

# My Goals for 2014

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This month I'll be writing about my goals for the 2014 school year. Using the lessons I learned during last year I feel that my goals for this year will be good for our students and myself as a teacher. That being said, before I discuss my goals for this year I would like to write about what I learned last year. However I must first apologize for the bad translation. I will translate for meaning. Word for word translation is still too difficult.

I do not think anyone will be surprised when I say that American education and Japanese education are different. Even before I arrived in Japan I had already been taught and told this many times. However for me it is one of the things that I did not fully comprehend until I was able to see it myself. The simplest explanation of the difference is that in Japan education in a way to prepare people to become good members of society and teacher them important facts etc... The American system I grew up has the reverse focus; learn this information, and maybe, we will also teach you to live in society (you should ask your family instead). It took me some time to adjust to the change in thinking and I believe I have become a better teacher because I had to examine my own thinking.

I was able to watch many lessons by many different teachers last year. I noticed that the best teachers usually try to do a few things. First, they try to see the lesson through the students' eyes. One of the best things I've learned is that if you wouldn't be engaged in your lesson the students probably won't be either. Second, just because you would be engaged in the lesson don't assume your students would be. I love to learn new grammar and words, even if the lesson isn't very interesting I'm happy and engaged if I am learning something new. Many people don't have the same feeling, so it's good to check your personal biases before during and after lesson planning. Third, there are two things every lesson must do, it must accurately teach the material, and give students a chance to use the language on their own or in their own way.

So having learned all of that and much more my goals for 2014 are as follows:

1. I want to raise my own level as a teacher.
2. I want to find ways to raise the student's level of interest in English.
3. I want to introduce more international culture.
4. Work with the youngest learners more.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to everyone who supported me last year. Thank you. Thanks to your support I was able to do my best. I would also like to ask everyone for their continued support this year as we all work hard for English town Kanegasaki.