

The Family Expectations for University Degrees in America and Japan

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Outline

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- ▶ Research Question
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Significance of the Study

- When I studied abroad, I noticed a difference between Japan and the U.S in the attitudes of the students and their motivation for being in college and achieving a college degree.
- How parents are inspiring and influencing their children to become successful became an interest of mine.



Research Questions

1. What are the expectations of parents, both American and Japanese, in how a university degree enhances the student's lives?
2. What are the cultural aspects that help students decide what their major should be?
3. How do American and Japanese parents work with students to complete their degrees?



Background Research

- ▶ America and Japanese Education System
- ▶ Attitudes and behavior of parents towards University students
- ▶ Parent expectations of their children's University degrees
- ▶ Support of Japanese and American parents with University students
- ▶ Parental responses and/or interactions regarding University students' stress levels



American and Japanese Education System

	Japanese	American
Types of Colleges	1) National Universities 2) Public Universities 3) Private Universities 4) Junior Colleges	1) State college/ University 2) Private Universities 3) Community College 4) Vocational College

	Japanese	American
Undergraduate Pursuit of BA	First 2 years: Besides GE, devote time to clubs & other activities	First 2 years: required to take General Education courses
Graduate Pursuit of Masters and higher	Must take graduate record exam for business school MCAT for Medical school	Less important because limited suitable employment



High school and College graduation ratings

	Japanese	American
Graduate High School	93%	75%
Enter College	53%	39%
Complete College	87%	53%
Dropout rate	10%	45%

	Japanese	American
# of Colleges	745	4,599
# of specific colleges	87 national Universities 76 Public Universities 582 Private Universities	2,870 four year 1,729 two year

College Admission Exams

	American	Japanese
Universities select students based on:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•G.P.A, PSAT, ACT, AP, TOEFL, SAT exams•Multiple chances	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•National College Admission Exam•1 chance to take/ year

Taking College Entrance Exams, 2014

丸山2004

	American	Japanese
How students prepare for exams	Independent study; Practice tests; Tutors; prep books	Cram school (juku) ~7,000 yen/ hour

Taking College Entrance Exams, 2014

Higher Education in Japan (2010)



How do American and Japanese Students choose their Major

America	Japanese
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Students have a variety of fields to choose from•Allowed to be clarified as undecided until decision is made•Permitted to change field of major as multiple times•Entrance examination has no influence on student's field of study	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Each institution has it's own field of study•Score from entrance exam shows which institution the student will enroll in•Students major is pretty much decided for them weather they like it or not•College entrance exam influences the future of student



How do Americans and Japanese Enroll in an University

America	Japanese
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•College enrollment is decided on the grades and scores (whatever admission test required) of students•Take the SAT test and build up G.P.A•The purpose of High school is to gain the knowledge and basic skills of work and being social.•Students sometimes purchase textbooks, hire tutors, or join study groups to prepare for test	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•College enrollment is decided on the score of the National College Admission exam•The sole purpose of High school is to gain the knowledge to pass the entrance exam•Especially for 3rd years, the entrance exam becomes a great concern•High majority of students attend cram school to prepare

Higher Education in Japan (2010)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yW7o5UltLhc>



Attitudes and Behavior of Parents towards University Students

American Students	Japanese Students
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Parental motivation determines college students' success in learning activity.•Frequent rewards through school shapes students motivation to learn•Motivational characteristics are fundamental for educational success.•Students personality depends on level of acceptance from parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Behavior is disciplinary regarding college admission exams•Don't use bribery but more guidance.•In college, parents aren't strict with grades•lack of self-esteem motivation from parents.

(Vishtak, O. V., 2004)

Dennis, J. M., Phinney, J. S., & Chuateco, L. I. (2005)

Davis, K.D., Winsler, A., & Middleton, M. (2006)

Uji, M., Sakamoto, A., Adachi, K., & Kitamura, T. (2014)



Parent Expectations of their Children's University Degree

American Students & Parents	Japanese Student's & Parents
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High performance in college is <i>essential</i> to parents• Parents who are high educated or of low-income, help student performance and have high expectations• Children with only high-school degrees wont get a good paying job.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• College is important to establish a great career• Japanese parents are disappointed if child fails to complete college.• University training is different from business training.• Parents are very strict with children during high school to prepare them for college admission exam

(Davis-Kean, P. E. 2005)

(潮木, 1997)



Support of Japanese and American Parents with University Students

American Parents	Japanese Parents
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Encourage feelings of competence and control•Parents boosting child's self-esteem•Engaging positive emotions resulted in positive emotions within students•Provide moderate financial support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Lack of emotional support•Limited academic monitoring; students complete 77% of homework.•Majority of parents pay for children's college education•Parents don't worry because college education is not as harsh as high school education

(Oishi & Sullivan, 2005)

(Graduate School of Education and Human Development , 2012)

(2011, <http://youtu.be/WPW4Lawq6d4>)



Parental Responses and Interactions Regarding Students' Stress Levels

American Students	Japanese Students
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Parents help manage child's stress.•Parents attempt to understand the causes of stress•Parents try to produce the best course of action to reduce child's stress•89% parents tell children to make time for exercise, recreational activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Students receiving too much support may imply poor problem solving•Limited involvement in children's collegiate education•Japanese parents and children are able to handle a lot of stress•The word, "Ganbare" is commonly used to make children work harder

(Emotional Health & Your College Student, 2008)

(Jau & Fukuda, 2002)



Research Method

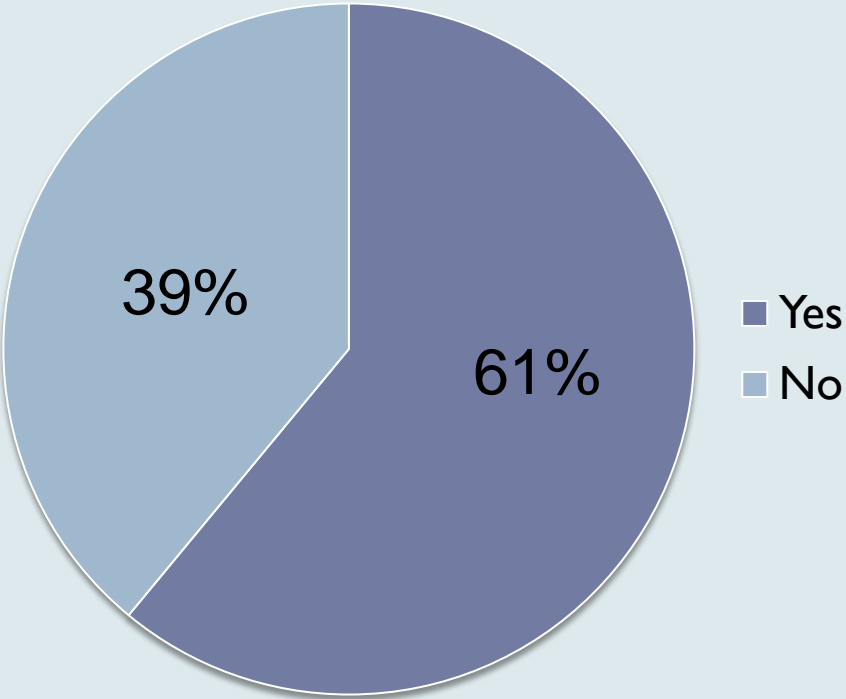
- ▶ Participants of Study:
 - ▶ Total of 60 University Students (30 Japanese University Students and 30 American Students)
 - ▶ Demographics:
 - ▶ 30 Japanese University Students
 - ▶ 15 Female, 15 Male
 - ▶ Ages 18-21
 - ▶ Studying at various Universities in Japan
 - ▶ 30 American University Students
 - ▶ 15 Female, 15 Male
 - ▶ Ages 19-21
 - ▶ Instruments to Collect Data:
 - ▶ Google Forum: Japanese Survey & English Survey
-



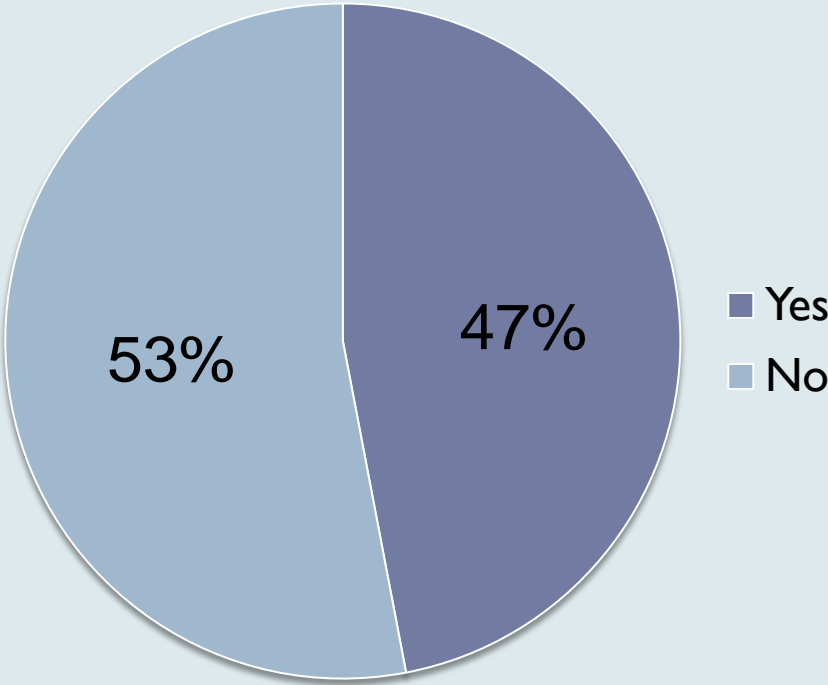
Survey Background:

Number of First Generation Students

30 American



30 Japanese

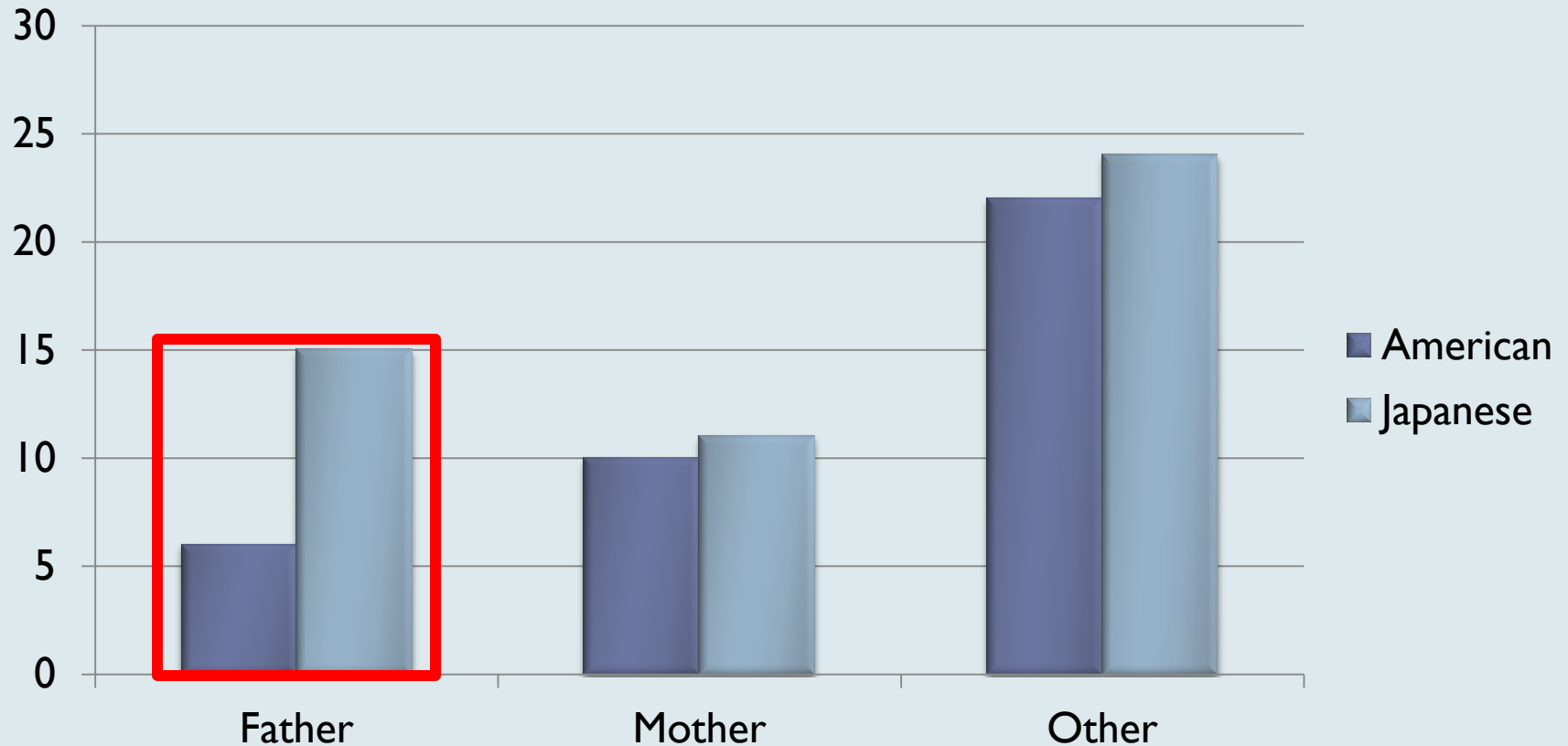


Americans have a **higher** percentage of First Generation Students



Demographic Data

Who has a college degree in your family?



Fathers with degrees are twice as high in Japan than fathers in America

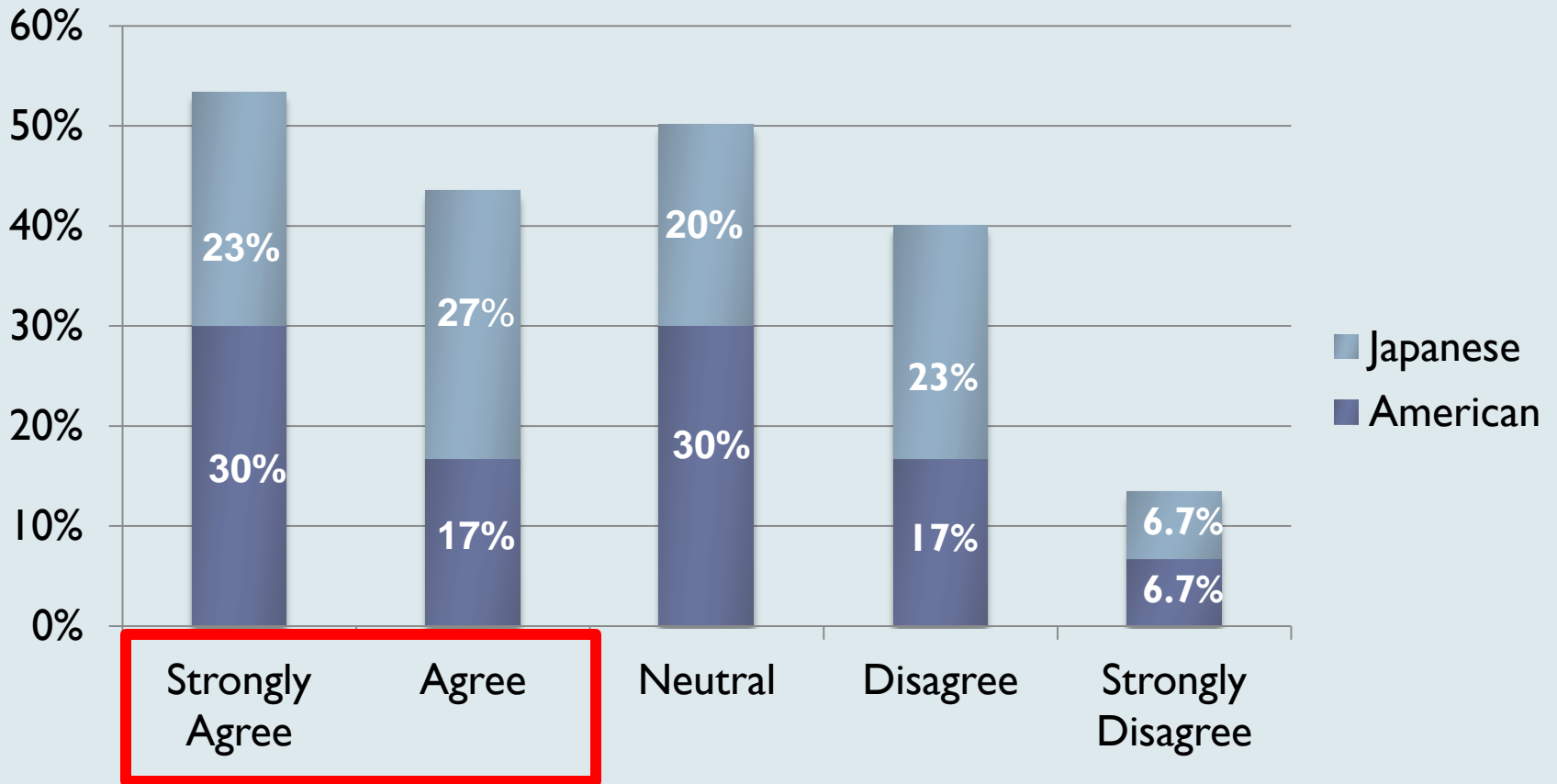


Survey Results For Research Question 1

What are the expectations of parents, both American and Japanese, in how a university degree enhances the student's lives?



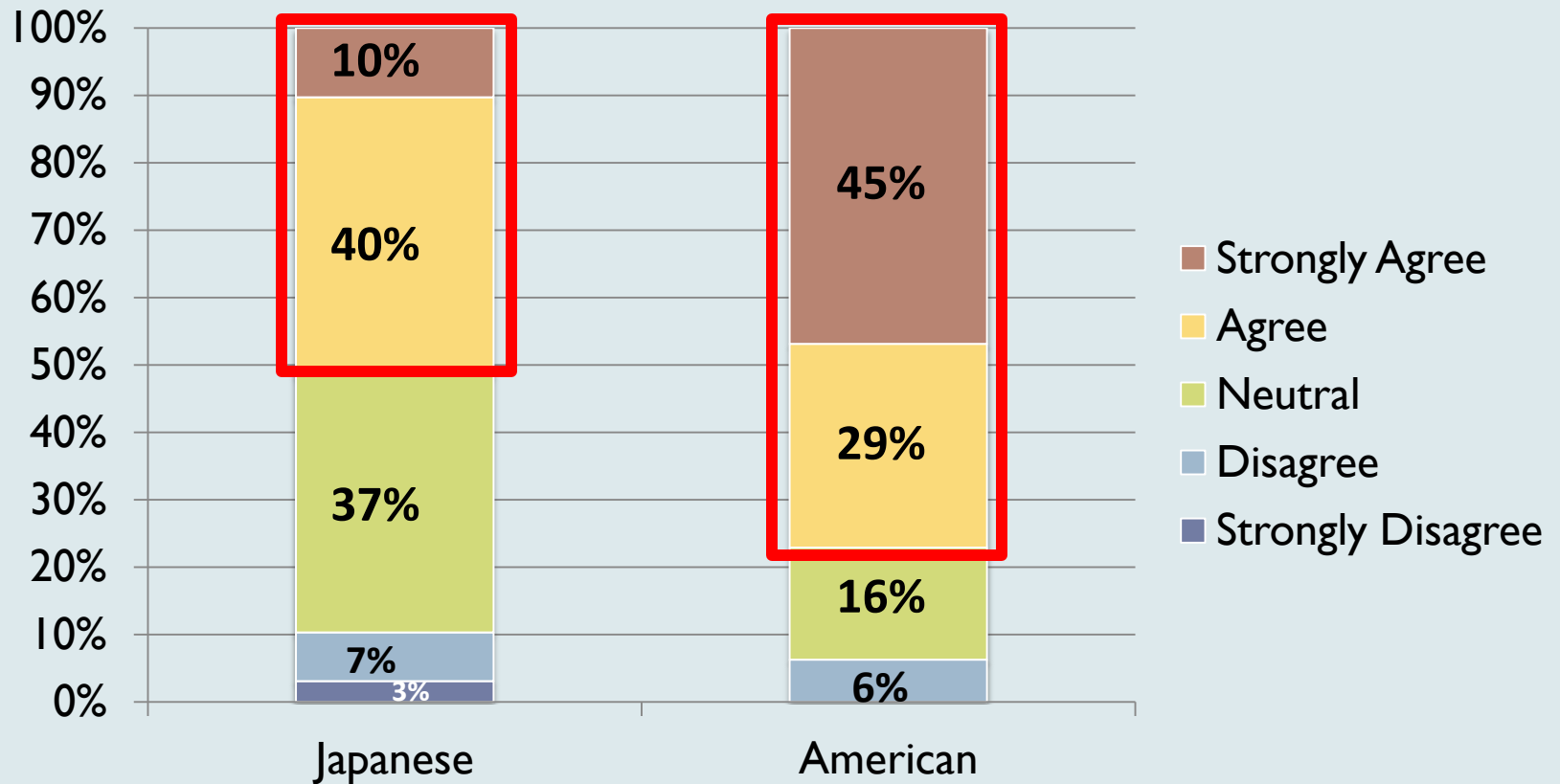
Parents value of child achieving a college degree



Both parents value a degree but, Japanese parents value a college degree slightly more than Americans



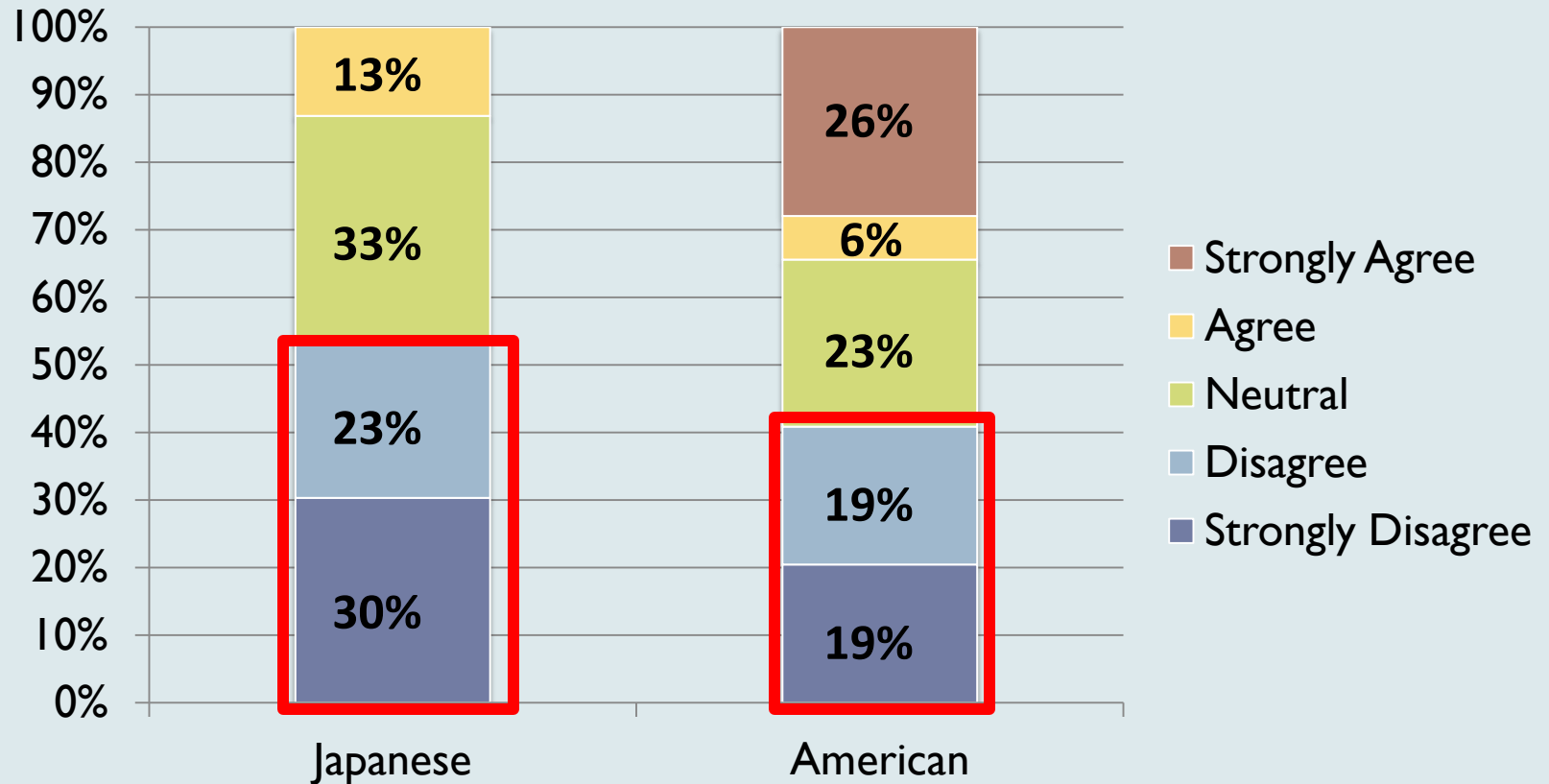
Your Degree helps choose a future area of work



74% of American students think a degree helps them choose a future area of work and 50% of Japanese students think the same



Parents have a different career plan for me

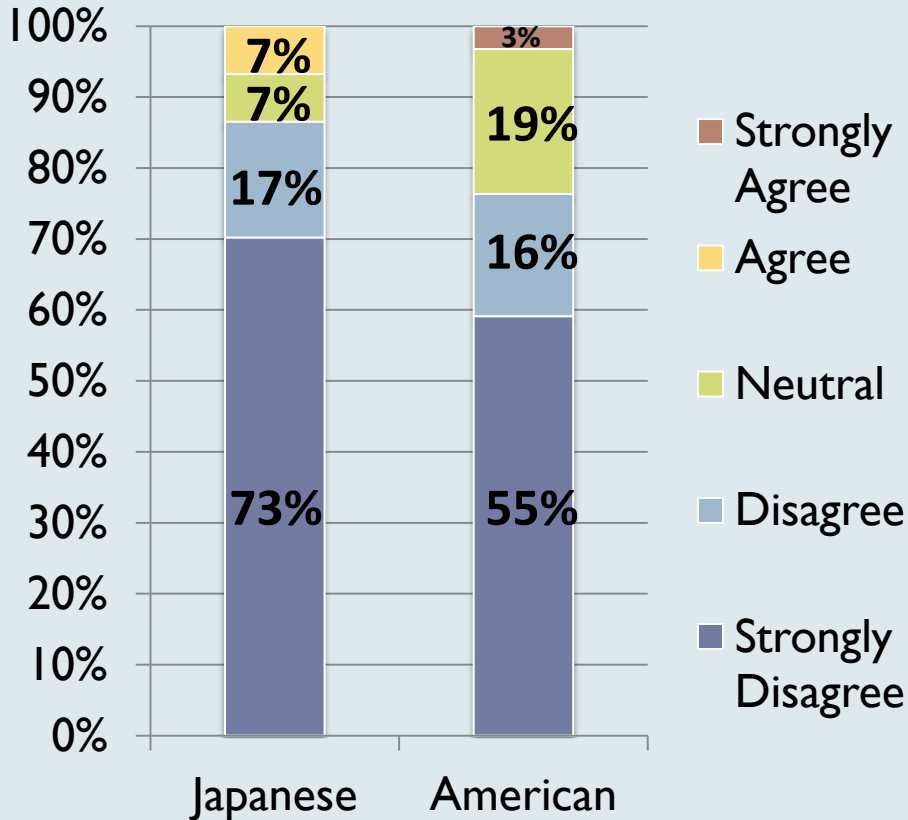


More Japanese students have similar future plans as parents

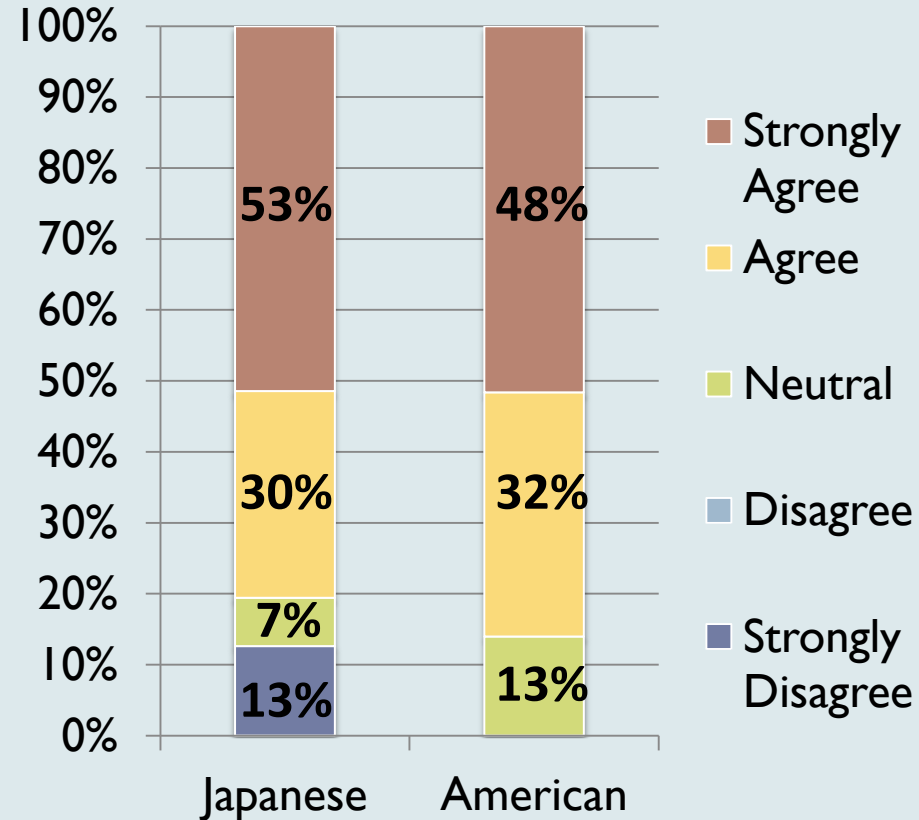


Future plan after graduation

Parents have a plan for me?



I begin my own plan?

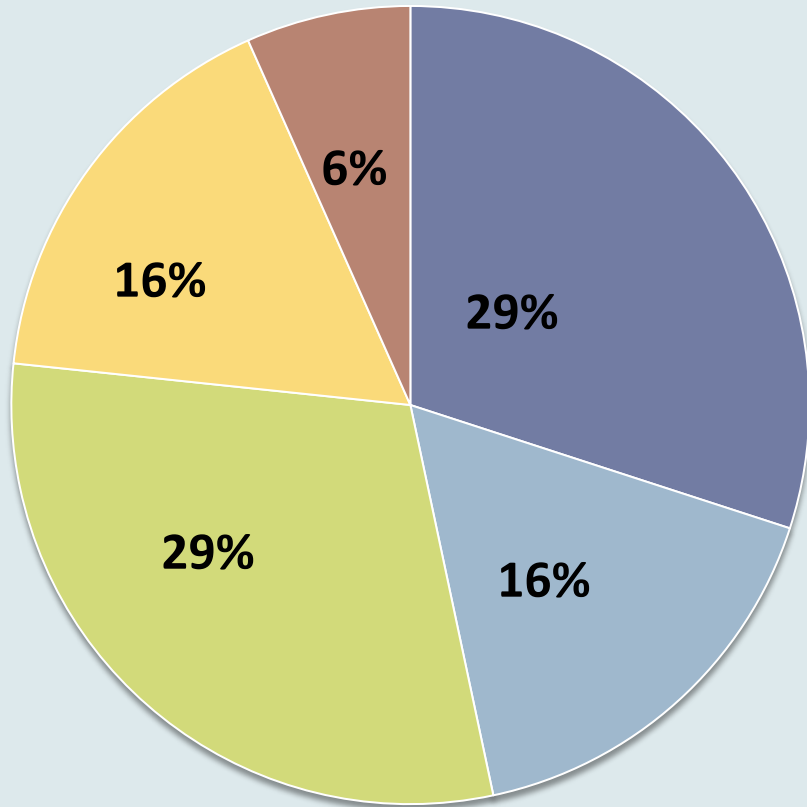


Japanese and American students plan their own future regardless of what job their parents have for them

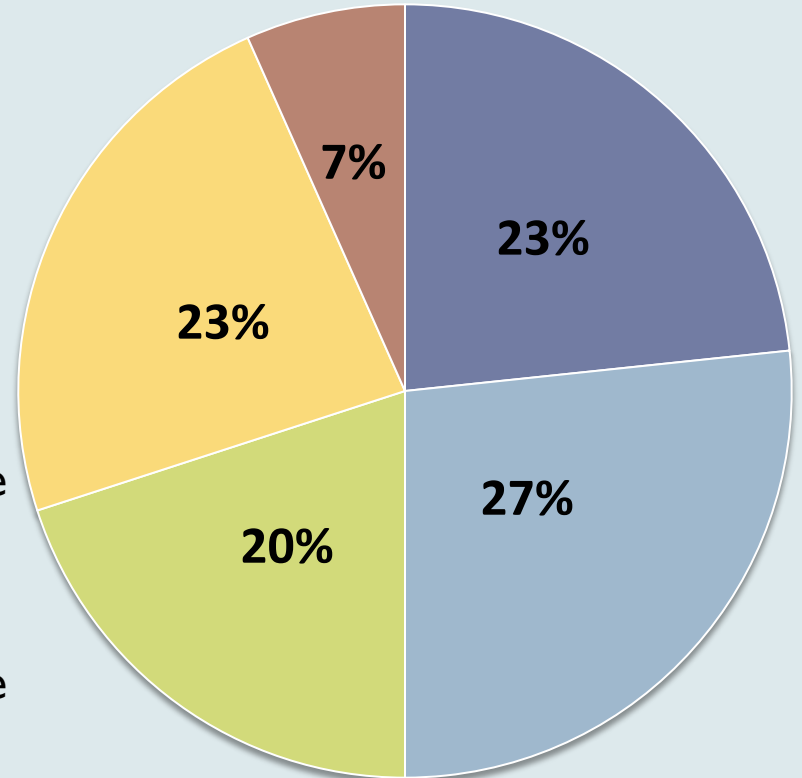


I must fulfill my parents' expectations of achieving a degree

Americans



Japanese



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

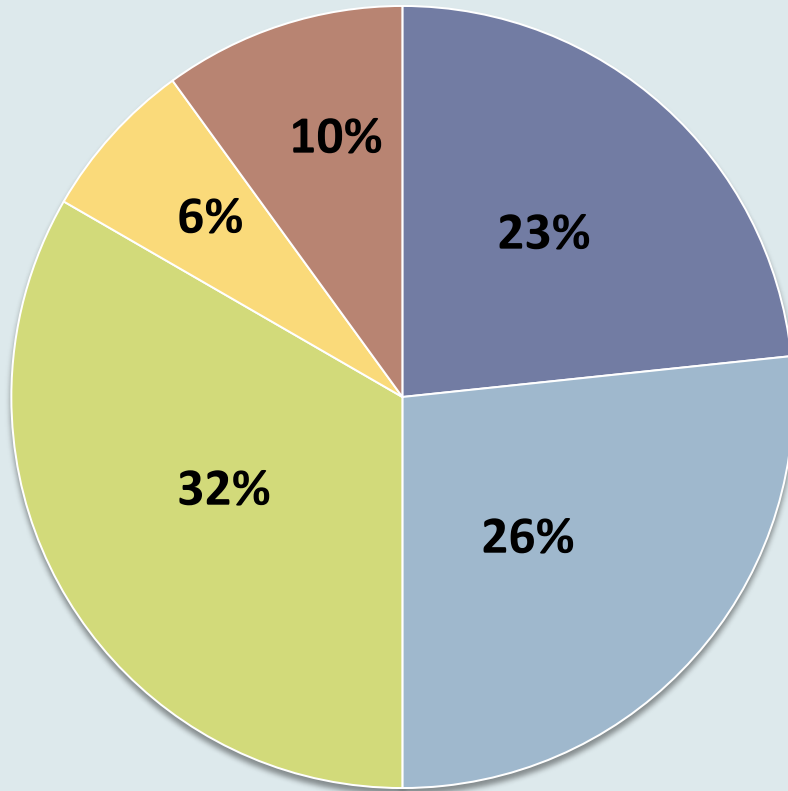
Expectations of Japanese parents are slightly higher than American



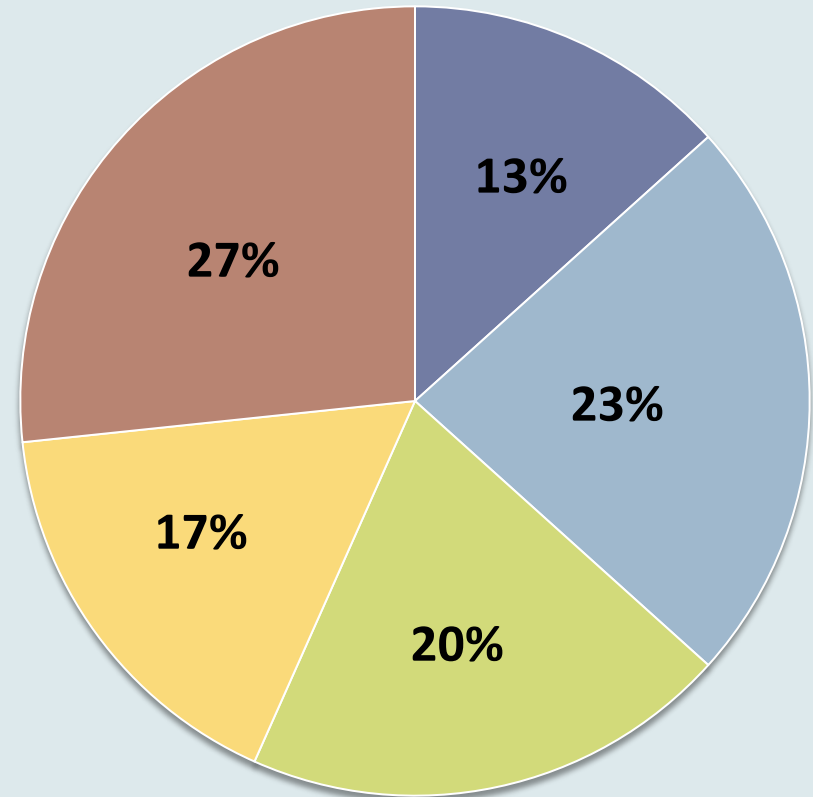
Acceptance

Would I be accepted if I drop out of college?

Americans



Japanese



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

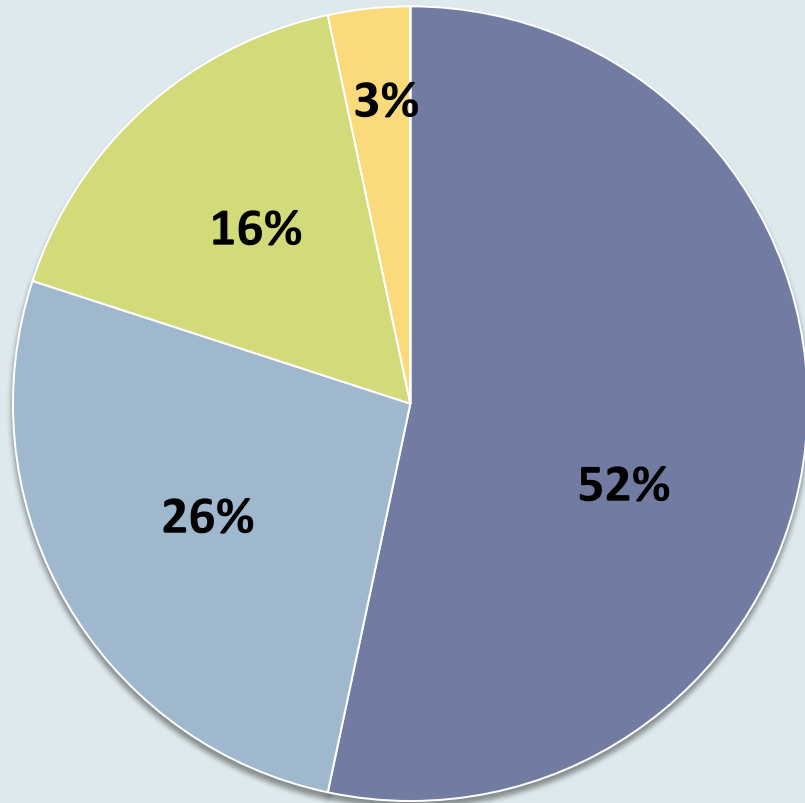
Japanese parents are more non-sympathetic if children drop-out



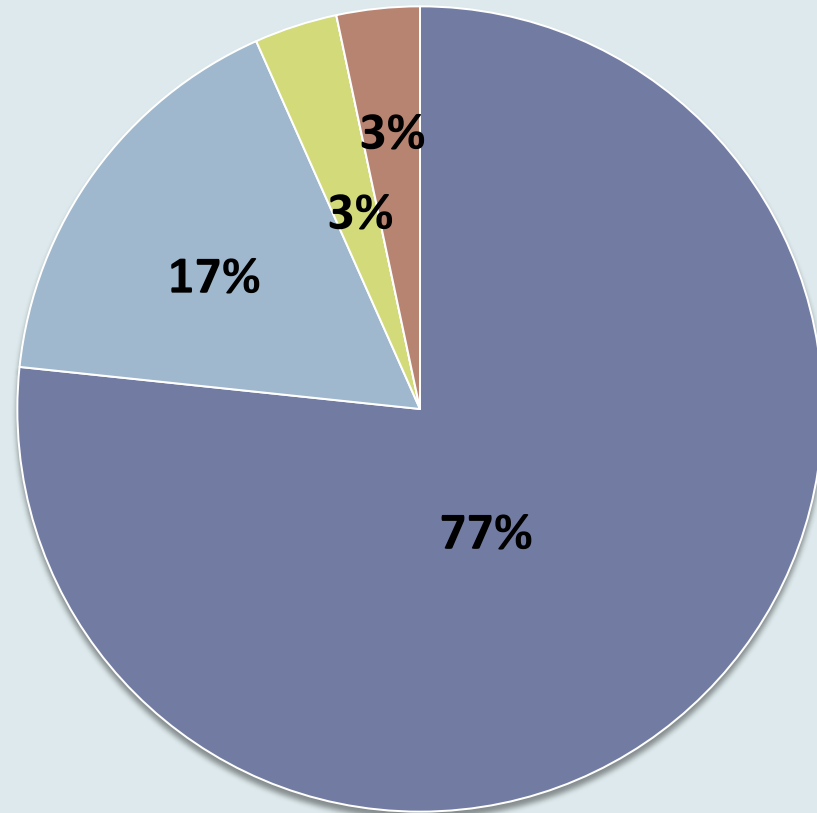
Effort:

My Parents want me to do my best in achieving a degree

Americans



Japanese



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

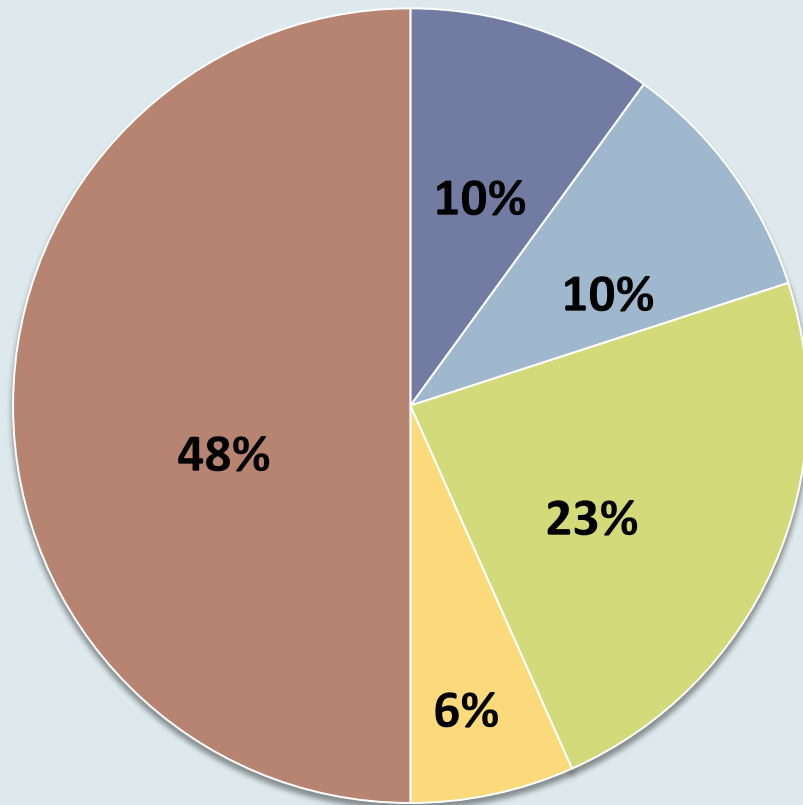
More of Japanese students feel parents encourage them to do their best to achieve degree



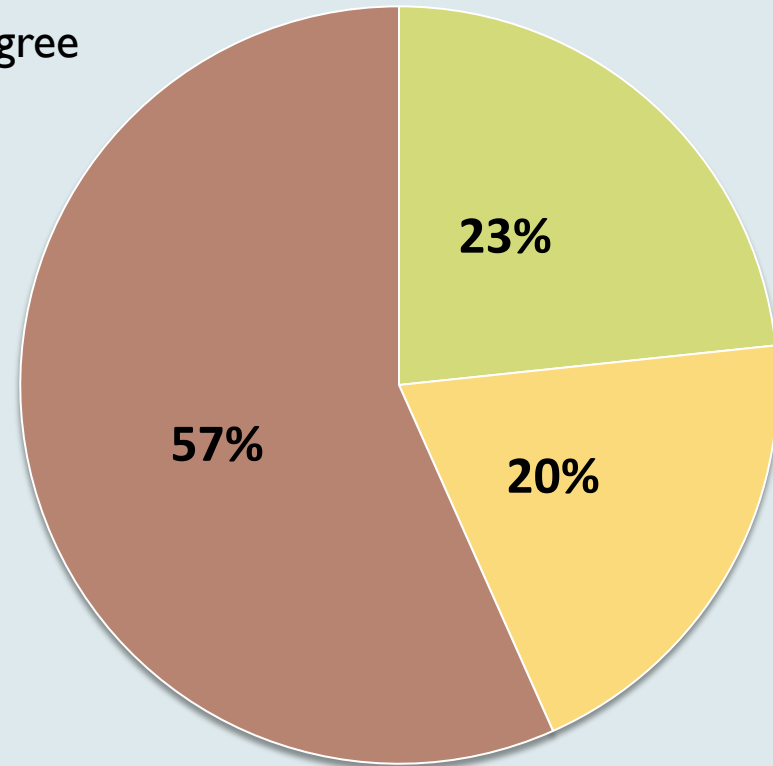
Attending College:

I didn't have to go to College

Americans



Japanese



Strongly Agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

20% of American students answered that there is no need to go to college; Japanese students replied there is a need

Summary of Research Question 1

- Expectations of Japanese parents are higher than Americans to get a degree
- After graduation, regardless of what job Japanese and American parents have planned for their child, the children decide for themselves.
- Japanese parents believe and hope that their children do their best to achieve a college degree more than American parents.



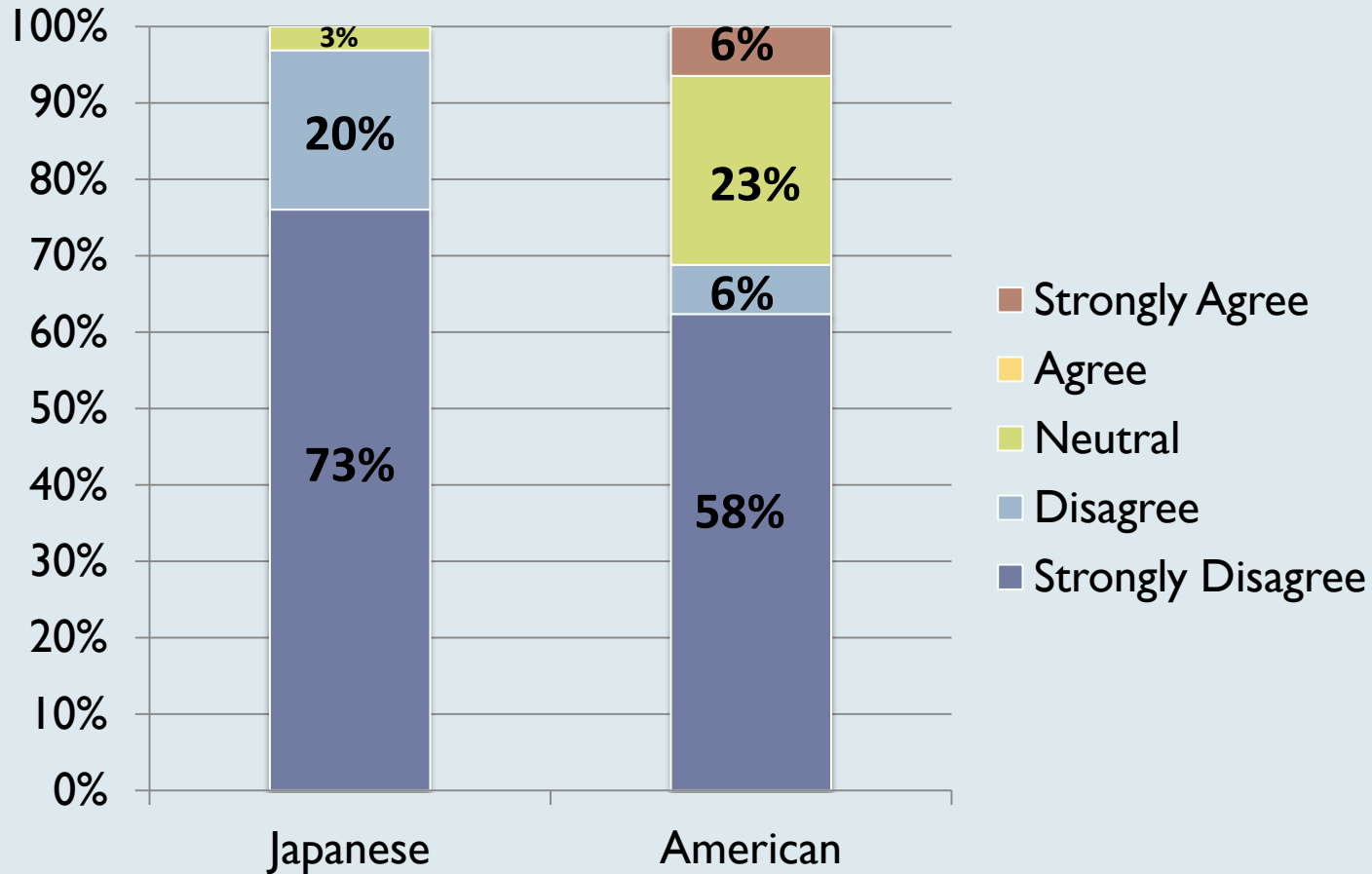
Survey Results for Research Question 2

What are the cultural aspects that help students decide what their major should be?



Influence:

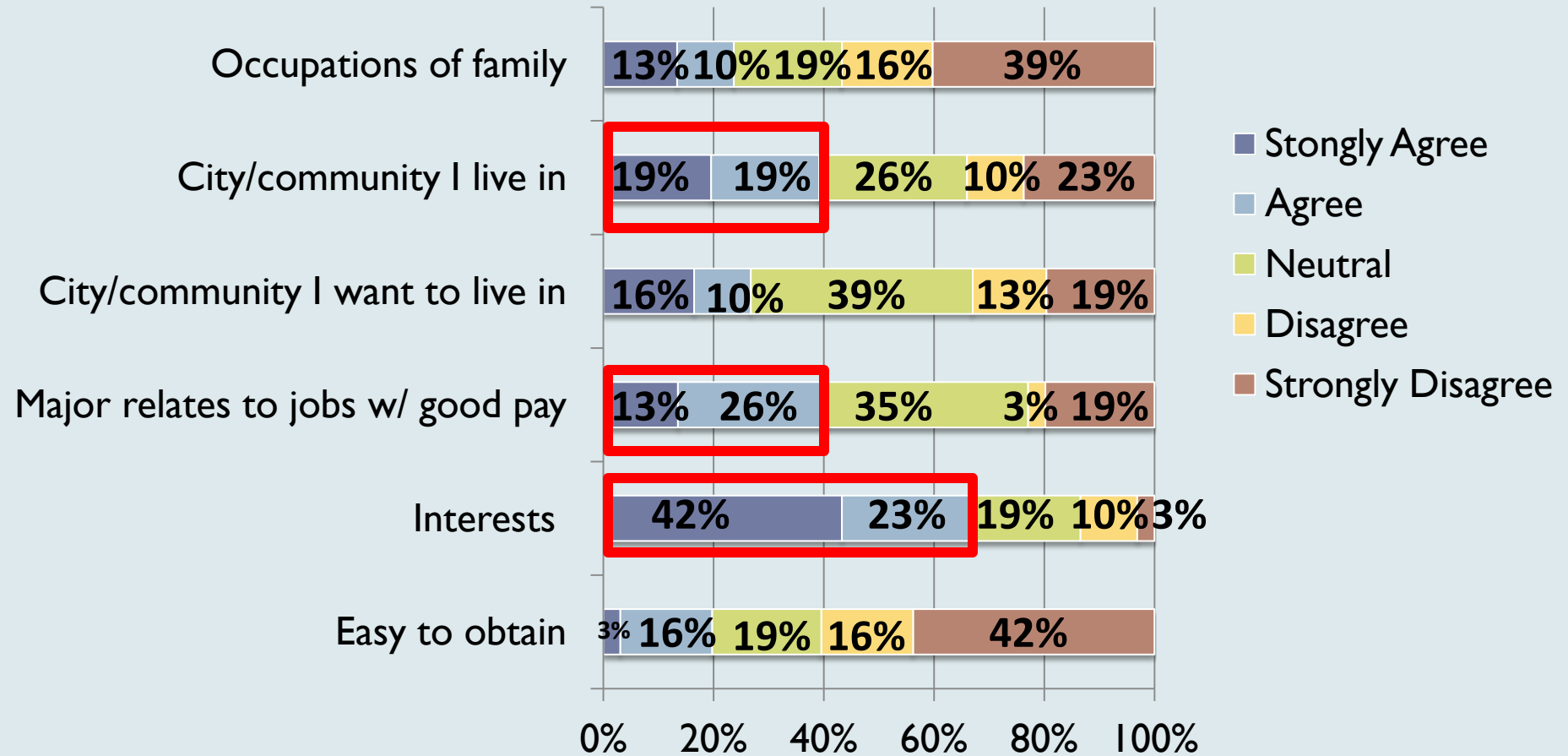
Parents influenced my decision of which major I chose



Parents aren't the influence in choosing students' major for Japanese and **most** of American students

Inspiration: **AMERICAN**

Characteristics that encouraged students to choose Major

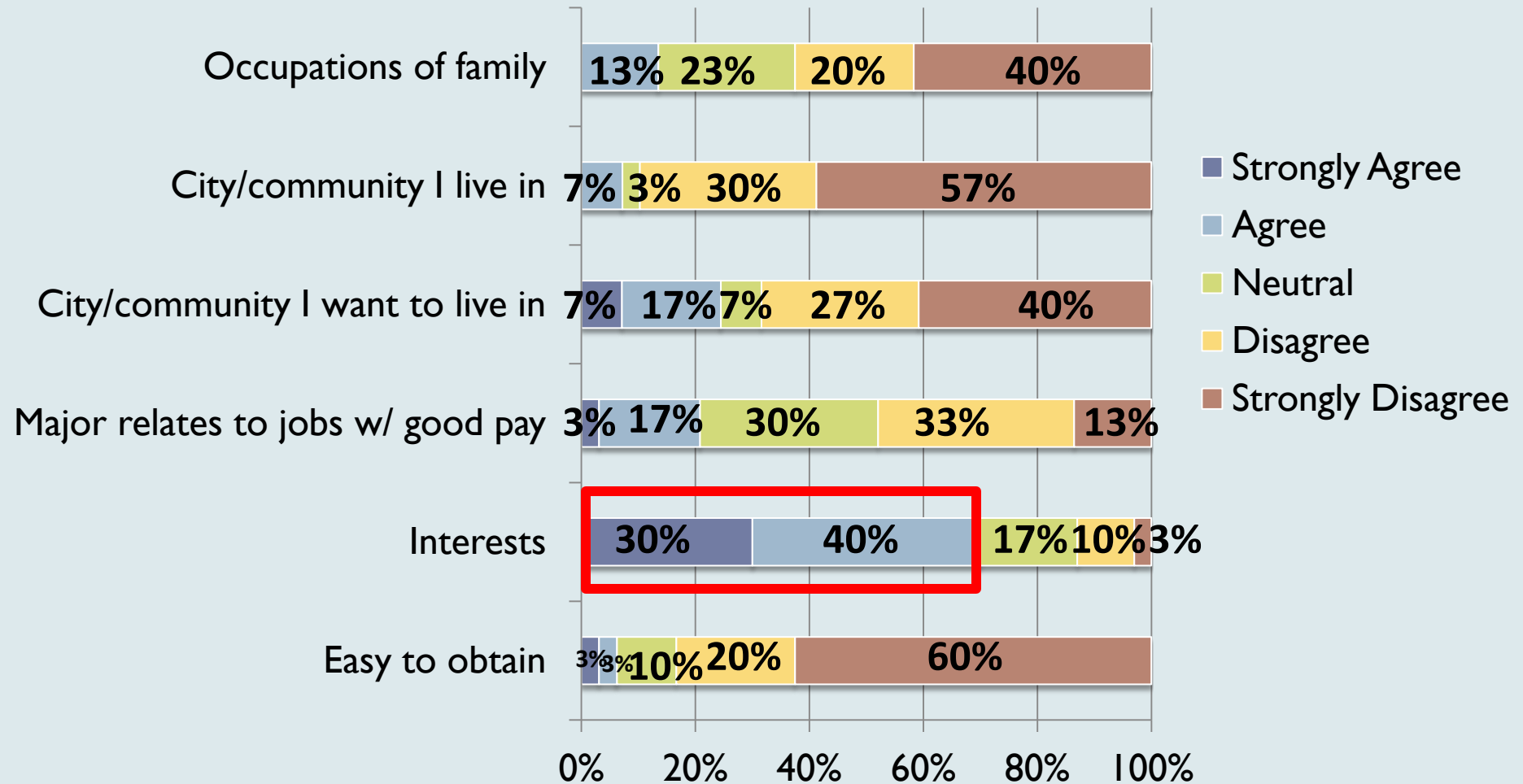


Interests, high paying jobs, and where they live, impact

▶ **American students' decision of choosing a major**

Inspiration: JAPANESE

Characteristics that encouraged students to choose Major



Interests impact Japanese students' decision of choosing a major

Summary of Research Question 2

- ▶ Regarding children choosing their major, parents are not an influence
- ▶ American and Japanese students often choose their subject of study based on their interests
- ▶ Japanese students do not choose their area of study in order to assist them with getting a better job.



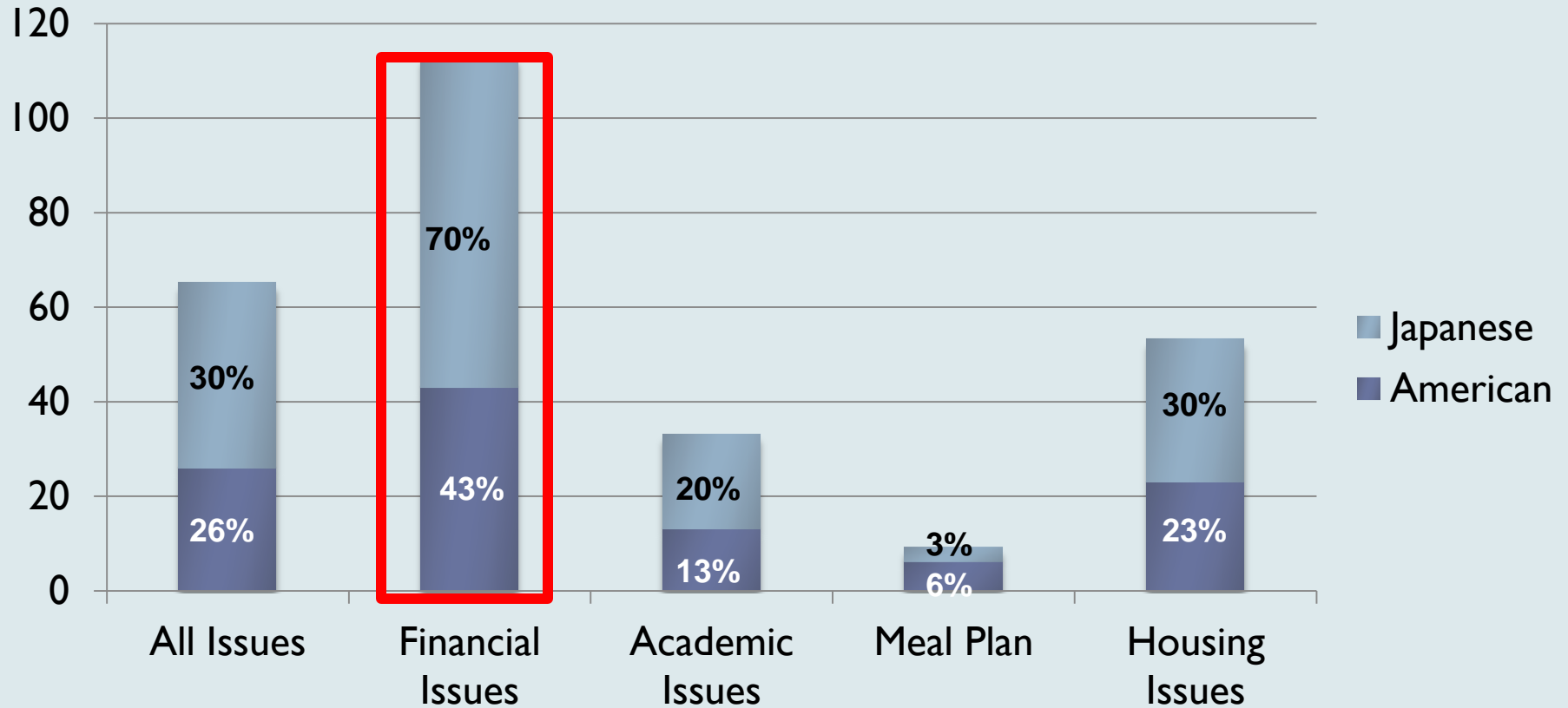
Survey Results for Research Question 3

How do American and Japanese parents work with students to complete their degrees?



Stress:

When you're stressed about school, do you consult with your parents?



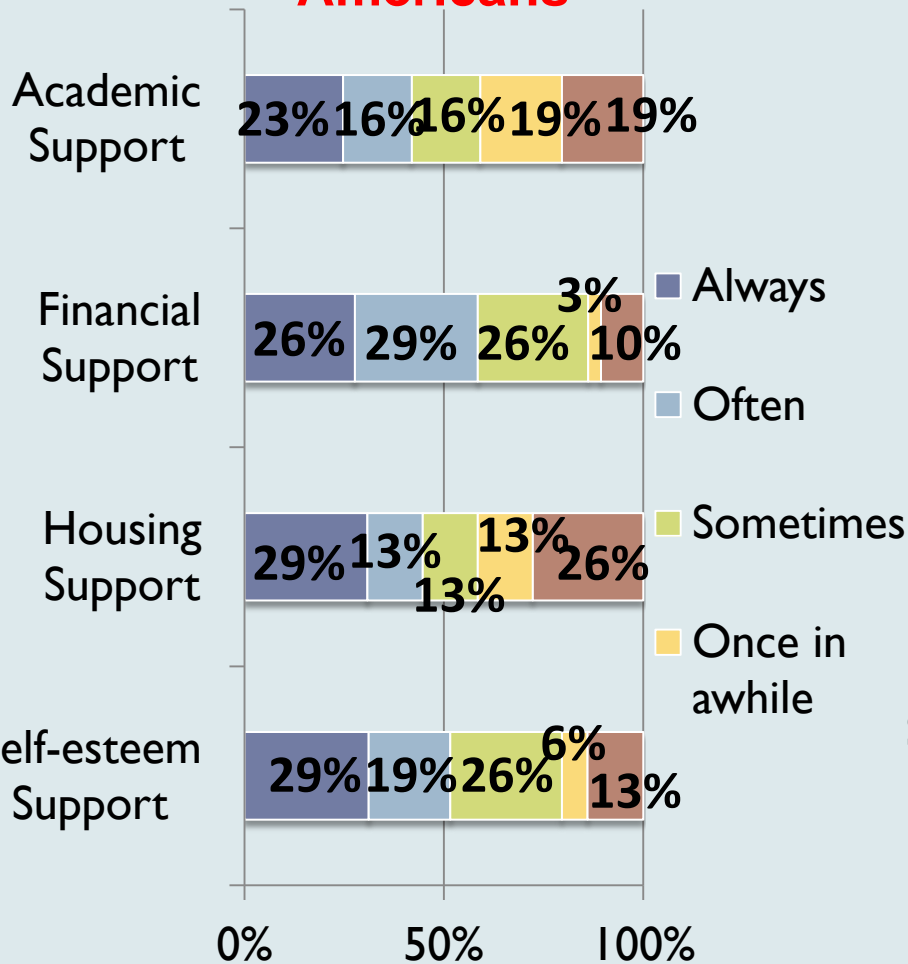
American students consult with parents for financial issues however, Japanese are **more** significant.



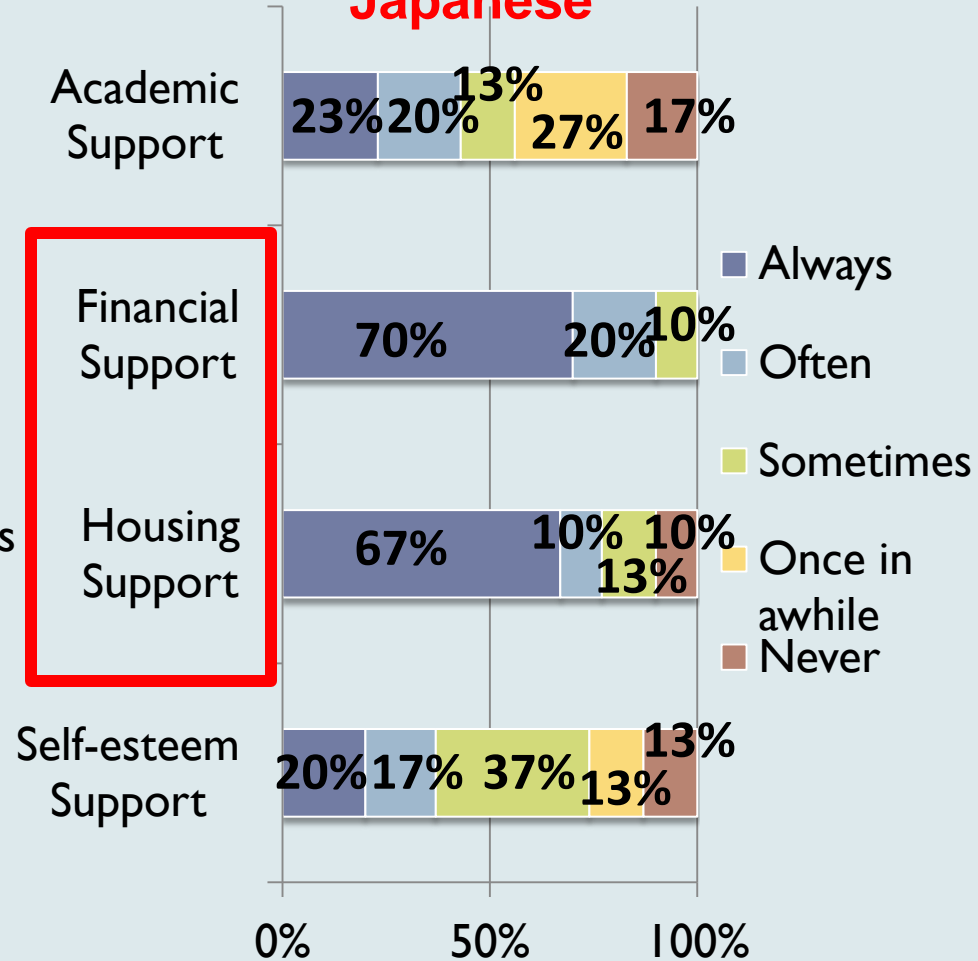
Support:

Do you get the following types of support from your parents?

Americans



Japanese



Japanese parents provide 90% of financial support and 77% of housing support; twice as much as American parents

Summary of Research Question 3

- Japanese students consult with their parents in the economic area more than American students.
- Results reflect that Japanese parents strongly help their children financially more than American parents.



Conclusion

Japanese and American parents both expect their children to get a college degree but the way they support their children is different.

The idea parents have with their children of college degrees are deeply affected by the difference in the Japanese and American school system, the structure of society, and society's expectations.

The premise for Japanese students is that they will definitely graduate college once enrolled, therefore the students don't have anxiety. However, Americans have high anxiety for college graduation because it's not definite.



Future Study

- I would like to know why there are limited suitable job positions available which make Graduate study less important
- I also want to compare the success of adults in the workforce with and without a college degree background.
- The attitudes of parents toward their children's high school education in Japan and the U.S.



Discussion

- Japanese parents highly expect their children to establish a great career.
- American parents expect children to be more financially stable
- Involvement of American parents through child's college education
- The necessities Japanese parents provide for child
- Japanese parents have higher expectations than American parents but, American parents are more accepting

Limitations of the Study

- This study is limited to the 30 Japanese and the 30 American students I have come into contact with therefore, it's not a generalization on a large scale.



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Media Resources

- ▶ (2011) <http://youtu.be/WPW4Lawq6d4>
- ▶ (2012) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yW7o5UltLhc>



Acknowledgements

I want to say thank you to my parents for supporting me through my college education

Thank you to the American students and Japanese students who took the time to complete my survey

Thank you to my college professors, Shigeko-Sekine and Yoshiko Saito-Abbott for mentoring, coaching, guiding, and supporting me in Japanese



QUESTIONS?

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