What is reflection?

Analytical reflection is one of the most important aspects of the service-learning experience. The purpose of reflection is to help you develop a deeper understanding of yourself, others, your community, and the world. Reflection helps you relate your service-learning experiences to your classroom course work. Reflection can take on many forms including integrative papers, class presentations, journals, essays, videos, group projects, electronic blogs, art focused projects, class discussions, and others. If you have creative ideas for meaningful reflection, be sure to discuss them with your CSCC instructor/professor.

Reflection Questions:

Pre-Service:

1. What are your expectations for the service-learning project?
2. What do you hope to accomplish?
3. What do you expect to learn?
4. What do you know about the agency where you will be serving? What are its mission and goals?
5. What community needs does the agency address?
6. Why do these needs exist in our community?
7. How do you feel about interacting with people at the agency? Have you had experience interacting with this population before?
8. What are you most nervous/excited about?

During Service:

1. Why does the agency exist?
2. What is your role at the community site?
3. How do you feel about the work you are doing?
4. What difference does your service make to the agency?
5. What difference does your service make to the community?
6. Is this experience what you thought it would be? If no, how does it differ?
7. What are the most difficult or satisfying parts of your work? Why?
8. Be thinking ahead to your post-service reflection.
Post Service:

1. What did you do at the service-learning site?
2. Was your experience what you thought it would be?
3. What was most surprising about your experience?
4. What was most challenging about your experience?
5. How did you deal with being an outsider within the agency? How did being an outsider differ from being an insider?
6. How did you motivate yourself to go to the site when you didn’t feel like it?
7. What did you learn about yourself from this experience?
8. What did you learn about others from this experience?
9. What did you learn from disappointments or successes of the service-learning initiative?
10. How did your experience relate to what you are learning in the classroom?
11. What specific skills did you use at the community site?
12. What new skills did you learn at the community site?
13. Describe a person you’ve encountered in the agency and/or community who made a strong impression on you (positive or negative).
14. What do you think are the greatest benefits of service-learning?
15. What impact did this experience have on you?
16. Has your view of the population with whom you have been working changed? How?
17. How has the environment and social conditions affected the people working at the agency where you volunteered?
18. What institutional structures are in place at the agency where you volunteered? How do they affect the people you worked with?
19. How has the environment and social conditions affected the people served by the agency where you volunteered?
20. Do you believe that your service made a difference? Why or why not?
21. What did you do that seemed effective? What did you do that seemed ineffective?
22. What community problems did you become aware of as a result of your service-learning experience?
23. What can you do about the problems that you encountered?
24. How were your values expressed through your work with the agency?
25. What types of situations made you feel uncomfortable when you were working with the agency and the community? Why was that the case?
26. How did your service-learning experience affect your worldview?
27. Have your career options been expanded by your service-learning experience?
28. How has your opinion of the community changed as result of your service-learning experience?
29. Do you want to continue your involvement with this agency or social issue? If yes, why? If no, why not?
30. Complete this sentence…Because of my service-learning experience, I am…

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