

### **About Reflective Journals . . .**

In addition to your actual physical service, you need to think about (or "reflect" on) your experiences and write about them on a regular basis in your journal. DO NOT wait more than 24 hours to make your journal entries!

At first your journal might just include explanations of what you are doing, the kinds of people you are serving and working with, the kinds of activities that are carried out by the agency, how this institution serves the community, and so on.

- List some words associated with your experiences.
- Service-Learning is like \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_
- The kinds of questions you might ask as you think about your experiences at this level might be "what?"

The second level that you need to reflect on is how your service is connected to what you are learning in class. This is the "how?" portion of your experience. Gradually get a bigger picture of the organization where you are serving.

- How is it connected to the community?
- Is this just a local agency or does it serve a wider scope of people, such as on the national or worldwide level?
- Get an overall picture of the organization. What else goes on in the organization in addition to the kinds of things you are doing or the department in which you are working?
- How is it organized internally? Are there separate departments, units, or divisions? How do they interact?
- Are there any career options here that you might be interested in pursuing?

The next level you need to think about is "so what?"

- What are you are learning about yourself?
- What are the implications of the service you are performing?
- Who benefits from your service and in what ways?
- What have you been able to accomplish and is it meaningful to you?
- Make a journal entry for the perspective of someone who received the benefits of your service.
- Are you proud or disappointed in the way you handled your service? Why?
- Have you developed any new personal convictions as a result of performing your service? What are they and how did they develop?
- What will be the long-term impact of your service?

The highest level of reflection involves how you are developing your sense of responsibility to the community through your service and "what's next?"

- Have you found ways to involve others in what you are doing?
- What have you shared with your class about what you have learned through your service?
- Are you going to find a way to continue your service here or in a similar organization?
- How might this Service-Learning experience affect the way in which you relate to your community in the future?
- Will you continue to serve at this agency after the course is over? Would you rather serve at some other type of agency? Do you have a sense that community service will continue to be an important part of your life?

At the end of the semester, you will submit a two-page paper summarizing what you have written in your journal over the duration of service-learning experience.