

I hated the "jobs" so I created my own in Japan

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By Craig Desorcy

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I was having such a hard time working for English schools in Japan like so many others. From being made to sell over-priced text books to students, not having sufficient time to prepare lessons, having students put in my advanced classes with-out being able to say I like pizza in English, etc...

After three years teaching in Japan I entered management and what an eye opener that was! Besides being expected to work 70 to 80 hours a week, I was also expected to hire, and train teachers which is fine but after a new teacher starts and sees what's going on they turn to me! What can I do? The real ball was not in my hands and it hurt because the new teachers trusted me and counted on me not to take advantage of them. After being in Japan for three years I just about had it when a friend suggested I start my own school.

To make a long story short, that's what I did and it's been the BEST!

In Japan you do not need any special business certificates to open a school.

I started in my home and a year later opened up a business location. Sure you need to pay your tax but so what! It's a small price to pay to be free!

Now I can make all my own ESL games, lesson plans, etc. I never put beginner students in advanced classes and I do not charge students outrageous fees to join my school.

If you don't know, many schools charge anywhere from 100 to 300 dollars (Just using dollars as an example) to enter the school system. What's this money for? Who knows! That always bothered me.

If you plan to stay in Japan for a while and don't like the teacher situation at the J.O.B. get out there and make your own job.

To your Success.

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Craig Desorcy

Craig@teaching-in-japan.com

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Craig Desorcy is an ESL teacher in Japan teaching English at his own school for the past five years. He is also the Author of "The Super Teaching in Japan Handbook" which can be found at www.teaching-in-japan.com

Where Are The Facts About Outsourcing

By Jonathon Hardcastle

Outsourcing of jobs to offshore companies has been a hot-button issue since the 1960s when the United States began losing automotive manufacturing jobs to Japan. In recent years, the outsourcing of technical jobs has revived the debate which became one of the top issues in the 2004 presidential campaign. However, actual facts and statistics about the effect of outsourcing on the American economy are hard to come by. Rhetoric, not facts, dominate the discussion of whether outsourcing has an effect on the economy.

There is a serious dichotomy between the beliefs of average Americans and those of economists and other experts. For example, a Zogby International Poll showed that 71% of Americans believe that outsourcing hurts the economy but when the Wall Street Journal asked the same question of economists, only 15% felt that outsourcing had a negative effect.

Opinions on outsourcing tend to be divided by economic status rather than political persuasion. For example, some Republicans in the House and Senate believe that outsourcing has a terrible effect on the economy and that legislation should be enacted to stop it. However, conservative think tanks like the Heritage Foundation and Republicans with ties to big business believe that the threat of outsourcing has been over exaggerated.

Liberals are also divided about outsourcing. The Democratic party has traditionally been the party of labor in the United States but it was a Democratic president, Bill Clinton, who shepherded the North American Free Trade Agreement through Congress, a treaty which most experts agree facilitated the current outsourcing trend.

For every argument for outsourcing, there is another argument against it. For example, the Heritage Foundation argues that despite outsourcing more Americans are employed than ever before and that jobs continue to be created to compensate for those lost overseas. Anti-outsourcing advocates point out that gross wages are dropping because the jobs that are being created are low-level service sector jobs, not high-tech jobs to replace the ones that are being lost.

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The Heritage Foundation, citing the Organization for International Investment also argues that for every job outsourced, another is "insourced" to the United States from another country, often at a higher rate of pay than the job lost. Anti-outsourcing advocates say that those numbers can't be accurately verified.

What is clear is that until the federal government conducts accurate research into the effects of outsourcing on the United States economy, there will be no definitive answer one way or the other.

Jonathon Hardcastle writes articles for

– In addition, Jonathon also writes

articles for

and



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