

Service-Learning Preflection Suggestions

Preflection involves posing questions to students before a service-learning experience to help them develop a frame of reference through which they will observe their interactions. The goal is to make students aware of their own expectations and stereotypes with the hope that the service experience will challenge their previously held views. It can also help them to think of service in the broad context of a city-wide social issue, and in the narrower context of its effects on individuals within the community. Below are sample preflection questions.

Sample Questions:

- What do you think are the major social issues we face in San Francisco?
- When you think of poverty (or any social issue) what comes to mind?
- What do you expect the service site to look like/smell like/feel like?
- What do you think of when you hear the word “community?”
- Describe the people you expect to interact with.
- What social/economic/individual factors do you think cause poverty (or any social issue)? What can “fix” it?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word “service?”
- What role do you think service should play in your college education? Does USF have a unique role because of its religious affiliation?
- Describe your community, including the people, environment, and culture.
- What role do you think you should play in contributing your community?
- What might the clients and employees at the service site expect of you? How do you think they feel about receiving your services?