Community Service Reflection Paper

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Guidelines

After completing your community service work, you will write a reflection paper that will give you an opportunity to revisit or look back upon your service activity. Remember five (5) of these hours must be tied to your career pathway. You will need to include each of the guidelines below to complete this paper. All components of this paper need to be typed.

1. Begin your paper with what community service means to you and the importance of community service.
2. Describe the community service you performed and the community need you helped meet with your service.
3. Explain why you chose the particular community service activity, relate why this group or organization appealed to you.
4. State 3 facts (minimum) about the organization you did your service for.
5. Detail where and when the service took place.
6. Explain how you think what you learned will help you in your future.
7. Describe how you felt when your service was complete.
8. Describe the results of your service.
9. How did your community service work influence your opinion relating to community service?

Suggestions for writing the paper:

- Read all the prompts carefully.
- Examine a fellow student's good Sample Essay.
- Make a plan.
- Use an outline or a web to help you organize your thoughts.
- Provide specific details so the reader will feel like they were actually there with you.
- Use spell checker and then check for words that sound similar but have entirely different meanings (ie: their/there/they're, etc).
- Have a friend proofread your paper.
- Read your paper out-loud to someone. Have them listen to how it sounds.

**When you submit this paper, you will need to have the essential assignments cover sheet attached.**
Rubric

1. Does the writer adequately address all parts of each prompt?
2. Are the papers presented in a clear, organized manner? Y or N
3. Were paragraphs used? Y or N
4. Do the papers read fluently, smoothly without significant interruptions? Y or N
5. Are conventions used appropriately throughout the papers? Y or N

Community Service Sample Essay

For my community service, I volunteered in two different areas. The first Community service area I volunteered in was playing piano for residents at the Selah Convalescent Center. After the first week, we also ate cookies and drank punch together for a little while after I was done playing. If you had asked me a couple of years ago if I could ever imagine myself doing something like this, I would have thought you were crazy.

I completed my piano playing during January and February. I made arrangements with Georgia Regan, director of the nursing home, to play songs every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon for two hours. Together with one of the residents named Mr. Smith, I selected songs to play that the elderly citizens would enjoy and would be able to sing along with if they wanted to. I also made copies of the words to the songs. Their favorite song was "Pretty Baby." One of the men at the home liked that song so much that he danced along with the music every time we sang.

Playing music was good for the residents and good for me. On a personal level, I developed a really great friendship with Mr. Smith. I can honestly say that this is the first person I ever really made a friend with who is two generations older than me. With the rest of the people at the nursing home, it was always neat to see the smiles on their faces whenever I showed up to play. We were all a little nervous the first couple of times I played, but by about the third time, they would wave and greet me by waving and saying "hi" right when I got there. Now, I feel connected with the people from the nursing home and I know I helped make them feel happier and not quite so lonely, at least for a little while. They are not just "people in a nursing home" to me now, they are Frank and Betty and Mr. Smith.

Another part of my Community Service was completed by helping the American Red Cross during a blood drive at the Selah Community Center. What a rewarding experience that was. Donating blood during one of the Selah High School blood drives and volunteering to assist donors at the Selah Community Center made me aware of this basic need in our society. I have determined that I will be a blood donor for the rest of my life, helping to save the lives of others.

Being a responsible citizen means being there for other people, not just looking out for yourself or for your friends. There is an endless variety of ways in which a person could be a responsible citizen: helping someone in need, keeping your city clean, serving on committees, coaching little kids in a sport, etc. But being responsible to me means reaching out past yourself to see what you can do. It's more than just doing my job, because that's what I am expected to do. It's doing the unexpected to make our city and even our country a better place to live.

Kevin Garnett