

Service-Learning Journals

To learn by experience requires thoughtful reflection about those experiences; learning by experience is not automatic. A useful reflective tool to encourage learning is a daily journal. In their journals, you might reflect on any of the following: (Due December 12)

1. What do you do on a typical day at your placement?
2. How has this changed since you first began there (different activities, more or less responsibility, etc.)?
3. Tell about the best thing that happened this week: something someone said or did, something you said or did, a feeling, an insight, a goal accomplished.
4. What's the most difficult part of your work?
5. What thing (or things) did you dislike most this week? Why?
6. If you were in charge of the place where you volunteer, what would you do to improve it?
7. If you were the supervisor, would you have the volunteers do anything different from what you are doing? Would you treat them differently?
8. Tell about a person there whom you find interesting or challenging to be with. Explain why?
9. How do people see you there? As a staff member? a friend? a student--or what? What do you feel like when you're there?
10. What did someone say to you that surprised you? Why?
11. What happened that made you feel you would (or would not) like to do this as a career?
12. What kind of person does it take to be successful at the kind of work you do (as a volunteer, as a career?)
13. What did you do this week that made you proud? Why?
14. Tell about something you learned as a result of a disappointment or even a failure.
15. Think back on a moment when you felt especially happy or satisfied. What does that tell you about yourself? (Kendall, 1990, pp. 83-84)