**High School Lesson Objectives:**

* + Compare and contrast changing notions of Japanese identity based on changing world economic, social, and political trends.
	+ Define and describe patterns in Japanese history
	+ Explain turning points in Japanese recent history

**Lesson Ideas -- (**To be used in conjunction with the linked article by Dr. Hashimoto)

1. Three rungs of history -- (independent pre-research)
* Create a guided notes worksheet for page 1 of the article
* Ask students to answer the questions to conduct research about the 3 aspects of Japan’s pre-modern history that influence its national identity.
1. Four Corners -- Classroom Gallery Walk
* Create a station for each of the four turning points mentioned by Dr. Hashimoto that contribute to Japanese Identity (in each station use text from the article, photos, videos, etc., and have students walk around and complete questions in a packet for each “turning point” station.
	+ 1868 - Meiji Restoration (Forming a National Identity)
	+ 1931 - The Imperial Age and Asia-Pacific War
	+ 1945 - The Postwar Reform, Rapid Growth and Affluence
	+ 1989 - Global Age of Uncertainty, Economic Stagnation, Refocusing Social Goals
* After the completing all four stations, ask students to synthesize information and discuss in groups (and then together as a class) how Japanese national identity has changed since the Meiji Restoration.
1. One Japan -- Video Trailer Project
	* Ask: How do you define Japanese National Identity?
	* Students will brainstorm this question using their knowledge of Japanese history, culture, religious ideas, etc.
	* Create a 1-minute iMovie trailer complete with images, text, music, etc. that they believe defines what Japanese National Identity is.

*-This project can be done as a slideshow or poster project depending on access to technology.*

**Suggested Units for Inclusion:**

* + World History Units on World War II, Japan, East Asia, Postwar Affluence
	+ Japanese Language unit on Culture, Identity
	+ World Cultures unit on identity, Japan, East Asia, culture
	+ Digital media unit on video production
	+ Economics units on stagnation, growth, production

**Study Questions:**

1. Since the global age of uncertainty, how has Japanese national identity shifted? Are the values of Japanese youth today different from their parents and grandparents?
2. Compare and contrast Japanese national identity during the Imperialist Meiji Restoration and World War II era with Postwar growth period and then again with the late 90s stagnation period.
3. What are some of the newest challenges that Japan will face in forming its national identity in the 21st century?