

Ideas for Reflection Questions

Before You Begin

1. What do you know about the problem of _____? Does it exist in Iowa City? If so, what form does it take? List five ways you think it could be resolved, along with kinds of resources needed to resolve it.
2. What issues related to the subject of this course do you think you'll encounter during your community service effort?
3. What do you know about the organization you are partnering with? How can you find out more?
4. What do you hope to gain from a service-learning experience? How will it contribute to what you intend to learn in this course?
5. How do you think this service-learning experience will differ from a more traditional classroom learning experience?
6. At the end of your term of service, what would you like the community you work with to say about you, your work, and the University?
7. How can your knowledge gained in this class benefit a community?
8. How do you expect your experiences with the community to change your understanding of the knowledge you gain in this course?
9. What challenges might you encounter as part of a team trying to meet a community need?

During your Community Engagement Experience

1. What community work are you doing? Do you enjoy it? Why or Why not?
2. What skills are you able to apply to this effort? What new skills are you learning? How will these skills help you in your future career?
3. What information do you lack that would be helpful?

4. What knowledge and concepts from your course have become more understandable during your work? How have these intellectual constructs helped you better understand or appreciate the community need? The social, economic, political, and/or cultural context of the community need?
5. Have you had an “Ah-ha!” moment during your community engagement experience? Describe it and why it was significant for you. How do you think you might apply that newly-discovered insight in the future?
6. How can you bring your community experience back to the classroom to enhance your academic learning?
7. What frustrates, confuses, or challenges you while you are in the community setting? How do your academic knowledge and skills function in these situations?
8. Is your understanding of the community changing during your experience? If so, how? If not, does that go against your expectations?

After the Community Experience

1. What surprised you during this experience about yourself, the community and the class?
2. What would you tell someone taking over your service position?
3. What would you tell your professor about how to enhance the relationship between the classroom learning and the community learning?
4. What would you tell the community organization and its clients about your experience?
5. How would you describe the organization in a marketing pamphlet? Would the tone and content of such a brochure differ from how you would write about the organization for a local newspaper? How so?
6. What do you hope to remember from this experience? How has it influenced your ideas about education, community and the course content?
7. Do you plan to continue working with this organization or another in the community? Why or why not?
8. What influence has this experience had on your ideas about education, community and the subject of this course?
9. What still needs to be done? Who should do it? Why?