

Service/Community Based Learning Tip Sheet

Types of Service

The service component of a service-learning project usually falls into one of three broad categories:

Direct Service

These activities involve students establishing personal contact with people in need.

Examples: working with senior citizens to create oral histories, tutoring younger students, and delivering meals to people with physical limitations.

Indirect Service

These activities usually happen at school, channeling resources to the area of need, rather than working directly with the recipients of the service. Students may have little or no direct contact with the service recipients.

Examples: creating a public relations campaign for an agency; planning a fund raising event to benefit the agency.

Advocacy

These activities involve students lending their voices and talents to help eliminate the causes of a specific problem. In a sense, this is also a form of indirect service.

Examples: making a presentation to the city council in support of a specific policy, launching a PR campaign about a health issue, and mobilizing community support for a piece of public policy.

Large projects may incorporate several service components, covering two or even all three of these categories. For example, a university-wide project to address hunger could include work at a food bank (direct), a canned-goods drive (indirect), and lobbying state legislators to implement policies that help low-income families (advocacy).