Guided Reflection Assignment

Due: Friday, April 20th by 11:59 pm EST

20 points

Respond to each of the following upon completion of your final project:

1) What made you choose this project? Are you satisfied with the community partner you choose to work with? Why/why not?

I chose this project because I really like working with young children. I also thought it would be nice to give back to the community who is less fortunate. I was not very happy with the partner I ended up with. I have done many group projects and it seems that in every one of them I have to pull the weight of the whole group in order to get a good grade. I feel it happened in this group project as well. I just wish I could have worked with someone who was as excited as me to be working with children.

2) Describe some stumbling blocks you encountered while preparing your project/presentation. Describe some positive experiences encountered while preparing this presentation.

The major stumbling block for me was losing my first partner for the project. We had been working on ideas for the project for weeks and then she dropped the class. It worked out fine in the end though. I think that meeting and getting to know some new people in the class was a positive thing for me. I have an introverted personality and this project forced me to talk to other person which was good. It also helped me learn the bones in more detail and really remember the names for the bones, just in case one of the children was to ask, which they did and I was happy that I could answer their questions about other bones we weren’t focusing on.

3) What was your understanding of academic service-learning before this experience? What is your understanding of academic service-learning now?

I thought this project meant spending a lot of time doing community service work, which I was nervous about because of time restraints in my schedule. Now I understand that it can be a project in which many physical hours are spent with the community, or what we did in spending a majority of the time preparing and a few hours in the community. Either way it’s a way to spend time within our community giving back to less fortunate.
4) How do you see BI 117 course content relating to this academic service-learning experience? Listed below are a few of the course outcomes for BI 117. You must select two of the outcomes listed below and explain — using specific examples from your ASL project — how you met these objectives with ASL (we have met or will also meet them in class, but focus on how your project related to them).

   A. Identify selected anatomical structures and their inter-relationships in selected organ systems.
   B. Describe key physiological processes in selected organ systems.
   C. Analyze the major relationships between selected organ systems.
   D. Explain how homeostatic mechanisms are essential for normal physiological processes.
   E. Contrast abnormal anatomical and physiological conditions to normal states.
   F. Demonstrate an ability to trace a sequence of biological events in a physiological process.

A) We were able to explain the anatomy of the bones in the body and how they connected with other systems of the body. For example how our muscles are connected to our bones and you need these two systems working together for movement.

B) We were also able to explain to the children that certain bones are needed for protection of other parts in the body. An example of this would be the ribs protecting the heart and lungs. We were able to show the children how the skeletal system is needed for many other systems to thrive in the body.

5) In addition to meeting course outcomes, this ASL project can help you meet college-wide outcomes such as critical thinking skills, communication skills, social responsibility skills, and personal responsibility skills. Please list the ones you think you worked on as a result of this project and give an example (for each listed). (For more information on what these are please see http://cms.grcc.edu/learneroutcomes)

   In terms of critical thinking I had to think hard about how to teach children of such a young age a way of understanding the skeletal system. I spent a lot of time researching children’s science projects on line and talking with people that had children in this age group to determine the best way of going about teaching them.

   There was a lot of communication used throughout this project to ensure it would be a success. From meeting with the leader from Baxter to discuss the children we would be teaching and the best way in which they learn, to communicating with my partner about the project and how were going to construct it. There was also communication between myself and the instructor making sure we had the appropriate supplies and that they would be at the school the night of the project. Finally I feel that proper communication was used between the kids and my partner and I, ensuring that they got the most benefits out of the project.

   I feel that I should social responsibility as well as personal responsibility by stepping up and taking charge of the project. I knew that my partner was not thrilled about the project to begin with and so I needed to be the one to keep us on track and make sure we hit all the points we were supposed to for the project.
6) What did you bring to this project? What are you taking away from this project? How are you different because of it? What do you value most from the experience? (You might think about how this information and these experiences researching, collaborating, and preparing it apply to your schooling and future career, to your personal life). Finally, what surprised you most about this project or this community partner?

I feel that I brought a lot of wisdom to this project. I spent a lot of time researching and studying the different aspects of the bones to ensure that our project would be very educational for the children. I am leaving this project with a better understanding for the skeletal system. I am different because I am much more knowledgeable after this project than what I was prior. I really valued working with the kids. I don’t really have children in my life whom I’m able to interact with like I did in this project and it just brought a lot of joy to my life. I was surprised by how much fun I had preparing the project and actually presenting it to the children.

7) Who is affected by this project? In what way(s)? (You? Me? Your group members-if you worked with a group? The staff, students/participants, their families of the community partner?)

There were many people affected by this project. The children at Baxter were affected in a good way getting them out of their community and showing them what college is all about as well as teaching them in a fun way basic anatomy. The leader of Baxter was affected by our class taking the time to share with her children and hopefully giving everyone there a positive experience while at GRCC. My instructor was affected by this by helping us get our projects together and answering any questions we had or problems we ran into. I also hope she came out of this with a positive view on our class as a whole in seeing all the time and effort we put into our projects. Lastly, my partner and I were very much affected by this project. It should us how good we have it and that we should be so thankful. For me it opened my eyes to how many less fortunate people are out there and all the ways I could help my community.

8) How has this service-learning project affected your goals beyond this course, your values, and your attitude?

This project has taught me to be so thankful for all the privileges I have in my life. I am so thankful to have the resources to provide a better life for myself. This project has made me realize all the people out there that don’t have what I have and has made me really think about ways in which I can donate some of my time to help less fortunate than me. I have made a goal for myself to try and give to community this summer in some way. I would really like to help out with the woman and children of our community and am currently trying to get in touch with the dietitian in charge of a woman and children center to see if there is any way I can help.