

Step I Worksheet

Service-Learning Student Log: Self-Assessment

The best place to start your service-learning project is with a good look at you! Your project should be something that you care about and something that you will enjoy doing. So it's important that you spend some time asking yourself questions about what's most important to you, what you like to do, when you feel successful, and where your experience has already taken you. The questions below can help you do that. After answering them, put the information together to identify what it means for your service project.

What do you enjoy? In the list below, the three things I most enjoy are: (check those that apply)

- ☐ building or repairing
- ☐ helping the environment
- ☐ increasing public involvement in local issues
- ☐ raising awareness
- ☐ raising money or collecting goods
- ☐ speaking to groups
- ☐ tackling a public issue
- ☐ taking care of property or grounds
- ☐ working outdoors
- ☐ working with animals
- ☐ working with senior citizens
- ☐ working with those less fortunate
- ☐ working with young kids
- ☐ writing

When do you feel successful?

In addition to what you like to do, it's important to look at your talents and strengths. You most likely have many talents that you could offer to your community. Talk with others in your life about the areas in which they think you excel. Then complete the list below.

I think I'm good at:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Others think I'm good at:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What have I done?

Now you should consider experiences you've already had that can help you choose your community service. Below, list the experiences that have prepared you for your role as a service provider.

Putting It All Together

Now that you've recorded what you like to do, when you feel successful, and what experiences you've had, consider how this information might impact the type of service-learning project you'll choose. Share your conclusions with others in your group or class.

Step 2 Worksheet

Service-Learning Student Log: Community Assessment

What do you think about when you hear the word “community?” Service-learning is about identifying a real need in your community, and developing a plan that can help to address it. This student log will help lead you through the process of identifying some of the needs in your community.

1. Describe your community in just one sentence, and share your answer with your group or class. Consider different points of view, and think about whether you can all be right.
2. Now design and conduct a survey about your community that will help you learn the points of view of those outside your group or class. Design your questions in a way that will help you learn what makes others proud of the community and what problems or issues they’d like to see addressed. Try to survey at least five different people, preferably of different ages, genders, job types, or neighborhoods. Share the information you learn with your group or class. What community issues or problems have you uncovered?
3. List three to five things that you’d like to learn about your community, and think about how you might learn the answers. Conduct research to find the answers.
4. Below, write down what you think the needs of your community are, based on your own thoughts, the thoughts of others, and the research you conducted.

Step 3 Worksheet

Service-Learning Student Log: Choose an Issue

The next step in your journey is to identify the community issue, need, or problem that you want to impact. While there are many choices you could make at this stage, it's important that you choose an issue to impact that:

- Somehow touches your life.
- Is a real need in your community.
- Meets the learning goals for your grade or class.
- You will enjoy learning about and impacting.
- Is in your power to change or impact.

Complete the information in the chart below. Once you have finished, use the information to make a decision about the project you will impact.

Community Need/Problem	Is it a real community need? How do you know?	Does it touch my life in some way? How?	Will I enjoy learning about it? Why?	Can I really impact this issue or problem? How?	How might impacting this problem help me meet my learning goals?
#1					
#2					
#3					
#4					
#5					

Based on the information above, I would like to impact the following community problem, need or issue:

Step 4 Worksheet

Service-Learning Student Log: Research

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Knowledge is power?” The more you learn about the problem you’ve chosen, the better able you will be to help solve it. This learning log will help guide your research process, although you’ll continue to find information even after you complete the log. Use these questions to guide your research.

1. In the space below, write what you already know about the community problem or issue you’ve selected.
2. Now write five to 10 questions about the issue to which you would like to learn the answers.
Think about:
 - The history of the problem
 - The current situation
 - What will happen in the future if the problem is not addressed
 - What’s already been done to address it
 - Potential collaborators, or people who can help you find information
 - Possibilities for change

Step 5 Worksheet

Service-Learning Student Log: Create a Plan

Ready? Set? Action!

Now that you've identified your community's need or problem and researched it, it's time to write your service-learning plan!

Step One: The first thing you'll want to do is brainstorm as many ideas as you can for impacting the chosen problem.

Step Two: Choose three of your ideas, and complete the following information:

Ideas	Idea #1	Idea #2	Idea #3
How will it impact the problem?			
How will it impact others in the community?			
How will it connect to my learning goals?			
What resources (transportation, money, collaborators, and time) will I need? Is it feasible?			
Will I enjoy doing it? Does it match my skills, interests, or talents?			

Step Three: Based on your answers above, choose one solution for your service-learning action plan. Then complete the plan sheet below.

Project Plan

1. My/Our Plan is:
2. It addresses our problem by:
3. It meets the following curricular goals:
4. I/we will need the following resources to make it happen.
 - a. Money:
 - b. Transportation:
 - c. Time:
 - d. Collaborators:
5. The specific activities and tasks I/we will need to accomplish are:
6. My/our timeline for implementing the plan is:
7. Challenges we are likely to encounter and how we plan to meet those challenges:
8. We will know our project is successful when:
9. We will keep track of our progress by:

*** Once you finish your plan, present it to someone who is not familiar with it to see if they have questions or ideas for making it better!