

Announcing the "Ehime and Me" Essay Contest

Do you have a special connection to **Ehime, Japan**?

The Ehime Kenjin Kai Association is excited to announce the "**Ehime and Me**" **Essay Contest**, inviting students to explore their personal experiences, interests, and knowledge about Ehime.

We want to hear your unique story! Share how Ehime's charm has touched your life for a chance to win a **cash prize** (\$100) and to be honored at our **Ehime 115th Anniversary Luncheon** on November 9, 2025.

Who Can Participate?

This contest is open to all students **under 18 years of age residing in California**. We'll have winners in three age categories:

- **Elementary School** (K-5th Grade)
- **Middle School** (6th-8th Grade)
- **High School** (9th-12th Grade)

Essay Guidelines

We want to hear your story in your own words!

- **Languages Accepted:** You can submit your essay in either **Japanese or English**.
- **Length:**
 - **English Essays:** Up to 400 words.
 - **Japanese Essays:** Up to 600 characters.
- **Content:** Your essay should clearly describe your connection to Ehime. This could include:
 - Personal memories of Ehime.
 - Your interest in Ehime.
 - What you've learned about Ehime (from family, research, etc.).
 - Appealing stories that make people want to visit Ehime.

How to Submit your essay

Please use the provided entry sheet, which is available as a Google Doc. The link automatically creates a copy for you to print or edit. <http://bit.ly/45hcUk0>

You have two options for completing the sheet:

- **Handwritten:** Print the form and complete it by hand.
- **Typed:** Type your essay directly onto the Google Doc.

After completing your essay, convert it to a PDF document:

- If handwritten, scan the completed page to create a PDF.
- If typed in Google Docs, download your essay as a PDF.

In either case, please submit your essay as a PDF by email to the Ehime Kenjin Kai Association at nanka.ehime@gmail.com with the subject line: *Essay Contest – (Your Name)*.

Deadline: September 25, 2025

How Essays Will Be Judged

Our judges, comprised of current and former college Japanese language instructors, will be looking for:

- **Well-structured sentences** and clear writing.
- **Clear and engaging descriptions** of your experiences, interests, or knowledge of Ehime.
- **Essays must be original work, entirely conceived and written by the contestant.**
Any essay that are determined to be AI-generated will be disqualified.

Important Dates

- **Submission Deadline:** Thursday, September 25, 2025
- **Winner Notification:** Wednesday, October 15, 2025
- **Award Ceremony:** Sunday, November 9, 2025

Awards & Ceremony

A Grand Prize winner from each age category will receive a **\$100 cash prize!**

Winners and their one guest will also be invited to a special **Anniversary Luncheon on November 9, 2025**. We encourage all winners to attend and read their essays at the ceremony. If you're unable to present in person, a video recording of your essay will be gladly accepted.

We can't wait to read your stories about Ehime!