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## **Anime; An Illinois Wesleyan Culture Club**

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Poster Presentation P57

**ANIME; AN ILLINOIS WESLEYAN CULTURE CLUB**

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Using visual ethnography, this poster presentation is a means to educate people about the unique characteristics of the IWU Anime Club. This research focuses on how Anime unites Club members through activities that allow them to bond with each other as well as express their individuality. One of these activities is *Cosplay* or “costume play,” in which participants outfit themselves in costumes and accessories worn by specific anime characters. As anime becomes more integrated into mainstream American culture, Anime Club members share their enjoyment of anime through *Cosplay* events as well as bi-monthly anime film screenings that are open to the entire IWU student body. New members are always welcome to join in. The research highlights how members of the IWU Anime Club express a unique sense of self-identity through a specific type of media that they enjoy.