

***FINAL SYNTHESIS ESSAY- Due 1 within one week of completing service
SEND A COPY IN MICROSOFT WORD or GOOGLE DOC FORMAT TO:
kelly.barnes@jesuithighschool.org***

Objective: To share what you have learned from your summer service project and how you might apply those lessons to your life. We hope this kind of paper can help you reflect on what it means to work for social justice in today's world. Support your thesis with your own stories, experiences and examples. **YOU** and **WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED** from the people you have met are the focus of this paper.

Format Guidelines: 3 full pages minimum
Typed, double-spaced
1" Margins, 12 point font

Title Page Format: Student's Name
Name of Placement
Date
****This info goes ONLY on your title page and does not count toward your three page minimum***

Outline:

I. Introduction

The introduction tells your reader the theme or message of your paper. It should be about ½ page and should include a thesis statement (your main idea). This gives direction to your paper and is an ideal place to be creative. Start out with something interesting, like an anecdote or brief story that occurred during the week that captures the "spirit" of your experience, and then state the theme of your paper.

II. Summary of Service Work

Begin the body of your paper by briefly describing the agencies you became acquainted with and what they do. Then, summarize *your* work experiences, what kinds of things *you* did. This should take about ½ page. Be inclusive but concise in stating all the various activities in which you were involved.

III. Educational and Theological Reflections

This is the most important part of your paper and should be about two pages. Your goal here is to prove the insights you have gained while being involved in your service work, how you learned them, and how you hope to apply them to your life. These reflections may be both positive and negative, depending on your personal experience, and should be supported by examples, descriptions, stories, etc, avoiding generalizations or stereotypes. Support your insights with quotes from the readings you have received, as well as from your daily experiences on your summer service project.

These insights focus on two levels an educational level (explained in the previous paragraph), and a theological or "faith/spirituality" level. The **educational level** involves sharing how the lessons you've learned have meaning in your life and might be incorporated into your life. The **theological level** involves relating your service work to *your* faith *and* to that of the wider church. **A part of your theological reflection requires including a scripture quote or a church document on a subject of social justice.** (See following list for help). Choose a quote that demonstrates how you responded to the call to serve others in your service project. Say why you chose this quote and make a connection to your thesis. (See attached reflection prompts for help.)

IV. Conclusion

This is where you bring closure to your paper. Summarize your main points and highlight the most important insights (positive & negative) you gained from your summer service project. Like your introduction, you can conclude with a story that relates to what you've written in your essay.

Some Helpful Reflection Questions

PLEASE DO NOT ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS IN LIST FORM BUT LET THEM GUIDE YOU IN ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS.

Educational Level: *What did my experience mean to my life? How might I make it a part of me?*

- ÿ What image did I have of (fill in the blank according to your service location) before I arrived in? What did I learn about the situation of the people we encountered?
- ÿ What are some important things I learned through the people I met and worked with? Most importantly, how or from whom did I learn this? (Use stories or experiences to show how they taught me something about myself or my life).
- ÿ How has my time in (fill in the blank according to your service) changed me? How did I change how I related to the people I met and spoke with? What influence might I have over the way others around me relate to these people?
- ÿ Did I notice any new attitudes or talents in myself? How can I apply what I learned about me to other parts of my life, such as family or friend relationships, school, future career, further service, etc.?
- ÿ What were my biggest struggles in (fill in the blank according to...)? What can I learn from those struggles?
- ÿ What were the greatest gifts I received from my time in (fill in the blank)?

Theological Level: *Where did I see God? How did my work respond to "what it means to be Christian?"*

Begin with a scriptural quote (see attached list for help). Quote the passage and cite the bible passage or source. *(If you are not Christian, apply these reflections to your own faith or spirituality, whatever that perspective may be.)*

- ÿ Why did I choose this quote? How does it show the relationship between my work and the call to service?
- ÿ What is the good of service for me? In other words, why does my faith call me to participate in an experience such as this?
- ÿ When did I feel most alive during my service project, what was happening and who was I with?
- ÿ How did I experience God in the people I worked with? Did my experience or relationship with God change after living and walking with people who are "marginalized" (on the outskirts of society)?
- ÿ After reflecting upon my experience do you feel as though God was trying to communicate with you in some way? If so, what was the message that you received?
- ÿ How has this experience challenged my faith? Strengthened it?

- SCRIPTURE GUIDE TO JUSTICE -

This guide is provided to help you find a scripture passage for your essay. The synopsis listed should help you. For your paper remember to quote the entire passage and credit your source.

OLD TESTAMENT

Gn. 4:9-10	Am I my brother's keeper?
Ex. 3:1-20	God reveals himself as liberator; sends Moses to free his people from economic and political oppression.
Ex. 6:2-13	God the liberator
Ex. 22:20-24	Justice and mercy toward the stranger, orphan, widow
Ex. 22:25-27	Mercy and kindness toward neighbor
Ex. 23:9	Don't oppress strangers
Lv. 19:9-15	Treat your neighbor with justice and mercy
Dt. 10:16-20	Don't oppress strangers
Dt. 15:4	Let there be no poor among you
Dt. 24:17-22	Justice toward strangers, orphans, widows
Dt. 27:19	Don't oppress strangers
Tb. 4:16-17	Treat others as you would be treated
Ps. 9:9	Strength for the oppressed; justice toward all.
Ps. 34:6-18	The Lord hears and protects the just
Ps. 72	God liberates and defends the poor and oppressed.
Ps. 82	No more mockery of justice
Ps. 103	"Yahweh is always on the side of the oppressed"
Ps. 146:6-9	The Lord gives justice and liberty
Prv. 21:13	Listen to the poor
Prv. 22:22-23	Do not rob or injure the poor
Prv. 31:8-9	Be an advocate for the voiceless
Ecc. 4:1-3	The power of oppressors and the weak
Sir. 3:30;4:11	Charity toward the poor
Is. 2:1-5	Turn swords into ploughshares
Is. 5:8-9	Woe to those who hoard riches
Is. 10:1-2	Denial of human rights
Is. 29:13	Change of heart requires more than lip service
Is. 32:16-17	Justice will bring peace
Is. 58:1-12	God doesn't want empty worship or meaningless religious exercises. He wants conversion of heart that produces justice, love and mercy
Is. 61:1-2	Mission of Christ foretold, good news to the poor; liberation
Jer. 22:3	Rescue the victim from the oppressor
Jer. 22:16	To know the Lord is to act justly
Ez 34	Responsibilities of leaders and authorities
Hos. 6:6	Love, not empty worship
Am. 2:6-7	The unjust trample on the heads of ordinary people
Am. 5:14-15	Establish justice
Am. 5:21-24	God does not want empty, meaningless religious exercises, but rather worship that expresses true conversion and renewal that produces justice.
Mi. 6:8	Act justly

NEW TESTAMENT

- Mt. 5:23-25 Forgiveness and reconciliation
Mt. 5:38-48 Give your coat. Walk the extra mile
Mt. 6:19-21 Your heart is where your treasure is
Mt. 6:25-34 Set your hearts on his kingdom first
Mt. 7:21 Combine prayer with action
Mt. 8:20 Christ lived in poverty
Mt. 10:37-39 Take up the cross daily
Mt. 11:2-6 The signs for recognizing the Messiah and his followers today
Mt. 12:46-50 Do God's will
Mt. 15:32 Compassion and a sense of responsibility
Mt. 20:26-28 Christians must be servants
Mt. 23:11 Be a servant
Mt. 23:23-24 Don't neglect justice and mercy
Mt. 25:31-46 Whatever we do to our neighbor, we do to Christ
Mk. 6:30-37 "Give them something to eat yourselves"
Mk. 9:35 To be first before God, be a servant
Mk. 10:17-31 The rich young man refuses invitation to voluntary poverty
Mk. 10:41-45 To be first before God, be a servant
Lk. 1:52-53 God exalts the poor, lowers the rich
Lk. 3:10-18 Sharing is the Christian way
Lk. 4:16-30 Jesus announces that his mission is to liberate people
Lk. 6:20-26 Beatitudes, condemnation of oppressive and complacent rich
Lk. 6:27-35 Make peace through nonviolence and love of enemies
Lk. 6:46 Combine prayer with action
Lk. 11:40-42 We need justice and love
Lk. 12:13-21 A Man's worth is not determined by how much he owns
Lk. 12:33 Sell and give alms
Lk. 14:7-14 Humility and hospitality
Lk. 15:103 Jesus associated with the outcasts of society
Lk. 22:24-27 Be a servant
Lk. 24:49 Christ empowers us to continue his work
Jn. 6:5-13 Christ feeds the hungry
Jn. 10:1-18 Jesus is the Good Shepherd
Jn. 13:1-15 Jesus washes the Apostles' feet
Jn. 13:34-35 Love: the distinctive characteristic of the Christian
Jn. 14:10-17 You will do the same and greater works through the Holy Spirit
Acts 16:16-24 Being a Christian means disturbing
& 17:1-9 the status quo
Rom. 8:14-17 We have been given a spirit of freedom not slavery
Rom. 12:10-18 Make friends with the poor
Rom. 13:8-10 Our only debt is to love one another
Rom. 14:17-19 The kingdom is justice, peace and joy
1 Cor. 12:7-11 The gifts of the Holy Spirit are tools for building Christian community
1 Cor. 12:24-26 If one suffers, all suffer
1 Cor. 13 Love as the Christian lifestyle
2 Cor. 4:7 God's power working in and through us