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Final Project Assignment

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FINAL PROJECT ASSIGNMENT
EDUC 1110 – SERVICE LEARNING IN EDUCATION

A successful final paper/project will address the following:

Reflection Questions

- What did you learn from your service learning project?
- Did you achieve the goals you outlined for the project? To what extent? Why or why not?
- What will the lasting effects of your project be?
- How did your views of your community partner and service change over the course of the project?
- What unforeseen obstacles did you experience? Were you successful in overcoming them?
- What did you know at the end of the semester that you wished you had known in the first place?

Social Issue Questions

- What are some of the root causes of the social problems you encountered (i.e., illiteracy, homelessness, child abuse / neglect)?
- What are other communities and organizations doing to combat the problems you encountered? How might these solutions be applicable to San Antonio?
- Applying theories of child and adolescent development, what have you learned about children this semester? How might this knowledge and experience impact you in the future?
- What are some effective teaching strategies for use with different populations (i.e., elementary children, adult learners, and ESL learners)?
- *You are welcome to design your own research question based on your project.*

OPTION I: FINAL PAPER

In a 4-5 page final paper, you should reflect about the scope and lessons of your project and the social issues you encountered through your volunteerism.

OPTION II: CREATIVE PROJECT

Students also have the option of demonstrating their personal growth, knowledge of a social issue, and skills with a creative project. Your projects might take the form of an informative brochure, an article for the *Trinitonian*, a poster, multimedia / video, a resource guide, a resource map (GoogleMaps), drafting text for an organization's web site or print materials, or a suitable project of the student's own choosing.

Projects can be completed independently or collaboratively (provided all students are working on related volunteer projects). If multiple students are working together, I expect that the project will be appropriately ambitious and time consuming given the number of students involved.

Whether you are writing a paper or doing a creative project... you are expected to incorporate research around a social issue(s) you encountered during the semester. You are expected to find at least **two** relevant and appropriate resources from scholarly publications, interviews, and/or popular media to support the claims you make. These sources should be at least 10 pages in length.

All students are encouraged to meet with Anne Jumonville (Information Literacy Librarian) to locate supplemental academic resources to support their claims and Jeremy Donald (also in the library) to provide technology assistance, as needed.

Evaluation

The project is worth 50 points (30% of your total course grade). *A rubric is attached below.*

Final Paper Rubric

	Target Achieved	Approaching Target	Below Target	Points earned
Clarity of Written Communication	<p>The project is well-written and contains a limited number of grammatical errors.</p> <p>The paper is well formatted using 12-pt font, double-spaced, and has normal margins.</p>	<p>The author's message can be understood, but there are several awkward phrases or grammatical errors.</p>	<p>There are a distracting number of organizational and/or grammatical errors. The author's intent is obscured by imprecise writing mechanics.</p> <p>The paper is not properly formatted.</p>	<p>_____ of 5</p>
Incorporation of Relevant Information	<p>The author draws upon (at least 2) relevant and appropriate resources from scholarly publications, interviews, and/or popular media.</p> <p>The author implicitly or explicitly or integrates insights gained as a result of completing volunteer service.</p>	<p>The author draws upon researched evidence (popular and/ or scholarly sources) and the author's own volunteer experience.</p> <p>Some cited resources lacked credibility or were only tangentially related to the topic.</p>	<p>A significant number of the author's claims are not supported by credible evidence.</p> <p>The author makes limited reference to any research. As a result, the content presented in the project is general and superficial, lacking sufficient depth or scholarly nuance.</p> <p>It is unclear how the author's volunteer experience enhances the project.</p>	<p>_____ of 20</p>
Ethically uses Research	<p>Appropriately uses the MLA or Chicago-style citations with no errors in formatting (both for in-text citations and works cited page).</p> <p>The student has signed the honor code.</p>	<p>Uses the MLA or Chicago-style citations with limited errors in formatting (both for in-text citations and works cited page).</p> <p>The student has signed the honor code.</p>	<p>The author does not use MLA or Chicago-style citations and/or citations contain a significant number of errors.</p> <p>Facts are presented without crediting a source.</p> <p>The student has not signed the honor code.</p>	<p>_____ of 5</p>
Reflection	<p>The self-reflection demonstrates that the author has internalized, learned, and benefitted from their volunteer service. Whether or not the service project achieved its stated goals, the author's reflection is insightful and specific.</p>	<p>The author provides evidence of self-reflection through the project itself or an attached written statement. The reflection shares general insights gained from volunteer service.</p>	<p>There is little to no evidence of the author's self-reflection.</p>	<p>_____ of 10</p>
				<p>Total points earned: _____ of 50</p>

Creative Final Project Rubric

	Target Achieved	Approaching Target	Below Target	Points earned
Clarity of Written Communication (if applicable)	The project is well-written and contains a limited number of grammatical errors.	The author's message can be understood, but there are several awkward phrases or grammatical errors.	There are a distracting number of organizational and/or grammatical errors. The author's intent is obscured by imprecise writing mechanics.	_____ of 4
Project Meaningfully Incorporates Useful Information	The author draws upon (at least 2) relevant and appropriate resources from scholarly publications, interviews, and/or popular media. The author implicitly or explicitly or integrates insights gained as a result of completing volunteer service.	The project benefits from evidence drawn from research (popular and/or scholarly sources) and the author's own volunteer experience. Some cited resources lacked credibility or were only tangentially related to the topic.	A significant number of the author's claims are not supported by credible evidence. The author makes limited reference to any research. As a result, the content presented in the project is general and superficial, lacking sufficient depth or scholarly nuance. It is unclear how the author's volunteer experience enhances the project.	_____ of 15
Ethically uses Research	Appropriately uses the MLA or Chicago-style citations with no errors in formatting (both for in-text citations and works cited page). The student has signed the honor code.	Uses the MLA or Chicago-style citations with limited errors in formatting (both for in-text citations and works cited page). The student has signed the honor code.	The author does not use MLA or Chicago-style citations and/or citations contain a significant number of errors. Facts are presented without crediting a source. The student has not signed the honor code.	_____ of 3
Reflection	The self-reflection demonstrates that the author has internalized, learned, and benefitted from their volunteer service. Whether or not the service project achieved its stated goals, the author's reflection is insightful and specific.	The author provides evidence of self-reflection through the project itself or an attached written statement. The reflection shares general insights gained from volunteer service.	There is little to no evidence of the author's self-reflection.	_____ of 10
Quality of Creative Project	The creative project is well suited to the nature and scope of the author's intended message. The author takes advantage of the unique characteristics of the selected medium (i.e., brochure, newspaper article, website, video...). The project's aesthetics (i.e., color, font, design, production values) are pleasing and contribute positively toward professionally communicating the author's intent.	The author demonstrates some understanding of the unique characteristics of the selected medium (i.e., brochure, newspaper article, website, video...). The project's aesthetics (i.e., color, font, design, production values) do not detract from the author's intent. With minor tweaks, the project will be ready to share with other audiences.	The author does not demonstrate an understanding of the unique characteristics of the selected medium (i.e., brochure, newspaper article, website, video...). The project's aesthetics (i.e., color, font, design, production values) actively distract from the author's intended message. Significant revisions must be made before the project is shared with other audiences.	_____ of 10
				Total points earned: _____ of 50