**LSC Kingwood** Honors

Service Learning Guidelines

**Students** graduating from the Honors College at LSC Kingwood with the Distinction or Scholar designation are required to complete 25 hours of service learning over the course of their study at Lone Star College. Students who complete the service learning requirement are recognized at graduation and on their transcripts.

**Service** learning is not simply community service. It contains an academic component most often associated with the student’s individual critical reflection or assessment of their participation in a community-based project. Your project may be an activity associated with a classroom assignment or it may be a project through a student organization on campus. You may also decide to work on a project independently and not through the college. If you are unsure whether a particular activity constitutes a service learning project, please talk to the Honors Program director.

**Reflective** activities are designed to provide guidance to help you evaluate your own perspectives, assumptions, and prejudices about your project and the people with whom you are working and the consequences of your participation. They should further your own self-understanding in terms of your community and the issues important to it.

**Following** is a list of questions to consider as you write your reflection.

*Self Awareness*

1. What has surprised you from your participation in this project?
2. What assumptions of your own, perhaps even those you didn’t know you had, have you become aware of?
3. How has your participation and experience in this project challenged your assumptions and beliefs?
4. What skills were you able to bring to this project and in what ways did they prove useful?

*Civic Engagement*

1. After completing your project, what thoughts do you have about the type of community member you want to be?
2. How will you continue you community involvement after this project? If you do not plan to continue, explain why not.
3. Have your thoughts about community involvement changed as a result of your project? Explain why or why not.

*Social Justice*

1. From your perspective, why do you think there is a need for the community based work you provided?
2. Are there inequities which make such projects like yours necessary? If so, how could you help others better understand them?

**The following** framework may also help you structure your reflection on your project.

*What?*

What happened? What did you see, say, contribute?

*Gut?*

What did you feel? What did you feel going into your project? What did you feel during and after the completion of your project?

*So what?*

What did you learn from participating in this project? Why does it matter? What do you understand differently now?

*Now what?*

What will you do with what you have learned? How does your learning apply to your coursework at LSC Kingwood?

**There are** a variety of ways to present your thoughts including:

journaling

blogging or personal web pages

reflection narratives

essays

drawing/painting

music

videos/powerpoints

Source: Southwestern University Office of Civic Engagement