

## ***Integrative Essay (25% of course grade)***

**Why do Japanese efforts to achieve environmental sustainability matter?** As you answer this prompt, I intend for you to integrate what you learn from the assigned readings with what you learn from our site visits, guest speakers, your field notes (and those from other teams), and our class discussions. Focus on one or two of the specific issue areas encountered in the course (e.g., natural resources, food and agriculture, energy), but situate them in the larger context. In order to fully answer the prompt, you should explain:

- (1) the current status of relevant environmental indicators in Japan,
- (2) the historical causes of that status, and
- (3) the consequences for people inside and outside of Japan.

As you make your argument: Identify points of consensus and areas for debate. Be specific about who has/has had agency to affect environmental sustainability, and how agency varies over time and place. Embrace the complexity you encounter in this course, noting unexpected connections and inconsistencies, large-scale processes and contingent factors, firm constraints and fluid possibilities.

Complete reflective journal entries and field notes assignments give you space and time to gather ideas for this essay. You should not need to do any additional research or reading as you write. Rather, you'll use this paper to reflect on and synthesize your learning over the entire class.