**Journal Reflection 8: What is Service?**  
The article “To Hell with Good Intentions” discusses the relation  
between America and Mexico and I think what the “good” thing is. The  
American people want to do “good” things for Mexican people, but it  
means just American people press their values and it is useless for  
Mexicans. For example, when the Tohoku Earthquake happened, many aid  
supplies were sent to the disaster victims. However, I heard the victims  
had trouble due to some aid supplies, such as the frozen food, because they  
did not have a refrigerator in that time. Therefore, I believe, when people  
send some stuff to disaster areas, they should think what stuff the victims  
need. People should not decide the “good” thing for the victims.  
  
In the class, we discussed the difference among “service, helping and  
volunteering” One student talked about the problem and it was impressive  
for me. He said, “We, Japanese students, sometimes see the flyers which  
say to recruit volunteers abroad. The impression of ‘volunteering’ is  
different from Japanese and other countries’ people so it may cause  
serious gap between them.” I think it is true.  
  
In my perspective, Japanese students do ‘volunteering’ to get an extra  
grade in their class and have a good experience. Thus, the purpose is  
sometimes selfish. Besides, they tend to decide to join the volunteering or  
not by the activities. On the other hand, “service” is different.  
First, people want to provide a service for someone. So the purpose is  
right. Second, they search what he/she wants to be offered. Then they  
actually provide him/her with their service. Therefore, volunteers tend to  
do volunteering for some wrong reasons. However, in service, first people  
think “I want to do something for someone.”  
  
Finally, I was a discussion leader in this class. Before the class, the  
discussion leaders gathered and made some questions. It was hard for me  
because I had to understand whole articles. However, it was a good  
experience for me. In the class, I wanted everyone, particularly Japanese  
students, to say their opinions but it was difficult. I realize that  
students’ participation is essential to make the discussion successful.  
So, usually I say my opinion in the class, but now I’ll try speaking even  
more actively in the discussion.