# ENGAGING ALL PARTNERS IN REFLECTION: Designing and Implementing Integrative Reflection Opportunities

Kathleen Rice, Ph.D.
K L Rice Consulting
Oakland, CA
klriceconsulting@mac.com

Please feel free to use materials in this packet. I ask that you credit this source when doing so.

## On Reflection...

Reflection is "...the 'hyphen' between service-learning."
-Dwight Giles and Janet Eyler, Where is the Learning in Service-Learning?

Reflection is a process of seeking clarity about truth...truth in experience, thought, beliefs, instincts and relationships. Reflection can be accomplished independently or as a collective endeavor. Yet, however done, reflection demands consideration of one's internal state (beliefs, feelings, assumptions) and external circumstances (actions, relationships, power dynamics, obstacles). Reflection also demands a self-honesty and humility that will hold its own against affront from any quarter.

--Tony Chambers, Associate Vice President, University of Toronto, and the Kellogg Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good

Reflection can provide an opportunity for transformative learning to emerge from experience. "Transformative learning is a process of getting beyond mere knowledge acquisition to becoming changed in some meaningful way by what you have learned." The reflective process provides opportunities to integrate what might be disparate experiences into preparation for life.

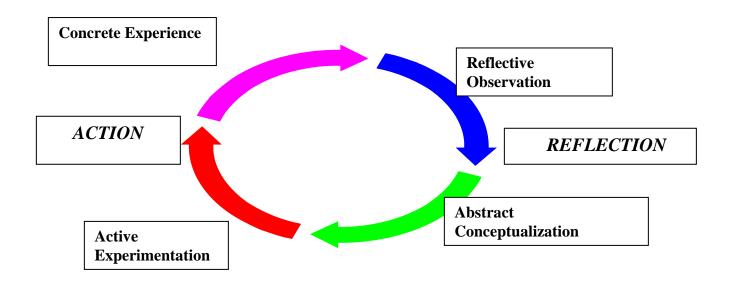
-Glenn A. Bowen, Director of Service Learning, Western Carolina University, <u>Reflection Methods and Activities for Service Learning</u>

## On Personal Change...

Each of us guards a gate of change that can only be unlocked from the inside. We cannot open the gate of another, either by argument or by emotional appeal."

-- Marilyn Ferguson, Educator and Writer

# Kolb's Model of Experiential Learning



Paulo Freire advocated for praxis, or "reflection and action upon the world in order to transform it...Reflection without action is verbalism, action without reflection is activism."

-Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed (1970).

# BENEFITS OF REFLECTION IN COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING

# Well-integrated and constructed reflection can result in the following benefits to students, faculty and community partners:

- Deeper, more sustainable learning of curricular and/or co-curricular content
- Increased consciousness of what is learned
- Expanded capacity to notice and understanding feelings
- Skill development
- Increased understanding of self, others, community and planet
- Increased capacity for authentic relationships
- Increased quality of community contributions
- Deeper recognition of assets, interests, and needs of self, others and community
- Increased capacity to listen to self and others in new ways
- Ability to hold selves accountable for mistakes
- Forgiveness of self and others for mistakes
- Celebration of successes
- Capacity to see all partners in the process more holistically
- Community teaching is shared with the educational institution
- Faculty teaching is shared with the community
- Curriculum is more relevant
- Deeper capacity for action that results in social justice and personal transformation
- Power can be redistributed when all partners reflect, teach and learn together
- Other benefits:

•

\_

# EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR FOSTERING REFLECTION EYLER AND GILES 4 C'S OF REFLECTION (1999)

Core Element	Definition
Continuous	The reflective process is implemented and maintained continuously before, during and after the service-learning experience. Reflection happens in many locations, in solitude and with others
Connected	The learning outcomes of the reflection activities are directly connected to the learning outcomes of the course or activity.  Reflection activities allow for "synthesizing action and thought."
Challenging	Learners are challenged to move from surface learning to deeper, critical thinking through the use of thought provoking strategies by the instructor, advisor, student leader, or community facilitator.
Contextualized	Reflection is contextualized when it "corresponds" to the course content, topics and experience in a meaningful way. Reflection activities recognize the often short-term context in which students are working, and does not ask them to develop pre-mature solutions to complex community challenges.

## KATHLEEN'S ADDITIONS

KATHLEEN SA	
Mutually Beneficial	Service learning partners/co-educators agree on the content and process of reflection activities and assignments. They create reflection activities that mutually benefit the student, the community partner and the faculty member.
Culturally Relevant/ Multi-Leveled	Reflection activities draw on multiple ways of knowing, learning and expression. Learning from the head, heart, gut, hands, and body are honored. Students are asked to examine issues on multiple levels: personal, relationship, group/cultural, institutional/societal.
Supportive	Since service learning partners may encounter uncomfortable feelings, it is important that they feel they are in a supportive and mutually respectful atmosphere where they can express their opinions, ideas and thoughts, become more aware of the impact of their perspectives on others, hear others' opinions, and be open to challenging their own perspectives.
Modeled by All Partners	Faculty, community partners, students model, participate in and benefit from the reflection process.
Internally Focused	Partners reflect on their own cultural identities in relation to on each other and the impact of those identities have on their service experiences and their perspectives. Participants reflect on the impact of their experience on their view of themselves as community members and as collaborative leaders in creating social change.
Clear	Clear instructions, expectations, guidelines, and criteria for assessment and evaluation are provided.
Feedback-Rich	Peers, community partners, faculty provide thoughtful, on-going feedback that supports and challenges.

# REFLECTION QUESTION MODELS

These frameworks can be used as guides for developing reflection questions that can be used in written, oral or artistic/creative activities.

OBJECTIVE	WHAT,	ORID	DIGA	QUESTIONS
	GUT	(Institute	Source?	
	MODEL	for		
	(NYLC)	Cultural		
		Affairs)		
COGNITIVE	What?	Objective	Describe	What happened? What did you see,
DESCRIPTION				hear, smell, touch, say
AFFECTIVE	Gut?	Reflective	Interpret	What range of feelings came up for you
EXPRESSION				during the experience? When were you
				surprised? Frustrated? Pleased?
				Affirmed? Disappointed? Angry?
ANALYSIS	So	Interpretive	Generalize	What are you learning from this? What
	What?			difference does that make to you, to the
				community? What do you understand
				differently now? When have you seen
				something similar before? How does
				this relate to larger contexts, theories, ideas? What is important about what
				you have learned?
APPLICATION	Now	Decisional	Apply	Now what will you do with what you
AITLICATION	What?	Decisional	Appry	have learned? How does it inform your
	vv mai:			work in community? What has our
				group/class learned? What are the
				implications of what we have done
				together?

# **Sample Reflection Questions Related to Core Learning Outcomes**

#### **Linking Course Content and Community Service Experience**

From your experience in the community, what course concepts have you seen in action? Where have you seen x theory in action at your community site? What are some examples where x theory(ies) don't seem to apply at your community site?

#### **Self Awareness**

What has surprised you? What assumptions of your own, perhaps ones you didn't know you had, have you become aware of? How has your experience reinforced or challenges those assumptions or beliefs? What skills of yours, perhaps ones you didn't realize you had, have been an asset in the community?

#### **Civically Engaged Person**

What thoughts do you have about the kind of community member you want to be? Has anything from your experience in this course impacted those thoughts? What does a civically minded person in your chosen field do, for example, what would a socially responsible biologist look like?

#### **Social Justice/Social Change**

From what you have learned, why do you think there is a desire and need for the service you provided? What conditions of inequity make the service necessary? What next steps do you think you could take to better understand these underlying inequities? What role do you see you can take in creating more equity?

# FOCUSED CONVERSATION FOLLOWING AN INTENSE EXPERIENCE

My sense is we have all experienced some intense events today (last week...). It's important that we take time to reflect on and share what's happened, so we can find meaning from our experience, learn some critical lessons, and increase our capacity to contribute in the future. I'm going to ask some questions that will help us gradually process what happened. I ask that we give each other an opportunity to share their own responses without judgment.

#### **Objective Questions**

- Imagine you were a video camera recording what you saw happening that day. What actions, words, phrases, objects, and scenes are recorded on your tape? Let's get everything out so we all have a full picture of what happened.
- What has happened since?

#### **Reflective Questions**

- What shocked you?
- What was most frightening?
- What made you want to escape?
- How else did you find yourself reacting? Were you disappointed? Angry? Sad?
- Any place you wanted to cheer?

#### **Interpretive Questions**

- What are all the things you think lead up to this event?
- What might have been some other contributing factors?
- What impact does it have on you?
- How are you different now?
- How might we be different a year from now?
- What can we learn from this?

#### **Decisional Questions**

- What can we do to prevent this from happening again?
- Who else do you need to see or talk with?
- What can we do to help each other now?
- What can we do to symbolize how we changed or what we have learned?

From Institute for Cultural Affairs

# FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN DESIGNING COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING REFLECTION ACTIVITIES

FACTORS	QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER
Who are you?	<ul> <li>What are your strengths, challenges, skills, and comfort level for facilitating reflection?</li> <li>What is your knowledge of the curricular or co-curricular content you want students to learn?</li> <li>What is your understanding of the community context and experience students are having?</li> <li>How does social conditioning related to your cultural identities (age, class, disabilities, gender, language, race, religious affiliation, sexual identity) influence your teaching, facilitation and reflection styles?</li> <li>What is your paradigm of the faculty/student affairs professional role (as knower, as learner, teacher, student/lifelong learner, partner)?</li> <li>What do YOU want to learn from the reflection process (about</li> </ul>
NT 4 0	students, about the community, about yourself?)?
Nature of Community Partnership	<ul> <li>Are students in your class working with the same community partner or different partners?</li> <li>What is the nature of the students' work with the community (what are they doing, how much time are they working with the organization)?</li> <li>What stage are they in with their partnership (e.g. Forming, Norming, Storming, Performing)?</li> <li>Is anything in particular happening at the site, on campus, in the neighborhood, state, nation, world</li> </ul>
<b>Learning Outcomes</b>	<ul> <li>How can reflection help students reach course learning outcomes?</li> </ul>
Goals for Each Reflection Activity	<ul> <li>What do you want to accomplish with a reflection activity? For example, do you want them to:</li> <li>identify lessons learned from past experience that they can draw from as they prepare for this community experience?</li> <li>explore how their community experience illuminates or challenges curricular or co-curricular content?</li> <li>build skills (e.g. communication, analysis, questioning)?</li> <li>describe how they applied academic concepts o their work in the community?</li> <li>examine civic, social justice, leadership, or social responsibility applications for their community work?</li> <li>increase their awareness of their own perspectives and world view?</li> </ul>

Who are the students?	<ul> <li>What are their individual and collective strengths and challenges?</li> <li>Where are they developmentally (cognitive, identity, moral development, etc.)?</li> <li>What are their learning styles?</li> <li>Who are they as cultural beings (age, class, disability status, ethnicity, gender, language, national identity, race, sexual identity, etc.), and where are they in their identity development?</li> <li>How do they feel about the service experience? What is their past experience with service, service learning, or community engagement?</li> <li>What kinds of activities do they have the capacity to engage in?</li> </ul>
Timing	<ul> <li>Would this reflection activity be used before, during, or after engaging in service?</li> <li>How much time can you devote to the activity?</li> </ul>
Methods	<ul> <li>Verbal/Small Group/Large Group Discussion</li> <li>Artistic/Creative</li> <li>Written</li> <li>Structured/Unstructured</li> <li>Simulations</li> <li>Case Studies</li> <li>see Reflection Methods/Strategies page for more methods!</li> </ul>
Location	<ul> <li>In the classroom</li> <li>In the community</li> <li>In the student's home</li> <li>Other locations</li> </ul>
With whom?	<ul> <li>Alone</li> <li>In pairs, in small groups</li> <li>Large group/Full class/Full student organization</li> <li>With peers, community partners, with faculty?</li> </ul>
Assessment Strategy	<ul> <li>Who assesses (self, peer, community partner/community member, faculty, student affairs professional) the learning the students demonstrate through reflection?</li> <li>What are the criteria?</li> <li>What role does grading play?</li> <li>How will you provide feedback to the student that both supports and challenges them?</li> </ul>

#### REFLECTION-RELATED SERVICE LEARNING COURSE OUTCOMES

Community engagement learning outcomes often fall into four categories:

- Curricular and/or co-curricular content
- Personal, professional, and leadership development
- Social justice/social change
- Civic engagement/community participation

The following learning outcomes demonstrate how educators can incorporate reflective learning into service learning outcomes.

#### **Composition Course**

- Students will demonstrate their ability to synthesize ideas and respond to grant guidelines by writing a grant proposal in collaboration with a peer and members of the local community.
- Students will demonstrate improved skill in articulating their reflective thinking in writing.

#### **African American Literature**

- Students will demonstrate their ability to design a project that will reduce the cultural and linguistic distance between teachers and students.
- Students will demonstrate their capacity to reflect on their own linguistic experiences in school and identify how societal privilege and/or marginalization impacted their experience.

## **Anthropology**

• Students will increase their capacity to describe what they observe without evaluation or judgment.

## **Leadership Course**

• Students will demonstrate their ability to describe experiences, name their feelings, interpret their experience in relation to leadership theory, and apply their learning to their own development as a leader.

## **Alternative Spring Break**

• Students will articulate their learning about some of the root causes of homelessness, and their personal relationship to the issue of homelessness.

# SKILLS DEVELOPED THROUGH REFLECTIVE PRACTICE

What do I know?   "Facts" about the site and its programs, the large social issues, data, the who/what/where/when   Comprehension   What do I understand?   Why does community address issues in the way they do? Compare/contrast, summarize, explain
Comprehension What do I understand? Why does community address issues in the way they do? Compare/contrast, summarize, explain  Analysis How can theory help me understand what I see and experience? Examining my experience in relation to curricular/co-curricular content. How do my experience and the theory, data, etc. inform each other? How are they contradictory? What patterns am I noticing? What are the root causes of the "need" for this service? What inequities are at play?  Application How can I use this knowledge? Whow does this issue impact my life? How does my life impact this issue? How will I concretely use what I have learned?  Synthesis How do the pieces fit together? Generalizing. Connecting knowledge from several areas. Looking at issues on the individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
ComprehensionWhat do I understand?Why does community address issues in the way they do? Compare/contrast, summarize, explainAnalysisHow can theory help me understand what I see and experience?Examining my experience in relation to curricular/co-curricular content. How do my experience and the theory, data, etc. inform each other? How are they contradictory? What patterns am I noticing? What are the root causes of the "need" for this service? What inequities are at play?ApplicationHow can I use this knowledge?How does this issue impact my life? How does my life impact this issue? How will I concretely use what I have learned?SynthesisHow do the pieces fit together?Generalizing. Connecting knowledge from several areas. Looking at issues on the individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
they do? Compare/contrast, summarize, explain  How can theory help me understand what I see and experience?  Examining my experience in relation to curricular/co-curricular content. How do my experience and the theory, data, etc. inform each other? How are they contradictory? What patterns am I noticing? What are the root causes of the "need" for this service? What inequities are at play?  Application  How can I use this knowledge?  How does this issue impact my life? How does my life impact this issue? How will I concretely use what I have learned?  Synthesis  How do the pieces fit together?  Generalizing. Connecting knowledge from several areas. Looking at issues on the individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
Analysis  How can theory help me understand what I see and experience?  Examining my experience in relation to curricular/co-curricular content. How do my experience and the theory, data, etc. inform each other? How are they contradictory? What patterns am I noticing? What are the root causes of the "need" for this service? What inequities are at play?  Application  How can I use this knowledge?  How does this issue impact my life? How does my life impact this issue? How will I concretely use what I have learned?  Synthesis  How do the pieces fit together?  Generalizing. Connecting knowledge from several areas. Looking at issues on the individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
understand what I see and experience?  and experience?  experience and the theory, data, etc. inform each other? How are they contradictory? What patterns am I noticing? What are the root causes of the "need" for this service? What inequities are at play?  Application  How can I use this knowledge?  How does this issue impact my life? How does my life impact this issue? How will I concretely use what I have learned?  Synthesis  How do the pieces fit together?  Generalizing. Connecting knowledge from several areas. Looking at issues on the individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
and experience?  experience and the theory, data, etc. inform each other? How are they contradictory? What patterns am I noticing? What are the root causes of the "need" for this service? What inequities are at play?  Application  How can I use this knowledge?  How does this issue impact my life? How does my life impact this issue? How will I concretely use what I have learned?  Synthesis  How do the pieces fit together?  Generalizing. Connecting knowledge from several areas. Looking at issues on the individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
other? How are they contradictory? What patterns am I noticing? What are the root causes of the "need" for this service? What inequities are at play?  Application  How can I use this knowledge?  How does this issue impact my life? How does my life impact this issue? How will I concretely use what I have learned?  Synthesis  How do the pieces fit together?  Generalizing. Connecting knowledge from several areas. Looking at issues on the individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
patterns am I noticing? What are the root causes of the "need" for this service? What inequities are at play?  Application  How can I use this knowledge?  What inequities are at play?  How does this issue impact my life? How does my life impact this issue? How will I concretely use what I have learned?  Synthesis  How do the pieces fit together?  Generalizing. Connecting knowledge from several areas. Looking at issues on the individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
of the "need" for this service? What inequities are at play?  How can I use this knowledge?  How does this issue impact my life? How does my life impact this issue? How will I concretely use what I have learned?  Synthesis  How do the pieces fit together?  Generalizing. Connecting knowledge from several areas. Looking at issues on the individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
Application  How can I use this knowledge?  How does this issue impact my life? How does my life impact this issue? How will I concretely use what I have learned?  Synthesis  How do the pieces fit together?  Generalizing. Connecting knowledge from several areas. Looking at issues on the individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
Application  How can I use this knowledge?  How does this issue impact my life? How does my life impact this issue? How will I concretely use what I have learned?  Synthesis  How do the pieces fit together?  Generalizing. Connecting knowledge from several areas. Looking at issues on the individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
knowledge? my life impact this issue? How will I concretely use what I have learned?  Synthesis  How do the pieces fit together?  Generalizing. Connecting knowledge from several areas. Looking at issues on the individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
Synthesis  How do the pieces fit together?  Generalizing. Connecting knowledge from several areas. Looking at issues on the individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
Synthesis  How do the pieces fit together?  Generalizing. Connecting knowledge from several areas. Looking at issues on the individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
together? several areas. Looking at issues on the individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
individual, relationship, group and societal/institutional levels
societal/institutional levels
<b>Evaluation</b> How well did I do it? Of my own capacity to contribute. What would I
What can I do now? do differently next time? If students are asked to
identify recommendations for a site, agreement
with community partners on this is important.
Encourage students to recognize the often
limited experience they have had in framing their
recommendations
<b>Description</b> What do I see and hear? Separating skills in description from skills in
analysis and application.
Critical How do I question what I Building the capacity to look at issues from
<b>Thinking</b> think I have learned, and multiple perspectives, and to question. Moving
what others say about from dichotomous thinking to more complex
this issue? thinking.
Naming What am I feeling and Recognizing, acknowledging, naming feelings a
<b>Feelings</b> how does it impact my a compass for learning.
perspective?
Career How does this experience Examining the role of community in careers.
<b>Development</b> shape my career goals? How do these skills transfer to a profession?
Personal How am I changing as a Exploring how I am different after this
<b>Growth</b> person? experience. How are my relationships different?
<b>Identity</b> How am I becoming How have I become more aware of my values,
<b>Development</b> clearer about who I am? perspectives, cultural identities?
<b>Leadership</b> How can I make a What leadership skills have I learned and
difference? developed?
Social Change How can I affect change? What knowledge and tools do I now have to
contribute to change?

#### REFLECTION METHODS/STRATEGIES

#### **WRITTEN**

- Journals (not the same as a log)
  - Free form or structured/directed
  - Individual or team
  - Critical Incident (event that changed your perspective, describe, analyze, explain your role and impact on you)
  - Key-phrase
  - Double entry (Description and feelings/interpretations/links to readings)
  - 3 Part (Description, Analysis, Application)
  - Highlighted entries (highlight course related content)
  - Dialogue (student-faculty; studentcommunity partner; student-student, uses prompts)
- Letters
- Editorials
- Diagrams
- Personal Web pages/Blogs
- Powerpoint/CD's/Short Movies
- Guide for future service learners
- Essays
- Free-write/1 minute papers
- Electronic reflection/Discussion boards
- Student-written questions
- Reflective Narratives
- Create a legacy for service learners who come after you
- Case studies

#### **ORAL**

- Directed and non-directed discussion
- Bring in a quote from a reading on a card, exchange, read and respond
- Fictitious journal entry that helps students identify how to make journals effective
- Pair sharing
- Small groups
- Case studies
- Audio Recordings
- Storytelling/self in third person
- Book Clubs
- Peer Interviews
- Focus Groups
- Poetry Slam
- Fish Bowls (2 concentric circles inside circle discusses an issue, outside circle replaces someone on inside to join conversation or outside circle can be given different topic to discuss when they are on the inside).
- Presentations
- Mini-teach sessions/Directed Reading show how class content relates to community experience
- Conference with faculty
- Teach content to peers or others
- Group brainstorm (e.g. community assets, then identify categories or themes)
- Role plays (recommendation is to have student play themselves, not take on someone else's role as stereotypes can, often unintentionally, shape the role they play)

#### **CREATIVE**

\*Draw/Paint \*Sculpture (paper, clay...) \*Collage \*Song list

\*Video \*Music \*Dance/Movement \*Group Skits

\*Scrapbooks \*Create a game show \*Web pages, computer generated images...

\*Thought and feeling "bubbles" (like in a comic strip, to give voice to thoughts and feelings)

#### REFLECTION STATIONS ACTIVITY

Provide instructions and supplies at each station. Students spend about 10 minutes at each station then rotate. Another option is to give them a set amount of time and invite them to visit as many or as few stations as they want/can. Ask them to share the reflections they want to, in small groups (important they know they can keep some reflections private if they choose). If the class or group is small, you can invite students to share one reflection with the whole class if they wish.

#### **CREATIVE ASSETS STATION**

Station Supplies: art supplies such as clay, felt, scissors, glue, color pencils or markers, stickers.

Identify one asset your service experience helped you discover you have. Draw or make a sculpture to symbolize this asset and its value to your community. OR for pre-service reflection – identify one strength you hope to offer to the community, create something that represents that strength.

#### MOVIES, BOOKS, MUSIC STATION

Station Supplies: Paper, pens, laptop with internet access and I-Tunes to people can look up lyrics, song titles, etc.

Identify a movie, song, or book title that you think describes thing you are learning from the community. Write a description of why that represents your learning.

#### METAPHORS OF CHANGE STATION

Station Supplies: A pile of objects such as office supplies, kitchen utensils, etc., paper and pens.

Choose one item from this pile of objects that represents a turning point for you in your community experience where you were different afterwards. Write a description of the turning point, your role in the experience, and how you were different as a result.

#### POST CARD STATION

Station Supplies: Post cards of inspiration such as those from syracuseculturalworkers.com/.

Choose a post card and write to someone at your community site who has taught you something valuable. Describe what they taught you, how that has impacted you, and how you will use what you learned. It is your choice whether you mail the post card or just write it for this reflection activity.

#### LEARNING FLOW CHART

Station Supplies: Paper, pens, paper cuts outs of various shapes such as circles, squares, arrows, etc.

Design a flow chart that links key things you learned from the classroom, to key experiences you had in the community and vice versa.

#### LETTER WRITING STATION

Station Supplies: Paper, pens.

Reflecting on some of the root causes you became aware of this semester, are there some things you think someone needs to be more aware of? Who would you like to make a strategic request of? Is there a governmental official, funder, community member, or campus administrator you want to make a request of? What do you more people need to be aware of, how has your experience taught you this, and why from the perspective of the person you are writing to, could it be in their best interest to address this issue? Draft a letter you may or may not eventually send.

#### **GRAFFITI WALL**

Station Supplies: Sticky wall, dry erase board or wall with chart paper taped up, markers with different areas identified "I'd like to see more of..." "I'd like to see less of..."

What is one thing you would like to see more of in your community? What is one thing you would like to see less of?

#### **CREATIVE QUOTABLE QUOTES**

Station Supplies: art supplies such as clay, felt, scissors, glue, color pencils or markers, stickers.

Identify 1-3 key thoughts, experiences, or feelings from this course you want to hold onto. Recall phrases or quotes from things you have read, or things you or others have said. Use the arts and crafts supplies to create something to keep as a reminder of those key learnings you want to retain.

#### PHOTOGRAPH AND GREETING CARD ACTIVITY

Station Supplies: Assortment of diverse photographs and cards. Paper and pens.

Select a picture or greeting card that reflects the core or essence of the work you are doing with the community and why you are doing it. Jot some of your thoughts and feelings down about your work and how this picture reflects them. Bring the card and your reflective writing back to the group.

### **Sample Critical Reflection Activities**

#### **Pair Share**

At the end of a class or discussion, pair with a partner and share one highlight, one question, one place where you have a different perspective.

#### **Question Circle**

Ask a question of the group. The first person in the circle doesn't necessarily answer it, but speaks to what the question brings up for them. Finish by asking a question for next person in the circle.

# THE FOLLOWING SECTION WAS DEVELOPED BY JENNIFER M. PIGZA, jpigza@stmarys-ca.edu

#### **Gallery Experience**

The gallery experience poses a series of questions/statements around the room related to a topic of interest. Ideally the questions work together to bridge theory and practice and allow for musings about what is known and unknown. Participants are invited to take a place in front of a posted question and are given a period of time to respond. The facilitator then instructs the group to move around the room to answer another question. This round-robin continues until all people have the opportunity to respond to all questions. The facilitator asks one person to read the responses on each paper. The group then steps back and discusses the questions and responses of most interest. The gallery questions for our exercise were:

- Words that come to mind when I think about critical reflection
- Resources that I turn to for assistance in teaching
- Reflection activities that I know about and/or have tried
- Exciting aspects of incorporating service-learning into my course
- What I wish I understood better about my students and their learning

In addition to opening discussions, a gallery experience can be used to reveal information and assumptions about justice and equality. Adams, Bell and Griffin<sup>1</sup> suggest a gallery activity that addresses structural policies and practices as well as cultural norms related to institutional heterosexism and heterosexual privilege.

#### **Artistic Reflection<sup>2</sup>**

In this workshop we engaged in an artistic reflection of what it means to facilitate reflection. This process challenged us to think metaphorically, conceptually, visually, and through color and line about these activities. While artistic expression may be challenging for some students, it does allow different learning styles a place in intellectual pursuit. Other examples of artistic reflection include poetry, murals, music, and photography.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See the chapter on Heterosexism Curriculum Design in—Adams, Bell & Griffin. (1997). Teaching for diversity and social justice: A sourcebook. New York: Routledge.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Adapted from Eyler, Giles & Schmeide as previously cited.

#### Misconception/Preconception Check<sup>3</sup>

A Misconception/Preconception Check is a great way to begin to understand what students know and don't know about the issue, people, or environment that will be explored in a course's entirety or in the service-learning component of the course. An instructor whose course includes service-learning in local high schools might develop a quiz about Prince George's County, education and income levels, racial/ethnic demographics, and other items of particular interest including students' attitudes or experiences in the area. The use of the quiz is not to identify who is ahead or behind of the curve in knowledge or development. Rather, the quiz helps the instructor understand what information and attitudes to explore more deeply and can provide a resource for introductory research assignments. This type of Check is a pre-reflection activity.

#### Oral History<sup>4</sup>

Engaging in an oral history project is a way for students to foster relationships with community members in a way that honors their wisdom and experience by formalizing the student's role as listener. A course that studies issues of aging—physiology, policy, history of twentieth century, elder-care—could use a oral history project to understand theories, policies and facts from first-hand accounts. A community-based research project that involves violence reduction might include a series of oral histories as part of examining residents' experiences and perceptions about violence.

#### Student-Generated Test or Journal Questions<sup>5</sup>

Engaging students in creating test and journal questions highlights for the instructor what the students deem the most critical elements of the course or experiences, their perception of what is "fair" in terms of complexity, and their ability to respond to the questions they pose. In a service-learning course, student-generated questions might provide an avenue for the instructor to see how well the students integrate the service-learning experience with the other course content. In this technique, students not only generate questions, but they also provide sample examples that they deem of "A" quality. An adaptation of this exercise would engage students in generating journal questions which they swap with their peers. The following week, students could review each others journals and discuss strengths and weaknesses. This can help increase quality of future work and, again, highlights what the instructor might want to review.

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Misconception/Preconception exercise comes from—Angelo & Cross. (1993). Classroom assessment techniques: A handbook for college teachers. SanFrancisco: Jossey-Bass. The Classism Quiz comes from—Adams, Bell & Griffin as previously cited.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Adapted from Eyler, Giles & Schmeide as previously cited.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Adapted from Angelo & Cross. (1993). Classroom assessment techniques: A handbook for college teachers. SanFrancisco: Jossey-Bass.

#### **Bibliography**

Adams, M., Bell, L.A., Griffin, P. (Eds.) *Teaching for diversity and social justice*. (1997). New York: Routledge.

Angelo, T.A. & Cross, P.C.. 1993). Classroom assessment techniques: A handbook for college teachers. SanFrancisco: Jossey-Bass.

Ash, S.L., Clayton, P.H. & Atkinson, M.P. (2005). Integrating reflection and assessment to capture and improve student learning. *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*, 11(2), 49-60.

Boud, D., R. Keogh, and D. Walker. (1985). "Promoting Reflection in Learning: a Model," in *Reflection: Turning Experience into Learning*. Edited by D. Boud, R. Keogh, and D. Walker, pp. 18-40. London: Kogan Page.

Bowen, G.A. (2007). Reflection methods and activities for service learning: A student manual and workbook.

Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing.

Campus Compact. (2003). *Introduction to service-learning toolkit: Readings and resources for faculty*. Providence, RI: Brown University.

Chin, N. P. (2004). Teaching critical reflection through narrative storytelling. *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*, 10(3), 57.63.

Eyler, J. & Giles, D. (1999). Where's the learning in service-learning? San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Eyler, J., Giles, D., Schmiede, A., (1996). *Practitioner's guide to reflection in service-learning: Student voices and reflections*. Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University. (available through the National Service Learning Clearinghouse).

Felten, P., Gilchrist, L.Z. & Darby, A. (2006, Spring). Emotion and learning: Feeling our way toward a new theory of reflection in service-learning. *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*, 12(2), 38-46.

Hatcher, J.A., Bringle, R. G., & Muthiah, R. (2004). Designing effective reflection: What matters to service-learning? *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*, 11(1), 38-46.

Loeb, P.R. (2004). The impossible will take a little while: A citizen's guide to hope in a time of fear. New York: Basic Books.

McEwen, M.K. "Enhancing Student Learning and Development Through Service-Learning," In Jacoby, B. and Associates, *Service-Learning in Higher Education: Concepts and Practices*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1996.

O'Grady, C (Ed.). (2000). Integrating service learning and multicultural education in colleges and universities. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Pope, R. & Reynolds, A. & Mueller, J. (2004). *Multicultural Competence in Student Affairs*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Rhoads, R. (1997). *Community service and higher learning: Exploration of the caring self.* Albany: State University of New York.

Shön, D.A. (1983). The reflective practitioner. New York: Basic Books.

#### Web Sites:

Service-Learning: Using Structured Reflection to Enhance Learning From Service. Campus Compact <a href="http://www.compact.org/disciplines/reflection/">http://www.compact.org/disciplines/reflection/</a>

Facilitating Reflection: A Manual for Leaders and Educators. Written and Compiled by Julie Reed & Christopher Koliba http://www.uvm.edu/~dewey/reflection\_manual/