I.   I agree that nuclear power is a powerful and clean energy source, but I cannot agree that it is the best source. One reason is that there is always the risk of meltdowns due to either neglect or environmental disasters (i.e. Fukushima) and another reason being that the by-product of nuclear fusion is terribly bad for the environment and hazardous to human health. Currently, there is no truly safe way to dispose of nuclear waste and from what I've heard, the current method is to store it underground. However, due to the immensely long half-life of nuclear waste, it would still be dangerous even millions of years after humans are extinct. For example, Uranium 235, the basic fuel of nuclear reactors, has a half-life of about 703.8 millions years. I am torn on whether or not I support nuclear power. On one hand, I can't support it because of the current environmental hazards it causes, but on the other hand, I firmly believe that science can find a way to deal with these problems.

II. It seems now that more than half of Japan want article 9 of the constitution of Japan to be changed to allow for an actual army rather than a defense force. However, with examples like the annexation of Korea, and the Nanking Massacre, China and Korea are weary of the idea. Prime Minister Abe has mentioned rewriting article 9 during his time in office, but the main change that he wants to focus on is to article 96, which has to do with how much support is needed for a referendum in the legislative branch. I believe that it would not be fair to deny a country an army when the country that originally spearheaded the constitution has been in major and minor conflicts since it's inception. Also, Where Japan sits now, I believe that they believe more in democracy than they do in militarism, and by allowing Japan an army, nothing significant would change. There is no strategic place to attack in Japan's immediate location, and I don't think that they would even be able to launch an invasion until years after the constitution was changed.

III. According to The Telegraph, Japan's elderly population more than double the amount of children. People 65 and over make up thirty percent of the country's population while children 14 and under only make up 13 percent. Also, The Telegraph reports that Japan will start to incur higher welfare costs, and reform medical care, while lowering workforce and national tax revenues. With these planned changes in Welfare and Medical Care, The Private Sector is getting involved with the "grey" market, creating companies that offer services to take care of the elderly, such as residences and apparel. One way to help encourage people to have more children is to offer tax incentives and benefits to people that have more than one child, or have a child at all. From the short time that I was in Japan, I noticed that most of the salary men that were at the Izakayas weren't wearing wedding rings. While this doesn't necessarily mean that they're married, I have a feeling that they aren't. I feel that rather than having a spouse, they're married to their jobs, which is an explanation of why people stay employed so long.

IV. When I think of pop culture in japan, the first thing that comes to mind is anime and manga. Anime has managed to make it onto the American cartoon channel Cartoon Network. On saturdays we get Animes like, Naruto, One Piece, Bleach, etc. and I feel like this has served as a gateway into other less obscure manga and anime, which then opens gateways to other aspects of Japanese culture. However, this demographic isn't very large and isn't the group that the Japanese government should focus on. I feel that the people that get interested in Manga and Anime early will eventually want to go to Japan. Japan should focus on the general population of the US, and promote things that typical Americans like to do. This is

because many Americans don't often branch out and try new things, So introducing a brand new culture doesn't seem to appealing. However, if the Japanese government were to introduce something that sort of resembled and American pastime while still having aspects of unique Japanese culture, I feel that it would get much better reception than say a tour of the imperial palace. I'm not saying that the Imperial Palace isn't interesting, I just don't think that I would be too terribly interesting to the general American Population.

V. Morikawa Kaichiro defines Otaku as a slang term for geek or nerd and that there can be Otaku in essentially any Topic or hobby. I cannot say much about Otaku without bias or stereotypes, because mostly all of my experiences with American Otaku has been negative. I don't really see Otaku culture as a big problem, because there haven't been that many cases of Otaku hurting other people. In my honest opinion, Otaku culture, sometimes hurts the Otaku themselves; not in a physical way, but in a sociological way. I participated in a game club a few years ago here at school, and at times I really feel like I wasn't welcome. However, I understood the hostility towards me as an outward projection of the hostility that was shown to them by others in their surroundings. It's not my place to judge whether or not Otaku culture is a problem, because the way I see it, If they can be happy without hurting other people, then I don't see a problem to begin with.

VI. NEET is a term that originated from the United Kingdom, but also applies to Japan. In Japan, NEETs are similar to another classification of people called freeters. The difference between NEETs and Freeters are that Freeters miss the chance to acquire positions, where NEETs may be unable to find these potential positions. Freeters are stereotyped as 18 to 34 year olds that take low-wage part time jobs in place of long term positions in companies in hopes to become professionals in industries such as music or theatre. It used to be that Men would work in a company until retirement, and Women would work for a period of time until they married and had children; and after they had raised the children, go back to work at part-time jobs. After the economic decline in 1990 however, this model is becoming increasingly rare. Companies have to be more selective of who they chose, and have to hire less workers. Also, the availability of lifelong employment in companies is becoming more difficult to do; both because of the companies abilities to continue to accomodate for all the workers, and the workers themselves leaving for different positions. I feel that the latter is mostly due to globalization. This is because the Western business model of continuously trying to better one's own position over what I feel is the more eastern mentality of working towards bettering the company. With all that being said, I feel that Japan has made a significant comeback from decline in 1990.

VII. Hikikomori is the phenomenon in which a person completely closes his or herself off to the world, often cutting all social tie with friends and even families. Tamaki Saito has been researching the phenomena since 1990 and explains Hikikomori are paralyzed by social fears. He says that symptom vary from person to person. For example, some have violent outbursts while some exhibit infantile behaviors like pawing at their mother. when he started his research, he estimated through a survey that there were about two-hundred thousand Hikikomori. Now, he estimates that there are about seven-hundred thousand. From the article that I read from the BBC, mostly all of the causes that pushes someone to become a Hikikomori are social. Whether it be from a person worrying about their reputation in the

community, to familial pressures. The reputation of the community is a double edged sword in the way that both the parents, and the hikikomori worry about their reputation. For the Hikikomori, they worry that if they were to go outside, their reputation would be tarnished, because they wouldn't know how to interact, and for the parents, they don't often seek professional help until months after their child has refused to leave the house, for fear of the what the community will think of them knowing that their son is a Hikikomori. Yuriko Suzuki suggests that there is a rift between the traditional Japanese Psychology and the mentality of modern day Japanese youth. Traditionally, The Japanese were group oriented, and no one wanted to stand out within the group whereas now, It's more about being and individualism and personalised attention. Hikikomori are bundled together with NEETs and Freeters by the 1960's and 70's generation of workers, and are viewed as "good-for-nothing younger generation, parasites on the flagging Japanese economy." While I don't think that Hikikomori is the norm, I do understand that times change. With these changes social norms change as well, and there will always be deviations from the norm.

VIII. My, what a hot topic this is today. As discussed in paragraph six, the old norm for gender roles is that as soon as men and women got out of school, they would both go straight into a company. The men would be a permanent employee, and the women would work until they found a husband. They would then have children, rear the children, and then when the children were old enough, go back to work part time. While I believe that that lifestyle wouldn't be very rewarding (except for the children). However, it's really up to personal preference. I didn't make anything of it while I was in Japan, but thinking back, I remember a good number of middle- aged women working in the fast food places I went to. I think though, that in our generation, we'll see this number decline. Gender norms are changing for both genders, but it seems that the focus is mainly on women. The reason why this is so, is because the change from what women's gender roles used to be as compared to now are drastically different. While I was at Chuo, the majority of the girls that I talked to said that they were interested in non-traditional women's careers; Which is great in my opinion. Some examples being careers in the tourism, foreign policy, or in international business. The girls that wanted to settle down right after college were low.