This article analyses one aspect of the emerging phenomenon of otaku tourism, which is basically talking about how otakus mainly male otakus travel from different places in Japan. It also talks about how otaku tourism works and how it occurs while also why otakus do this. Before we get started, the first thing I should do is explain what an otaku is for those who don’t know what that is so you don’t get confused. Otaku is a Japanese term used for people with an obsessive interest, which is commonly used for the anime and manga fandom. However this doesn’t mean an otaku can just be an anime or manga fan it’s just mostly used for that, but I digress. The article starts by talking about how in the recent years, the travel behavior of otakus has been increasing scholarly for example Hasegawa and Midorikawa 2005, Masubuchi 2010, Yamamura 2011, Okamoto 2013. It also states that media attention in Japan as a number of municipalities have seen surges in tourism after they featured in or were otherwise somehow connected to a popular anime film or series. It basically saying that most the media believes that most of the tourist are coming to these areas because of the anime series they watch and the manga they read.

It also seems that the recent tourist have been going to places from where the anime movie was made which might be what motivates them to go there. Okamoto also talks about how the two main aims of this article seem to be first to clarify the processes of anime pilgrimage within the broader context of otaku tourism. The second is to study anime pilgrimage (or anime tourism) as one form of otaku tourism and to explore how the travel behaviour of otaku creates new forms of interpersonal links and communication. The article also show that the internet is
having an influence on anime pilgrimage as well and shows a chart of the increase of internet users from 1997 which is the year anime started airing in different countries, to 2010. Okamoto goes on to talk about how otaku tourism affects tradition in Japan. For example he says ‘’In modern society, where tradition or the ‘grand narratives’ established by the community have less power than they used to, one must create values for oneself through one’s own behaviour and choices.’’ There is a change from the modern individual to the reflexive individual. In the next paragraph Okamoto says ‘’With the progression of reflexive modernity, we are being released from the bonds of tradition or community. We freely choose our own lifestyles and have assumed more control over our own behaviour.’’

What I believe he is trying to say is that otakus are going to these places on their own free will not what someone tells them, but I think some people might want to go there because they were influenced by the anime. For example in one anime I watched the characters traveled to Akihabara to buy games, eat at different fast food restaurants, and for the girls buy clothes at clothing stores. Now you can’t always believe everything you see in an anime but just the thought of going and trying some of the things in the anime is enough to want to go. So yeah a otaku or people in general do have a free will over what they want to do but at the same time when they see something that looks interesting to them they immediately want to jump on a plane and go see it.

Also just to clarify this concept doesn’t just apply to anime otakus, because like I said in the first paragraph, an otaku is someone that is obsessed with something and it's not just anime. An otaku could be someone that is obsessed with trying different kinds of food or even seeing different
kinds of cars so they travel to Akihabara to see them. Being an otaku myself I know how it feels to see a place in an anime and think about going there someday, however I know it cost a lot of money so i’m not going to just go there just because I saw it and they anime character talks about how great the place is. I could go there and it’s not really all that great, i’m not saying it wasn’t fun just that it wasn’t everything the anime made it out to be. The same can be said about the food they show in the anime (not ramon because because you can just by that here in the US). Food such as yakisoba noodles, katsudon, dumplings and even some of the candy that they show in the anime can also help with influencing fans to go to these sites just so they can try them, but find out it is not all that good or that they don’t like it.

On page 17 Okamoto ask if otaku tourism the cause of these issues. He them responds with “This article considers whether tourism, and particularly otaku tourism, is a means for resolving the situation described thus far by creating a cycle of encounters with ‘others possessing otherness’”. He then goes on to tell how it is difficult for locals to live their lives without always coming across other tourist. Okamoto also uses some information he got from a Mr. Endo who also hypothesized that tourism has a function of enabling encounters with possessing others theorizes that “the superficial elements of fun and play within tourism are actually important for the construction of the public sphere”. In this sense, Endo describes the public sphere as follows.

“’The public sphere is not a ‘community’ underpinned by common identity where people share similar values. Even if people do not share the same values they are able to enter the public sphere, and even if they do not share the same values with others, they are able to exchange
feelings, opinions and thoughts in an atmosphere of mutual respect. This is the essence of the public sphere’’.

Conclusion:
In my final opinion of this article I think the the title should be the first thing to get changed. Instead of calling it Otaku tourism and the anime pilgrimage phenomenon in Japan, I think it should just be called ‘’The anime pilgrimage phenomenon in Japan’’. The reason is because I believe that this article is more pointed towards anime fans and not otakus in general and an otaku can be someone obsessed with anything though they might be called something else (example: goth, jock, gamer are some good examples to think about just to start with). Also it looks like this only talks about the negative things about tourism not any of the good like, it gives the locals the chance to teach their culture to others and also learn from them.

What I think I did good on this assignment was that I was making my argument as I was typing it. I did this because I was trying to get my point around while also giving more information to the reader like what an otaku is and how it works with different people. One of the difficulties I had with this assignment is that my article had some graphing charts and it made it hard to try to include some of that in this writing. I love anime and other stuff from Japan and I wanted to show the audience that about it and give them a chance to learn about otakus and what some of us are like. By writing this it made me see that I like to write about the one topic I like that being anime and I wanted to also show the audience that they shouldn’t be afraid to stick up for what they like.