

**Service Learning Project Report**

Kirkpatrick Signature Series

# Instructions:

For this course, you will complete a Service Learning Project (SLP) that will include volunteer hours and ten-entry reports about your efforts. Any type of volunteer work is acceptable for this project, so long as it is serving the needs of the larger community in some way.

The hours can be a continuation of volunteering you've done in the past, but all of the volunteering that you write about in your report must have been done during the current term.Examples of places to volunteer would be homeless shelters, nursing homes, hospitals, Habitat for Humanity, the Boy and Girl Scouts, churches, mosques, temples, and so on.

**About the SLP**

The Service Learning Project has been required in the Signature Series since the year 2000. Previous students have found it a focal point of the course. The SLP is the major requirement for one of the three courses in the Signature Series, LA 420 Freedom and Responsibility, and the accomplishing of the project and writing about it seem a fair requirement for the earning of nearly three hours of course credit. The SLP is, ultimately, an assignment in the course.

**Instructor Approval:**

Before commencing your SLP, you must have it approved by your instructor. This must be done **no later than Week 3**. Your entries will start in **Week 2** and last until Week 11 total to 10 entries. You might consider organizations you are already involved in such as little league or kids sports, religious affiliations, PTA or PTSA, Middle School or High School organizations, or other civic organizations.

**Number of Required Hours to Volunteer:**

You are expected to volunteer a total of **21 hours**. Specific hours volunteered are not required to be formally documented, however, it will not be possible to write a quality Project Report for your assignment if one does not complete this volunteering. An extra credit photograph of your volunteering is optional.

**The Ten Entries of the Service Learning Project Report:**

**Note:** The directions for each entry are detailed below and followed by space for you to type each entry inside this document. **These entries will be turned in Week 6, Week 9, and the last week of the course**.You are expected to demonstrate learning based upon assigned course materials. References and citations from the assigned course materials are required. A minimum of 14 unique citations from the assigned readings, not the videos or reports, are expected in your SLP.

**Bibliography:**

Include a bibliography at the end of your SLP.

**Entry 1:** "Selection of the Service Learning Project.”

Write an entry of 400 words minimum on why you chose your project. Discuss the life or work experiences that may have influenced your selection, including whether these experiences were positive or negative. Consider how issues of community, government or individual responsibility, leadership, productivity, problem-solving, work ethic, and/or ambition might have affected your project selection. Most importantly, explain why your project is important to you, as well as to the larger community. Include two unique citations from the assigned articles in this paragraph.

**Entry 2:** Write an entry of 400 words minimum explaining how your project relates to at least two of the course objectives. See the complete list of course objectives in the course syllabus. Be sure to explain why you think these objectives are important. Label this entry “Service Learning Project Objectives.” Include two unique citations from the assigned articles in this paragraph.

**Note:** The purpose of this entry is **not** to tell what you think the objective of your SLP is; rather, it is to relate your project to the course objectives (which are found in the course syllabus).

**Entries 3-9**: Narrate your experiences on the project. Synthesize ideas from the course readings in entries 3-9. You may reference ideas from earlier phases in the course, as well as up to four additional non-course assigned sources you have found in your own research. Cite at least 2 articles and/or readings from course in this entry.

* A minimum of 500 words must be written for each entry.
* Entries should simply be labeled with the appropriate entry number(s), for example, Entry 3, Entry 4, Entries 5-6, Entries 5-8, and so on.

**Entry 10:** For the concluding entry of 400 words, labeled “Conclusions,” summarize your project, its relation to the course themes and readings, and your subjective feelings about your project experiences. Cite at least 2 articles and/or readings from course in this entry.

**Very Important for All Students:**Employ APA format for both in-text citations and your bibliography or references list. Abstracts and running heads are not required. For further APA instructions and help visit your course toolbox.

**Important Assignment Guidelines: Not following these guidelines will have a negative impact on your grade.**

1. Write in Arial font, size 14, unless otherwise directed by your instructor.
2. Always name the author whose ideas you are discussing (use the author’s full name the first time you refer to him/her; after that, identify authors by their last names).
3. Provide in-text citations for all ideas, opinions, and facts derived from the assigned course readings, whether you simply refer to them, paraphrase them (put them entirely into your own words), or quote them. Place the in-text citation at the end of your sentence but before the period that ends your sentence. The in-text citation should give the author’s last name (unless you’ve used it already in your sentence), the year of publication (if known), and the appropriate page number(s) from the reading (if page numbers are used in the online text of the essay). Do not use the title of the reading unless it does not have an author).

Here’s an example of a citation for a Thomas Paine reading for Week 1: (Paine, 1776).

Here’s an example of a citation for a John Locke reading for Week 2: (Locke, 1689, pp. 46-47).

1. Provide a References list at the end of your essay that includes bibliographic references for every reading cited in your essay.

Note: Your references list does not count toward your minimum word count.

Center the word References (do not underline it, place it in quotation marks, or place it in bold or larger size font).

Present your references, listed alphabetically by author’s last name.

Follow APA formatting guidelines for your list. The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) offers excellent detailed explanations of APA Format requirements. This is the URL for the Purdue OWL:<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01>

Here is an example of a references list entry:

Locke, J. (1689). Of the beginning of political societies. In Two Treatises

of government (Chapter VIII). Retrieved from

<http://epublish.biz/pdf/Two_Treatises_of_Government.pdf>

Here is another example of a references list entry:

Thoreau, H. (1849). Civil disobedience. Retrieved from

<http://www.thoreau-online.org/major-essays-by-thoreau.htm>

Note1: The first line of the reference begins at the left margin. All

subsequent lines should be indented one tab.

Note 2: Do not include bibliographic references for any reading not

cited in your essay.

**Practical Advice on All Writing Assignments:**

1. Always spell-check and grammar-check your essays. Note: spell-check cannot tell that you have used the wrong word; other errors may escape the computer’s check system. Proofread and edit all your work carefully several times before submitting.
2. If you need additional assistance with your writing, please contact the Writing Center at Bellevue University for a free consultation on your paper.

Bellevue Campus:

Phone: (402) 557-5449

E-Mail: writing@bellevue.edu

Web Address: <https://www.bellevue.edu/student-support/writing-center/writing-center>

1. You should save copies of all of your work for the course—essays and responses—to a file on your hard drive. Also backup your work on a flash drive or disk
2. **Delete the SLP assignment booklet editorial from the final version of the SLP.**

**Entry 1:** "Selection of the Service Learning Project.”

Write an entry of 400 words minimum on why you chose your project. Discuss the life or work experiences that may have influenced your selection, including whether these experiences were positive or negative. Consider how issues of community, government or individual responsibility, leadership, productivity, problem-solving, work ethic, and/or ambition might have affected your project selection. **Most importantly, explain why your project is important to you, as well as to the larger community**. Cite at least 2 articles and/or readings from the course in this entry.

Remember, it is your job as a student to demonstrate learning based upon the assigned course materials.

**[Write your entry here]**

**Entry 2:** Write an entry of 400 words minimum explaining how your project relates to at least two of the course objectives. See the complete list of course objectives in the course syllabus. **Be sure to explain why you think these objectives are important.** Label this entry “Service Learning Project Objectives.” Cite at least 2 articles and/or readings from the course in this entry.

**Note:** The purpose of this entry is **not** to tell what you think the objective of your SLP is; rather, it is to relate your project to the course objectives

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**[Write your entry here]**

Entries #3 through #9 discuss your experiences as a volunteer. These paragraphs can be redundant. To avoid repeating yourself, examine closely how your experiences align or reflect the main ideas or themes found in the week’s assigned reading documents. For example, when Jefferson posits the American ideal that, “all men are created equal,” did your experience as a volunteer find this to be the case? Why or why not? Also, examine the organization you volunteered at from the perspective of the organization’s client (or those who used the organization for assistance). You can also examine the organization from the perspective of those who are employed or leadership positions. Why are they working here? What motivates them? Also, you can examine why others, like you, volunteer at the organization. Finally, what do outsiders, or those that know of but are not involved in the organization think of the organization? Is it helpful? Does it serve a purpose? If so, what purpose does the organization serve? Finally, how does society benefit, or not, from the efforts of those involved in the organization’s mission?

**Entry 3**: Narrate your experiences on the project in a minimum of 500 words. **Be sure to relate your project experiences briefly to specific ideas in each of the week's readings**. Ideally, you will synthesize ideas from these readings. You may also briefly reference ideas from earlier weeks of the course, as well as up to four additional sources you have found in your own research. Cite at least 2 articles and/or readings from the course in this entry.

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**[Write your entry here]**

**Entry 4:** Narrate your experiences on the project in a minimum of 500 words. **Be sure to relate your project experiences briefly to specific ideas in each of the week's readings**. Ideally, you will synthesize ideas from these readings. You may also briefly reference ideas from earlier weeks of the course, as well as up to four additional sources you have found in your own research. Cite at least 2 articles and/or readings from the course in this entry.

Remember, it is your job as a student to demonstrate learning based upon the assigned course materials.

**[Write your entry here]**

**Entry 5:** Narrate your experiences on the project in a minimum of 500 words. **Be sure to relate your project experiences briefly to specific ideas in each of the week's readings**. Ideally, you will synthesize ideas from these readings. You may also briefly reference ideas from earlier weeks of the course, as well as up to four additional sources you have found in your own research. Cite at least 2 articles and/or readings from the course in this entry.

Remember, it is your job as a student to demonstrate learning based upon the assigned course materials.

**[Write your entry here]**

**Entry 6:** Narrate your experiences on the project in a minimum of 500 words. **Be sure to relate your project experiences briefly to specific ideas in each of the week's readings**. Ideally, you will synthesize ideas from these readings. You may also briefly reference ideas from earlier weeks of the course, as well as up to four additional sources you have found in your own research. Cite at least 2 articles and/or readings from the course in this entry.

Remember, it is your job as a student to demonstrate learning based upon the assigned course materials.

**[Write your entry here]**

**Entry 7:** Narrate your experiences on the project in a minimum of 500 words. **Be sure to relate your project experiences briefly to specific ideas in each of the week's readings**. Ideally, you will synthesize ideas from these readings. You may also briefly reference ideas from earlier weeks of the course, as well as up to four additional sources you have found in your own research. Cite at least 2 articles and/or readings from the course in this entry.

Remember, it is your job as a student to demonstrate learning based upon the assigned course materials

**[Write your entry here]**

**Entry 8:** Narrate your experiences on the project in a minimum of 500 words. **Be sure to relate your project experiences briefly to specific ideas in each of the week's readings**. Ideally, you will synthesize ideas from these readings. You may also briefly reference ideas from earlier weeks of the course, as well as up to four additional sources you have found in your own research. Cite at least 2 articles and/or readings from the course in this entry.

Remember, it is your job as a student to demonstrate learning based upon the assigned course materials

**[Write your entry here]**

**Entry 9:** Narrate your experiences on the project in a minimum of 500 words. **Be sure to relate your project experiences briefly to specific ideas in each of the week's readings**. Ideally, you will synthesize ideas from these readings. You may also briefly reference ideas from earlier weeks of the course, as well as up to four additional sources you have found in your own research. Cite at least 2 articles and/or readings from the course in this entry.

Remember, it is your job as a student to demonstrate learning based upon the assigned course materials

**[Write your entry here]**

**Something to consider as you write your final SLP Conclusion.**

Throughout the course, you will notice the repeating theme of ***radical individualism***.

* Radical individualism is the antithesis of engaged citizenship. It is a form of hyper-democracy: government takes care of my duties and obligations to others while protecting my rights.

Obviously, we want the KSS to teach and encourage engaged citizenship. Throughout the course materials including the Service Learning Project, we want the student to recognize that with rights come duties and responsibilities.

Simply because you have the right to do something does not mean it is the right thing to do. Adler writes in his essay on Justice, impeding another’s pursuit of happiness is an unjust act. Choosing to refrain from an action, ***even though you may have a right to that act***, is a choice to pursue justice for someone else. It is a selfless act to perpetuate the pursuit of a better society.

Some suggest that “radical individualism” is the greatest threat our nation faces at the moment. This helps us understand the argument that the cost of an insulated life leads to less freedom as the onus of social responsibility shifts to government. McConnell’s article *Religion and Limited Government* oblique references this when he writes, “If government does everything, (rather than the church and/or the individual), there is no separation or no space for the church” (McConnell, 2010). If this is true, our individual duty towards our fellow man matters. Furthermore, if we allow government to assume that role, there is no space for social capital to develop (see Putnam’s discussion on social capital).

If this argument is valid, then it is the choices that you and I make every day, in our actions and words, which define whether or not we live in a good society. It suggests that society is a mirrored reflection of who you are and that if you didn’t like it, you have the Constitutional authority to change it (see First Amendment). Recall from the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson tells the reader you have a “duty” to pursue the better society (Jefferson, 1776).

Recognize that your foray into volunteerism through the SLP is a physical act of choosing to change the world. Congratulations: you matter very much.

**Entry 10:** “Conclusions”

The concluding entry is in two parts.

**Part 1:** Complete the three-question survey using the following rating. On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the most favorable and 1 being the least favorable, rate your response to the statements.

1. The Service Learning Project helped me better understand the role that engaged citizenship has in affecting positive change in American society."
2. I was initially reluctant to participate in the Service Learning Project assignment.
3. Overall, I found the Service Learning Project assignment was a rewarding experience.

**Part 2:** Summarize your project, its relation to the course themes and readings, and your feelings about your project experiences.

* **Be certain to discuss the belief that an engaged citizen makes America stronger.**
* Also, specifically respond to the three statements in Part 1 within the body of your final entry.

Remember to **cite at least two articles and/or readings** from the course in this entry.

**[Write your entry here]**