

Service-Learning Student Orientation



If this is your first Service-Learning experience...

You may feel unsure or even confused when your instructor explains the new service learning expectations and how they relate to the course academic content.

Keep an open mind!

*When your service begins in a few weeks,
look for the connections between your
service project and course material.*

If you can't see them...

ASK QUESTIONS!



Overview

Part I

- ❖ What is Service-Learning?
- ❖ The Benefits of Service-Learning
- ❖ Why is Service Learning Different from Traditional Instruction?
- ❖ Placement
- ❖ Assignments
- ❖ Making Connections
- ❖ Your Part
- ❖ The Difference between Service-Learning & Community Service



What is Service-Learning...



A hands-on/application-based teaching method characterized by student participation in organized service activities that are connected to **specific** learning outcomes.

- ❖ Service-learning provides structured time for student reflection; connecting the service experience to specific course content.
- ❖ Service-Learning meets identified community needs.



Hands on...



Benefits of Service-Learning



Service-Learning enhances the learning environment by...

- ❖ Creating applications for academic concepts/theories connected to the local community.
- ❖ Allowing for new perspectives.
- ❖ Providing a personal experience for course content to help you engage, reflect, and succeed.



Placement

A community partnership (EvCC & your site) provides a basis for meaningful community-based learning outcomes.



Assignments



Reflection assignments bring academic theories into focus by integrating service, social issues and learning goals.

Example:

"Today I was able to help an ELL student with their reading assignment. I found that this child has a lot of motivation to learn English and is having success. I have noticed that at times the child's cultural beliefs are different than the teacher's. It seems the teacher walks a mighty fine line between respecting the student's beliefs and meeting the needs of each child as she believes they should be." Angie



So, **Why** Service-Learning?

It is about **PERCEPTION**, and the way we learn from a real-life environment.

Your senses and awareness are heightened when you engage with a new environment. This can assist you in learning and processing what is being taught in the classroom deeper.



Your Part



- ❖ Be dependable and communicate!!! Return phone calls or emails promptly! Be on time and ready to help!
- ❖ Your main task for class will be to capture your service experience through effective journaling and sharing your observations in the classroom.

Your instructor will help you apply the theories and concepts in the course and your service project through class discussions and reflection assignments.



Making Connections



- ❖ Your service project literally becomes a living text that is brought into the classroom.
- ❖ Much like the way an instructor chooses the books for a course, they give you specific service sites to choose from to focus your learning.
- ❖ We are sending you to a specific environment, for a specific purpose.



So... **What is the difference**

Service-Learning

Volunteerism



Community Service

and Internships



What Are We Used To?

Volunteerism...

the engagement of students in activities where the primary emphasis is on the service being provided and the primary intended beneficiary is clearly the service recipient
(Focus: the service and the recipient)

Community Service...

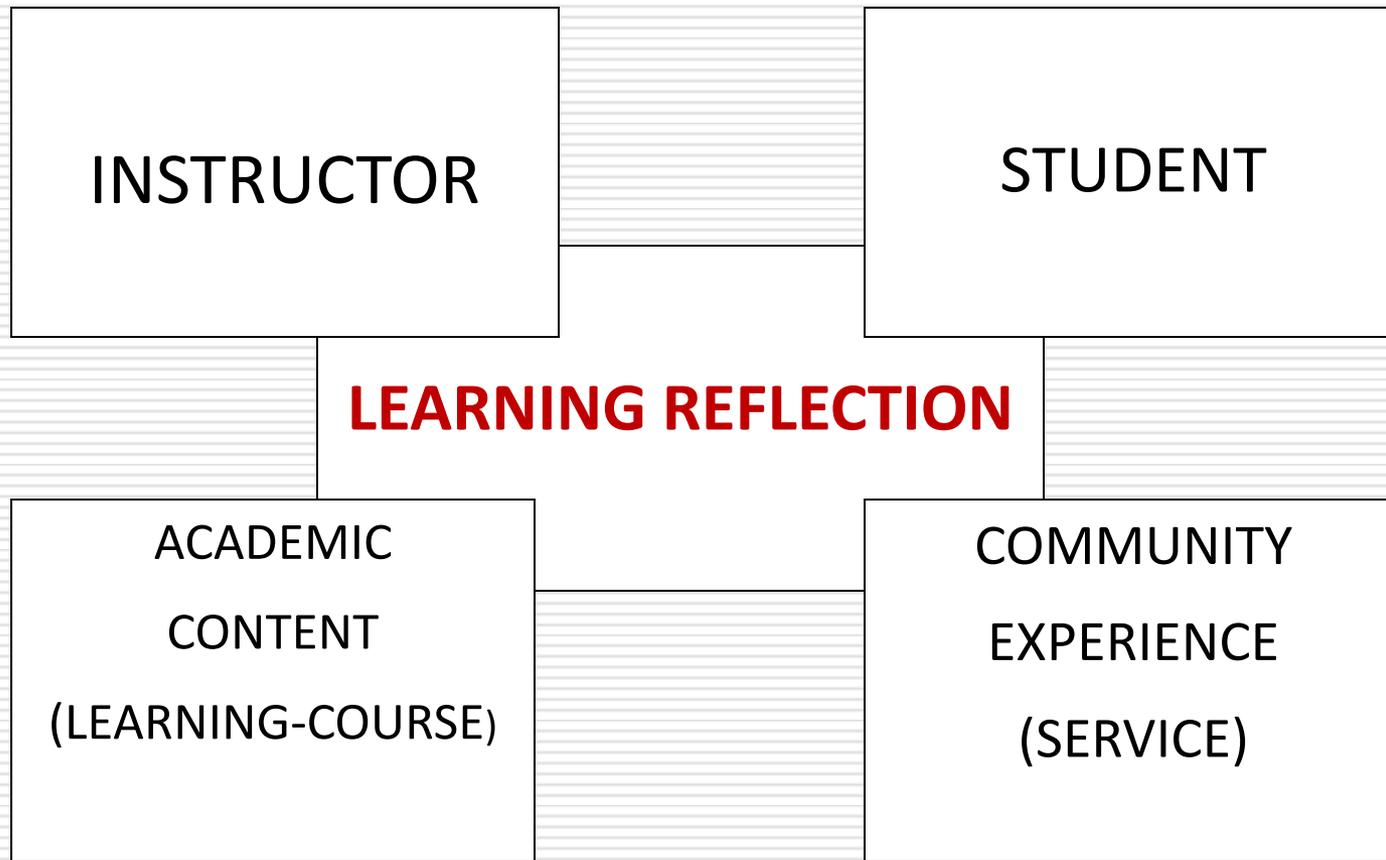
The engagement of students in activities that primarily focus on the service being provided, as well as the benefits the service activities have on the recipient. The students receive some benefits by learning more about how their service makes a difference in the lives of the service recipient.
(Focus: a local or global community need, involves more structure and commitment than volunteer programs)

Internships...

Engage students in service activities for the purpose of providing students with hands-on experience that enhances their learning or understanding of issues relevant to a particular area of study
(Focus: student learning, acquisition of skills and knowledge)



Service Learning



Service Learning is Different!

Service Learning programs must have some academic context and be designed in a way that ensures that the service enhances the learning and that the learning enhances the service - MUTUAL BENEFIT

