

WR 121
Service Learning

Service learning combines study and experience in the world outside the classroom, involves working in, learning about, and reflecting on the community in a constructive manner. It is based on the belief that civic responsibility requires working for the common good.

This section of WR 121 is a service learning class. Service learning is built into the curriculum and will make up part of the grade for the course.

So, you may well ask, why do we have to do service learning in a writing class?

1. My belief is that the job of universities is to educate citizens. Part of the definition of "citizen" is a commitment to the common good.
2. In this class we will be reading about and discussing the state of education in our town and our country. Service learning will give you some real life experience to bring to your studies. I hope your experience will inform your writing.
3. Students who do service learning projects gain experience in the real world that is often helpful in deciding on a career and in building a resume.

You may be able to think of other reasons after the quarter is over. If you do, you can bring them to me.

Here's the drill for winter quarter, 2007: I will be doing my own service at Markham Elementary School just down the street. You're welcome to join me there. If that doesn't work out for you, I'd suggest you look at the opportunities available in schools and tutoring centers listed on the service learning website. Consider carefully the location of the school; it should be convenient to you at the time you'll be going to do your work.

All of these places are located on the service learning website. Here's how you use it:

- ☞ enter MyPCC
- ☞ click on the PCC life tab
- ☞ on the right, under "Student Services," click on "Service Learning"
- ☞ on the right, click on "Volunteer Sites"

☞ just above the list of opportunities, click on "type"

☞ go to the letter "e" and click on "education."

When you have chosen your site, have the coordinator fill out her section of the Service Learning form, fill out your section, and bring it in to me.

Each time you go to the service learning site, take 30 minutes after you finish to write in your journal about what you saw that day, what you learned, what you did, and why what you did mattered.

When you have completed your project, write a one-page reflection on the experience. This may include your thoughts as to the challenges and/or joys of the experience and the parts of it you found educational.

The service learning project is an alternative to Essay 3.