

Hi Savannah,

What an exciting topic! I'd love to help you out, and let's talk after the next class!

1. Why do you come teach Japanese at Blackstone? How did you want to impact the students?

I believe learning language is a gateway to the target culture, and I have always loved working across cultures and languages since my childhood. ( I lived in Germany when I was a child) For the students at Blackstone, or those who live in RI in general, I think it's rare to meet and make friends with Japanese people since they are so few. So I really hope I can somehow make you guys to get excited about a different culture and language, and hopefully motivated to study Japanese language further or go to Japan one day!

2. Why do you think learning another language is important?

I truly believe learning another language will help learners to expand their world and to gain new perspective toward the world around them. By learning language, a learner will be able to understand the target culture as well as her/his own culture and self. In this increasingly global world, I think it's crucial for us to be ready and capable to live and work with people from another culture. Knowing another language is such an asset!

3. How have you seen knowing another language help someone?

Through learning English, I've got to gain access to information/opportunities available only in English, and I'm grateful for that.

4. Do you think it's better to learn another language earlier in life? Why?

Yes. As much as I believe anyone can start learning another language at any time of their lives, there IS a huge advantage for kids to acquire the second language, especially pronunciation. (It's called "critical period") Also, learning new language may be too frustrating for some adults since learning another language can be sometime embarrassing and adults are too self-conscious! At least that's true for my learning Chinese experience.. > < !!

5. What do you think are the disadvantages, if any, of learning another language?

Hmm... I don't think I can think of any disadvantages of learning another language. But I do notice learning some languages are thought to bring "more advantages" for someone's career while other languages are not.

6. Is there anything else you'd like to share with me before we meet again?

This may be an off topic. But recently some Japanese companies try to "Englishnize" themselves, and it's been quite controversial.

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/life/2012/07/30/language/mikitani-and-his-englishnization-of-japanese-business/#.UkNxZbR9Uu4>

Hope this will help you. Looking forward to talking with you next Tuesday!