



EYE ON LITERACY

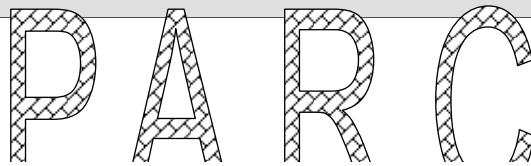
A curriculum for planning your service-learning project

Literacy plays a vital role in the life of our society. We are constantly bombarded with the need to read and comprehend information. We need to work with our students now to insure success in the future.

In school we learned that the only way literacy changed as a factor in the curriculum was the way in which we were learning it. We learn more little by little; as we grow, we learn new ways to expand our literacy activities.

Service learning allows students to improve their literacy skills even as they are expanding their own social consciousness! Through service learning we explore the skills we have, the skills we need, and the world we live in.

This packet will assist you in guiding your class into a service learning experience focused on literacy. It will provide you with ideas for projects, a how-to-approach-projects strategy, and resources for creating your own project. Always feel free to adapt project ideas to your students' educational needs and goals, as students at different points in their education will require unique projects based on their particular skill levels.



a service learning and teaching strategy

Preparation: Identifying and analyzing issues, choosing a project, learning skills needed to perform the project, and outlining the logistics (all the details) of the project.

Action: Performing the service as planned. Be ready for new circumstances that may arise.

Reflection: Enabling us to learn from the service experience. This is how service is tied back to what we learn in our classroom or "real life".

Celebration: It is important for us to realize we have made a difference and we should celebrate our accomplishments.

Connecting Service and Curriculum...

English/Language Arts: Students can create their own books and read them to others!

Math: What is math literacy? How is this changing and what tools are really needed in modern society?

Social Studies: How do cultures differ in the way they view literacy? Does your library reflect the needs of different cultures/ languages? How does literacy affect a person's societal status?

Science: How have books changed the way we learn about the world?

ESL: Students can gain confidence in their skills and increase fluency by creating book reviews.

Art: Make artistic covers to protect books.

Did you know?...

"Literacy means an individual's ability to read, write and speak in English, and compute and solve problems...necessary to function on the job and in society, to achieve one's goals and develop one's knowledge and potential."

-National Literacy Act 1991

60% of America's prison inmates are illiterate and 85% of all juvenile offenders have problems reading.

13 percent of all 17 year olds are functionally illiterate, and among minorities the percentage is 44.

40% of all current jobs require only limited skills, but ...only 27% of newly created jobs allow only low skills.

The more you read,
the more things you'll
know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you'll go!
—Dr. Seuss

**inside...
you will
find...**

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PREPARATION

It seems like a daunting task, but it isn't. You'd be amazed at how much of the work students can do themselves! That's half the learning—to see how much they can do when they try! Some of the best service learning projects have teachers standing by as facilitators while the students teach and learn for themselves!

1. What can we do to Learn and Serve?

- Discuss what literacy means to students....Why is it important?
- Brainstorm problems that arise from illiteracy.
- Brainstorm possible solutions for your list of problems.
- Vote on a project!
- Find information to educate students on the issue they selected.
- Find a community agency that would be willing to host the service.

2. Where can we Learn and Serve?

- Call the site you wish to serve, find out if your plan is feasible.
- Determine a mutually convenient time to perform service.
 - Visit: It is recommended that teachers visit the site before arriving with students.

3. How will we get things done?

- Make lists of all tasks which must be completed....ie. communication with the site, supplies, transportation, publicity, permission slips, reflection and celebration committees!
- Assign each task to a separate group or individual.
 - Set up your ideal timeline and put deadlines on each task!
 - Report back to the group!

students actively volunteering for you



ACTION

Do your Project... Some tips!

Before Hand:

- Have permission slips and emergency contact phone numbers for all students participating in the service.

At the start of the project:

- Have all participants sign in!
- Define your ground rules.
- Introduce site staff and agency contact.
- Do an icebreaker activity—get that flow of team work going!
- Explain team tasks to be done.
- Break into team work groups!

During the project:

- Take pictures!!!! —You'll want them!
- Take breaks. With students around stopping for water and snacks will be a must!
- Have an emergency action plan.

At the close of your project:

- Clean up the area around your site. If you are at an agency's location you want to leave a good impression, so leave it cleaner than you found it!
- Have participants fill out an evaluation of the project.
- Hold a closing game; begin your reflection!

Project Possibilities

As service learning projects go, there are three types of projects. Each one has a slightly different goal, but all are equally important in keeping our communities healthy and vital.

Direct service- students address literacy with a hands-on approach.

For example:

Act as paired reading partners for younger students at neighborhood schools.

Create a school wide celebration of literacy. Read Across America is every March 2nd!

Visit and read with local seniors. What do they remember reading in their youth? What do they like to read now?

Develop an oral history; discuss history with local seniors and record it on tapes or in essays.

Discover percentages and graph the literary genres found in your library! Does it fit with your school's needs?

Learn the Dewey Decimal system and help shelve books at your local library.

Create a cozy student centered area for reading in a classroom or library.

Hold a family reading night!

Collect bilingual books to increase your library's diversity!

Hold a book-making project with a younger group.

Make artistic book covers to protect books in your school library.

Be a pen pal!



REFLECTION

Indirect service- Students take on a project that will be helpful at another location.

Hold a book drive for a community library or non-profit agency.

Make decorative book reviews for the local library.

Make holiday decorations for the library.

Survey your fellow students about their reading habits. How often? How do they feel about it? What do they like to read most? Determine whether the school library is really meeting student needs—what needs to be done?

Record books onto tape and donate them to the Center For the Blind.

Hold a read-a-thon and donate the proceeds to a local charity.

Write and illustrate children's books, then donate them to a local shelter or elementary school library.

Discuss the meaning and moods of contemporary song lyrics. How do they influence students? Make a news style video report of what you find; air it on school t.v. or send it to MTV News.

Advocacy- students work towards long-lasting solutions by informing others.

Write a song or rap for your school about the importance of reading.

Hold an essay contest pertaining to how literacy is an important factor in our lives.

Write letters to bookstores asking them to donate books.

Reflection can be a highly creative and ongoing process of a project; it also bears noting that it is most easily connected to literacy! There are some things that you want to be sure to address in your reflection, as it is the crucial evaluating and learning segment of the service learning model.

Encourage students to reflect from day one. In light of literacy, record their thoughts as part of your project evaluation!

At the end of a project, it is very important to reflect on the service itself. First of all, reflection helps students to realize the importance of the service they masterminded and carried out! Second, it introduces students to the important skill of evaluation. Evaluation requires students to objectify their planning and act on the project. Finally, reflections allows

students to discover for themselves what they have learned in their service process.

Some things to address:

- 1) What did we do?
- 2) How did this project improve or expand literacy in our communities?
- 3) What challenged or surprised me during the project?
- 4) Did others learn anything from us?
- 5) How did this project change the way I think about literacy or community?
- 6) Did we solve a problem?
- 7) Did we make a difference?
- 8) How does this apply to our lives?
- 9) How do you think this project will influence the actions you take in the future?
- 10) What does service mean?

Some Literacy Reflection Ideas

- Keep an ongoing service or project journal.
- Create a bulletin board of pictures and student writings about the project.
- Collect student book reviews.
- Make a book about your project.
- Create posters or pamphlets about the importance of reading.
- Write thank-you letters to people who gave donations or helped.

CELEBRATION!

After doing such a great job planning and implementing their project; your students will have no problem organizing a fun way to recognize their achievements!

If you also want to focus your celebration on the topic of literacy there are many things you may want to try. If your students have written about the project, hold a language arts fair and give prizes! For paired reading projects, have students present best listeners' awards to their reading buddies! If your class creates a book about

their project as part of their reflection, hold a book release party!!.....

The most important part of celebration is that your students enjoy themselves and their accomplishments!

Suggestions:

☆ Invite your principal ☆ Eat! ☆ Give awards. ☆ Music ☆ Games ☆ Surprise!

Should not the giver be thankful that the receiver received? Is not giving a need?

—Frederich W. Nietzsche

For More Info On Literacy Projects

The following agencies are willing to work and share their knowledge with youth project planners.

A note: The need for literacy volunteers is everywhere. While you may have great success working with an agency to foster literacy within the community, remember that your schools and families are also in great need of literacy support. Please consider your own campus as the recipient of your service!

Boys and Girls Clubs Clairemont (619) 273-1645 Encanto (619)263-6407 Linda Vista (619)277-6670 William Oakes (619)525-1739	San Diego Council on Literacy (619) 574-1641	SAY San Diego, Inc. (619) 565-4148
Copley Family YMCA (619) 283-2251	San Diego Public Libraries (619) 236-5800	Volunteer San Diego (858) 636-4129
County of San Diego Libraries (619) 694-2484	San Diego Parks and Recreation (619) 694-3044	Walden Family Services (619) 587-5777
National City Public Library (619) 336-4280	San Diego READS (619) 293-READS	
Price Potter Nutrition Foundation (619) 574-7763		

I slept and dreamed that life was happiness. I awoke and saw that life was service. I served and found that in service happiness is found.
—Rabindranath Tagore

Internet Resources

The internet is full of web-site that relate to service and/or literacy. Here are a few we have found to be the most useful.

AmeriCorps.....www.americorps.org.
 America Reads.....www.ed.gov/inits/americanreads/
 Center for Youth as Resource.....www.yar.org
 Corp. for National Service.....www.nationalservice.org
 Do Somethingwww.dosomething.org
 Giraffe Project.....www.whidbey.com/giraffe/
 Impact Online.....www.impactonline.org
 Nat. School-to-Work Learning&Info Center.....www.stw.ed.gov
 Read Across America.....www.nea.org/readacross/ideas
 Read Write Now—a partnered reading program.....
 www.ed.gov/inits/americanreads/Pubs/Tutorman
 Suessville.....www.randomhouse.com/seussville
 Teen Hoopla.....www.ala.org/teenhoopla/trw
 Volunteer San Diego.....www.volunteersandiego.org
 Youth Build, USA.....www.youthbuild.org
 Youth Service America.....www.servenet.org
 Youth Service California.....www.yscal.org

Everyday Things Teens Can Do To Improve Their Literacy!!!!

Keep a book going all of the time. Read something each night to clear your head. Read a book with your younger siblings. Talk with your friends about the books you are reading. Read out loud with a friend, sharing will bring you closer. If you liked the movie...you'll love the book even more. Do a word hunt: as you read, write down all the words you don't know.....Read!

