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# Service Learning Reflection Journal

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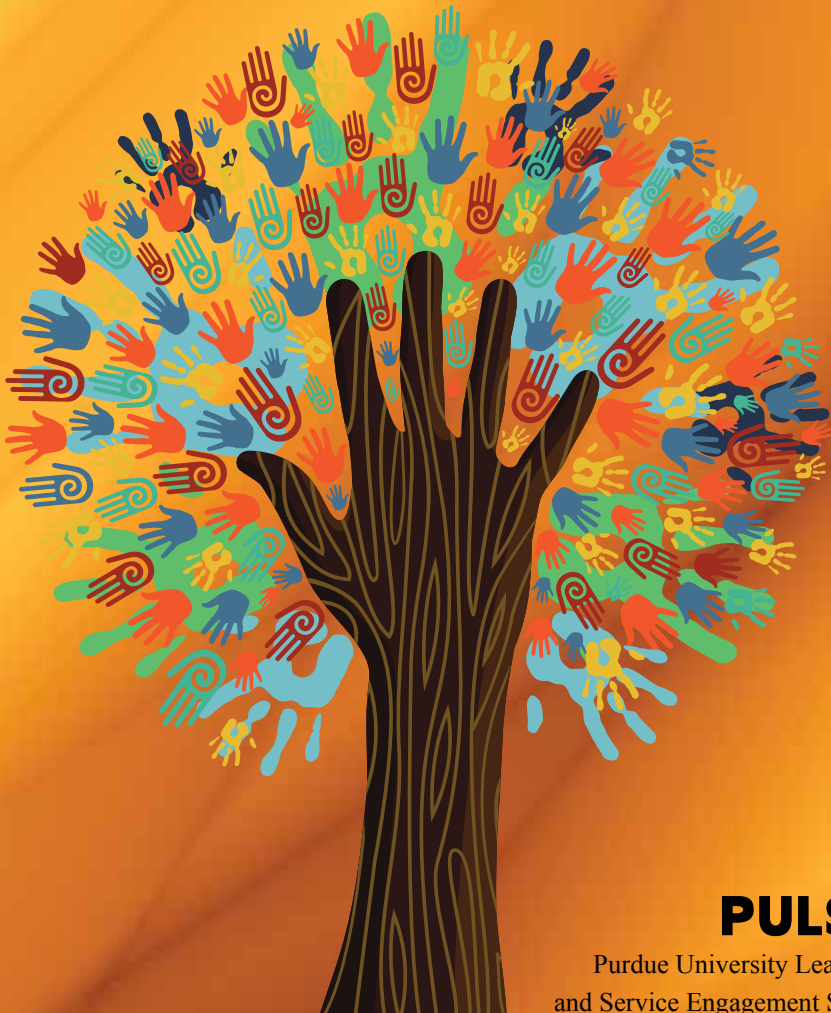
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# SERVICE LEARNING REFLECTION JOURNAL

Margaret Shu-Mei Sass, EdD, JD



**PULSE**

Purdue University Learning  
and Service Engagement Series

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By Margaret Shu-Mei Sass, EdD, JD

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# INTRODUCTION

This handbook provides a guide for reflections and critical thought. As you experience community service, you will be reflecting through questions regarding how you react and feel about those service learning events. Some questions will also be related to the logistics of your activities.

## **How this handbook works:**

- Take the Public Affairs Scale prior to your community service assignment/project
- Complete the pre-service learning project plan – this will assist with the planning process of your service learning project
- Fill out the daily journal or weekly journal based on your professor's instructions
- Complete the final reflection assignment if required by your professor
- Complete the Public Affairs Scale after you completed the community service assignment/project





## PUBLIC AFFAIRS SCALE

Please read each of the following statements and rate the extent to which you agree with each one of them by using the scale provided:

1. Strongly Disagree    2. Not Strongly    3. Disagree    4. Sure    5. Agree

1. I have had one or more service-learning classes

1    2    3    4    5

2. I participate in the political process

1    2    3    4    5

3. I know I can make a difference in my community

1    2    3    4    5

4. I am confident that I will participate in community service activities in the future

1    2    3    4    5

5. I have worked collaboratively in a student organization to influence my community's quality of life

1    2    3    4    5

6. People I know share an interest in community service

1    2    3    4    5

7. Volunteering allows me to gain a new perspective on things

1    2    3    4    5

8. I plan to do some volunteer work next year

1    2    3    4    5

9. Volunteering makes me feel like I am contributing to the community

1    2    3    4    5

10. Volunteering will help me succeed in my own profession

1    2    3    4    5

11. Volunteering lets me learn through direct "hands on" experience

1    2    3    4    5

12. I do things for a cause bigger than myself

1    2    3    4    5

13. I feel an obligation to contribute to the community

1    2    3    4    5

14. Community service is necessary to making our communities better

1    2    3    4    5

15. I feel that I can make a difference in the world  
1    2    3    4    5
16. I am able to communicate effectively with people from different cultures  
1    2    3    4    5
17. I understand the challenges faced by people from different cultures  
1    2    3    4    5
18. I have been involved in organizations providing services to people from different cultural backgrounds  
1    2    3    4    5
19. I avoid imposing values that may conflict with cultural groups other than my own  
1    2    3    4    5
20. I could not easily get accustomed to living in another country  
1    2    3    4    5
21. I can easily relate to people that are different from me  
1    2    3    4    5
22. Traveling allows me to understand different cultures  
1    2    3    4    5
23. I have participated in a study abroad or exchange program  
1    2    3    4    5
24. In the future, I will travel to other countries to better understand culture and diversity  
1    2    3    4    5
25. I have been involved in organizations providing services to diverse populations  
1    2    3    4    5
26. I understand the importance of being true to my word  
1    2    3    4    5
27. I am dependable and reliable  
1    2    3    4    5
28. I stand by my decisions even when others protest  
1    2    3    4    5
29. I am aware of what kind of person I am  
1    2    3    4    5
30. In nearly everything I do, I am striving to improve myself and become a better person  
1    2    3    4    5

31. When I am in groups, I am thoughtful of other people's feelings  
1    2    3    4    5
32. When I make mistakes, I am able to admit them  
1    2    3    4    5
33. I usually take an active interest in someone else's concerns  
1    2    3    4    5
34. I try to make certain that my actions never intentionally harm another person  
1    2    3    4    5
35. When making a decision, I weigh the consequences of each alternative  
1    2    3    4    5
36. When I listen, I regularly try to take someone else's perspective  
1    2    3    4    5
37. When working in groups, I try to assure everyone's voice is heard before a decision is reached  
1    2    3    4    5
38. I am in part responsible for the quality and quantity of knowledge I obtain from the courses I take  
1    2    3    4    5
39. When I am a leader, I am sure to recognize the accomplishments of others more than myself  
1    2    3    4    5
40. I try to build a consensus where everyone finds a decision acceptable before an important change is made  
1    2    3    4    5

### Scale Key

Community Engagement: Items 1 – 15

Cultural Competence: Items 16-25

Ethical Leadership: Items 26-40

### Reference

Levesque-Bristol, C. & Cornelius-White, J. (2012). The Public Affairs Scale: Measuring the Public Good Mission of Higher Education. *Journal of Public Affairs Education, 18, 4.*



# SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT PLAN

Name:

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Agency:

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Agency Contact:

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Agency Location:

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Agency's purpose:

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## **Purpose of Project:**

Who will benefit from this project?

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How will this project help you meet the expectations of this class?

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What things do you think you will learn from this project? Explain.

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**Community Needs:**

How will your project benefit the organization?

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How will your project benefit the population being served?

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Why do you want to partner with this agency?

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## TIMELINE OF PROJECT

MONTH 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you made contact with the agency?</li> <li>• Have you discussed your project with them?</li> <li>• Have you discussed times, dates, etc. with the agency?</li> </ul>
MONTH 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the agency oriented you on their organization?</li> <li>• Have you begun your project?</li> </ul>
MONTH 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where are you at in your project (still in the beginning, middle, near the end)?</li> <li>• Are you meeting the purpose of your project?</li> </ul>
MONTH 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where are you at in your project (should be near end)?</li> <li>• Is there anything you need to change/ do to meet the requirements of the class?</li> <li>• Are you preparing for the conclusion of your service learning project?</li> </ul>
MONTH 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the project met your professor's expectations?</li> <li>• How did the project relate to your class?</li> <li>• Is the outcome what you expected?</li> </ul>





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1 2 3 4 5

Volunteering helps me learn through direct "hands on" experience

1 2 3 4 5

I feel that I can make a difference in the world

1 2 3 4 5

I am able to understand the course material better through community service

1 2 3 4 5

WEEK \_\_\_\_\_

Describe any significant activities that occurred this week.

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How did the experiences this week affect you emotionally?

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What did you learn about the organization you are assisting?

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What did you learn about the people the organization is assisting?

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How did your volunteerism this week relate to the course objectives and/or readings?

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Is there anything you would do differently that occurred this week?

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What is your goal(s) for next week?

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Feedback from instructor:

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# **END OF SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT REFLECTIVE PAPER**

## **PURPOSE OF THE PAPER:**

- To reflect on and connect your service learning project with the objectives and content of the course.
- To demonstrate your understanding of course readings and activities.
- To show how your service learning project helped you understand the course material better. Consider how SL deepened your understanding of these materials.

## **CONTENT OF THE PAPER:**

- The paper should include the service learning project summary, synthesis of your project and course materials, and your personal reflection.
- The paper should be 4-6 pages long in required APA format.

## **QUESTION/THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER:**

- Define your project and the purpose.
- Define what activities you performed and with whom.
- What does service learning mean to you? Has that definition changed during the course of the semester?
- Has your attitude toward community service changed during the course of the semester?
- How did your project incorporate the material/theories you learned in class?
- Did the material help you complete the project? Did you find this difficult?
- Is there anything you learned that was unexpected? Explain.
- How was the community served through your project?
- Would you consider returning to the agency or continuing the project long-term?
- Is there a different agency where you think your project would have worked better?
- Did you accomplish everything you set out to do?
- Do you plan on volunteering at other locations?
- How has this project helped/not help this class?



# PROGRAM COMPLETION PUBLIC AFFAIRS SCALE

Please read each of the following statements and rate the extent to which you agree with each one of them by using the scale provided:

1. Strongly Disagree    2. Not Strongly    3. Disagree    4. Sure    5. Agree

1. I have had one or more service-learning classes  
1    2    3    4    5
2. I participate in the political process  
1    2    3    4    5
3. I know I can make a difference in my community  
1    2    3    4    5
4. I am confident that I will participate in community service activities in the future  
1    2    3    4    5
5. I have worked collaboratively in a student organization to influence my community's quality of life  
1    2    3    4    5
6. People I know share an interest in community service  
1    2    3    4    5
7. Volunteering allows me to gain a new perspective on things  
1    2    3    4    5
8. I plan to do some volunteer work next year  
1    2    3    4    5
9. Volunteering makes me feel like I am contributing to the community  
1    2    3    4    5
10. Volunteering will help me succeed in my own profession  
1    2    3    4    5
11. Volunteering lets me learn through direct "hands on" experience  
1    2    3    4    5
12. I do things for a cause bigger than myself  
1    2    3    4    5
13. I feel an obligation to contribute to the community  
1    2    3    4    5
14. Community service is necessary to making our communities better  
1    2    3    4    5
15. I feel that I can make a difference in the world  
1    2    3    4    5
16. I am able to communicate effectively with people from different cultures  
1    2    3    4    5

17. I understand the challenges faced by people from different cultures  
1 2 3 4 5
18. I have been involved in organizations providing services to people from different cultural backgrounds  
1 2 3 4 5
19. I avoid imposing values that may conflict with cultural groups other than my own  
1 2 3 4 5
20. I could not easily get accustomed to living in another country (recoded)  
1 2 3 4 5
21. I can easily relate to people that are different from me  
1 2 3 4 5
22. Traveling allows me to understand different cultures  
1 2 3 4 5
23. I have participated in a study abroad or exchange program  
1 2 3 4 5
24. In the future, I will travel to other countries to better understand culture and diversity  
1 2 3 4 5
25. I have been involved in organizations providing services to diverse populations  
1 2 3 4 5
26. I understand the importance of being true to my word  
1 2 3 4 5
27. I am dependable and reliable  
1 2 3 4 5
28. I stand by my decisions even when others protest  
1 2 3 4 5
29. I am aware of what kind of person I am  
1 2 3 4 5
30. In nearly everything I do, I am striving to improve myself and become a better person  
1 2 3 4 5
31. When I am in groups, I am thoughtful of other people's feelings  
1 2 3 4 5
32. When I make mistakes, I am able to admit them  
1 2 3 4 5
33. I usually take an active interest in someone else's concerns  
1 2 3 4 5
34. I try to make certain that my actions never intentionally harm another person  
1 2 3 4 5
35. When making a decision, I weigh the consequences of each alternative  
1 2 3 4 5

36. When I listen, I regularly try to take someone else's perspective  
1    2    3    4    5
37. When working in groups, I try to assure everyone's voice is heard before a decision is reached  
1    2    3    4    5
38. I am in part responsible for the quality and quantity of knowledge I obtain from the courses I take  
1    2    3    4    5
39. When I am a leader, I am sure to recognize the accomplishments of others more than myself  
1    2    3    4    5
40. I try to build a consensus where everyone finds a decision acceptable before an important change is made  
1    2    3    4    5

**Scale Key**

Community Engagement: Items 1 – 15

Cultural Competence: Items 16-25

Ethical Leadership: Items 26-40

**Reference**

Levesque-Bristol, C. & Cornelius-White, J. (2012). The Public Affairs Scale: Measuring the Public Good Mission of Higher Education. *Journal of Public Affairs Education, 18, 4.*

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## **PULSE**

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and Service Engagement Series