
From the Selected Works of Everett N K Ofori

September 15, 2013

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Everett N K Ofori



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Writing Showcase

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When you are seldom the chosen one, you've got to learn to choose yourself.

- Everett Ofori (Editor)

September 15, 2013 Vol 5 No 5

The Two-Handed Mouth

Some people find it easy to write. Words just tumble out of them and line up in perfect syntax. For others, every single word has to be squeezed out as though coming from a tube of hardened glue.

One way to unclog the tube of rhetoric is to consider matters from two sides - pros and cons, advantages and disadvantages, the good and the bad.

This habit of thinking, in dual or multi-faceted terms, is good training and forces you to "see," to perceive things that you may not have considered before. In particular, when you challenge yourself to come up with a number of positive points as against the same number of negative points about a person, place, or issue, you force your mind into overdrive.

It may take time to get all the points you need, but once you have, say, three points for and three points against on an issue, expanding upon them with examples, stories, or anecdotes, makes it likely that you will fill several pages before you are done.

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Need to write about your city? No doubt, there are many things you love about it: the transportation system, the food, the people.

Could there also be a few things that you are not so thrilled about? Littering? Bad driving? Lack of street lights in some places?

Considering both sides of an issue makes you come across as a credible writer, as someone who is willing to think impartially and to see with clarity the other side of an issue that others simply refuse to see.

The Two-Handed Mouth considers the two sides of an issue. It is not the same, however, as speaking out of both sides of your mouth!

See the difference?

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First Hospital Job: Scripps Memorial Hospital

At 19, there were few jobs open to me that offered security, a nice health benefits package, and a decent hourly wage. I was getting tired of working as a bus boy and decided to search out local hospitals in San Diego, California.

At the time, one of my sisters was a registered dietician, the other a geneticist, and one of my older brothers had recently graduated medical school. Yet, I had absolutely no idea what happened inside of hospitals, except for the obvious...



Dr. Simon Downes
(Psychologist/Corporate
Trainer)
Tokyo, Japan

Although I became quite adept at washing dishes, I was best at mopping the floors. I remember my mopping teacher, "Carlos." He was absolutely fantastic with a mop. I am not joking; to be a good mopper takes amazing skill and a very strong back...how fast can YOU mop an entire hospital ward floor?



I was hired as a dietary assistant. I thought I would be helping to plan and prepare food for patients (and get free food!), perhaps even visit them on the wards. On my first day, however, I received the tool I would become most familiar with over the next year and a half -- my mop!

The closest I ever got to having any medical experience was taking dares to run down to the morgue, and step in for a moment. There were three of us on each shift. Each time we were dared, one of us ran down, and attempted the challenge...I think I got the closest. I pushed down hard on the big metal bar, saw it creak open, (closed my eyes) felt the rush of cold air, and turned and ran as fast as I could in the opposite direction.

*Writing
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Everett Ofori, MBA

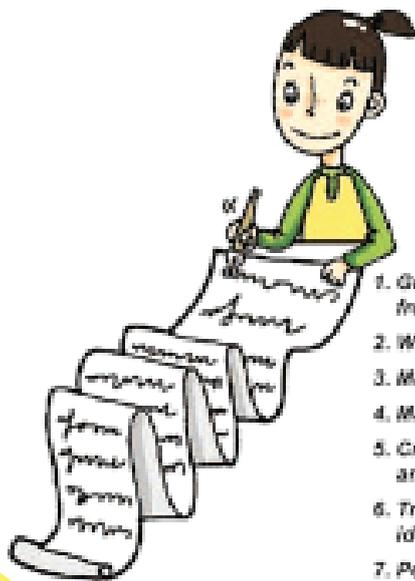
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What is “Omotenashi”... in Japan?

The Tokyo Olympic Games will be held in 2020. In September this year, Tokyo competed against Istanbul and Madrid for the honor of hosting the Olympics. The female presenter from Japan, Christel Takigawa, speaking in French, made her appeal based on the Japanese notion of “Omotenashi.” Fortunately, her presentation was well received by the audience.

By the way, if the word, “Omotenashi,” is translated into English, it will be “hospitality.” Also, another meaning for “Omotenashi” is when people treat and take care of guests like family, without a two-faced mind, and do not request a reward. “Omotenashi” seems like one of the most beautiful welcoming styles in Japan. However, if we behave too much along the lines of “Omotenashi,” we might not have a good relationship with foreign people when the Olympic Games are held. We have to be careful about how we communicate with people from other countries or cultural backgrounds.

I have some examples from my encounter with foreign people. In recent years, three foreign people have stayed in our home as homestays. Though they were interested in Japan and had an opportunity to stay in a Japanese home, I wonder why we could not have good communication. It was so sad for us. They wanted to improve their Japanese language, and seemed interested in the Japanese lifestyle. Therefore, we introduced



Mutsumi Matsugu
(Japanese Language
Instructor)
Tokyo, Japan

many elements of Japanese lifestyle to them and tried to communicate with them the best way we could. However, some of them totally ignored our hospitality, and they did not contact us anymore after they went back to their country. We were disappointed with their behavior.

I do not think all foreign people lack interest in Japan. In the upcoming games, their main purpose may be to cheer their country in the Olympic Games. Some of them might ignore Japanese culture and society even if they come to Japan. Even if we express our “Omotenashi,” some foreigners might still look down on our behavior. What may seem a common mode of communication in Japan may not necessarily meet others’ approval.

Foreign tourists might be important guests in Japan, however, we have to keep in mind the idea of sharing equally with them. If our society is globalized in the near future, we will pursue mutual understanding with foreign people.

The stage of the Olympic Games will be a precious chance for us to share and understand other countries. With “Omotenashi,” we will make an effort to communicate, understand and share with foreign people well.

Writing Showcase



Tomohiro Yoshida
(Research scientist)
Tsukuba, Japan

Your Very Presence is Enough

Can you always express your appreciation for the people around you -- family, friends, or colleagues? Unfortunately, I spend my days often forgetting to express my appreciation for them. It is because I take their presence for granted. I spend my daily life with these people without seeing any change, and I think that this kind of changeless life will go on and on. Of course, I say a word of thanks to them when they do something for me or they help me. But this doesn't happen every day. Therefore, I often miss the chance to express my appreciation for them in regular life.

However, it's wrong to assume that the presence of one's friends or family is eternal and that you can say thanks to them any day. Three years ago, one of my friends was suddenly admitted to hospital. He was diagnosed with leukemia following a medical test. It was a very shocking announcement. I remember literally crumpling down when I heard it. He was in the hospital for about four

months and I visited him several times. At that time, I realized from the bottom of my heart that his presence was very precious.

I wanted to spend more time with him. Fortunately, he made a complete recovery from the disease. Now, I work with him and we spend daily life as if nothing had happened. Shortly after he came back to work, all of us certainly appreciated working with him again. But we gradually forget such emotions as time passes. Recently, I often forget even the fact he had suffered from a serious disease. I have found that I unconsciously take his presence for granted as before.

As long as we have the ability to "forget," such an emotional change, that is, pushing aside what once seemed so important, can't be helped. Yet, I consider it wonderful that I sometimes remember the emotions connected to the time when my colleague struggled against leukemia, and express my appreciation for his survival and existence.

Furthermore, it is even more wonderful if I can adapt such a way of thinking to all people around me. As in the case of my friend, one day, the circumstances surrounding us may dramatically change due to various reasons like job change, accident, disaster, and so on. Wondering about this makes me realize that I should always express my appreciation for everyone when I can. Now or never.

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The Changing Japanese Woman:

From Yamatonadeshiko to YamatonadeGucci

大和なでしこからYamatonadeGucci



Everett Ofori

NEW RELEASE!!!
Check it out.

The Changing Japanese Woman is a playful book but it captures one of the most important social changes in Japanese society: the embracing of Western values and the apparent loss of *some* traditional Japanese values.

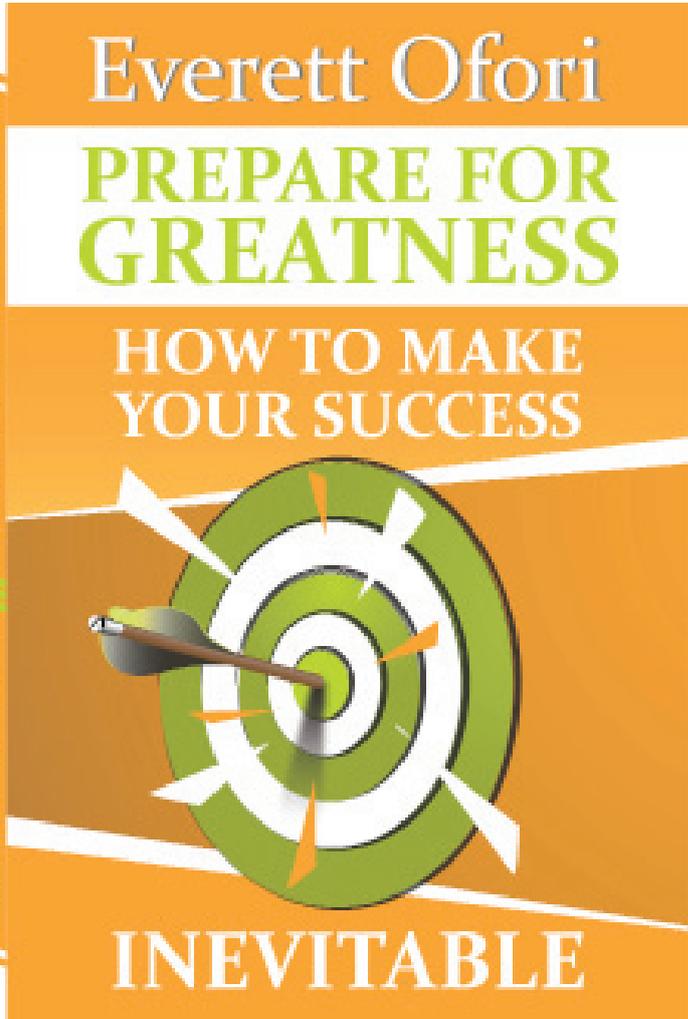
Read *The Changing Japanese Woman: From Yamatonadeshiko to YamatonadeGucci* and decide for yourself whether Japanese women are still wedded to the nostalgic values of yesteryear or the excitement and possibilities of the modern era.

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Reprint / Release 2013:
Check it out!!!



A wise person does not seek to learn everything in life through direct experience. While we are often enriched by our experiences, good and bad, there are times when we profit most from learning from others. Through the experiences of others, we can chart a better course through life by avoiding the clear and present dangers that others have marked out. We can also keep our eyes on the markers of success that have been placed along life's highway so that we do not get lost on bypaths and deadends. Pick up powerful personal and professional insights from *Prepare for Greatness: How to Make Your Success Inevitable*.

Contributors include Nobel Prize winners, fortune 500 CEOs, Award-winning writers and artists, psychologists, and entrepreneurs. Prepare for your own Greatness!!!

This newsletter offers an opportunity for English learners around the world to share their thoughts and experiences and get some writing practice in the process. In many areas of life, most people would readily agree that quality is more important than quantity. This is no less true when it comes to writing. To get to the point where you can produce quality writing on a consistent basis, however, you may have to get into the habit of writing regularly knowing that much of what you produce might win no prizes for excellence. As you keep on writing and thinking, however, who knows what hidden gems might emerge?

Writing Showcase is published on a bimonthly basis (every two months). If you are interested in contributing to it, please contact the editor, Everett Ofori.



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#3	May 15	April 30, 2013
#4	July 15	June 30, 2013
#5	September 15	August 31, 2013
#6	November 15	October 31, 2013

* Maximum number of words = 300 (exceptions occasionally made)