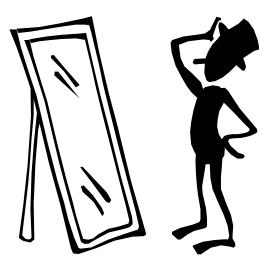
### A Pocket Guide to CELECTION



West Virginia
Department of Education

### A Pocket Guide to REFLECTION

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### **Forward**

This publication is only a starting point for reflection with students participating in service-learning projects. The reflection activities included in this publication are grouped into four categories - speaking, writing, activities, and technology. But the major emphasis is placed on creativity! Hopefully, this publication will be a springboard to many other, different, more creative forms of reflection that are appropriate for students of all ages.

The activities included in this publication were written by K-12 educators throughout West Virginia who are sub-grantees of the Learn & Serve America program. A complete listing of those educators can be found at the back of this publication.

"Levels of reflection" was not a consideration when creating the activities for inclusion in this publication, but several editor's notes have been added that encourage teachers/facilitators to take participating students to higher levels of thinking as they reflect. Many of the activities were written using knowledge/recall levels of thinking. Hopefully, those who use this book will create variations so that students may begin applying, synthesizing, and evaluating their experiences with service-learning.

For more information about this publication contact:

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# SPEAKING



### I Worked on a Service-Project

# Students: 26 or less

**Grade Level:**  $1^{st} - 5^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 15 - 20 minutes

Supplies Needed: none

**Room Arrangement/Set Up:** chairs in a circle

**Special Conditions:** none

### **Description:**

1. Students are seated in a circle in chairs or on the floor.

- 2. Students alphabetically name things they did or felt during the project using one word.
- 3. There should be a repeating of the previous items as the game proceeds.
- 4. The last student has to be able to name all twenty-six items or reactions that were listed by others before.
- 5. (Optional) A discussion will follow in which students are given the opportunity to discuss the words they used in the memory activity.

### **Service Cards**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $3^{rd} - 9^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 20 - 30 minutes

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: index cards, markers

**Room Arrangement/Set Up:** none

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Index cards with the individual letters S-E-R-V-I-C-E on them are provided for the students.
- 2. Each student is given a letter card.
- 3. The student chooses a word that begins with that letter and that also pertains to the service project. The student creates a sentence using that word.
- 4. (Optional) Several teams of students can be formed. Each team is given all the letters and asked to create words that begin with those letters but that also pertain to the service project. They may also be asked to write a story using all the words they chose.

### **Heart and Hand**

# **Students**: 10 - 15

**Grade Level:**  $3^{rd} - 9^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 15 - 20 minutes

Supplies Needed: pre-cut paper body parts (human), tape, heart

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Distribute paper body parts to students.

2. On each part, student will reflect how that body part helped in completing the project (Ex: head = ideas, organizing, etc, hands = building the project, working together, etc.

3. Each student tapes his/her part to the wall until the body is complete.

### Spider's Web

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $K - 12^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 20 - 40 minutes **Supplies Needed:** ball of yarn

Room Arrangements/Set Up: circle

**Special Conditions**: none

- 1. Facilitator reflects on the service project by giving general thoughts or reacting to a specific aspect of the project surprises, concerns, learning opportunities, etc.
- 2. After his/her reflection comments are complete, the facilitator tosses the ball of yarn (while still holding the end of the yarn) to a student who shares his/her thoughts about the activity.
- 3. As each student catches the yarn ball, he/she reflects, holds his/her end, and tosses to another student. That student reflects, etc. Each student must throw to a student who has not yet received the ball of yarn.
- 4. The yarn ball continues around the circle until all students have received it.
- 5. Last student throws the ball of yarn back to the facilitator, who concludes it by pointing out how we all are connected through the shared service-learning experience.



### **Branching Out**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $5^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 30 - 45 minutes

Supplies Needed: leaf cut-outs with reflection questions on them, tape

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

- 1. A colorful laminated tree is placed in a focal location in the classroom.
- 2. A student picks a leaf off the tree, reads it, and answers the question.
- 3. Next student does the same thing, repeating the process.
- 4. (Optional) Questions on leaves can be changed regularly. Students may choose the questions to be put on the leaves. Questions may be easy and non-threatening at first and progress to more thought provoking later in the school year.

### What? So What? Now What?

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades **Time Needed:** 20 – 30 minutes **Supplies Needed:** tennis ball

Room Arrangements/Set Up: circle

**Special Conditions**: none

- 1. Students form a circle.
- 2. The tennis ball is passed from person to person as each student answers "What happened at the service project?"
- 3. The process starts a second time as each students answers "What is the significance of what happened today?."
- 4. The process is repeated a third time as each student answers the question "What now?" (that the project is complete).





### **Bumper Cars**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $5^{th} - 7^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 20 - 30 minutes

Supplies Needed: none

Room Arrangement/Set Up: open space

**Special Conditions**: Be Careful!

### **Description:**

- 1. Students will walk around and act like bumper cars, but every time they bump or are bumped, they must say something they did, enjoyed, or learned with regard to the service project.
- 2. (Optional) Several students serve as recorders and roam around during the activity. They will record as many comments as possible. Students are then seated in a circle and as the recorder mentions each comment, a particular student expounds on it. An emphasis can be placed on themes that emerge.

### **Role Playing**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 30 minutes – 1 hour

**Supplies Needed:** name tags

Room Arrangement/Set Up: none

**Special Conditions**: none

- 1. This activity is good in order to build the students' understanding for the rationale behind service-learning.
- 2. The role of the student is to convince several different key players why the students should be involved in service-learning (i.e. principal, superintendent, board of education member, parent, agency administrator, etc.).
- 3. Students are assigned to different roles (as mentioned above). They may wear name tags to identify their roles.
- 4. Groups are formed composed of several students and one "key player" (mentioned above). The students' role is to persuade the "key player" that service-learning is desirable. Students may prepare their remarks ahead of time. The "key players" may prepare a list of concerns ahead of time.
- 5. (Optional) The real "key players" are invited into the classroom to hear the students' remarks.



### Ice Cream

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $3^{rd} - 12^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 20 - 30 minutes

Supplies Needed: none

Room Arrangement/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Each student will describe an ice cream flavor that reflects the service-learning project.

Vanilla = fine/good Chocolate = plain/boring Neapolitan = too much to do Rocky Road = problems

Lime Sherbet = sour

- 2. Then each student will explain why he/she chose the flavor and how (if needed) things could be improved.
- 3. (Optional) Prepare laminated pictures of ice cream cones in the flavors mentioned above.
- 4. (Optional) Students may be involved in thinking of other flavors and their significance.

### On the Spot

# **Students:** 10 - 20

**Grade Level:**  $6^{th} - 9^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:**  $1 - 1 \frac{1}{2}$  hours

**Supplies Needed:** oaktag

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** podium/platform

**Special Conditions:** none

- 1. In preparation, the facilitator makes flash cards with "emotion words" on them (happy, sad, mad, excited, shocked, etc.).
- 2. Each student picks a card and creates a sentence with regard to that emotion i.e. "I was shocked to find out..." "I was happy when..."
- 3. (Optional) Each sentence could be turned into an impromptu speech.
- 4. (Optional) Each sentence could become the title of a story written by the student.



### **Debate This!**

# Students: 2 teams, 3-4 students per team, and an audience, OR divide the group in two equal groups.

**Grade Level:** 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

<u>Time Needed</u>: 30 minutes – 1 hour Supplies Needed: note cards, pencils

**Room Arrangement/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: may need a facilitator to keep on task

### **Description:**

1. One team is in favor of service-learning and the other is opposed.

2. Each team takes about 15 minutes preparing for the debate.

3. Each team has five minutes to debate its side of the issue.

4. Allow ten minutes for questions from the audience or the opposing side.

### **Reflective Songs**

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: K – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

<u>Time Needed</u>: 1 hour **Supplies Needed**: music

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

### Description:

1. Facilitator (or student) chooses one of the following songs to stimulate reflection among the students. Additional songs may be added.

2. Facilitator plays the song and asks students to listen carefully.

3. A discussion follows relating the song to the students' service-learning experience.

"We are the World"

"Man in the Mirror," Michael Jackson

"Buy Me Love, Blackstreet

"Change the World," Eric Clapton

"We Shall Be Free," Garth Brooks

"Lean on Me"

"Letters to a Landlord," Living Colour

"Stand by Me"

"Let's Give Them Something to Talk About"

"Take a Walk on the Wildside," Marky Mark

"I Believe," Sounds of Blackness

"Days of Our Lives," Bone Thugs, and Harmony

"Harvest for the World," Isley Brothers

"Hero," Bette Midler

"Earth Song," Michael Jackson

"Dangerous Minds Soundtrack"

"Wind Beneath My Wings," Bette Midler

"From a Distance," Bette Midler

"The Power of a Dream," Celine Deon

"One Moment in Time," Whitney Houston

"Mr. Wendall," Arrested Development

### Spin the Bottle

# *Students*: 10 – 20

*Grade Level*: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades *Time Needed*: 15 - 20 minutes

Supplies Needed: bottle

Room Arrangement/Set Up: adequate space for students to be seated on floor in circle

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Pick someone to be the leader.

- 2. The leader spins the bottle.
- 3. Whomever the bottle points to has to relate a special story about his/her experience.
- 4. The game continues until all students get a chance to speak/be the leader.
- 5. (Optional) Be more specific with the special story – i.e. a surprising event, a disappointing event, a sad event, the greatest part of the experience, a special learning opportunity, etc.

### "Eggs-traordinary"

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*:  $K - 12^{th}$  grades Time Needed: 30 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** plastic eggs (assorted colors), paper strips with reflection questions

Room Arrangements/Set Up: table to display basket and eggs, open space

**Special Conditions:** could be done near Easter

- 1. Pass basket around and each student picks out an egg.
- Students with same color eggs get into groups. 2.
- 3. One at a time the students open their eggs, read reflection question aloud, and respond.
- 4. (Optional) Students could be regrouped to stimulate further interaction (i.e. each group must contain one of each color egg, etc.)





### Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $3^{rd} - 12^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 15 - 30 minutes

Supplies Needed: tag board, aluminum foil, glue, scissors, markers

Room Arrangements/Set Up: circle

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

- 1. Each student designs and constructs a mirror with tag board, foil, markers, glue, scissors, etc.
- 2. Each student writes a reflective question on back of the mirror.
  - What was the best part of this experience? Why?
  - Share something that you learned from this project that correlates with what we have been learning in the classroom.
  - If you could preserve one photo image in your mind that symbolizes this projects, what would it be? Why?
- 3. Mirrors are collected and redistributed to students.
- 4. Students take turns answering questions on the mirrors.

### It's Not A Puzzle

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $K - 5^{th}$  grades

<u>Time Needed</u>: 10 – 25 minutes <u>Supplies Needed</u>: paper, scissors

**Room Arrangement/Set Up:** open space

**Special Conditions:** must be even number of students

- 1. Cut several sheets of paper into two pieces in a unique way like a puzzle. Each student should get a piece of paper.
- 2. Each student finds his/her partner (puzzle piece that matches) and shares his/her feelings about the service project.
- 3. Emphasis should be placed on the fact that every piece (person) is needed to make a whole project, community, etc.
- 4. (Optional) Puzzle pieces may be laminated for future use.





### **Getting to Know Service-Learning**

# Students: 10 or more

*Grade Level*: 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 45 minutes – 1 hour

Supplies Needed: none

Room Arrangement/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Students pair up and "interview" each other about the service-learning experience.

2. One by one, each student then shares the content of the interview done with their partner with the rest of the class.

3. This is a good way for students to get to know each other better.

4. (Optional) A brainstorming session among the entire group may be helpful to create interview questions.

### Q & A

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 20 - 30 minutes

Supplies Needed: none

Room Arrangement/Set Up: none

**Special Conditions**: none

- 1. Students are paired together.
- 2. One person questions the other about the project.
- 3. The person being questioned will not know what questions will be asked.
- 4. Possible questions could be:
  - What was the best thing that happened at the service project?
  - The person I admire most for this project is...
  - How can we improve the project in the future?
- 5. (Optional) Pairs share their questions and answers with the large group.



### **Service Learning News**

*# Students*: 10 −15

**Grade Level:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 20 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** table and two chairs

Room Arrangement/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

### **Description**:

1. One student will play the role of a television interviewer.

2. Another student will be the interviewee.

Students act as if they are doing the nightly news. The interviewer will ask questions such as:

- What was the most interesting part of project?
- What was the most challenging?
- What was the most rewarding?
- What did you learn from this project?
- How does this project tie to what we are learning in the classroom?
- Should we do this again? Why?
- 3. (Optional) This activity could be repeated for a parent group, community group, board of education, etc.

### **Persuasive Service**

# Students: small groups

**Grade Level:**  $8^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades

**Time Needed:** 20-45 minutes

Supplies Needed: none

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** none

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Each student will choose a service project to speak about.
- 2. The student will write a reflective speech about the positive influence of the project and how projects like this should be repeated.
- 3. Students will be given the opportunity to deliver the speech to persuade others to support their service projects through joining the group, donating money, etc.
- 4. Contact appropriate people to persuade depending on age group.



### Storytime

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $K - 5^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 20 minutes

Supplies Needed: none

Room Arrangement/Set Up: circle

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Students or groups are given opportunities to reflect about the project in the form of a story.
- 2. One student begins the story of what happened at the service project. The next student picks up the story where the first student left off and so on until the story is complete and all students have had a chance to contribute.
- 3. (Optional) Someone acts as the scribe and records the story as it is told by the children. Children may be given a chance to draw a picture to go along with the story.



WRITING



### **KWL Chart**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $2^{nd} - 9^{th}$  grades

**<u>Time Needed</u>**: several 10 minute intervals over a period of days

**Supplies Needed:** large charts, markers

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

**Special Conditions:** teacher may need to help write for younger students

**Description:** 

1. On chart, teacher writes 3 columns with the following headings:

Know	Want to Know	Learned

- 2. Day 1: Students list what they already know about the service project. Each student writes one item.
- 3. Day 2: Students list what they want to know about the service project.
- 4. Final Day: Students list what they have learned about/from the service project.
- 5. (Optional) Facilitator can add more columns and reflect over a longer time period.

### Once Upon a Time

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grades

*<u>Time Needed</u>*: 30 minutes – 1 hour

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: paper, pencils

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Students will engage in a free-form writing activity as a way to reflect on their service experience.
- 2. Students will be instructed to write a story beginning with "Once Upon a Time . . ."
- 3. Students may take any direction or use any format they wish.
- 4. The facilitator may specify the length of the writing activity if desired.
- 5. Students may share with the rest of the class and/or post the stories for everyone to review.



### What's Your Opinion?

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

<u>Time Needed</u>: 30 minutes – 1 hour <u>Supplies Needed</u>: paper, pencils

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. The following activity can be used for any topic area addressed through a service activity.

- 2. Students are instructed to make one positive statement about two of the five topics listed below and explain their statement with two complete sentences:
  - A. allow elderly to stay in their homes
  - B. elderly move into home of one of their adult children
  - C. elderly share living with someone for three months then move to a different home
  - D. move elderly to apartments
  - E. place elderly in nursing home facility
- 3. Students will do the same activity at a later time, but make <u>negative</u> instead of positive comments.
- 4. This activity can be used before, during and after the service activity.

### Thank You Notes

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $K - 12^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 15 - 30 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** thank you cards (purchased or designed on the computer)

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

Students will write thank you notes to an organization involved with a service project expressing how they enjoyed the project, what they learned, etc.



### Letter to a Friend

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $4^{th} - 9^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 30 - 40 minutes

Supplies Needed: paper, pen

Room Arrangements/Set Up: desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Students are instructed to use correct letter format.

2. Students write a letter to a friend describing the service project and encouraging them to get involved in service-learning using positive examples from the current project.

### **Objects Have Feelings, Too**

# Students: unlimited

<u>Grade Level</u>: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades <u>Time Needed</u>: 30 – 45 minutes <u>Supplies Needed</u>: pencils, paper

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Students are given a creative writing assignment - write a story with YOU being a piece of equipment used during the service project (broom, shovel, rake, etc.).

2. (Optional) Instead of equipment, use animals, canned food, etc.







### **Food For Thought**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $6^{th} - 9^{th}$  grades

Time Needed: 30 minutes

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: construction paper, markers <u>Room Arrangements/Set Up</u>: desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Students draw a lunch tray.

2. Discuss the different parts of lunch - main course, vegetables, dessert, etc.

3. Students answer the following questions: What was the main course of project? What were the vegetables of the project, etc.

### **Helping Hands**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $4^{th} - 8^{th}$  grades

*Time Needed*: 10 - 20 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** markers, construction paper, scissors

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Each student will trace his/her hand on a piece of construction paper and cut it out.

- 2. On the paper hand, students will write a reflection sentence or phrase going up each finger of the hand.
  - An emotion they felt.
  - Something they observed in themselves or someone else.
  - A phrase to sum up the day/activity.
  - Something they learned.
  - Anything they want to add or a picture.
- 3. (Optional) The hands may be used as part of a service-learning bulletin board.



### **Reflection Brochure**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $5^{th} - 8^{th}$  grades

Time Needed: 30 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** paper, pencils, crayons, markers

Room Arrangements/Set Up: desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Students will fold paper (long ways) into three sections in order to form a brochure.

- 2. The students will design brochures that promote the benefits of participation in service-learning.
- 3. The students will include benefits of volunteering for students, community, school, etc.
- 4. The brochures may include pictures or photos of service projects.
- 5. The students will share their brochures with the class.
- 6. (Optional) The students may do the activity using the computer and publishing software i.e. PagerMaker, Publisher.

### Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 2<sup>nd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades

**Time Needed:** 15 minutes

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: paper, markers, pens, pencils <u>Room Arrangements/Set Up</u>: tables and chairs

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Students will generate a list of contributors to their service project money, transportation, materials, time, etc.
- 2. All names of contributors are placed in a basket.
- 3. Each student (or group of students) draws a name from the basket and writes a thank you note to that person. The letters can be mailed or hand delivered.
- 4. (Optional) Younger students may draw pictures as part of the note.
- 5. (Optional) Notes may be handwritten or done on the computer including appropriate clip art.

### Senior on the Spot

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $8^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 60 - 90 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** cardboard, construction paper, photo of a senior citizen, colorful contact paper

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. After visiting and talking to senior citizens, students will compile information they have learned about this person in a booklet.

- 2. Students should have taken a snapshot of the senior while visiting and will use this as part of the book cover.
- 3. Students will write information about the senior and about their visit.
- 4. Illustrations may be included.

5. Final copies will be bound, covered, and presented to the seniors.

### Letter to the Editor

# Students: small groups

**Grade Level:**  $10^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 60 - 90 minutes

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: paper, pens or a computer <u>Room Arrangements/Set Up</u>: desks or tables

**Special Conditions**: none

- 1. Students will write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper. Letters may be done individually (and sent to a variety of different newspapers and publications) or as a group.
- 2. In the letter(s), the students should talk about successful service-learning projects that they have completed, upcoming projects, and why service-learning is important for students/schools/communities.
- 3. The students should include contact names and numbers for follow-up discussion/questions.

### **Note To Self**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $2^{nd} - 12^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 15 - 20 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** stamps, envelopes, paper, pens, pencils

Room Arrangements/Set Up: desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

- 1. Students write a letter to themselves addressing what they learned about themselves through the service project.
- 2. The facilitator collects the letters along with self-addressed, stamped envelopes for all of the students.
- 3. In approximately two months (or longer), the facilitator will send the letters back to the original authors through the U.S. mail.
- 4. (Optional) Pictures and/or artwork may be included.

### All About Us Book

# Students: unlimited, but must have one child per resident

*Grade Level*: 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 1 hour

Supplies Needed: construction paper, stapler, markers, Polaroid camera

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

**Special Conditions:** done as part of an intergenerational service-learning project

- 1. After meeting and talking with residents at a retirement home, students and residents make an "All About Us" book.
- 2. Included in the book should be a picture of the student and the senior citizen, listing of favorite colors/foods/music, pets, experiences, and any other chosen topics (appropriate to grade level).
- 3. The students will share the books with each other and the residents.
- 4. This gives an opportunity for the students and the residents to reflect (individually and together).

### Personal to My Portfolio

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 45 minutes – 1 hour

**Supplies Needed:** pen, paper, portfolio

**Room Arrangement/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Each student will write a letter entitled "Personal to My Portfolio."

- 2. The letter will be composed of three parts:
  - introductory paragraph (preparing for the project)
  - content paragraphs (conducting the project from start to finish)
  - summary paragraph (feelings about the project, how it turned out, suggestions for improvement)
- 3. After letter is reviewed by teacher/staff, it is placed in the student's portfolio as a "writing sample," or as an "item of personal choice."

### **Character Cube**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $4^{th} - 8^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 30 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** paper cubes

**Room Arrangement/Set Up:** groups sitting on floor or around a table

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Each group of students makes the character cube by writing one word on each side to become a springboard for reflective writing i.e. feelings, thoughts, concerns, before, during, after, now, etc.
- 2. The cube is tossed and the student writes his/her thoughts or feelings about the key word as it applies to the service project just completed.
- 3. Each group member takes a turn and adds his/her reflective writing to the paper, which then becomes a group effort.

### **Service-Learning Newsletter**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 1-2 weeks

**Supplies Needed:** computers

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** none

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

- 1. Each student writes an article about his/her service-learning activity. Students may be directed to focus on different aspects of their service involvement specific learning (personal, civic, or academic), recruiting others to participate, rationale for participation, etc.
- 2. A newsletter is published quarterly using the students' articles. Each issue may focus on one of the aspects mentioned above.
- 3. The newsletter is distributed to fellow students, school faculty, school administrators, agency personnel, etc.

### **T-Shirt Reflection**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $5^{th} - 9^{th}$  grades

**Time Needed:** 30 - 60 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** several white t-shirts, permanent markers (fine tip)

Room Arrangements/Set Up: desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Students are assigned to groups to write short poems for the senior citizens expressing feelings about them
- 2. After poems are written on paper and approved by small groups, the poems can be transferred to the t-shirts using fabric markers and each student will sign the shirt.
- 3. Students will deliver the shirts to the senior citizens.
- 4. (Optional) Instead of poems, use the senior citizen's name and write a reflective adjective with each letter of the senior's name. (i.e. TOM Truthful, One friendly guy!, Magnificient)

### **Shape Writing**

"What is learned...depends far less on what is taught than on what one actually experiences."

- EdgarZ. Friedenberg

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $K - 6^{th}$  grades

Time Needed: 30 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** construction paper, scissors, pencils

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

**Special Conditions:** students may need help with writing

### **Description:**

1. Ahead of time, pre-cut shapes (relevant to activity) will be prepared for the students - i.e. red crosses for Red Cross project, animals for Humane Society project, etc.

- 2. Each student will get a relevant shape and will write feelings and thoughts about the project on the shape.
- 3. The shapes will be displayed on a bulletin board.

### **Unfinished Thoughts**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $7^{th} - 9^{th}$  grades

Time Needed: 30 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** 10 - 15 sentence starters

Room Arrangements/Set Up: desks in circle

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Students are supplied with papers that have the 10 - 15 sentence starters on them.

- 2. They are to finish the sentence with their first initial thought concerning the service experience.
- 3. Complete honesty is a group rule, and no names are placed on papers.
- 4. The papers are collected and the comments are transferred to the blackboard for a group reflection session.
- 5. Students volunteer to explain how each sentence pertains to the service activity. Students do not have to explain their own comments.

### Advertisement

# Students: unlimited

<u>Grade Level</u>: 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades <u>Time Needed</u>: 20 – 30 minutes <u>Supplies Needed</u>: paper, pens

Room Arrangements/Set Up: desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

- 1. Students write an advertisement about the service project how it affected them, why someone else should do it, or what they did.
- 2. Students are given examples of advertisements to use as examples.
- 3. The advertisements can be placed around the school.

### Fruits of Our Labor

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grades

Time Needed: ongoing

**Supplies Needed:** markers (brown, green), red construction paper

Room Arrangements/Set Up: wall space

**Special Conditions**: none

- 1. **Before project** a student will make a tree trunk out of brown construction paper. It should be at least 4 ft. tall. The tree trunk is to be taped to a wall.
- 2. **Start of project** each student creates a tree limb from brown construction paper and writes a thought or reflection of what they expect to accomplish. These are taped to the tree trunk.
- 3. **Mid-project** students cut leaves out of green construction paper. On the leaves they will write reflections of the project at the mid-year point. Leaves will be taped on branches.
- 4. **End of project** students will cut apples out of red construction paper. On each apple will be a reflection of the entire project. Apples will be taped on leaves.



### **Magnetic Poetry**

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades Time Needed: 10 minutes

Supplies Needed: set of magnetic poetry

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Each student gets ten words.

2. Using at least eight words, students will create a poem about the service project.

3. (Optional) Cut words out of a cheap dictionary.

### Make a Poem

# **Students:** groups of 20

*Grade Level*:  $4^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades

*Time Needed*: 30 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** slips of paper, pens or pencils

Room Arrangements/Set Up: open space

**Special Conditions:** none

### **Description**:

1. Each student will have a slip of paper.

2. Each student will write one significant word about the project on the slip of paper.

3. As a group, the students will try to form a poem using the words.

"The process of gaining wisdom is listening to experiences and considering effects of actions."

- Paula Underwood, 1995



### **Shaped Poem**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $1^{st} - 7^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 30 minutes

Supplies Needed: paper, pencils, crayons/markers

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Students will draw the outline of the building at which they volunteered.

2. Students will fill in the outline with words that describe their experience.

3. They will decorate open spaces so that they are representative of the actual building.

### **Search for Service**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $4^{th} - 9^{th}$  grades

*Time Needed*: 15 - 30 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** paper, pencils, pens, graph paper or computer graphing software

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Students will identify words describing their service experience.

2. Students will construct a word search including these hidden words.

3. Students should be creative.

4. Students will exchange and complete each others' word searches.



### **Cup of Words**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $4^{th} - 8^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 10 - 20 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** magazines, poster board, glue, scissors, markers

Room Arrangements/Set Up: one work table per group

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Students are divided into groups.

- 2. Students are given a magazine and scissors. They are instructed to cut out words or phrases that they can apply to their service project approximately 25 50.
- 3. Students use the cut out words to create a short story or paragraph describing their service experience.
- 4. Students put their story on the posterboard by gluing the cut out words where appropriate. Be creative add student pictures, signatures, pictures, etc.
- 5. Students then share their posterboard creations with the other groups.

### **Plus-Minus**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $1^{st} - 7^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 5 - 20 minutes

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: paper, pencils, pens <u>Room Arrangements/Set Up</u>: none <u>Special Conditions</u>: desks or tables

### **Description:**

- 1. Each student is given a piece of paper.
- 2. Students will write the name of the service-learning project at the top of the paper and then divide paper into three columns with the following headings:

Plus

Minus

That's interesting

- 3. Students will write comments about their service project in each column.
- 4. (Optional) The written material can be used to start a discussion at a later time.

### **Service-Learning Symposium**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 30 minutes for writing essays, and additional time for newsletter layout

**Supplies Needed:** paper, pens, pencils, or computers with publishing software

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Students will write a short essay about a service-learning experience.

- 2. The essays will be compiled into a professional-looking newsletter called the *Service-Learning Symposium*.
- 3. The newsletter will be distributed to participants, parents, community members and anyone who is interested in or needs to learn more about service-learning.
- 4. (Optional) This activity can be completed monthly or quarterly. At the end of the year, all issues of the newsletter can be compiled into a book of service-learning.

### **Letter to Incoming Students**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $7^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades

*<u>Time Needed</u>*: 45 minutes

Supplies Needed: paper, pencils, pens

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

**Special Conditions**: none

- 1. Students will write letters to the new, incoming students in their school relating their own personal experience with service-learning and its importance for all students.
- 2. Students will discuss what they wrote in the letters with others in the class. It may help some students to discuss their ideas before writing the letters.
- 3. (Optional) Older students are paired with the younger incoming students in order to deliver the letters, but also to encourage new friendships.

### Step Up to Reflection

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $5^{th} - 8^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 60 - 90 minutes

Supplies Needed: 8 1/2" x 11" colored paper (4 colors per book), stapler

**Room Arrangement/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

1. Each student creates a "step book" by folding paper so that each page is longer than the previous one.

- 2. Reflection questions are written on each exposed area. Example questions:
  - What will I do?
  - How will I do it?
  - What did I like?
  - What difference did I make?
  - What will I do now?
  - Personal Thoughts
- 3. Reflection questions are written before the service activity.
- 4. The questions are answered after the service activity.
- 5. Each page can be illustrated with pictures, sentences, cartoons, paragraphs or any combination.

# ACTIVITY



### **Tool Kit**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

<u>Time Needed</u>: 15 minutes <u>Supplies Needed</u>: tools

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

- 1. The facilitator provides a chest of small tools hammer, screw driver, wrench, saw, etc.
- 2. Each student chooses a tool and relates it to the service activity in a symbolic way.
- 3. (Optional) Other "collections" may be used, such as kitchen gadgets, office supplies, etc. Students could be encouraged to suggest different collections for use.

### **Snowball**

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 20 - 30 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** paper, pencils

Room Arrangements/Set Up: chairs in a circle

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Each student is supplied with one sheet of paper and a pencil.
- 2. The students will divide their paper into four equal sections numbered 1-4.
- 3. The facilitator will ask a question about the service-learning activity and the students will answer it in a designated section. This continues until all four sections are full.
- 4. The students will wad up their papers and throw them into the middle of the room.
- 5. Each student will pick up a wad of paper and read it.
- 6. This is a good beginning level reflection activity because it is less threatening for a student to have another student read his/her thoughts anonymously.



### **Service-Learning Machines**

# Students: groups of 4 - 8 students

**Grade Level:**  $6^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 30 - 45 minutes

Supplies Needed: none

Room Arrangements/Set Up: open space

Special Conditions: none

### **Description**:

1. Students are divided into groups of four to eight.

- 2. Groups are instructed to create a service-learning machine with each person being a part of the machine.
- 3. The service-learning machine will depict the students' involvement in a recent service project.
- 4. The group discusses how best to accomplish this task, but each person must do a distinct movement. The movements of the group are in succession and continuous so as to function as a machine. The members of the group may line up or be in any free-form arrangement to become the machine.

### **Visual Reflecting**

<u>Number of Students</u>: unlimited <u>Grade Level</u>:  $3^{rd} - 6^{th}$  grades

*Time Needed*: 30 – 45 minutes or ongoing

Supplies Needed: butcher paper, crayons, markers, paint, tape

Room Arrangements/Set Up: space on floor or table

Special Conditions: none

- 1. A large piece of butcher paper will be placed on floor or table along with drawing supplies.
- 2. Students are given time to visualize their service-learning experiences. They may need help getting started. The facilitator may ask questions like "What did you see today?, What did you think about that?, What was your role?" etc.
- 3. Students will draw their reflections on the paper, either individually or collectively. Students should be encouraged to draw freely and to include their feelings as part of the drawing.
- 4. The paper will be displayed in an appropriate place.
- 5. (Optional) This activity can be done in one session or over a longer period of time.

### **Music to My Ears**

<u>Number of Students</u>: unlimited <u>Grade Level</u>:  $4^{th} - 6^{th}$  grades

**Time Needed:** 30 minutes

Supplies Needed: music, chairs, tape, chalkboard, chalk

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** chairs in circle

Special Conditions: none

### **Description:**

- 1. Each student receives a paper music note. On the back of the music note he/she writes a reflection question and tapes the note to a music staff drawn on the chalkboard.
- 2. One chair is removed from the circle (as in musical chairs).
- 3. The music begins. When the music stops, the student left without a chair picks a note from the board, reads it, and answers the reflection question.

### M&M Game

Number of Students: unlimited Grade Level:  $K - 5^{th}$  grades

Time Needed: 20 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** M&Ms (or similar candy)

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: additional candy for eating

- 1. Each student is instructed to take some M&Ms or other candy from a jar.
- 2. For each piece of candy chosen, the student must say something about the service project. Depending on size of the group, a limit may have to be placed on how many pieces each student may take.





## **Musical Footprints**

<u>Number of Students</u>: unlimited <u>Grade Level</u>:  $2^{nd} - 7^{th}$  grades

**Time Needed:** 10 minutes

Supplies Needed: color-coded footprints taped to floor

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** open space

Special Conditions: none

# **Description:**

1. Each different color of footprint has a specific reflection question associated with it.

2. As the music plays, students walk on footprints.

3. When the music stops, the students stop and answer the reflection question associated with the footprint on which they are standing.

## Service Scrabble

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $7^{th} - 10^{th}$  grades

Time Needed: 20 minutes

Supplies Needed: markers, newsprint or poster board

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** paper hung on wall or laid on floor or table

Special Conditions: none

#### **Description:**

1. In order to begin the activity, a student writes <u>project title</u> or <u>group helped</u> or other key word in center of paper.

- 2. Other students add their names to the poster by connecting it to a letter already on the paper.
- 3. Students add their feelings and/or adjectives that describe the project in the same manner.
- 4. Final outcome will resemble a scrabble board.
- 5. (Optional) Finished poster can be displayed on wall or bulletin board.



# **Cooperation Squares**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $6^{th} - 9^{th}$  grades

**Time Needed:** 10 - 15 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** index cards, envelopes

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** divide into small groups

Special Conditions: none

# **Description**:

1. Each group of students chooses a word to describe the project.

2. Students write one letter of the word on each card. Shuffle the cards and place in envelope.

3. The envelope is given to another group.

4. The second group will unscramble the word. The same procedure is followed until all groups have unscrambled all words.

5. Discuss the words that students used.

# **Cake Decorating**

# Students: small groups

**Grade Level:**  $5^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 10 - 15 minutes

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: flat sheet cakes, bowls of assorted candy <u>Room Arrangements/Set Up</u>: tables with materials on them

Special Conditions: none

#### Description:

1. Each group has a sheet cake and a bowl of assorted candies.

- 2. Each group decorates its cake with the candies in some way that is representative of the service project.
- 3. Students share their cake decorating story with the whole group.
- 4. Students eat the cake as their celebration.



# **Human Sculpture**

# Students: groups of 5 - 15 students

**Grade Level:** 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

<u>Time Needed</u>: 30 minutes – 1 hour <u>Supplies Needed</u>: music (optional)

Room Arrangements/Set Up: open area

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Students are divided into groups of five to fifteen.

- 2. Students think of one particular scene or "snapshot" that could tell a story about the service project.
- 3. Students spend ten minutes planning a human sculpture made only of persons from their group.
- 4. Students form their sculptures in front of the entire group, holding the sculpture for at least 20 seconds.
- 5. After other groups interpret the sculpture in terms of feelings, meaning, etc., each group explains its sculpture to the others.

#### **Poster Contest**

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

<u>Time Needed</u>: 1 week (outside of class) <u>Supplies Needed</u>: poster board, markers

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** space to work with poster board

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Each student creates a poster about the service project he/she just completed.
- 2. For the poster, students choose an aspect of the project they want to emphasize How did this help?, Why do I need to volunteer?, etc.
- 3. The posters are displayed at an appropriate site school, service site, board of education, etc.
- 4. (Optional) This would be a good activity for National Youth Service Day, Make A Difference Day, school open house, etc.

# **Cookie Dough Puppet Reflection**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $K - 6^{th}$  grades

*Time Needed*: 1 ½ hours

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: prepared cookie dough, cookie cutters, icing, icing in tubes, sprinkles, cnocolate cnips,

popsicle sticks

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** large covered tables

Special Conditions: none

#### **Description**:

1. Students use cookie cutters to make cookies of different shapes that associate with the service-learning project - flower, butterfly, lady bug, dog, house, etc.

- Students place cookies on baking pan, insert popsicle sticks into cookies, bake according to directions.
- 3. After cookies are cooled, students ice and decorate them.
- 4. Students use the cookies as puppets to talk about the service-learning project.
- 5. Students eat and enjoy the cookies.

## **Bumper Stickers**

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 1 hour

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: paper. markers <u>Room Arrangements/Set Up</u>: none

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Students are instructed to create a bumper sticker that symbolizes their service-learning experience
- 2. Students are provided with a "bumper sticker size" piece of oak tag and markers.
- 3. Each student (or a group of students) creates a bumper sticker and explains its significance to the whole group.
- 4. (Optional) Students could choose a favorite design and have real bumper stickers printed for the entire student body. Funding would be necessary.



# **T-shirt for Every Occasion**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $5^{th} - 9^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 30 - 45 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** typing paper, construction paper, markers

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Facilitator makes the point that t-shirts are sold or given away at many different events.

2. Students will "make" service-learning t-shirts by drawing the outline of a t-shirt, cutting it out, and decorating it with a photo, slogan, etc.

3. The focus may be on a specific service-learning project or about service-learning in general.

4. Students discuss their designs with the entire group and shirts are displayed appropriately.

## **Beach Ball Fun**

# **Students**: 15 - 20

**Grade Level:**  $3^{rd} - 7^{th}$  grades

*Time Needed*: 15 - 20 minutes

Supplies Needed: beach ball with labels containing very

open-ended and thought provoking questions

Room Arrangements/Set Up: open space

Special Conditions: none

#### **Description:**

1. Students stand in circle.

2. One student begins the activity by choosing a question on the ball and passing the ball to someone for an answer.

3. The student answers the question, then chooses the next question for the next person.

4. Everyone gets a chance to share.

5. (Optional) The ball is passed and the student who catches it answers the question that is closest to his/her left thumb. Students may help choose the questions that are placed on the ball.



#### Was It More Like...

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 15 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** poster paper, markers

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** chairs, desks, tables

Special Conditions: none

#### **Description:**

1. A space is cleared and students stand in the middle of the room. The students should think about their service project.

- 2. As the facilitator reads a pair of words, students are asked to compare their service project to these words and quickly decide which word more closely describes their experiences with that project.
- 3. If the first word is selected, they move to the right. If the second word is selected, they move to the left (and gradation in between). Example:

Was it more like...?

Work Fun
Planned Spontaneous
A short story A novel
A quiet evening A large party
Running Walking
Chinese food Mexican food

# Sing a Song of Service-Learning

# Students: unlimited

<u>Grade Level</u>: 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades <u>Time Needed</u>: 30 – 45 minutes <u>Supplies Needed</u>: paper, pen

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

- 1. The facilitator will divide students into groups. Each group is assigned the melody of a familiar song (i.e. Brady Bunch theme, YMCA, etc.).
- 2. Each group of students will write lyrics about its service experience to the assigned melody.
- 3. Each group will sing its song for the class.



# **Hooray for the Project**

"Nothing can be changed which is not faced."

- James Baldwin

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 30 - 45 minutes

Supplies Needed: none

Room Arrangement/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

## **Description**:

1. Students are divided into groups.

2. Each group of students makes up a cheer that is reflective of the project.

3. Each group may use a different emphasis area - what they did, what they liked, how it was a positive influence, etc.

## Wind Sock

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

Time Needed: 20 minutes

Supplies Needed: construction paper, glue stick, string, markers

Room Arrangements/Set Up: desks or tables

**Special Conditions:** none

#### **Description:**

1. Students cut paper into 1 wide strip and 6 narrower, longer strips.

- 2. On the wide strip, students write "Service Learning Is?"
- 3. Each student writes his/her response to this statement on the six narrower strips.
- 4. Attach (hang) six narrower, longer strips to the large strip with string.
- 5. (Optional) The statement on the top strip can be varied.

#### Take a Mirror

else."

- Booker T. Washington

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grades

Time Needed: 30 minutes

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: pencils, paper, mirror

Room Arrangements/Set Up: desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Students look in mirror labeled "person being helped" and write about that person's feelings and situation.

2. Next students look in mirror labeled "volunteer" and write their reflections about helping this person

# **Service People**

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level:* 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 30 - 45 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** paper, pencils, extra materials (feathers, beads, cotton balls, glitter)

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

**Special Conditions**: none

#### **Description:**

1. Students brainstorm what qualities a student should possess to be an effective volunteer/service participant.

- 2. They draw and decorate what they believe is the perfect service participant.
- 3. After the drawing is complete, students write a paragraph explaining why they chose those particular attributes.
- 4. The students attach the paragraph to the back of the drawing and hang as a mobile in the class-room.
- 5. (Optional) This would make a great display for National Youth Service Day, Day of Caring, etc.

# **Toony Reflections**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $5^{th} - 8^{th}$  grades

*Time Needed*: 20 minutes

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: paper, pencils **Room Arrangements/Set Up**: none

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Students have a brief discussion about their service experience.

2. Each student gets a strip of paper divided into three blocks.

3. Each student draws a cartoon with dialogue clouds about his/her service activity - may be serious, humorous, sentimental, etc.

# **Service-Learning Educators**

# Students: groups of 4-6

*Grade Level*: 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

Time Needed: ongoing

Supplies Needed: appropriate to the specific project

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Students educate their peers about service-learning by making presentations, posters, and pamphlets, and creating t-shirts and bumper stickers that extol the virtues of service-learning.
- 2. Students are pro-active in creating/finding opportunities throughout the school to interact with other students and teachers and use the material they have created in order to generate more involvement in service-learning.
- 3. All of the service-learning material will be saved and complied into a service-learning library for future reference

#### Go Fish

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $3^{rd} - 6^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 15 - 30 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** colored fish with feeling words

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** fish placed throughout the room

Special Conditions: open area

## **Description:**

- 1. A variety of fish will be placed around the room (hung on wall, placed on tables, etc.) that contain different "feeling words."
- 2. Students will walk around the room and collect three fish that describe their feelings toward the service-learning project.
- 3. Students will discuss the feelings that they selected.

## **Calling All Volunteers**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades

**Time Needed:** 30 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** disconnected telephones

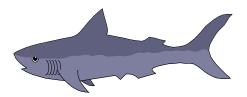
**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** two chairs with phones

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Two students discuss their service-learning project using the phones.

- 2. One student will be provided with prompts about asking for information. (i.e. Tell me about your project. How did you feel about it? How did this project connect to what we are learning in the classroom?).
- 3. Allow time for students to discuss the project from beginning to end.



#### I Like That You...

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $4^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 10 - 20 minutes

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: paper, scissors, pencils, stapler

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Each student will list every other student who participated in the service project, leaving a little blank space between each name.

- 2. Each student will write one positive statement about each of the other students starting with "I like that you...Example I like that you made all the cards for the nursing home.
- 3. When the students are done, they cut their paper into strips and give them to the facilitator.
- 4. The facilitator reviews the content and staples all comments about each student together and gives it to the student.
- 5. Students get a little "pat on the back" from their peers.

#### **Back to Back**

# Students: unlimited (even number)

*Grade Level*: 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades *Time Needed*: 30 minutes *Supplies Needed*: none

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** large open space

**Special Conditions:** may need to sit back to back if some are unable to stand

- 1. Students are divided into pairs.
- 2. Each pair of students stands back to back.
- 3. One student in each pair will begin talking about the service project and MUST continue to talk for one minute. The other student can only listen.
- 4. After one minute, the students switch roles.
- 5. When both students in each pair have had time to talk, they report back to the whole group what they learned from their partner.
- 6. (Optional) Before talking begins, students may be given a topic what I learned about...., how I felt afterwards, how I would recruit new participants, etc.

#### **Pillowcase Sense**

**<u>Number of Students</u>**: groups of five or less students

*Grade Level*: K – 7<sup>th</sup> grades

Time Needed: 20 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** pillowcases, construction paper eyes/ears/mouth/nose, masking tape

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

**Special Conditions**: none

## **Description:**

1. Students are divided into groups of five or less.

2. Each group is given a pillowcase with paper body parts inside.

3. One student reaches into pillowcase and pulls out a construction paper "sense organ." If it is an eye, they tell something they saw at the service project. If it is an ear they tell something that was heard, and so on.

4. Continue until all students get a turn.

## Pass the Hat

**Number of Students:** unlimited **Grade Level:**  $3^{rd} - 7^{th}$  grades

Time Needed: 20 minutes

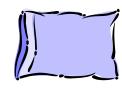
<u>Supplies Needed</u>: hat, paper, pens, music <u>Room Arrangements/Set Up</u>: chairs in circle

Special Conditions: none

# **Description:**

1. Students write reflection questions on small strips of paper and place in a hat.

2. Students pass the hat while music is playing. When the music stops, the student holding the hat reaches into the hat and pulls out a question to answer about the service activity.





#### **Reflection Twister**

**Number of Students:** groups of 5-7 students

**Grade Level:**  $K - 5^{th}$  grades

*Time Needed*: 20 – 30 minutes/game

Supplies Needed: twister game (may be home made), paper, tape

Room Arrangements/Set Up: open space

Special Conditions: explain safety rules

**Description**:

1. Students identify four major reflecting themes - learning opportunity, change of thoughts during this experience, etc.

- 2. These themes are placed on the different colors of the Twister mat and spinner.
- 3. Students play the game of Twister, by using the reflective themes instead of colors.

#### What Did It Feel Like?

Number of Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: K – 8<sup>th</sup> grades

**Time Needed:** 20 - 30 minutes

Supplies Needed: emotion cards

Room Arrangements/Set Up: open space

**Special Conditions**: none

#### Description:

- 1. Each group of students receives a deck of twenty cards with emotion words (ten pairs of matching words). The cards reflect emotions that one may have before, during, and after completing a service project (i.e. anxious, nervous, happy, shy, et.).
- 2. The entire deck of cards is shuffled and placed face down on the table in rows.
- 3. When it is his turn, each student turns over two cards (trying to get a match) and reveals the words. If the cards match, the student keeps them and shares with the others why someone might experience this emotion as part of the service project just completed. If they do not match, the cards are put back down on the table in the exact place.
- 4. The next student does the same until all cards are matched.

"It is the quality of our experiences, the satisfaction, excitement or joy that we get or fail to get from them, that will determine how those experiences will change us – in short, what we learn."

-John Holt

# **Extended Name Tag**

<u>Number of Students</u>: unlimited <u>Grade Level</u>:  $2^{nd} - 12^{th}$  grades

Time Needed: 30 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** 5" x 8" index cards, markers

Room Arrangements/Set Up: circle

Special Conditions: none

#### Description:

1. Students write their names in the center of the index cards.

- 2. These additional instructions are given to the students:
  - In the upper left corner of the card, write something you enjoy doing in your free time.
  - In the upper right corner of the card, write your service learning placement/project.
  - In the lower left corner of the card, write a skill or talent you bring to your placement/project.
  - In the lower left corner of the card, write a fear or concern you have about your placement/project.
- 3. Students share what they wrote on their cards with the rest of the group.
- 4. The facilitator should note the themes, talk about the concerns, ask the students what they learned from the activity, etc.

#### **Recycled Collage**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $3^{rd} - 8^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 30 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** newspapers, candy wrappers, empty boxes, sticks, scissors, glue, paper, tape

Room Arrangements/Set Up: one large table for "trash"

**Special Conditions**: desks or tables to work on

- 1. Empty a bag or box of "clean" trash onto a table. Students may work independently or in groups of four to five.
- 2. Each student/group selects five to ten objects from the table, as well as a sheet of construction paper, scissors, and glue/tape.
- 3. Students create a collage that expresses their favorite part of the service project.
- 4. The collages are titled and explained to the rest of the group.
- 5. Collages may be displayed at the project site and at the school.
- 6. Note: This activity would be especially appropriate after a recycling project.

#### **Balloon Sort**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $5^{th} - 8^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 15 - 20 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** balloons (assorted colors), helium, ribbon, green construction paper, flip chart pad

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** stations around room with balloons and chart paper

Special Conditions: none

# **Description**:

1. Each balloon color represents a different type of reflection question - i.e. What did you learn? What did you observe about the recipients reaction to the service project? How did you feel?

- 2. As students move from station to station, they write their answers to the posted question on the chart and on a green paper leaf that they attach to the balloon string as they take the balloon.
- 3. The student can not take a balloon without adding a reflection thought.
- 4. The students then take their balloon bouquets home and the charts can be posted in the classroom.

## **Broken Quotes**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $2^{nd} - 12^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 20 - 40 minutes

Supplies Needed: none

Room Arrangements/Set Up: open area

**Special Conditions:** none

- 1. Famous quotes that relate to community service and service-learning are put on oaktag and then cut in half.
- 2. Each student gets one-half of a quote and begins walking around the room (Music is a great adaptation).
- 3. Students fine their match by locating the other half of their quote.
- 4. Students reflect upon the quotes in pairs and explain the significance of the quote to the whole group

# **Service-Learning Postcards**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $K - 9^{th}$  grades

*Time Needed*: 30 – 45 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** art supplies, blank postcards, sample postcards

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

# **Description:**

1. Students bring in sample postcards and discuss postcards they have sent and received in the past.

2. Each student is provided with a blank postcard and markers.

3. Students design and cerate a postcard about their recent service-learning experience.

4. Students send the postcard to a person of their choice - service recipient, parent, friend, etc.

# **Finger Friends**

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*:  $K - 5^{th}$  grades

Time Needed: 45 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** different colors of fun foam, wiggle eyes, yarn, hot glue, stapler, pipe cleaners

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** large tables for working

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Facilitator cuts rectangles of fun foam 2 ½" x 3" in order to form a cylinder and staples or glues them (hot glue works best).

2. Students add foam scraps, pipe cleaners, yarn, eyes, etc. to create "finger friends."

3. Students use these puppets on 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 fingers.

4. Students reflect on the project using the finger friends- what was learned, what could be improved, etc.



# A Patch of Care Quilt

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $2^{nd} - 8^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 1 - 2 weeks

**Supplies Needed:** fabric paint, permanent markers, embroidery floss, quilting materials

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Students select fabric for a small quilt.

2. Students are given squares of material on which they draw or write something about the service project.

3. The squares are formed into the quilt by a volunteer outside the school or by students in the home economics class.

4. The quilt is hung in an appropriate place - classroom, school, service site, etc.

# Service Map

# Students: unlimited (groups of four)

*Grade Level*: 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 45 minutes − 1 hour

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: magic markers, poster paper <u>Room Arrangement/Set Up</u>: desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

#### **Description:**

1. Each group of four students draws a map of its service experience.

2. They can illustrate all the things that happened during the experience. They should be very creative and consider such things as "forks in the road", "the road less traveled", "bridges", etc. Each of these can symbolize an aspect of the service project.

3. Each group will describe its map and the symbolism as it relates to the service experience.



# **Light Bulb Experience**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $K - 9^{th}$  grades

*Time Needed*: 10 - 30 minutes

Supplies Needed: copies of whole light bulb & broken light bulb patterns, pencils, band-aid patterns,

box, tape.

**Room Arrangement/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Students will receive copies of the two different light bulb patterns (whole and broken).

- 2. They will write their positive experience on the whole light bulbs and the challenges they experienced on the broken light bulbs.
- 3. All light bulbs are put in a box and are drawn out at random and discussed.
- 4. If a negative (broken bulb) is drawn discuss how it can be fixed. Write the fix on the Band-Aid Pattern. Tape the Band-Aid fix on the broken bulbs.

# Bingo!

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 30 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** list of words, blank bingo cards, prizes

**Room Arrangement/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Students create a list of 40-50 words associated with the service project.
- 2. Students make their own bingo cards by filling in the spaces with these words.
- 3. As words are called out, students X the words on their card.
- 4. When a student says "bingo," he/she must explain what each word means in regard to the service project.
- 5. AWARD PRIZES.

#### Reflective Rap

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $1^{st} - 8^{th}$  grades

*Time Needed*: 30 - 40 minutes

Supplies Needed: none

Room Arrangements/Set Up: circle

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Students will be assigned to groups by facilitator.

2. Each group will create a rap song about its service experience.

3. Each group may be assigned a theme about which to reflect – feelings, concerns, positive points, challenges, learning opportunities.

# Service-Learning Has Value

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

Time Needed: 45 minutes

**Supplies Needed**; rectangle of paper, pencil, medium marker, colored pencil, crayons

**Room Arrangement/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

#### **Description:**

- 1. Each student is given a piece of paper on which he/she will design a piece of paper currency using his/her own picture in place of picture on regular currency.
- 2. Each student will develop his/her own motto associated with service-learning.
- 3. The building pictured on the currency could be places where students went for their service project.
- 4. Students should be encouraged to be creative.
- 5. Each student will explain his/her creation to the entire class.

"Leadership is action, not position."

-Donald H. McGannon

## **Crossword Puzzle**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level**:  $6^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades

Time Needed: 30 minutes

Supplies Needed: pencils, paper

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

# **Description**:

1. One group designs the puzzle using reflection words that refer to the service project.

2. Second group solves the crossword puzzle.

# **Pyramid of Reflection**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades

Time Needed: 30 minutes

Supplies Needed: paper, pencils, glitter, glue, crayons, markers, scissors

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

#### Description:

1. Students draw a pyramid divided into 7 sections.

2. Students will write a word in each section that describes how they feel about their service activity.

3. The students could then decorate their pyramid with crayons, markers or glitter.

4. Pyramids can be cut out and displayed.



# **Bumper Sticker/Book Mark**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

Time Needed: 45 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** clear contact paper, construction paper, pens, crayons, stamps

Room Arrangements/Set Up: floor

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Students gather all of their materials(listed above) and find a place on the floor.

- 2. Students (or groups of students) design a catchy phrase or slogan depicting their service experience. They may use books of quotes, advertisements, etc. to get their inspiration.
- 3. The students transfer their slogans to the paper and add decorations as desired. The paper can be covered with clear contact paper or laminated sheets.
- 4. The students share their slogans with the rest of the class and explain the significance.
- 5. (Optional) One slogan could be used each week as inspiration for journal writing by the students.
- 6. (Optional) The slogans could be used as part of a display for a special event National Youth Service Day, school open house, etc.

#### **Service-Learning Mobiles**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $1^{st} - 7^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 20 - 30 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** yarn, shape cut-outs that relate to the service project, pencils, markers

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** desks or tables

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Instructor cuts out shapes that relate to the service activity performed and adds lines for writing. Example: dog biscuit for a service-learning project completed for at the animal shelter.
- 2. Students write something special about the activity on the cut-outs.
- 3. Several of the shapes can be fastened together to form a mobile. For example, dog biscuits hanging from a dog house.

## Tic Tac Toe

# Students: unlimited (partners)

*Grade Level*:  $4^{th} - 8^{th}$  grades

*Time Needed*: one – two class periods

**Supplies Needed:** newspapers, magazines, scissors, glue, construction paper

**Room Arrangement/Set Up:** desks or tables

**Special Conditions:** none

Description:

1. Students will be provided with a tic-tac-toe reflection card:

Poem	Interview	Newsletter Article
Question and Answer List	Collage	Short Story
Bumper Stickers	Song	it

- 2. Students use card as in regular tic-tac-toe, but they follow directions on card. Example: Student puts an X/O over "song," he/she must sing a reflective song.
- 3. Items on card may be covered up so that students do not see them until they mark them with an X or O.

# What's in Your Bag?

**Number of Students:** 20 - 30**Grade Level:**  $5^{th} - 8^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 45 minutes

Supplies Needed: large sheets of paper, markers

Room Arrangements/Set Up: open table or floor space

Special Conditions: none

#### **Description:**

1. The facilitator explains that everyone carries baggage with them when they go into a service learning experience.

- 2. Each student draws the outline of a type of bag (basket, backpack, tote bag, etc.) on his/her paper.
- 3. Inside the outline of the bag, each student will draw or write the following:
  - A skill or talent he/she brings
  - A previous learning experience he/she had that may help him/her
  - A hope or dream he/she has
  - A challenge he/she thinks may present itself
  - A motto or slogan he/she lives by
- 4. Each student will share his/her work with others in the class. The facilitator may further process the activity by asking the following questions: What did you learn about others in the group?, Did anyone learn something new about themselves?, How might you make use of the abilities and strengths in your bag to make your service-learning experience more successful?

# **Balloon Pop**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $4^{th} - 6^{th}$  grades

**<u>Time Needed</u>**: 15 - 20 minutes

Supplies Needed: balloons, pre-printed sentence starters about the project

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** large open space

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. The facilitator will put a sentence starter in each balloon.

- 2. The students will inflate the balloons.
- 3. When everyone has an inflated balloon, they will begin batting the balloons in the air.
- 4. When told to stop, each student will be instructed to sit on his/her balloon to break it.
- 5. After all the balloons are broken, each student will read the sentence starter and finish the sentence.



# TECHNOLOGY, ETC.



# **Service-Learning Pen Pals**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

*<u>Time Needed</u>*: 20 minute sessions – ongoing

Supplies Needed: computer, internet access, e-mail addresses

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** computer **Special Conditions:** access to e-mail

# **Description**:

1. Students exchange e-mail addresses with a "sister" school working on a service-learning project.

2. Students communicate via e-mail and share successes, challenges, feelings, etc. about service-learning.

3. If possible, students participate in a joint outing at the end of the year so pen pals can meet.

# Service-Learning Web Site

# Students: less than 10

*Grade Level*:  $10^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades

Time Needed: ongoing

Supplies Needed: web page design software

Room Arrangements/Set Up: computer, access to the web.

**Special Conditions**: none

#### **Description:**

1. Students research other school service-learning programs and service-learning web sites.

2. Students design a web site about service-learning at their school.

3. Students link their web site to other school/service-learning web sites.

4. Students update the site regularly with all types of information about service-learning in general and about specific activities at their school.



# Service-Learning Billboard

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*:  $10^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades

<u>Time Needed</u>: ongoing

Supplies Needed: billboard

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Students design a billboard about service-learning at their school.

2. Students contact billboard company and solicit free space as a community service donation from the billboard company or students solicit donations to pay for the billboard.

3. Students' billboard design addresses the rationale for participation in service-learning.

# Our Year of Growth

# Students: less than 8

*Grade Level*: 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

Time Needed: ongoing

Supplies Needed: digital camera, computer, LCD projector, presentation software (Power Point, Hyper

Studio)

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

# **Description**:

1. Students will learn to use the digital camera and take pictures of all service projects throughout the year.

2. Students will learn to use Power Point or Hyper Studio.

3. Students will create an ongoing presentation by adding the photos after each activity.

4. Students will continue putting together a growing presentation of their projects.

5. Students will use the complete presentation as a culminating activity!



# "Good Morning, (school name)"

# Students: at least 10

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed:* 2-3 minutes plus preparation time

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: school PA system Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

**Description**:

1. Students create a regular segment on the school's PA system dealing with service-learning.

2. Students write and make the announcements each morning (or weekly).

3. The announcements should be newsy (upcoming events, etc), but could also focus on why students and teachers volunteer, thanking participants, community needs, etc.

# **Meet the People**

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*:  $10^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades

Time Needed: one month

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: video camera **Room Arrangements/Set Up:** none

**Special Conditions:** permission to leave school building

#### **Description:**

1. Students develop questions about service-learning.

- 2. Students go out on the street and interview (with a video camera) general public about service-learning. Assess their knowledge level.
- 3. Students develop a video of the interviews interspersed with pertinent information and correct answers to the questions.
- 4. Students show the video when appropriate parent meeting, teacher meeting, state-wide conference, etc.

"Experience is not what happens to you, it is what you do with what happens to you."

- Aldous Huxley (1894-1963)

English Writer

#### Mural

# **Students**: 8 - 15

*Grade Level*:  $10^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades

**Time Needed:** 3 weeks

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: paint, brushes **Room Arrangements/Set Up:** none

**Special Conditions:** permission to paint mural on wall

## **Description:**

- 1. Art students design a mural depicting a specific large service-learning project done by many students in the school or depicting service-learning in general.
- 2. Students plan and sketch sections of the mural as they discuss its significance.
- 3. Students present their final plans to the appropriate authorities for final review.
- 4. Students paint the mural.

## Wall of Fame

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades *Time Needed*: 20 – 30 minutes *Supplies Needed*: camera, film

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

**Description:** 

1. Students take photographs of their's and other classes' service-learning projects throughout the school year.

2. Students create a bulletin board (in a very visible location) on which to hang the photos along with captions telling what students were doing in the pictures.

"You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments when you have really lived, are the moments when you have done things in a spirit of love."

- Henry Drummond



#### **Reflection Screen Saver**

# Students: groups of 2 - 4 students

**Grade Level**:  $10^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades

*Time Needed*: 45 minutes

**Supplies Needed:** screen saver software, pictures of project, computer

Room Arrangements/Set Up: computer lab

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Students make screen savers of service-learning photos (using specific software for that purpose).

2. Students add reflective thoughts.

3. Students save screen savers on disks and distribute to all participants of project.

#### Music Video

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: three – four 30 minute sessions

<u>Supplies Needed</u>: video camera, music <u>Room Arrangements/Set Up</u>: none

**Special Conditions:** work in groups

#### **Description**:

1. Students identify a popular song that they feel is representative of their service project.

2. Students share their reasons for choosing the song with the entire group.

3. Students are videotaped as they talk about their reactions to the song and why they chose it while the song is playing in the background.



#### Service Authors

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> grades

Time Needed: 45 minutes

Supplies Needed: camera, film, glue, blank book (can be purchased at book store or constructed by stu-

dents)

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

# **Description:**

1. Throughout the service project, students will take photographs of all activities, people, locations, etc.

- 2. After the project is complete, the photographs will be divided into groups based upon the order in which they occurred in the project.
- 3. The students will be divided into groups and each group will get one group of the photos.
- 4. Each group of students will write about the project and their experiences based on the photos.
- 5. The photos will be glued into the blank book, along with the groups' stories in order to form a complete account of the service project.
- 6. (Optional) The book may be complimented with an "author page" including student signatures, comments, etc.

#### **Photo Wall**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $2^{nd} - 12^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 30 - 45 minutes

Supplies Needed: disposable cameras, colorful paper, pens, writing paper

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Students use disposable cameras to take photos during service learning projects, making certain all students are photographed.
- 2. Using colorful background paper, students mount the photos and place on a bulletin board.
- 3. Students find a photo of themselves and develop a story describing what they are doing in the photo, the value of the project, their feelings about the project, etc.
- 4. Students can edit and even type their stories.
- 5. Stories can be displayed next to the picture in the hallway for all to see.

#### School TV

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

**Time Needed:** ongoing

**Supplies Needed:** script, costumes, scenery

Room Arrangements/Set Up: varies

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Students promote an upcoming service project in order to recruit additional participants.

2. Students write the script and gather props for the "commercial."

3. Students write and edit the script.

4. Students perform the commercial on the school's closed circuit TV for entire student body.

5. (Optional) Students may be divided into groups where each group is responsible for one segment of the commercial - script, props, etc.

# **Puppet Show**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 1-2 weeks

**Supplies Needed:** music, stage, puppet materials

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Students are divided into groups. Each group will work on one segment of the puppet show puppets, stage, script, etc.

2. Students design a complete puppet show for elementary students in order to introduce them to the concept of service-learning.



#### **Public Service Radio Announcements**

# Students: unlimited – depending on need

*Grade Level*:  $10^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades

<u>Time Needed</u>: ongoing <u>Supplies Needed</u>: none

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** none

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Students write public service announcements about their service-learning project.

2. Students read the announcements on the local radio station or tape the announcement in advance.

3. Announcements could focus on topics such as getting more volunteers, rationale for service-learning, recognizing volunteer participants, etc.

## We All Share This Land!

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:**  $6^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades **Time Needed:** 30 - 45 minutes

Supplies Needed: The Island video from National Geographic, TV, VCR

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

# **Description:**

1. Students will view *The Island* video.

2. Students will discuss the content of the video and how it correlates to their environmental service project.

3. Students will surely be moved and inspired by this video. A video such as this can motivate student reflection to a higher level.

4. (Optional) This could be used before an environmental project to express the need to save the Earth.



# **One Student's Opinion**

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

Time Needed: ongoing

**Supplies Needed:** school closed circuit TV system

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

1. Students interview individual students about their participation in service-learning projects.

2. Each week, "One Student's Opinion" is broadcast on the school's closed circuit TV system for the entire student body.

3. Students develop a different emphasis for each interview in order to keep interviews interesting how the student has changed, what the student learned about him/herself, how the project reinforced his/her academic learning, etc.

#### **Construction Mime**

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed:* 30 minute session – ongoing

**Supplies Needed:** white gloves, dark clothing, white face paint, props

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** open space

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Students prepare a story line for the mime surprises, challenges, learning opportunities, issues, concerns, outcomes, etc.
- 2. Students act out different parts.
- 3. Students use mime to convey the story line.
- 4. Students create a "finale" which expresses how students felt about the service project.

# **Service-Learning Is News**

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*:  $10^{th} - 12^{th}$  grades

<u>Time Needed</u>: ongoing <u>Supplies Needed</u>: none

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

## **Description:**

- 1. Students will invite a local television reporter to cover their service-learning project. Students may choose to write a press release or make a personal telephone call to the reporter.
- 2. Students will practice how to "make their case" with the reporter so that he/she is interested in their story.
- 3. The students' service-learning story will be carried on the local news program.

#### E-mail Network

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

Time Needed: ongoing

Supplies Needed: computer, photos, scanner

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

- 1. Students scan photographs of their service-learning projects into the computer. Students may choose to emphasize particular aspects of the project teamwork, relationships with service recipients, connection to academic content, etc.
- 2. Students create a regular e-mail campaign in which they e-mail the photos (along with an appropriate message) to various people friends, family, schoolmates, school/district-level administrators, school board members, newspaper reporters, local/state/national government officials, potential funders, etc.





## E-mail Chain

# Students: unlimited

**Grade Level:** 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

<u>Time Needed</u>: 10 - 15 minute sessions - on going **Supplies Needed**: computer, internet, e-mail access

**Room Arrangements/Set Up:** computer lab

**Special Conditions:** security issues

## **Description:**

1. An e-mail chain is created by the facilitator indicating a specific order in which the e-mail messages will progress.

2. The first person on the list sends a reflective e-mail to the second person on the list, the second adds his/her reflective comments and sends it on to the third person, and so on until the message reaches the last person on the list.

3. Several lists will be generated so that several different e-mail chains are initiated simultaneously.

4. The last student on each e-mail chain forwards the messages to the facilitator who then brings it to class to share with everyone.

#### Slide Show

# Students: unlimited

*Grade Level*: 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades

*Time Needed*: 30 minutes – 1 hour

Supplies Needed: camera, film, slide projector, screen

Room Arrangements/Set Up: none

Special Conditions: none

## **Description**:

1. Students record their service-learning project through a series of slides.

2. Students create a slide show. It may be accompanied by pre-recorded music, a student narrator, or student singer.

3. Students share the slide show with the service recipients.

4. Students engage in a reflection discussion about the project with the service recipients.



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