

Guidelines and FAQ's for Senior Reflections

Q. What kind of Reflection product can I do?

A. Your Reflection product must be a type-written paper at least two pages, double-spaced.

Q. When and where do I submit my Reflection paper?

A. You may begin working on a rough draft soon after completion of your volunteer hours. A good idea would be to keep a daily journal / log of items done. This will assist you in remembering the things you did. The deadline for this product to be turned into your Social Studies teacher is December 5. (Your paper can be submitted anytime during the 1st semester.)

Q. What can I write about?

A. As you think about your Senior Reflection Paper, consider some of the following questions that you can answer:

- What kind of service did you perform and where? Include responsibilities held, duties performed, etc.
- Who were the people you were serving? What did you learn about the people you served?
- Was there anything specific that you liked doing this kind of work? Cite examples. Was there anything that you disliked? Why? What strengths and weaknesses did this work bring about?
- Did the kind of work you performed involve a social justice issue? Briefly describe the issue(s) you dealt with gave you more insight and helped you learn from this experience. Consider the work sites you visited on your Junior Retreat regarding Social Justice issues.
- Did the project help you identify with the Jesuit philosophy of being a "Man For Others?" Explain why or why not.
- What, if anything, would you do differently, if you had the project to do over again?
- Would you personally recommend this project to other students?

In order to assist you with more thought-provoking questions, see the next page.

Q. When do I sign up for a Reflection meeting?

A. Senior Reflection meetings are assigned in small groups, a listing of group numbers is posted in each senior homeroom. These meetings are announced on sjet, and are mandatory; they take place at lunchtime in an assigned classroom and last through lunch. Seniors are reminded to bring a brown-bag lunch only to their assigned meeting. Those that miss their assigned meeting must make arrangements with the Service Director for an alternative time. All meetings, individual or small group, are to be completed by the end of the 1st semester.

Q. When will I know I received credit for my Service hours?

- For full credit to be issued, all 3 components must be complete: Verification of hours, Reflection meeting and Reflection paper. Only those with a complete file will be issued credit.

Q. What if I don't have my hours completed by the end of the first semester?

- You will meet with the Service Director regularly, provide updates, and a timeline for your completion of hours during the 2nd semester. Seniors that overlap into the 2nd semester will be subject to Study Hall and ineligibility rules. Those deficient with at least one component (verification, meeting and paper) prior to senior exams, will be denied participation in the graduation ceremonies, as deemed by the Principal's office.

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Every act of service must be accompanied by an appropriate act of reflection, a reflection that gives meaning and direction to our lives. As you reflect on these questions individually, find a quiet place to gather your thoughts; what do these words mean to you: *Man for Others, Cura Personalis, Open to Growth, Loving, and Committed to Doing Justice?* With your own personal reflection, we gather with others (small group) to share our thoughts and actions as to why performing Christian service is so integral to our Jesuit education. These personal and group reflections will help you process your thoughts into a formal Reflection paper which you will eventually submit to your Social Studies teacher.

Some quotes that reflect on our call to serve others:

“You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it.”

- St. Ignatius of Loyola

“Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren, you do unto me.”

-From the prayer: “Whatsoever You Do”

“God’s gift to me is my potential. My gift back to God is what I do with that potential.”

-Anonymous

Questions for reflection:

1. What does service mean to you in general? How does this act of service play a role in your education here at Strake Jesuit?
2. Describe how and why you chose the particular service project? What were your perceptions going into it? Were your expectations fulfilled?
3. What area of “*Social Justice” was your service related to? What was/were your job function/duties you performed?
(*homeless, elderly, physically and mentally challenged,...)
4. What did you learn from your experience in taking on that responsibility? What challenges did you face that you never encountered before? Highlight some of the positive experiences that you encountered and relationships developed that helped you get the most out of your experience. Was there a person or persons that impacted you or was touched by your act of kindness?
5. How mindful were you of God’s presence in your time of service? Did you see any connection between your service and your growing faith in God? Has your own spirituality grown as a result of your service to others?
6. What issues do you think you understand better as a result of your service? What social changes need to happen to improve the lives of the people you encountered? What can you do as a student now, and in the future, to share your experience and educate others about the need for change?