

Service Learning

Pre-Service Reflection

In preparation of service, have students think about their service site, the population the site serves, the service they will perform and their expectations for the experience.

Pre-Service Reflection...

- ◇ Starts the learning process before the service learning experience even begins
- ◇ Engages students in thoughtful reflection from the beginning of the service learning experience
- ◇ Helps students become familiar with the site, the population the site serves and the service they will perform
- ◇ Documents students' initial thoughts, feelings and expectations
- ◇ Helps students compare their thoughts pre-service to their thoughts post-service
- ◇ Helps students draw conclusions from their service experience

Pre-Service Reflections can occur through in-class discussions, journal entries, and/or short papers. Groups of students visiting similar sites can be grouped together for in-class discussions. The combination of an in-class discussion and a writing activity typically yields stronger reflections.

Questions & Tasks for Pre-Service Reflection...

- ◇ What is the name of your service site?
- ◇ Where is your site located?
- ◇ What is the mission of your service site?
- ◇ What problem does your service site attempt to solve or improve?
- ◇ How was the problem created/developed?
- ◇ What societal trends does your problem reflect?
- ◇ Why did you choose your particular service site?
- ◇ Describe the population your service site serves.
- ◇ Why is this population in particular effected by the problem?
- ◇ Find five statistics about the population that relates to the course.
- ◇ Describe the population you expect to work with at your site.
- ◇ Describe the work you expect to perform at your service site.
- ◇ What do you expect to be the biggest challenge for you during your service experience?
- ◇ What do you expect to gain from your service experience?