*This is a graded essay as a part of this course. You must complete this assignment by September 14. You have 60 minutes to complete this essay, but you are not required to use the whole time if you have done quality work. You will be cut off and submitted at the end of the 60 minutes, so please watch the timer and save your work/answer frequently. In addition to completing this essay as a part of this course, you will be asked on the next screen to allow your blinded submission to be used as part of a research study. This will require no extra work on your part other than reading and selecting “Yes, I consent” on the next screen. Please answer the question to the best of your ability and reenter and complete the essay if technological issues arise. You may inform the instructor via email after completing the essay if such a situation occurs.*

*The UW Oshkosh Senior SoTL Scholars for 2013-2014 – William Wresch, Jennifer Wenner, and Robert Sipes - are conducting a study to investigate the differences between student learning regarding the signature questions during several Quest 1 courses of the new University Studies Program. We would appreciate your participation in this research study, as it will assist us in understanding the success of the USP implementation.*

*As a part of this class, you have been asked to complete a brief online essay assignment as a graded component of your course at both the beginning (September 4-14) and end of the course (December 1-10). The essays must be completed for the course, and we are simply asking for your essays to be released to us –without any identifiers attached to you – after the completion of the course. The essay assignment should take approximately 40-60 minutes to complete and we ask you to select the consent button below in order to participate in the research study.*

*We do not anticipate that the study will present any risk to you, as your essay(s) will have all names and any identifiers removed by your course instructor before being collected for analysis in this study. Your decision to participate in this study will not affect your status or grade in this course. While the study may not benefit you directly, it will increase the knowledge base on campus and within the field of education.*

*If you have any questions prior to completion of this consent question and essay assignment, please contact Robert Sipes at* *sipesr@uwosh.edu**, prior to completion of the assignment.*

*If you have any complaints about your treatment as a participant in this study, please call or write:*

*Chair, Institutional Review Board*

*For Protection of Human Participants*

*c/o Grants Office*

*UW Oshkosh*

*Oshkosh, WI 54901*

*920-424-1415*

*Although the chairperson may ask for your name, all complaints are kept in confidence.*

*By select “Yes, I consent” below, you are agreeing that you have received an explanation of the study and agree to participate by allowing the researchers access to your blinded essay assignments at the completion of the semester.*

**Essay on Sustainability:**

Write a brief essay (2-4 paragraphs) detailing your perception of what Wisconsin would ideally look like in 15 years if everyone applied the principles of sustainability to his or her choices during that time frame. In your essay, you should address the following questions/points:

* What is your definition of sustainability?
* What are the key changes that you would expect to see in 15 years?
* How does each of the three factors of sustainability integrate into these changes?
* What role will you personally play in the next 15 years?
* What issues or conflicts may arise that could negatively impact this process?