

# Turning High School Students' Aspiration into Action

## Reflecting on the Realities of High School Students Engaging in Social Activities - Through Student Case Studies -

### The Meaning of Students Action

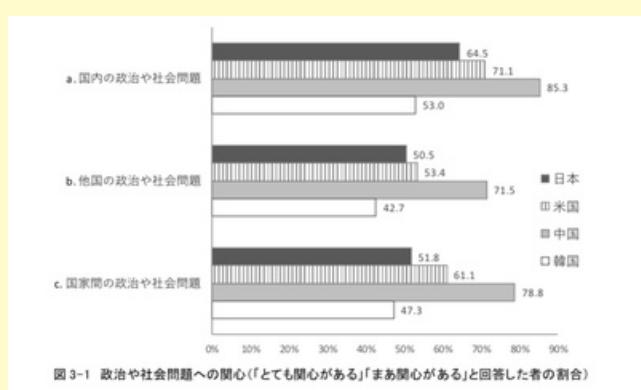
- 1. Fostering Active Citizenship  
Embracing social issues as personal concerns
- 2. Practical Learning  
Applying school learning to future endeavors
- 3. Contributing to the Community  
Creating new value for the community through young perspectives and initiative

### Research Objectives

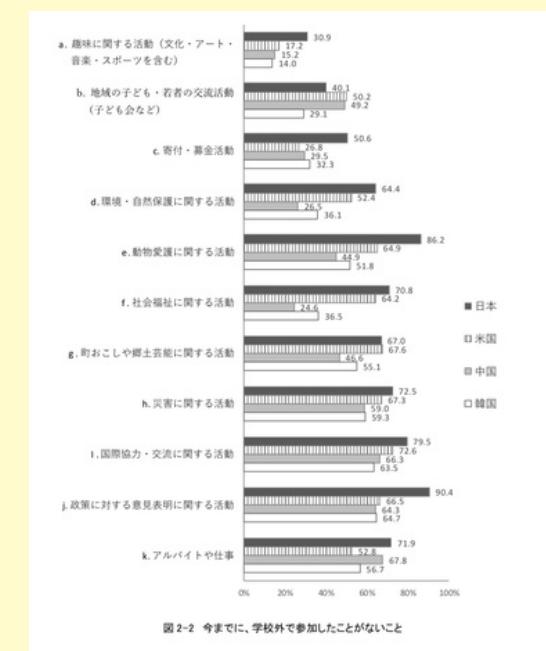
Structure the activities of high school students actively engaged in society and clarify the mechanisms that lead to action.

### The Current Situation

Comparing the two graphs reveals a gap: while over 50% of respondents cited social issues as a concern, the percentage of those who actually participated was low



"高校生の社会参加に関する意識調査報告書 - 日本・米国・中国・韓国の比較 - Interest in politics and social issues" <https://www.niye.go.jp/pdf/33Page12/16>



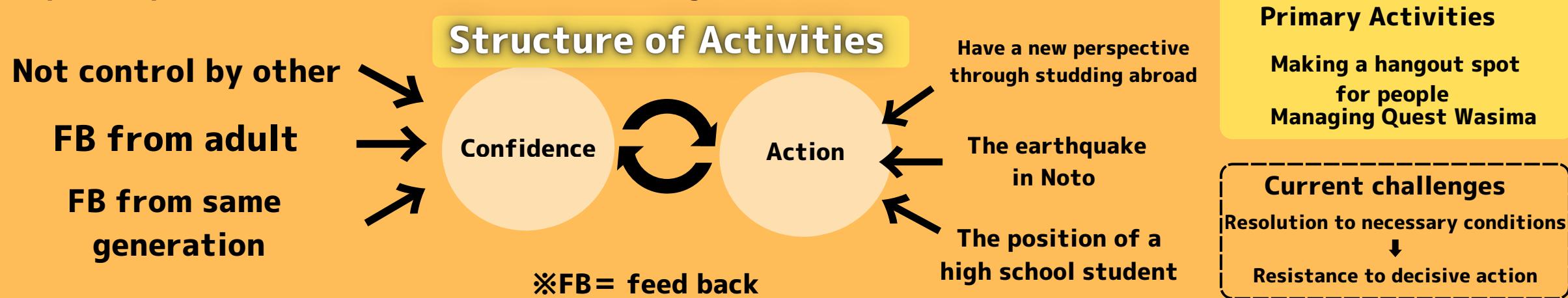
"高校生の社会参加に関する意識調査報告書 - 日本・米国・中国・韓国の比較 - Interest in politics and social issues" <https://www.niye.go.jp/pdf/21Page12/16>

cause of this situation is maybe lack of confidence?

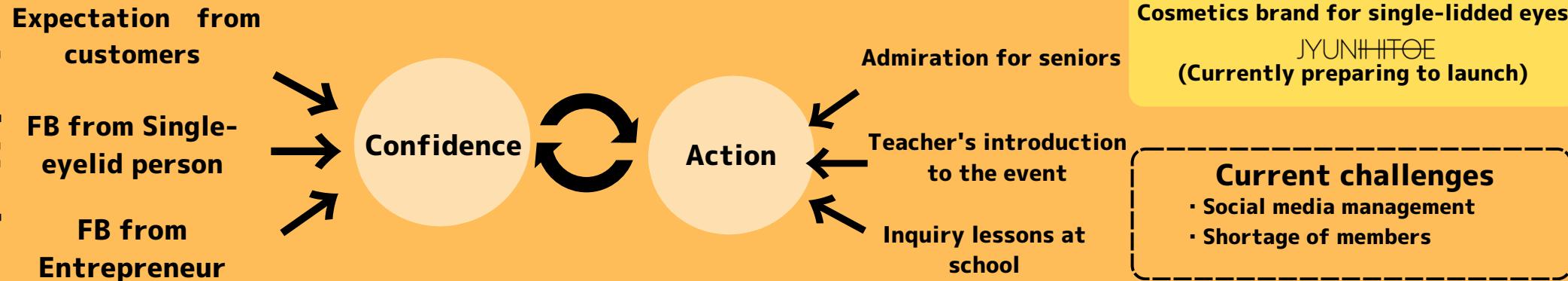
### Examples of high school students actually engaged in activities

Teruhito Nakamura(Noto)

Age: 19  
High School: Attending Wajima High School (3rd year)  
High School Interruption/Leave of Absence: Took a leave of absence during her second year of high school (March 2021)  
Overseas Experience: During her leave of absence, she traveled to Australia (Brisbane) and gained work experience at local cafes and similar establishments (a working holiday-style stay)  
Return to School/Current Status: Returned to school in April 2025 to join the third-year class. He has also expressed her intention to "focus primarily on reconstruction activities rather than graduation."



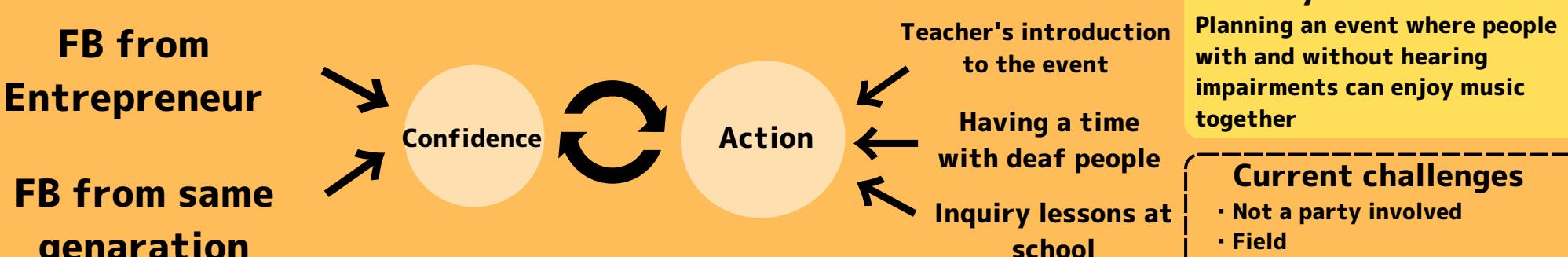
Juri Noda



Age: 17  
High School: Meijo University High School, 2nd year  
Entrepreneurship: As the representative of JYUNIHITO, currently challenging business ventures based at STATIONAI, an open innovation facility in the Tsuruma district of Nagoya City.



Julian Pensak



Age: 17  
High School: Meijo University High School, 2nd Year  
Research: Currently researching the theme "How to Enjoy Music with Hearing Impairment"



### Conclusion

A common characteristic among the three is that they engage with diverse social environments through active participation in extracurricular activities, utilizing feedback and insights from varied others to shape their self-identity. Meanwhile, while Mr. Nakamura acts proactively, involving others around him based on his own desires, the other two primarily act out of a desire to contribute to others. Consequently, the threshold for taking action appears relatively higher for them. Therefore, it can be concluded that the factor transforming high school students' "desire to do" into "ability to do" lies in their capacity to construct actions centered on their own intrinsic motivation while engaging others.