

MAEBASHI FOCUS

Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Newsletter

Howdy y'all!

Following up on my previous newsletter, I had the opportunity this month to talk at length about Texas and my hometown. It was both a lot of fun and a great opportunity to interact with people in Maebashi who are interested in foreign cultures, especially Texas!

I was initially asked to give a presentation about my hometown a few months ago. When I found out that I would be speaking for an entire hour, I was a little worried about how I would fill all that time. However, as I gradually worked on my presentation and started thinking about all the different topics I could cover, I became increasingly excited to give it.



Presentation Room

I suddenly felt very out of place in my polo shirt and jeans. (I wore jeans because, in Texas, they can be considered appropriate for semi-formal occasions.)

Once I actually started the presentation, though, I quickly forgot that I might have been severely underdressed and focused entirely on not messing up in front of such an important-looking crowd!

The presentation was essentially a compilation of different aspects of Texas, including its geography, history, culture, and food. I also spent a good deal of time talking specifically about my hometown and how its history and culture relate to Texas as a whole. In between each topic, I gave the audience a few quizzes about what I had just talked about, which seemed to go over quite well.

All in all, I think everyone enjoyed the presentation, and the hour flew by. I also held a Q&A session afterward, where I received a lot of interesting questions from the participants. It was great to see how curious everyone was, and I hope they all took away something new about Texas and will continue to take an interest in foreign cultures.

Thank y'all for reading! I'll be giving two more presentations later this year, so perhaps I'll share my experiences with those as well when the time comes!

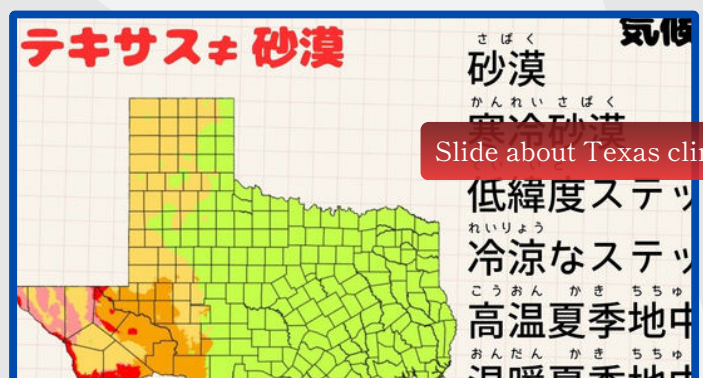


Presentation

My research for the presentation also inspired my previous newsletter, which was a bit of a departure from my usual topics. Everyone from my hometown is familiar with its history, but I don't think many people realize just how important Beaumont has been to not only the development of America's petroleum industry, but also to the transition of the average American city-dweller from relying on railways and streetcars to relying on automobiles.

The same could be said for Texas as a whole. Texas has a long and unique history, and its influence can still be seen in the diversity of its culture, regional pride, longstanding traditions, food, and much more. For these reasons, I was especially proud to have the opportunity to talk about where I come from.

As for the presentation itself, I had no idea just how formal it would be! It was my fault for not asking beforehand, but when I entered the hotel room where I would be presenting and saw everyone dressed in their finest suits,



Slide about Texas climate