



CULMINATING ACTIVITY: SERVICE-LEARNING ACTION PLAN

(Time varies)

PART ONE: IDENTIFY AREAS FOR SERVICE

(50-60 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students list problems facing their community and choose an area for service.

MATERIALS

No materials are necessary for this part of the activity.

GET READY

- ✓ Become familiar with the *Move to the Problem Activity*, described below.

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Generate a list of problems and needs for service.

- ✓ Have students brainstorm a list of needs and problems facing their community. Write these needs and problems on the board. Possible problems may include: voter apathy, pollution, etc.

Step 2: Identify cause/effect for each need and problem.

- ✓ Next to each problem or need write the cause/effect. This will help students determine ideas for action.

Step 3: Use the *Move to the Problem Activity* to select problems or needs to work on.

- ✓ Assign an area in the classroom for each problem (Example: The left side of the classroom is for Voter Apathy).
- ✓ Ask students to move to the problem they feel is the most important. Encourage students to talk among themselves while they are deciding where to move.
- ✓ When all the students have chosen a problem, ask them to share why they made their decision.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *How did you feel when you made your decision?*
- ★ *Was your decision based on the issue or a friend?*
- ★ *Was it difficult to choose?*
- ★ *How is decision-making an important skill for all of us?*

Step 4: Narrow the Focus

- ✓ Have students work together to determine how many of the problems to address. Explain that the class will continue to address these problems.



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PART TWO: DETERMINE SERVICE SOLUTIONS

OBJECTIVE

Students work in groups to determine service activities to solve problems identified in Part One.

MATERIALS

Kids Voting Service-learning Menu handout; *Service Solutions Process* handout; large paper and markers

GET READY

- ✓ Make copies of *Kids Voting Service-learning Menu* and *Service Solutions Process* (one copy per group).
- ✓ Gather large sheets of paper and markers for each group.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Divide your students into small groups.
- ✓ Ask students to consider solutions to the previously identified problem(s) (See Part One).
- ✓ Brainstorm solutions using the *Service Solutions Process* which follows.

Service Solution Process (Adapted from *Tribes A New Way of Learning and Being Together* by Jeanne Gibbs.)

- ✓ Teacher Directions
 - ✓ Have students meet in small groups of three to five students.
 - ✓ Distribute a large sheet of paper, markers, and one copy of the *Kids Voting Service-learning Menu* to each group.
 - ✓ Give each group 10 minutes to determine at least three service ideas. They may write ideas from the *Kids Voting Service-learning Menu* handout and/or ideas of

their own. They should record these ideas on the large sheet of paper you gave them.

- ✓ After 10 minutes, ask each group member to vote for their favorite three service ideas. They should assign 25 points to their first choice, 15 points to their second choice, and five points to their third choice. (See *Service Solutions Process* handout.)
- ✓ Have each group total the points for each idea and then read their top three service ideas to the class. Make sure that each idea is well-defined and oriented towards the problem(s) identified in Part One.
- ✓ Student Directions (also found on *Service Solutions Process* handout)
 - ✓ For 10 minutes, brainstorm what you and your fellow students can do about the problem. Have one person record all ideas on your large paper.
 - ✓ VOTE – Each person selects their top three choices with an assignment of points (1st choice = 25 points; 2nd choice = 15 points; 3rd choice = 5 points).
 - ✓ Add up the total points for each idea.
 - ✓ Present the top three solutions to the class.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *How did the process of voting work for your group?*
- ★ *Share one positive thing about your group working together.*
- ★ *Can all of your solutions be applied in your group?*



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PART THREE: PLAN AND TAKE ACTION

OBJECTIVE

Students work together to develop and implement a plan of service.

MATERIALS

Service-learning Action Plan handout; envelopes, stamps, lined paper, phone books

GET READY

- ✓ Make copies of *Service-learning Action Plan* (2–3 copies per group)
- ✓ Gather envelopes and stamps
- ✓ Gather phone books
- ✓ Obtain Internet access (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Explain Action Plans

- ✓ Explain what an action plan is, if necessary: *An Action Plan designates tasks, persons responsible for each task, and expected time for completion. The action plan should be posted, reviewed daily and revised and added to as necessary. An action plan is a group contract which reminds people of their accountability to one another.*

Step 2: Complete *Service-learning Action Plan* handout

- ✓ Give each group a copy of the *Service-learning Action Plan* handout.
- ✓ Encourage students to think about each step necessary for completing the plan. It may be necessary to discuss task analysis in order for students to understand how to break the solution into steps.
- ✓ Assist groups in beginning their action plans.

Step 3: Implement Action Plans

- ✓ Allow students ample time to work on their plan. Some supplies/resources to have on hand to assist them are: extra copies of the *Service-learning Action Plan* handout, paper, envelopes, stamps, phone books, internet access.
- ✓ Encourage the groups to share their plans and progress throughout the project.



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PART FOUR: CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESS

OBJECTIVE

Students evaluate their success and are recognized for their efforts.

MATERIALS

Student Evaluation Form handout

GET READY

- ✓ Copy the *Student Evaluation Form* handout for each of your students.

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Have Students Evaluate Their Work

- ✓ Give each student the *Student Evaluation Form*. Ask them to evaluate their work.

Step 2: Recognize and Reinforce Students' Work

- ✓ One way to recognize the service projects is to ensure that students receive publicity.

✓ Ideas for recognizing students' work:

- ✓ School newspapers and school announcements
- ✓ Broadcast media
- ✓ Newspapers
- ✓ Letters to businesses in your community
- ✓ Write Kids Voting USA. We may be able to use your story in the future in one of our newsletters.

Kids Voting USA
 3933 South McClintock Drive
 Suite 505
 Tempe, Arizona 85282
 Attn: Education Specialist



KIDS VOTING SERVICE-LEARNING MENU

Many of these ideas are from Kids Voting Programs. You may want to incorporate some of these ideas into your Service Solutions.

KIDS VOTING ARIZONA

- Students at Sunnyslope High School in Phoenix, Arizona create a newspaper-voting guide every two years and distribute it to over 10,000 readers in the community. Students earn over \$1200 through the sale of advertising space on its pages.

KV NORTH ALASKA

- Students from West Valley High School produced a short video encouraging their fellow students to vote that was shown to all classes. The school's government class researched and produced pamphlets, listing position statement for state candidates, which were available to all students.

KV COLORADO

- High school students from all five Mesa County Valley School District 51 high schools lead a candidate forum for two state house races. Students attended a training session and then hosted the entire event including moderating, asking questions of the candidates, timekeeping and greeting candidates when they arrived.

KV CENTRAL OHIO

- Columbus-area high school students attended a U.S. Naturalization ceremony, after which they registered U.S. citizens to vote.

KV SOUTHWEST OHIO

- *The White House or Bust* Election Exhibit at the Mercer Museum was created by two high school students as their graduation project. The exhibit received national mention in the *Wall Street Journal* regarding innovative election-related exhibits around the country.

MORE IDEAS:

- Book Share: select books about the voting process and read to a younger child.
- Volunteer at a candidate's headquarters.
- Volunteer at your local Kids Voting USA affiliate.
- Help younger kids learn about democracy by being a guest speaker in an elementary classroom.



SERVICE SOLUTIONS PROCESS

- Brainstorm what you and your fellow students can do about the problem for 10 minutes. (See *Guidelines for Brainstorming*.)
- VOTE – Each person selects three top choices with an assignment of points (1st choice = 25 points; 2nd choice = 15 points; 3rd choice = 5 points).
- Add up the total points for each idea.
- Present the top three solutions to the class.

GUIDELINES FOR BRAINSTORMING

- Appoint one group member as recorder. The recorder writes down all ideas.
- No criticism of any idea is acceptable.
- “Free-wheeling” is welcome. The wilder the idea the better. It is easier to tame down than to think up.
- Quantity is the key. The more ideas, the more likelihood of real winners in the group.
- Combining ideas and improving ideas is encouraged.



SERVICE-LEARNING ACTION PLAN

Problem:

Service Solution:

Names of all group members:

What?	Who?	By When?



STUDENT EVALUATION FORM

Describe your service project.

Explain how your project was or was not successful.

What was the most successful part of this project?

What was the biggest challenge?

If you were to work on this project again what would you do differently?

List at least three important things you learned from working on this project.

How did your group work together?

What are some things your group could work on to improve the group?