



Reflection Activity Options for Students

The reflective activities integrated with the service learning experience are at the discretion of the supervising faculty member. But, note, in order for a course to meet the standards of experiential learning designated by the Elmhurst College Integrated Curriculum (ECIC), the experience must be accompanied by a formal, assessable reflection component, linking classroom learning with experiential learning.

Service learning impacts learning most when both on-going and summative, formal and informal, reflection activities are integrated into the course. Consider the possibilities below for reflection assignments that may be modified to meet a variety of student learning outcomes.

Consider using Discussion Board on Blackboard to prompt reflection throughout the service experience. Every other week, you may post a question on Discussion Board. Once the due date is passed, ask the students to respond to someone else's post.

Remember, the best questions are simple and open ended. For example,

- What did you like best about your service so far?
- What challenges have you faced in your service so far? Did anything make you uncomfortable? Why? How did you reconcile or grow from the challenge or discomfort?
- How have your experiences connected to class readings and/or discussions?
- What is a valuable lesson you learned through your service?
- How have your experiences changed you or your way of thinking?
- Does this experience change your future goals or line of intended work? How?
- Reflect on your values. How does your field experience deepen or change your values?
- What have you given this organization? What has this experience given you?
- Why does this organization exist? How can we eradicate the need for it?

Other suggestions for activities include:

- Interview an on-site worker, volunteer, or client.
- Write a persuasive essay or set of materials to make others aware of the issue and the need for change.
- Research the sources of the issue and come up with possible solutions.
- Make a photo journal/portfolio and share it with classmates as part of a presentation.
- Case studies – either the student can write them or they can respond to ones written by faculty.
- Write a narrative of your experience or of someone you met while serving.
- Write a letter to a government official, political candidate, or agency asking about policies and possible changes.

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