**Why NYU ESSAY**

**We would like to know more about your interest in NYU. What motivated you to apply to NYU? Why have you applied or expressed interest in a particular campus, school, college, program, and or area of study? If you have applied to more than one, please also tell us why you are interested in these additional areas of study or campuses. We want to understand - Why NYU? (400 word maximum) \***

I stood wide-eyed in front of the kaleidoscopic display of metal containers lining against the wall.

*Red. Orange. Green. Blue.*

It was a scorching day in the Shibuya Station, and never was I more prompted to make a decision over which recycling bin deserves the empty can of *Geinmacha* I was holding. It wasn’t later in the trip I realized that the Japanese take their recycling seriously (contrasting to that of Indonesians), color-coding them into four categories: Combustible, Incombustible, Recyclable, and Oversized. Moreover, their sophisticated waste management systems stem from the Japanese expression *“monttanai”* which loosely means 'wasteful' but in its full sense conveys a feeling of awe and appreciation for the gifts of nature or the sincere conduct of other people.

It wasn’t long after that I started applying the “monttanai” principle to all aspects of my life–whether it involves being the sole recipient of my family’s hand-down electronic products or repackaging leftover dinner meals to the nearby local shelter. As the fastest-growing university for green initiatives, NYU is the ideal place where I can further cultivate *monttanai* in a much more practical and larger setting. Having spearheaded several recycling projects and business seminars on sustainable waste management, my experience, and scope of impact with regard to environmental issues are limited to the local scene. However, an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies, in conjunction with NYU’s Study Abroad Program, can help me adopt a broader view on the intersection between political considerations, public policy, and environmental challenges that stem beyond the Indonesian or the New York community. Whether this means embarking on a waste management expedition with NYU Earth Matters in Washington Square Park or grappling with larger environmental concepts with partner firms through Stern Net Impact’s consulting team, I am excited to be a part of a student body that promotes social impact to surrounding communities.  From pursuing the major’s internship course to participating in NYU’s annual Green Grant initiative, I look forward to interacting with faculty such as Professor Jennifer Jacquet and professionals through a university that prioritizes green, sustainable behavior. Perhaps in the midst of all, I am constantly curating an eco-friendly closet to sell during NYU’s semesterly Waste Expo Fair or drafting a personal memorandum post a Green Zone training over Zoom. In NYU, where people and green converge, it turns out, I need not look far to seek out *monttanai*.