Handout M1

Name _

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Samurai Life in Medieval Japan: Directions

You have been hired by a major filmmaker to help with a U.S. movie on Medieval Japan. Major Hollywood stars are joining famous Japanese stars to work on this film. You have been hired because you know about the military governments of Kamakura, Muromachi, and Momoyama Japan. Thus, your knowledge will help create a film that does not stereotype Japanese culture. Too many Hollywood movies have simplified and stereotyped the warrior culture.

You have been asked to provide background information so the screenplay writers can create characters that represent the many aspects of warrior life in each time period. You need to explain the everyday life of a warrior in one of the periods. What would be the concerns and interests of a samurai and the *daimyo* to whom he owed his allegiance? What events would the person need to be prepared for? Handout 2 will provide historical background and links to art and literature that will be useful in completing your task. You should work through the entire handout so you understand the differences between the Kamakura, Muromachi, and Momoyama periods.

Your job is very important. The screenplay writers are relying on you to inform them about the feudal era. Fill in the information below to be sure you provide all the information they need. You may need to continue your answers on separate sheets of paper.

Medieval time period on which you are focusing:

Who was the shogun during this time? _____

1. Describe the daily life of a samurai.

2. Describe in detail things that a $daimy\bar{o}$ or shogun would worry about. Be sure your list is accurate for the time period in which your warrior lived.

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3. Create a dialog with a *daimyo* on a political issue that might interest the shogun.

4. What would be the most important possession of a samurai at this time? Why?

5. The director of the movie wants the samurai to carry swords and fight all the time. Explain what is wrong with this stereotypical view.

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