

PARK UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM SERVICE LEARNING

The Reflection Instrument

The reflection instrument serves to distinguish volunteerism from service learning. After volunteering, you will reflect, in writing, on your experience. You may choose either to type a one-page journal entry after a minimum of 7 visits to your service-learning partner, including during training, or you may hand in a 5-7-page essay at the completion of your service. Whichever you choose, please include the following information:

Journal entries – Date all entries

First entry: Name of partner and why you chose that partner, description of interview

All entries: Description of what you expected to happen, description of what did happen, description of your reaction. Be sure to include detail and record any emotions that you feel

Final entry: Whether you feel that you made the right choice of a partner, what you have learned, whether you will continue with that partner

Your journal must include a minimum of ten entries

Essay

Essay Format: All essays must be typed/word processed. Include your name, date, and SL Partner name on three single-spaced lines in upper left corner on page one.

Essay title centered above essay

1-1.5 in. margins left, right, upper and lower

Double space between each line

12-point font

5-7 pages

Each page numbered

No illustrations, scrollwork, borders or pictures.

Essay Content:

Introduction: Identify your SL partner and explain why you chose the partner. Describe your preconceptions, or what you anticipated finding/doing at the site.

Body: Describe your interview and your reactions to the interviewer and the site. Describe any interesting or surprising physical aspects of the site. Describe your duties/activities and explain which ones you liked, did not like, and felt you did well and why you did well. Describe your reaction to the site's clients/visitors. Explain whether your reaction was something other than you expected. Describe one-two specific examples of working with clients/visitors and why those particular interactions affected you. Describe what you learned. Explain whether you will change your future behavior/decisions based on your SL. Explain why you will or will not return to that site.

Conclusion: Summarize what you learned through your experience.