

Topic 8: Write about your current city

I live in ~~the~~ a city called Chofu. Chofu has a population of 225,055 and is located in ~~the~~ eastern part of Tokyo. It only takes 15 minutes ~~mins~~ to get there from Shinjuku Station if you take the express train. If you have time, look up Chofu City on a map and look at the city boundaries. The shape of the city looks like ~~an~~ the upper body of the Statue of Liberty.

Chofu is famous for *Gegege no Kitaro*, ~~which is an old animation~~ animated series created by Shigeru Mizuki. The animation is about a monster, a ~~and~~ ghost family and their friends. There are lots of *Gegege no Kitaro* characters statues along the main street and a souvenir shop that sells character goods. There is also a morning TV drama ~~which is about~~ the life of Shigeru Mizuki's wife. *Gegege no Kitaro's* manga artist's wife's life story. ~~When it was~~ broadcasted a few years ago ~~and~~, the drama became popular, and so has Chofu city. Now, Chofu station uses the music from the TV drama every time the train doors close, and there are many sightseers in the city because of the drama and the cartoon.

~~Other~~ Another famous thing in Chofu is the fireworks festival. This year it was in October, but it usually takes place in August, near Kokuryo station ~~in~~ August. Many people come and see the fireworks, and although it is very crowded, ~~though~~ it is worth going to see ~~it~~! ~~We~~ You can see the fireworks so from very close since the shooting point launch pad is just across the river. The finale of the festival is breathtaking! You can't take your eyes off the sky even if your neck starts to hurt.

One thing I don't like about the city is that the last train from the center of Tokyo ~~finishes~~ leaves really early. But I have heard that the Keio line, which runs from Shinjuku, have announced that they will change the timetable from February. So, I hope more trains will run to Chofu after 12:00 a.m. from February.

Teacher's Comments: Your essay does a good job telling the basics about your city, such as how many people live there, where it is located and how to get there. Plus, it was interesting to read about the shape of the city (I looked it up in Google Maps. You're right, it does look a bit like the Statue of Liberty!).

You explained well some things that Chofu is famous for, which made the essay engaging. I like that you added some things to be aware of, like large crowds at the festival, and trains that stop running at an early time. Be careful when using articles (a/an/the) before nouns, and be sure to use the proper ones. "The" is for a

Comment [e1]: East of Tokyo means outside of Tokyo, to the east.

Comment [e2]: An even simpler and more natural sentence is, "It is only 15 minutes from Shinjuku Station by express train."

Comment [e3]: The Statue of Liberty has only one upper body, so use "the" here.

Comment [e4]: By using his name here, you can write a much simpler sentence about the other show later.

Comment [e5]: What is her name?

Comment [e6]: There is a lot of information in this section. It is better to break it into a few simple sentences instead of one long, complicated one. Also, I am uncertain about the meaning of this last phrase, "so as Chofu city."

Comment [e7]: If you are talking about one other thing, use "another." If there is more than one, use "other" or "some other."

Comment [e8]: The order is better earlier in the sentence.

Comment [e9]: Use the base verb (see) after "going to," never the -ing form (seeing)

Comment [e10]: Use "The last train leaves," or "the train service finishes/stops."

Comment [e11]: Use "have heard" here because it is in the recent past.

Comment [e12]: Also recent past, so use "have announced."

Comment [e13]: Use "will run" because the service hasn't changed yet

Comment [e14]: It's better to remind the reader where (Chofu) and when (February) so they don't finish the essay confused about what's going on with the trains.

specific item (“I want *the* black cat with white feet in the window,” refers to one specific cat); “a” or “an” is for any one of a group or set (“I want *a* cat,” can mean any cat).

Your writing is quite strong, but I would recommend that you spend some time reading American newspapers or magazines to get a more natural flow to your writing. It will help you with your word order and word choices.

Overall, great job on a very interesting essay! Next time I’m in Chofu I’ll be looking for *Gegege no Kitaro* characters.

黒・・・生徒が書いた文章
取消線・・・先生が削除した文章
赤色・・・先生が追加した文章
青色・・・先生のアドバイス
緑・・・先生のコメント