**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.