

Student Name: _____ School: _____ Grade: _____

**Charles County Public Schools
Service-Learning Program
Reflection Essay**

A well-planned reflection and Student Service Learning Project should include the following:

7 Best Practices for Student Service Learning:

1. Meet a recognized need in the community
2. Achieve curricular objectives partnerships
3. Reflect throughout service-learning experience
4. Develop student responsibility
5. Establish community
6. Plan ahead for service-learning
7. Equip students with knowledge and skills needed for service

Unless specified below, this reflection sheet also indicates this student has completed the Preparation and Action portions of the SSL project also.

____ **Preparation Incomplete** ____ **Action Incomplete** ____ **Both Incomplete**

The third and final phase of a service-learning project is a reflection about the experience. This reflection requires as much effort as the preparation and action phases of service-learning. Your reflection should be well thought out. It should consist of 5 paragraphs using the format below.

1. **Introductory Paragraph** – This paragraph is a general description of the completed project. It includes the grade level and class in which the project was completed. Also, it describes the main purpose of the project and who benefitted from it.

2. **First Body Paragraph** – This paragraph describes the planning or preparation phase of the service-learning project. It includes a description of the planning involved in preparation for the action phase, any research that was needed, and what community partnerships may have been a part of the project.

3. **Second Body Paragraph** – This paragraph focuses on the action phase of the project. It describes the work completed, the skills and knowledge gained from this work, and the community need(s) this action addressed. It should also include a statement on how this project assisted in learning about the course and how it addressed curricular objectives. (example: science, health, government).

4. **Third Body Paragraph** – This paragraph explains the student’s impressions of the project. How well were the preparation and action phases completed? If the project were completed again, what would be done the same or differently? What other related projects could be completed? How did the project impact the people and/or groups involved?

5. **Conclusion Paragraph** – This paragraph is an evaluation of the significance of the project. Does this project give students an opportunity to learn and experience something new and valuable about service to the community? If so, explain why it is valuable. A statement about how this project influences how students view their role as a citizen of their community should also be included.
