

Demonstration & Celebration

Measuring Impact in Service-Learning

Demonstration and celebration of learning and impact are important parts of your service-learning project that can provide you, your students, and your community partners with a meaningful conclusion to the project and an opportunity to think ahead to the future. In an effective demonstration and celebration, students show influential others how they impacted the community and how they have changed as a result of their service-learning activities.

A high-quality demonstration and celebration event recognizes and rewards students' sense of efficacy and motivation to serve and reinforces community members' commitments to your program. It provides a public forum for students to display their knowledge, which encourages them to synthesize what they have learned through service, provides an authentic context for assessment, and builds community member's expertise with respect to the community problem.

Finally, a high quality demonstration and celebration event engages participants in analyzing and developing potential solutions to the new set of social issues signaled by the end of the service-learning project, further enhancing their problem solving skills and dedication to service.

Teachers have several options for demonstration and celebration events, including:

Demonstrating Impact on the Community

- Measurement on a neighborhood quality index
- Poster exhibition or showcase
- Portfolio fair
- Development of products such as Power Points, oral presentations, websites, videos, before/after community pictures
- Testimonials by service recipients

Demonstrating Impact on Self

- Self portraits
- Autobiographies
- Story boards
- Pre/post measures of knowledge, skills, or behaviors
- Evaluation of student work by experts, community partners, recipients of service, or panels of judges
- Sharing insight through issues forums

Celebrating Accomplishments

- Recognition of a school-wide ceremony or awards

- A tour of the service site to observe progress
- Letters of recognition from community partners, elected officials, etc.
- Service credits on the students' transcripts
- Creation of a fund to support future service around the issue
- Recognition during a traditional ceremony like a graduation

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