

Hello. January was fun, but kind of an emotional month for me. I'm not going to talk about all the details, I just had some big troubles with my host family. Basically, they were all caused by miscommunication. While studying abroad, many people have issues with relationships, I was not an exception. We are working to make everything better now. It feels like talking to people who want to help you is the most important thing. Obviously, nobody wants to have issues, but I learned a lot through it.

## Football

Football is the most popular sport in the United States. The season for the college football 2023 had lasted since August 26 to January 8th. After the week of 15, which was Dec. 4-10, the tournament started. Since my host dad is a fan of University of Michigan and so am I, we were so glad when they won all the games and was able to play at the playoffs. As a result, U of M won the first place, the national championship. I truly thanked that I came to Michigan the year of 2023. I was grateful for being able to watch their game in person at least once. My host dad was like "I have to keep you so that they can win next year too." The thing that surprised me the most was the price of the tickets. For the championship game, even though it was a college game, the quite cheap options were like 2,000 dollars, which is approximately 280,000 yen. I don't remember exactly how much it was, you could spend pretty much your whole salary of a year or maybe more. Michigan possesses one NFL football team; the Detroit Lions. According to my host dad, they had been doing so badly. But this year, they were so close to the championship. They lost a game at the tournament but if they had not, they would have gotten to play at the Super Bowl. It's in February. I don't support either team, I am watching the games because it is going to be a huge game. My church is having a Super Bowl party.

## Presentation of my country

I did a presentation about Japan in my class. This is the thing that I worked so hard on during January. Since I was very inspired by knowing other students who are studying abroad are starting to share their own culture from the report, I desired to share about my country too. Also, I recognized how great my country is and I'm so proud of it through tons of experiences. My school is a small school, so it was not that hard to get time for the presentation. I asked if I could have one class hour for it, and my history teacher willingly consented. I prepared some questions and a game so that everyone could be interested in Japan. For the game I brought chopsticks and beans, let everyone to transfer the beans from plate to plate. All of my classmates told me that they really enjoyed it, and it made me delighted. I utilized all the skills I learned from the presentation class in Japan. All went well, it was a good experience.