Arron Burris

Todd Yerby

Honors 290

28 January 2019

A Major Boost of Being Better

Throughout the entire time I was going through *The Effects of Service Learning* I found myself nodding my head in agreement with all the things being said through out the passages. Service learning is an important thing that gives people skills that are very important in the workforce today such as responsibility, understanding others, independence, and grades in school.

The stance that *The Effects of Service Learning* takes on how service learning teaches people about major issues in the world by requiring them to volunteer at organizations that help to combat some of the horrible things happening today, is something that I can personally attest to as I have already felt this in the short time that I have spent volunteering already. For example, an organization like Convoy of Hope that will send food to people who need it can help people really understand how many people are having to rely on these organizations for food, along with giving them a taste of what it is like to contribute to making other people’s lives better.

I have found most of what is being said in the article about the benefits of service learning to be true in my short time volunteering. I have noticed everything from a better understanding of people in need, to an increase in my social interactions with other people. As the reading makes the point of, after volunteering at Convoy of hope and Ozarks food harvest I have noticed that I have a higher sense of responsibility for my actions as well as being more independent or accountable in both day to day interactions with other people and my school work. Along with becoming more self-reliant, I have also noticed that I have a higher level of compassion and caring people who are in need. It may seem weird to think about but putting eggs into cartons for 3 hours at a time for a class is made much more worth it at the end when I am told how much the effort of our group is going to help others by giving them something to eat. While those instances of being made better from simply volunteering at organizations, it is all made better when I am also doing assignments on my volunteer work because then it becomes more than just doing work. With the addition of school work to the volunteering, I then have to think about my time volunteering and what that actually means for me and the people that I am helping.

Though there may be aspects of “*The Effects of Service Learning*” that I can both agree with and have personally experienced during my time volunteering, there are some other things that even though I may agree with or can see being true for other people, I have not experienced because of service learning. The article has a section where it talks about how many elementary to high-school students have had their grades increase and even have gotten into trouble less. I haven’t had of these kinds of changes in my life as of starting this service learning program and I can not see any of these kinds of changes happening in my life because of the service learning program. Although my life may not have been changed in this way, I can see how something like this could influence a troubled student who has problems with things like family life, or grades. This may be because of how service learning can provide a something in school that a student can be genuinely interested and therefore increase their grades in not just the relevant course, but other subjects as well.

Service learning has been shown to be a universally positive thing for anyone who decides to be a part of it. Many students have had parts of their lives made better because of service learning by making them more independent, giving them a new perspective of other people who are less fortunate, making them do better in school, and making students more kind towards others. It is because of these things that service learning can be almost an essential thing to go through, because of how much it can give students very necessary skills for when they go into the workforce.