



More Reflection Questions

Reflection allows you to think more deeply about the service experience and to explore how it fits into the broader social picture. It's the time that gives meaning to service so that we can examine our values and how our outlook might have been changed by the experience.

Use any of the following questions to spark internal reflection or group dialogue:

1. Why do you do service?
2. What is the difference between generosity, charity, justice, and social change?
3. Name three things that stuck in your mind about the service experience.
4. How were you different when you left the service site compared to when you entered?
5. How did the service experience and people you interacted with make you feel?
6. Why does the community need this agency's services?
7. How are you similar/different to the people you met?
8. In what ways did being different help/hinder the group?
9. What have you learned about yourself?
10. If you were one of the people receiving services, what would you think of yourself?
11. How does this experience compare to others you've had?
12. What connections do you see between this experience and what you've learned in your classes?
13. How has your service contributed to your growth in any ways? (Professional development, civic responsibility, spiritual fulfillment, political consciousness, social understanding, intellectual pursuit)
14. What have you learned about a particular community or societal issue?
15. How did this experience challenge your assumptions and stereotypes?
16. Do you think these people (or situations) are unique? Why or why not?
17. What public policies are involved and what are their implications? How can they be improved?
18. Who determines what's best for the community?
19. Describe what a typical day might be like for someone who uses the services of the organization.
20. How would you do this differently if you were in charge?
21. Did you feel like a part of the community you were working in?
22. How do you define community?
23. Describe an internal or external conflict that has surfaced for you during your service work.
Explain the factors that contribute to it and how you might resolve or cope with the conflict.
24. Discuss a social problem you came in contact with during your service. What do you think are the root causes of this problem? Explain how your service may or may not contribute to its alleviation.
25. What could this group do to address the problems we saw at the service site?
26. What could each participant do on her or his own?
27. How can society better deal with the problem?
28. How can this experience apply to other situations in your life?
29. How can your solutions apply to the problem(s) of other groups?
30. How can society be more compassionate/informed/involved regarding this issue?
31. Where do we go from here? What's the next step?

(Adapted from: Facilitating Reflection: A Manual for Higher Education – Georgetown University Volunteer and Public Service Center)

