

SLFE Reflection Paper Descriptions and Instructions

As responsible citizens of American society, future educators must realize the importance of becoming actively engaged in activities with both a community sense and purpose. One must understand the importance of the educator's role in contributing to the betterment of society and, particularly, the lives of children. The service learning component of this course is designed to help the student to become an advocate for diverse learners and those with special needs. Through active participation in the service learning activity, the teacher candidate will recognize his/her moral and civic obligations to furthering the cause of social justice for all children.

For this assignment, write a 2-3 page (double-spaced) paper that captures your thoughts on this experience. You will synthesize course content with your experiences interacting with diverse individuals in a way that evidences your learning. Below are some questions that should guide your writing.

You have three choices:

- 1) Focus your response on your SLFE hours; (Use the first group of questions)
- 2) Focus your response on other experiences in relation to the idea of field experiences, in general; OR
- 3) Focus on BOTH – balancing the issues as appropriate for your own writing and reflection.

Related to the SLFE specifically:

- What did you do that seemed to be effective or ineffective in service to others?
- How does your understanding of the community change as a result of your participation in this SLFE?
- How can you continue your involvement with this group or social issue?
- How can you educate others or raise awareness about this group or social issue?
- What are the most difficult and most satisfying parts of the service you performed? Why?
- What do you think is your most valued contribution made during your time in this setting?
- Is there a person or activity you find interesting or challenging in your SLFE?

Here are some other options for completing this paper for those of you who feel the SLFE was not sufficient in allowing you either the time or engagement with diverse individuals:

- What other experiences have you had where you can apply some of the concepts you have learned in the course? This can be other field experiences, extracurricular activities, travel, other personal experiences, other volunteering experiences.
- How did these experiences challenge you to think about your own identity critically?
- How might an experience like the SLFE not be effective in giving you authentic engagement with diverse individuals? If you were to design a SLFE, how would you balance service to others with learning about your own privileges and experiences of discrimination among marginalized communities (perhaps including your own communities).