

Second Essay

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Q1.

The two keywords I would use for the city of Akihabara would be Technology and Fandom. The reason for Technology is that there are a large influx of software/hardware enthusiasts and many shops to cater to these computer otakus. An example would be the man who had been buying the newest and best computer equipment in order to overclock his computer and break the world record. This shows that this city has many technology shops aimed for people who want the best. Another example would be the more hardware focused okakus. Akihabara has many electronic part shops and appliance shops with very original, unique and rare parts. A good example would be the antique appliances store that had been showcased. It was said to harbor stuff such as black rotary phones and other rare objects these days. Another example would be the electronic parts shop that was shown, and that even a boy had been buying parts from it. I think it is interesting that even the younger generation of the city had been enthusiastic about technology.

The reason my other keyword is Fandom is that Akihabara is the city of fanatics for many different subjects. There are computer, anime, manga, maid, moe, etc enthusiasts who flock to the city. An example of one of these otakus would be the guy who had a bunch of anime girls on his walls, shelves and even pillows. The guy could also name every single one of the anime girls that he owned. The city of Akihabara seems to feed off of these obsessive fans. An example of this would be the store that the guy went to to buy more anime girl stuff. The store was filled with moe anime girl pillows, figurines and other stuff like that. Another example was the guy who was making the video game series that had become famous in Akihabara. He started off

with nothing but soon enough through the gaming otaku culture of Akihabara his video game series took off.

Q2.

I believe there are several factors that create the positive and negative attitudes towards the very unique and interesting city of Akihabara. Firstly would be the inhabitants of the city. Now, not all of them are crazy otakus however there are many obsessive fans who flock to this city. I believe that the generally opinion of these otakus is negative, that people seem them as really awkward and creepy. I believe this gives the city a sense that there are many weird people who go there. Now a positive factor would be the immense stock of unique, old and new items of thousands of different subjects. There is everything for people who love trains, animes, computers, etc.

I believe because of the otaku culture the city has brought a high demand for the best stock for many different types of fans. A good example of the unique stores and items would be the electronics parts shop that was owned by the older man. The customers had said that the shop had many unique and rare parts that were perfect for certain projects. This is why I believe that Akihabara draws not only otakus but also just collectors or normal fans of the many different topics that they offer. I believe this makes Akihabara not just a weird city but also a city for everyone interested in a wide range of topics. Now another thing that I think makes the city look more strange would be the many maid cafes. From the outside it looks like a bunch of weird guys going to these places. I think this makes the general opinion of Akihabara lower, However, after watching the video I noticed that there may be some weird guys who go there, but it's also a

generally positive place that even women or couples go to. An example of this would be the girl who ended up getting a job at the maid cafe because the people there were very nice to her. So I think that if people gave Akihabara a chance they would find it to be a generally positive place.

Q3

If I had to promote the attractions of Akihabara to people who had no idea about it I would do several things. Firstly, I would explain the large variety of cafes. There are many of different kinds that have something for everyone. The places like maid cafes are something you really don't find anywhere else. I would also promote the anime, manga and video game culture of Akihabara. The city already attracts fans of these genres and many people even in the United States are interested in anime and manga. I also believe that fans of video gaming would also find this city entertaining as there are many stores and other areas where you can find everything related to video gaming.

This same concept applies to anime or manga. So if someone was a fan of a certain one, they would be sure to find everything related to it in Akihabara no matter how unknown it is. Now besides these genres I would promote the vast amount of stuff for those who were interested in technology such as computers, trains, electronics, etc. The city has everything a fan of technology old and new would enjoy. An example of old technology would be that antique electronics store. At that store you can find many old and rare pieces. As for new technology a good example of that would be the computer store that the 'overclocker' had went to. Through this new computer technology he beat the world record for fastest computer at the time. Old or

new, a fan or not, Akihabara is an interesting city to visit with many unique places to see and items to buy.