

*Dr. Fortner-Wood's Reflection Paper Assignment for
the Service Learning Component of
PSYC 206: Developmental Psychology*

Background and Purpose

You will write two reflection papers in this course, one for each of your two service learning experiences. As you know, you will complete a minimum of 5 hours of volunteer service working with children 0-12 years of age and a minimum of 5 hours of volunteer service working with individuals 12 years and older. Therefore, you will have at least 10 hours of volunteer experience as part of your learning in this course. These 10 hours must be completed in addition to any responsibilities you have in other classes, as a member of an organization, or that you arranged before the semester began.

Serving individuals in these two age groups will allow you to apply and augment your learning of course material, help members of our community, and strengthen your vita. When we all do our part, service learning is a win-win situation for us as individuals, the folks we serve, and the University. I feel so strongly about the benefits of these opportunities, I will be volunteering the same amount of time I require of you.

It is your responsibility to contact the staff of the site you have chosen from the list of recommendations provided by Ellin McDonough, Winthrop's Program Director for Service Learning. If you and I have agreed to allow you to volunteer at a site not on that list, I need you to write a brief description of what service you will provide at that site and submit it to me soon after we have negotiated what you will do. Under the description, please include the name of the person who will supervise your work at that site and their contact information.

Reflection Paper

While service facilitates active learning, writing about your experience and reflecting on your writing adds a layer of critical thinking you will not get otherwise. So, you will write a three-page double-spaced paper about each experience and reflect on what you write. Use one inch margins and 12 point font. To be graded, your paper must be turned in on time (*insert dates here*) and include the following 4 components.

1. Describe your experience (Write about at least three of the topics below).
 - a. How did this experience affect you? For example, how did it cause you to recognize and respect human diversity or understand that developmental explanations may vary across populations and contexts?
 - b. What are examples of personal biases you and/or others brought to the situation that influenced how you interacted?
 - c. Did you encounter any ethical dilemmas? If so, cite the APA or SRCD ethical principle(s) and how you handled that situation.
 - d. What knowledge did you gain that you did not get from reading and classroom experiences?
 - e. Truth is stranger than fiction. Write about the most unusual experience you had as a part of this opportunity.
2. What next?
 - a. What does this site need and what can Winthrop students do to address that need?
 - b. Will you continue to volunteer at this site or one like it? Has your work here influenced your career plans? Will you recommend working at this site to a friend or acquaintance? Why or Why not?
3. Check and reflect.
 - a. After you have typed your responses to the first two sections of this assignment, read over what you wrote. Correct typos, add explanations where appropriate, and condense paragraphs when it makes sense. Then print your three pages.
 - b. Next, apply course material. Take a pen or pencil and hand write the names of developmental concepts or the gist of research findings above, beside or below your typed text where appropriate. You can draw arrows from your handwritten text to the passage where that course material applies. Be sure your handwriting is legible and make sure you can apply at least six different ideas from your readings and/or our class discussions. I recommend that you try to apply Bronfenbrenner's ideas at least once but Bronfenbrenner should not be the only course content you apply.
4. Attach your signed Service Log to the last page of your assignment. Remember, you will not get credit for this assignment if you do not have proof you completed appropriate service.