

Methods of Reflection:

*Reflection doesn't have to look any certain way – it will look different for different people. What matters is you're being **intentional** with your thoughts.*

- Processing service through **discussion with peers**
- **Academic discussion:** Discussing service experience with a professor
- Keeping a **journal**
- **Social Networks:** Publishing on social media (awareness, not self-praise)
- **Mapping:** Create a visual map that shows how the service-learning experience connects to larger issues at the state/national/global level.
- **Presentations to Community Organizations:** Students present work to community organization staff, board members, and participants.
- **Speakers:** Invite community members or organization staff to present in class on their issue area.
- **Videos:** View a video or documentary to elicit discussion about critical issues that relate to their service experiences.
- **Letters-to-the Editor:** Students write a letter-to-the-editor or to government officials that address issues important to the community organizations where they are working
- **Creative Projects:** Students make a collage or write a poem or song to express an experience.
- **Blog:** Create a course blog where students can post comments on their experiences.
- **Reflective Reading:** Find articles, poems, stories or songs that relate to the service students are doing and that create discussion questions.

Sample Reflection Questions

Stuck on what to reflect on? Use one or more of these questions to get your started!

- **"5 Whys"**
- What is your role at the community site?
- What were your initial expectations? Have these expectations changed? How? Why?
- What about your community involvement has been an eye-opening experience?
- How do you motivate yourself to go to your site when you don't feel like it?
- Have your career options been expanded by your service experience?
- Why does the organization you are working for exist?
- Did anything about your community involvement surprise you? If so, what?
- What did you do that seemed to be effective or ineffective in the community?
- How does your understanding of the community change as a result of your participation in this project?
- How can you educate others or raise awareness about this group or social issue?
- What are the most difficult or satisfying parts of your work? Why?
- During your community work experience, have you dealt with being an "outsider" at your site? How does being an "outsider" differ from being an "insider"?
- How are your values expressed through your community work?
- What sorts of things make you feel uncomfortable when you are working in the community? Why?
- Complete this sentence: Because of my service-learning, I am....