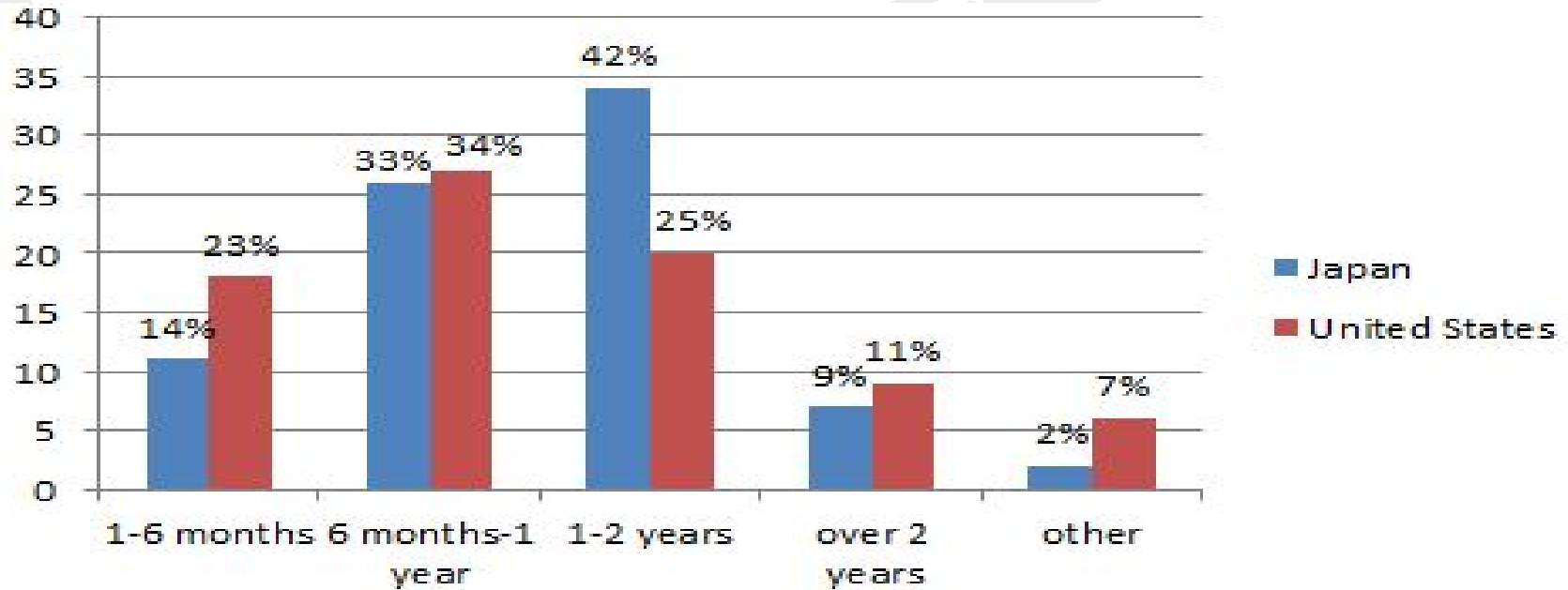
Both groups prioritize their schoolwork overall, but **Japanese** prioritize **love before work**, while **Americans** still prioritize **work before romantic** relationships.

Number of Relationships While in University



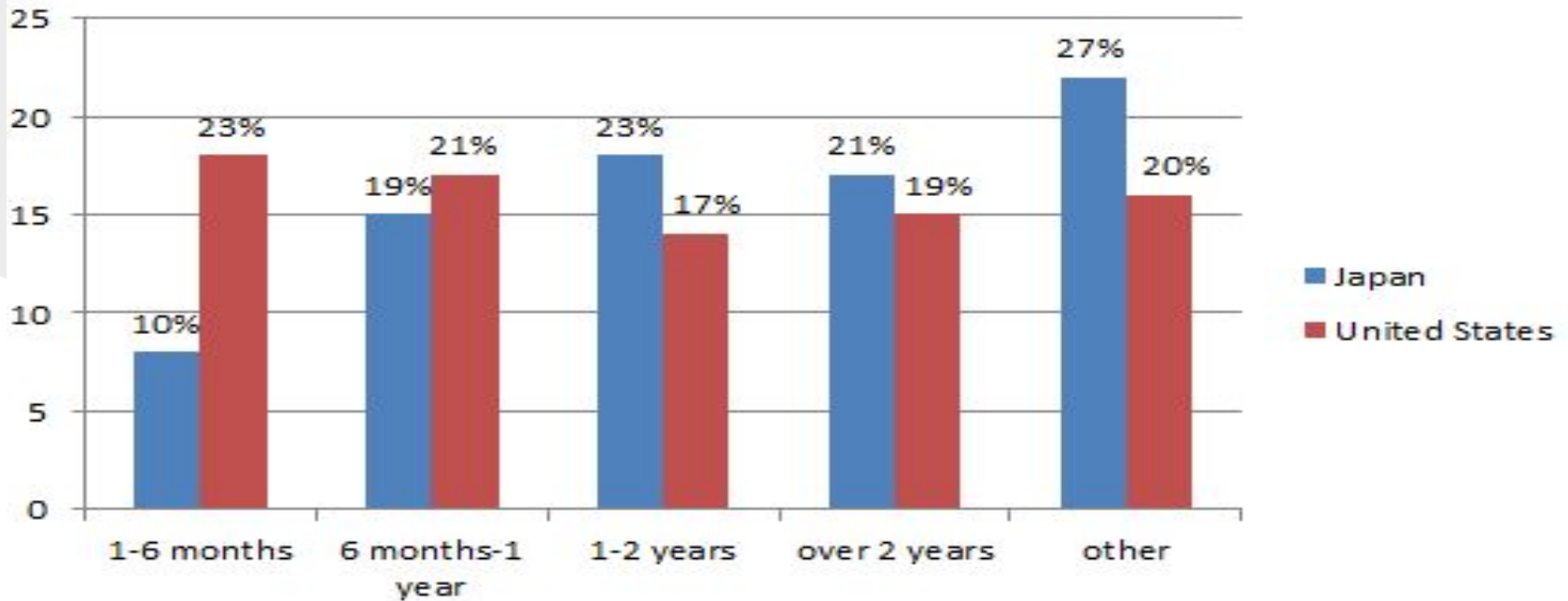
There is no major difference between Japanese and American students regarding past relationships, but **more Japanese students have no prior dating experience.**

Expected Length of a College Relationship



Japanese students were more likely to expect longer relationships (1-2 years), whereas Americans preferred shorter ones (6 months-1 year).

Length of Your Past Relationships while in University



Japanese students were more likely to have longer relationships (1-2 years), whereas Americans preferred shorter ones (6 months-1 year).

Research Question 1

Summary of Findings

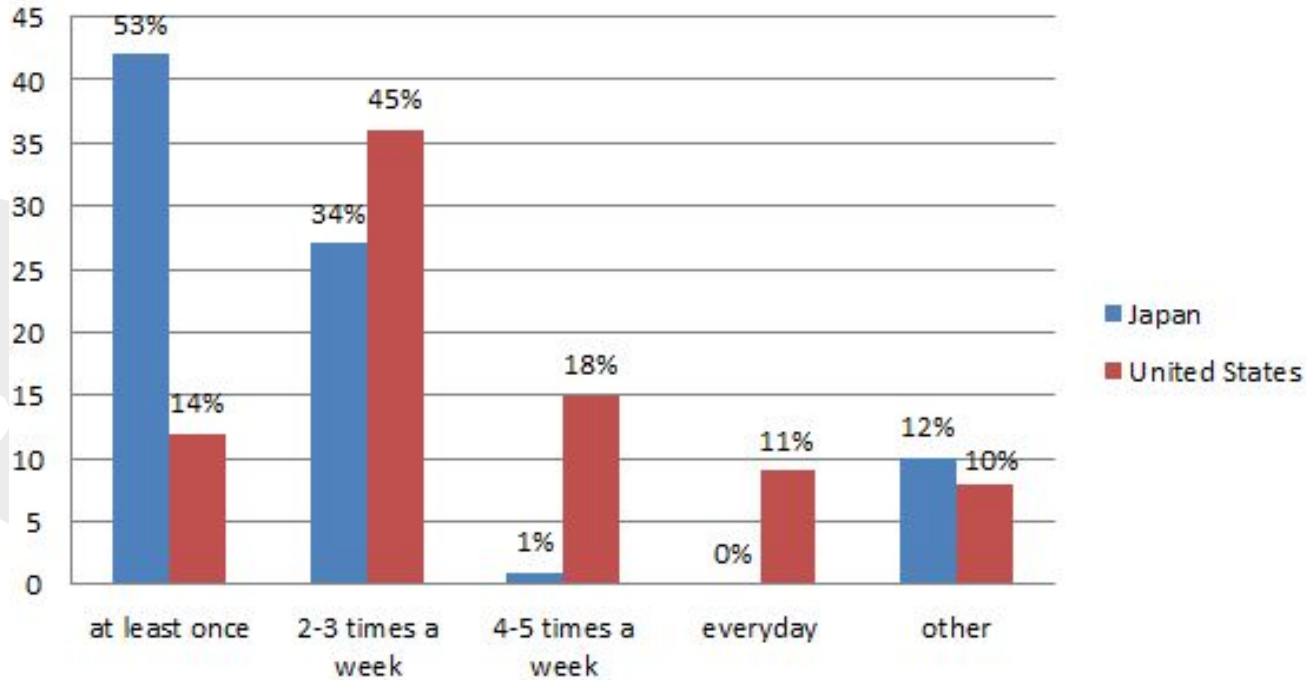
- Both groups of students prioritize their schoolwork over romantic relationships
- **American** students **prioritize love less** than Japanese students
 - Americans expected/experienced shorter relationships, whereas Japanese expected/experienced longer ones
- Nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of **Japanese** students have **never been in a relationship**, but there **wasn't any major differences** from Americans

Research Findings 2

Research Question 2:

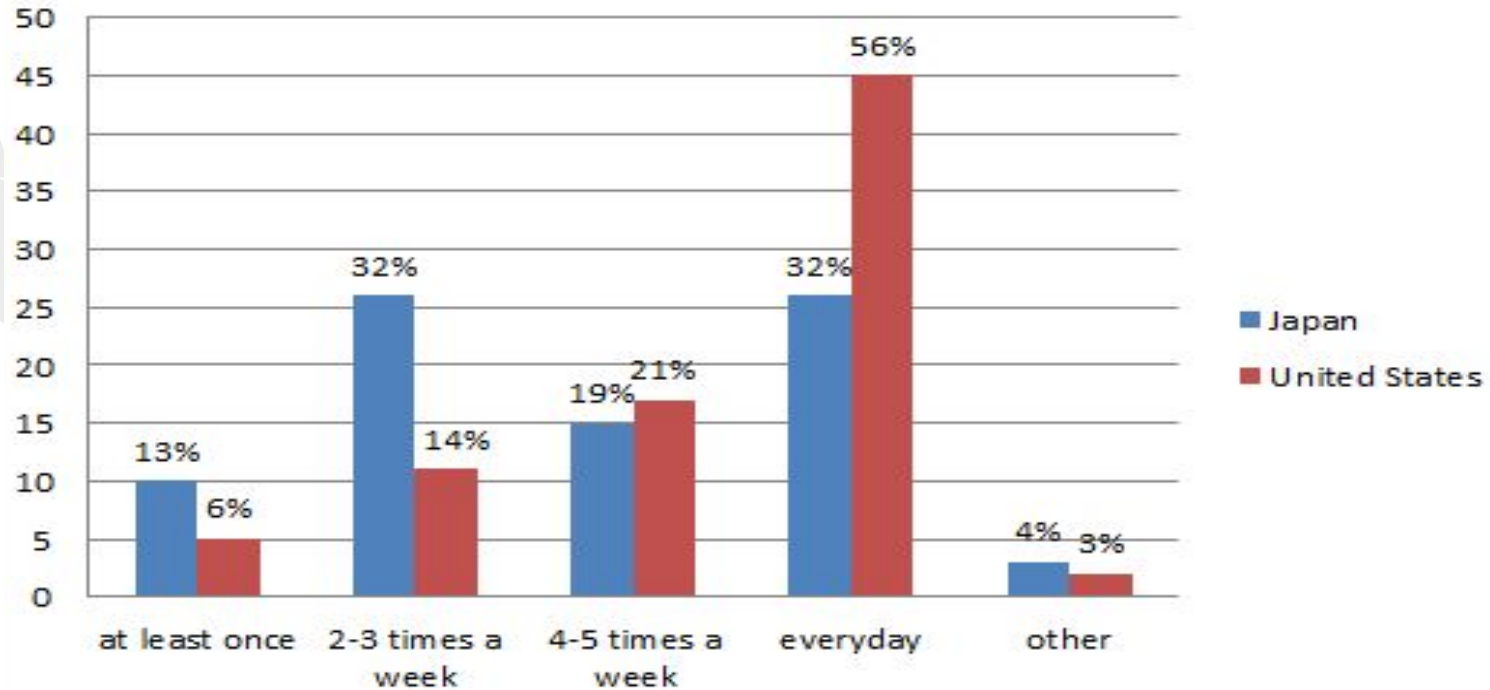
How do dating practices differ between Japanese and American students as they balance dating and their studies?

Expected Number of Times to Meet a Partner per Week



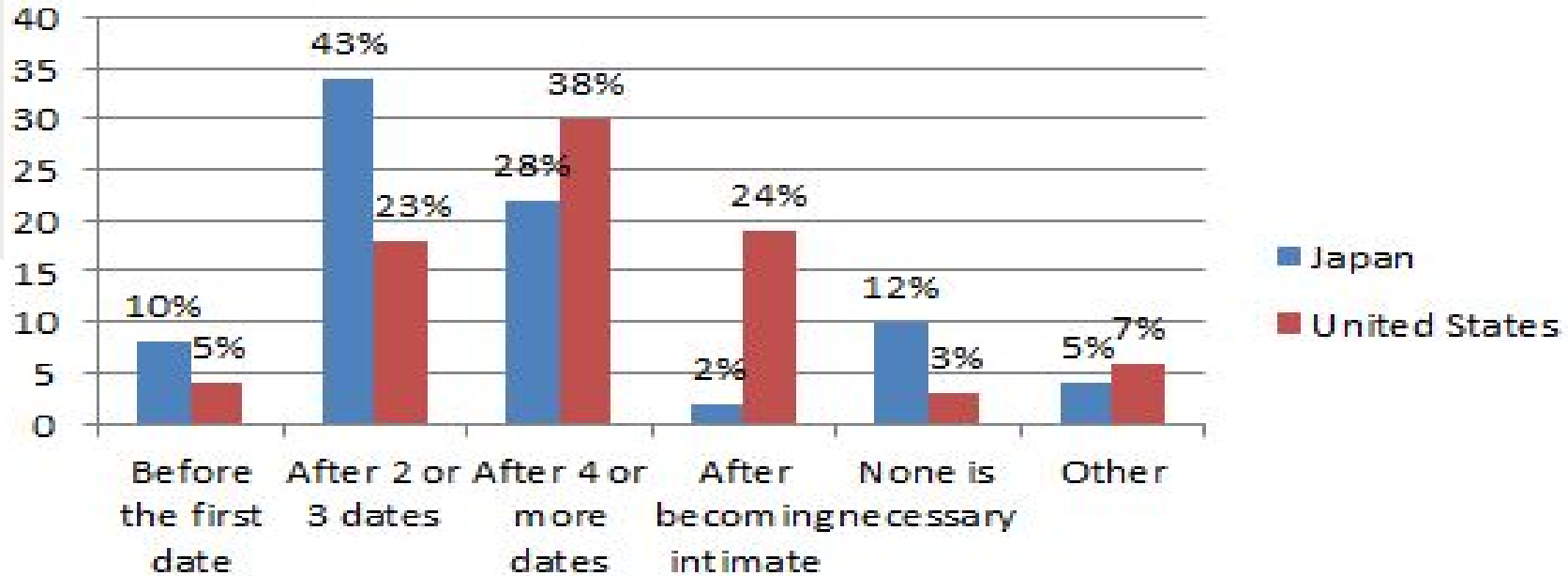
Compared to about half of **Japanese** students answering “**at least once**”, nearly half of **Americans** answered “**2~3 times**”, meaning they need to meet partners more often.

Expected Number of Times to Contact a Partner per Week



Compared to 32% of Japanese students, 56% of **American students** said that they **expect to contact their partner everyday**.

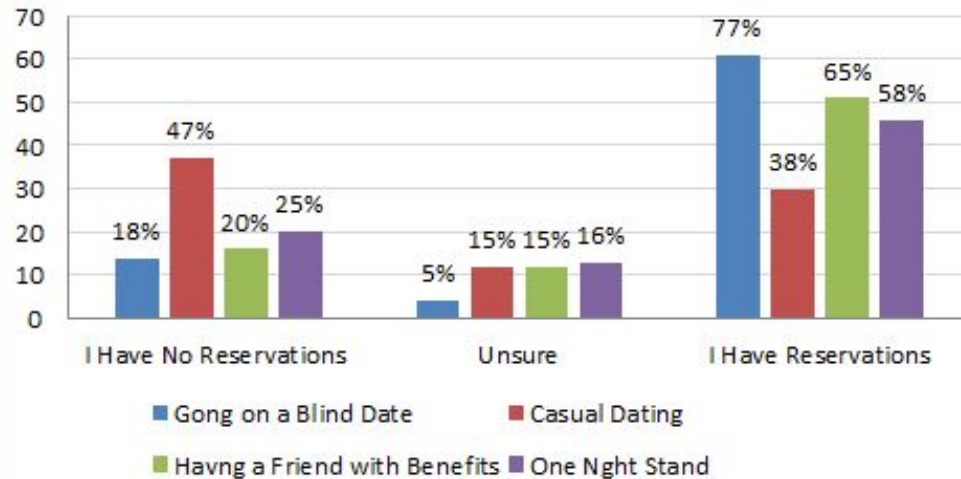
Point at Which Verbal Establishment is Necessary



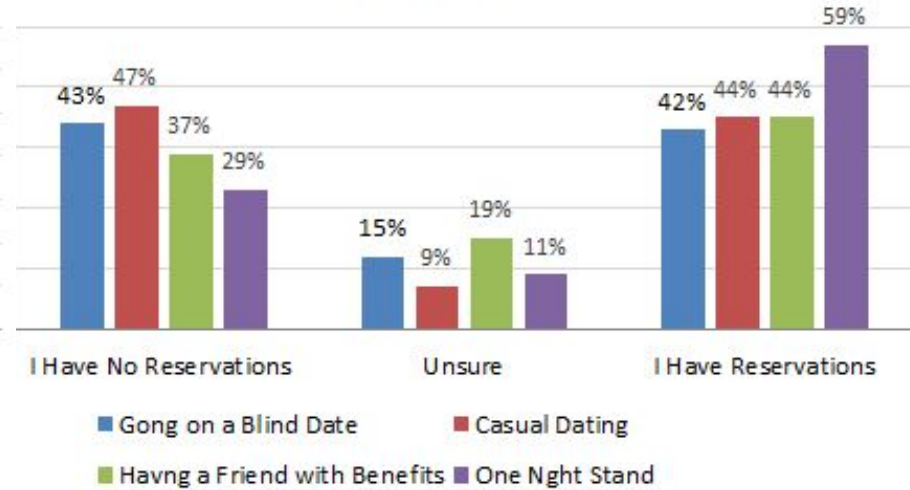
Japanese students preferred verbally establishing a committed relationship earlier (after 2~3 dates).

How Much Discomfort do you Have Regarding the Following Types of Dates?

Japan



United States



Compared to Japanese, more **Americans** answered that they **do not feel any discomfort** regarding these concepts.

Research Question 2

Summary of Findings

- More **Americans** answered that they **would meet** their partner **frequently**, and also tended to contact their partner more frequently
- Compared to American students, **Japanese** students **prefer establishing relationships earlier**, but they still did so later than our previous research suggested
- More Japanese students answered that **no verbal establishment** of a relationship is necessary

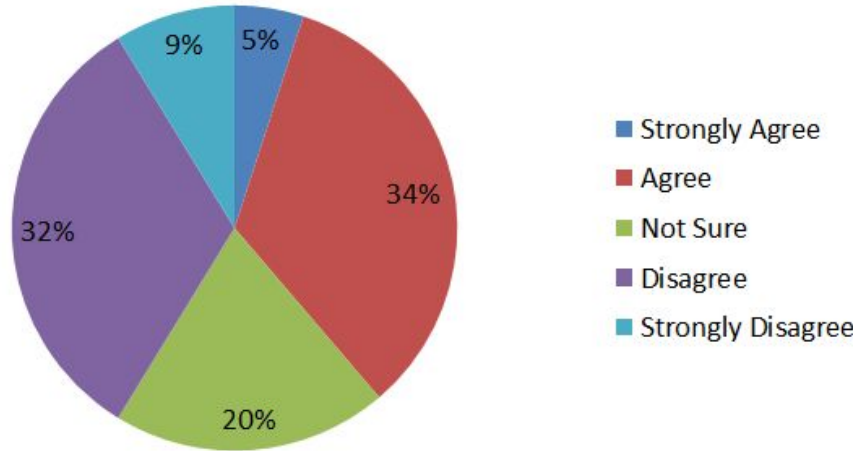
Research Findings 3

Research Question 3:

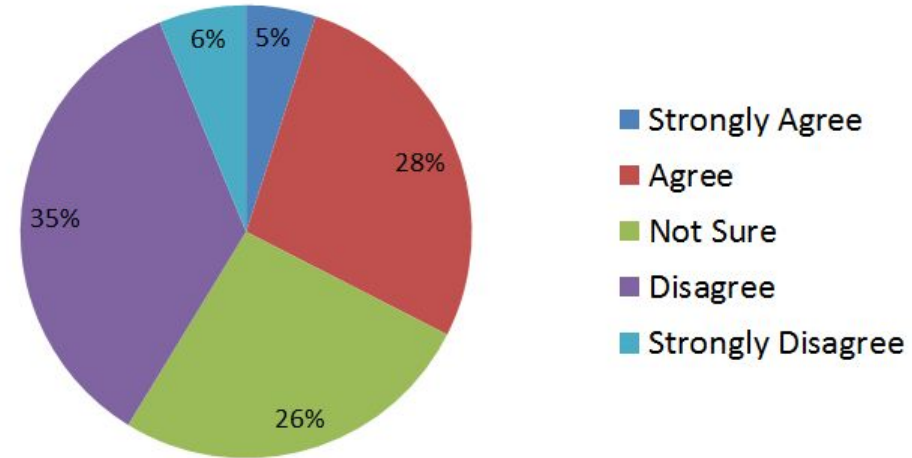
What factors contribute to a student's desire to continue a relationship?

“I will not continue a relationship with someone whom my friends do not approve of.”

Japan



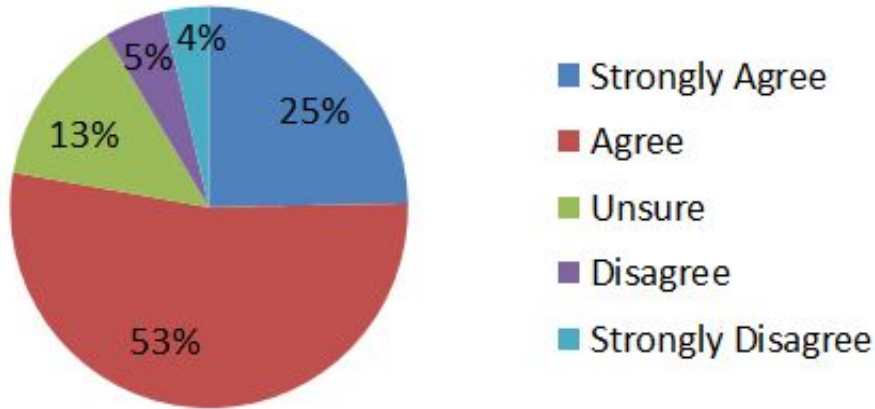
United States



Although both Japanese and American students reflect similar responses, **Japanese** students show a **slightly higher regard** for their friends opinion.

“I believe that going out on dates after you become exclusive with your partner is important to maintain a romantic relationship.”

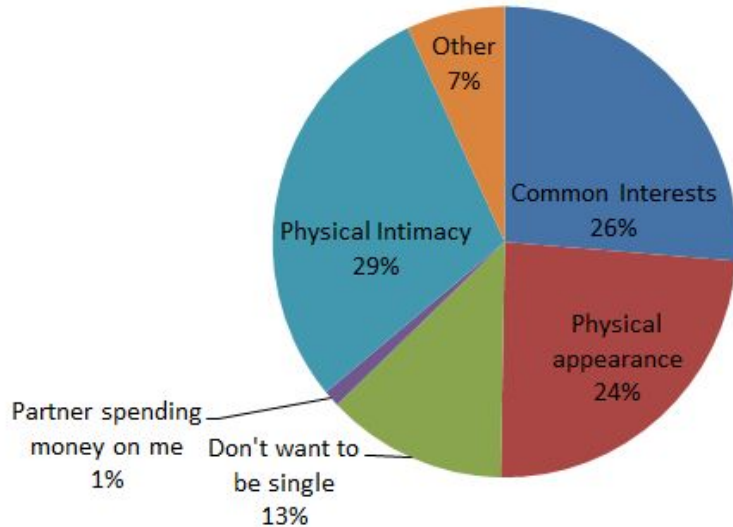
Japan



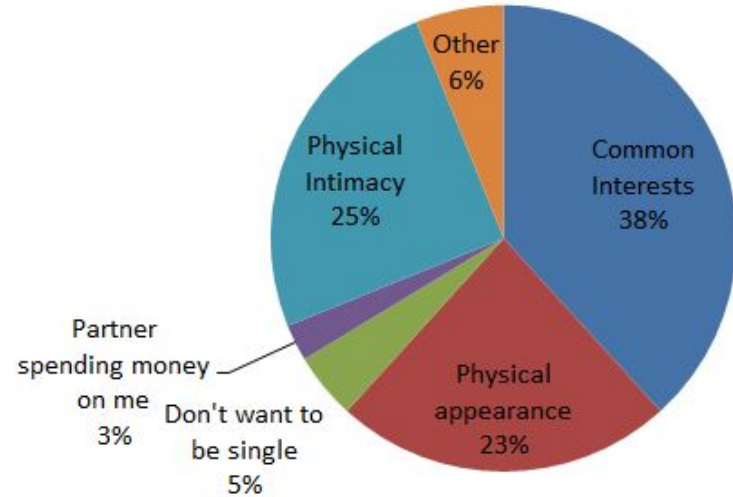
Although Americans felt more strongly, **both groups** believe that going out on dates (as opposed to just spending time together) is important for a healthy relationship.

Continuing a Relationship

Deciding Factors (Japan)

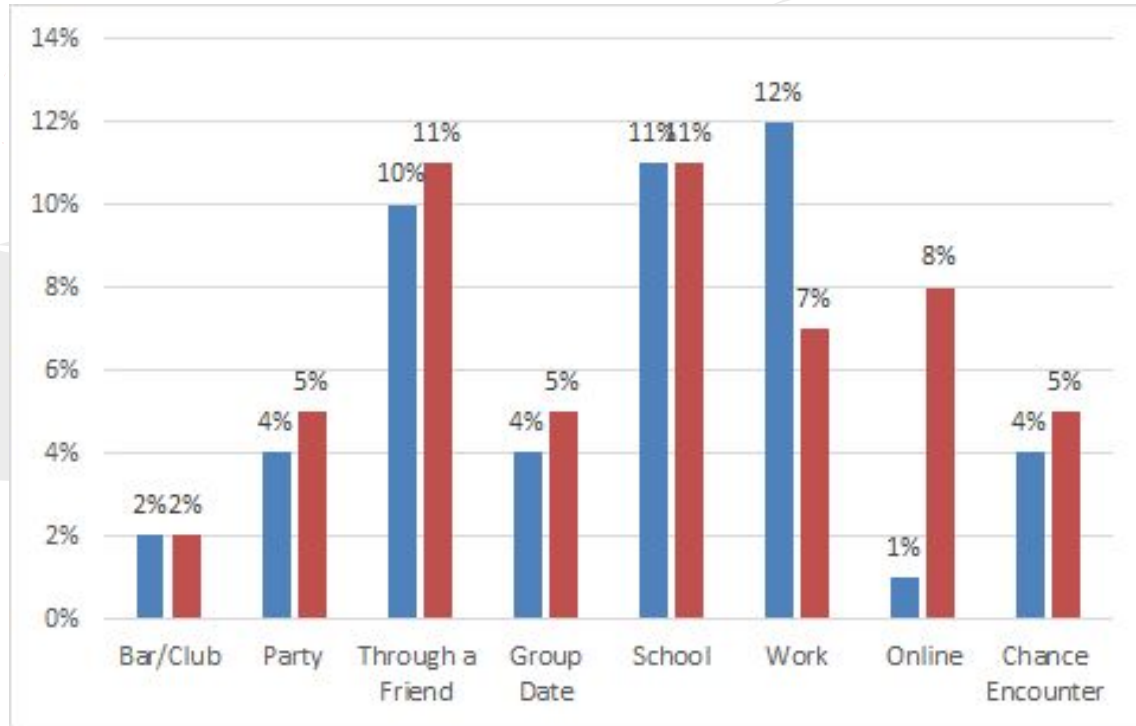


Deciding Factors (United States)



Contrary to popular belief, in order to continue a serious relationship, **Japanese** students decided on **physical intimacy**, whereas **Americans** chose **common interests**.

Places to Find a Serious Partner



Americans think that there is a possibility of finding a partner in **many** locations, while **Japanese** students chose **school or work**, but had **negative** feelings towards online dating.

Research Question 3

Summary of Findings

- Japanese and American students prioritize **common interests, physical appearance, and intimacy** when finding a partner
 - Japanese students surprisingly ranked **physical appearance/intimacy** higher than Americans
- Both groups prefer finding potential partners at **school** or **through friends**, but Japanese students said that there was a high chance of meeting a partner at work
 - Japanese students **opposed online dating**, but Americans didn't want to start **relationships in the workplace**

Conclusion & Discussion

- Difference in **goals** when starting a relationship
 - In America, the goal is to **find a partner**, while in Japan, the goal is to have a **long-term relationship**
- Japanese students are more **traditional** in terms of relationships
 - Hesitations in regards to online dating and casual dating.
 - Compared to Americans, verbally establishing a committed relationship early.
- Japanese students see **physical intimacy** as an important aspect of maintaining a committed relationship
 - Physical intimacy may be an **indication of long term commitment**

Limitations of the Study

- Lack of **corresponding** words in either language
 - Translation of specific culturally well-known concepts
 - Varying degrees of severity: Like/love, committed relationship/ready for marriage
- **Inconsistent** geographic location
 - Majority of Americans are in **California**, whereas Japanese came from a **wider variety of regions**
- Many Japanese participants had **experience abroad**, which may have influenced their view on this topic

Future Studies

- Study of finding love amongst Japanese and American university students who have studied abroad versus students who have never left the country.
 - Living in foreign country could change person's approach to dating more directly than observing foreign media embedded with cultural stereotypes
- Study of relationships leading to marriage
 - If Japanese and American relationships share a mutual goal of marriage, we can more easily compare practices and attitudes

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Thank you for listening to our presentation!

Do you have any questions?