The critical component of a successful Service-Learning program is "reflection." Reflection describes the process of deriving meaning and knowledge from experience and occurs before, during, and after a Service-Learning project. Effective reflection engages both teachers and students in a thought-provoking process that consciously connects learning with experience.

**Reflection Learning Objectives**

- Links service to course objectives and fosters civic responsibility
- Occurs throughout the course and not just at the end of your service
- Is structured, guided, purposeful, with well-defined criteria for evaluation
- Challenges current realities, perhaps creating cognitive dissonance and/or conflict
- Goes beyond the descriptive nature of the experience and asks students to interpret and evaluate the relevance of their experience in relation to classroom knowledge with real-life service experience
- Asks students to apply new information to real-life problems and situations

**Essay Requirements**

In order to complete this Service-Learning component of your coursework and receive credit you MUST submit a reflection essay to the Service-Learning program. Your essay must adhere to the following criteria:

- Your name, Student Id, Instructor’s Name, Course Title, Agency Name, and Date placed at top left corner of page (see example below).
- Title of your essay – centered at the top of page (no separate title page).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First/Last Name</th>
<th>Student Id #</th>
<th>Instructor’s Name</th>
<th>Class/Course Title</th>
<th>Agency Name</th>
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- **1000 word reflection essay** (student must provide a word count at the bottom of the last page to receive credit.)
- **Essays that do not meet the minimum word count** will not receive credit.
- Use the reflection questions given on the back-side of the page to guide your written assignment.

* See back for reflection questions
Use the following questions to help you complete this Service-Learning component. The questions are meant to help guide you through the writing process. Your assignment MUST BE IN ESSAY FORM!

Reflection questions before starting service hours
- What is the identified problem/community need?
- How is your community partner site addressing that need?
- Why are you needed?
- What are some of your perceptions or beliefs about the population you will be serving?
- What fear, if any, do you have about working in the community?
- What do you hope to gain from this experience?

Reflection questions to consider during service hours
- How does your service learning experience relate to the learning objectives of the course?
- What are you observing?
- What are you learning?
- What has worked? What hasn’t?
- What do you think is (will be) the most valuable service you can offer at your site?
- Is there something more you could do to contribute to the solution of your site?

Reflection questions upon completion of service hours
- What have you learned about yourself?
- What have you learned about your community?
- What have you contributed to the community site?
- What values, opinions, beliefs have changed?
- What was the most important lesson learned?
- How have you been challenged?
- What should others do about this issue?
- What impact did you have on the community?

For questions or assistance, call 661-362-3231 or email servicelearning@canyons.edu, www.canyons.edu/s