

Service Learning Project: Reflection Paper

The service learning project for performance artists has helped me in several ways as a student, a public speaker, and a tax professional. First of all, it was a wonderful learning experience to be engaged in a group project of this magnitude with my peers. I have of course been involved in group projects throughout my college education, but this project seemed to go above and beyond a typical group project. Unlike all of my previous group projects, this particular project had a true purpose and realizable goal. I noticed that my personal goal for this project became less and less focused on a grade and more and more focused on the people who we would be presenting to and trying to help. This fact alone gave me a great pride in the work that I was doing. Because of this, the project definitely helped me overall as a student, as I am now looking for more of a purpose and underlying goal of the projects that I take on. It has helped me to look at each individual assignment as a means to become a better professional, rather than simply a letter grade.

Also, it was a true pleasure to be able to work with many intelligent students and pull all of our talents and resources together to complete a project that I could truly be proud of. I know that I sometimes do not allow others to help me or I feel that I need to do things all on my own. However, after realizing the talents of everyone around me, it was easy to give up some control and delegate responsibility out to those who desired it. I feel that this will help me greatly in the future as a professional and a manager of people. I will be able to look back on this project and remember how everyone has their own niche and that a group of people will usually or always be able to produce a better result than I could on my own.

The public presentation aspect of the project definitely has helped me to become a better speaker and communicator, especially to a more general audience. I have always been timid and nervous when speaking in front of a group of people, especially when the group consists of my peers and those close to me. In our group, we decided to have each person present a topic for the class practice presentation. This practice made me feel very comfortable, even in front of my fellow peers. Also, I felt that it was a great learning opportunity for speaking to a general audience. It is sometimes easy to present to people who already understand the subject material. However, when speaking to people who have maybe never been exposed to the material, you must adjust your presentation to be able to effectively communicate to the audience. As a tax professional, I hope to help the public with their income taxes and I feel that this project will greatly help with that goal. Sometimes, the public is on a completely different level of knowledge that you are when it comes to taxes and financial issues. This project helped me to focus on how to communicate relatively difficult issues so that anyone can understand it, which is a very valuable skill for my profession.

Overall, this project has taught me many things, and I was very happy to be a part of it. I feel proud

of the work that I and my group have done. This project has helped me to become a better student, public speaker, and tax professional, and this is not always the case with other school projects. I am glad that this project was the exception.