



spoke with the children to have a positive impact and make the difference when listening and talking to them. Another effective way in which I was able to talk with them was based on the

activities that they were doing. I noticed it was easier to talk about what they were doing. With that been said it was also a little ineffective because there is many students and can be difficult to remember names at first.

● How do you tell friends and family about your experience in the community and in this class? What kinds of responses to you get? How do you feel about their reactions?

- At first it was difficult to explain what service learning can be and what you do sometimes. A large aspect of service learning, is learning from the students, kids, staff, anyone where you are located. I've learned that service learning is full of an infinite number of components but it is up to one how we observe knowledge and interact. At moments it can be uncomfortable for different reasons but once we are exposed to learning is when we see service learning is truly about. Needless to mention if we are not exposed to different scenarios we would not think of the different things that happen.



● What was the most positive thing that happened at your site? What can you learn from this?

- There are many different things that impacted me in a positive manner. However, what impacted me the most was creating a friendship and them to look up at me. I have had the honor and privilege to encounter students outside of service learning and they look at me as someone they know. Some students looked up to me because they to want to attend University and get an education.

● What was most difficult? What can you learn from this?

- There were a couple of difficulties toward the end. One of them was learning the students names at the beginning. With time and interacting with them I slowly learned who they were and their names. During the first times it was difficult to talk to them because they did not really know who I was. Which led to them sometimes not really care and curse out loud. I began to tell them and was able to make them understand that they should not curse around me. Another moment was when the students sometimes hugged me, however I was able show them that they could give me a high-five instead. Without making them feel as I was pushing them away or creating a boundary where they did not want to talk to me anymore.



● Is there a person you find particularly interesting at your site? Why?



- I learned that all the student are interesting and particular in their own ways. I was able to talk to many of the students and learn about. The students are all very different and particular with the different type of ideas they think of. However, there was a student who I found incredibly joyful to talk, she laughed at almost everything and somehow found the way to laugh and lighten up the atmosphere. Each student was unique and had their own unique personality and characteristics.

● Were you disappointed at your site this week? If so, why? What can you learn from this?

- I was not disappointed at my site. I was able to absorb a lot of information from looking at how the student interacted, how they spoke at each other, how they behaved with friends around and when being alone.



● Is there any situation or problem you want to discuss with someone at your site? with your classmates? with your supervisor? with your professor?

- During the time there were no real situations in which I had to discuss a problem.

- Describe an average day at your site for people who use the services, for the staff, for yourself.
- The average day consist with the children arriving after school. There is a large variation of activities at the Teen Center and many kids have been going to the teen center for years. The kids show up and can choose to do homework or play games or activities. The staff also makes sure to have food for them to eat from. My goal there is talk and hang out with the teens and help around with their homework or make sure that they are engaging with each other and respecting each other.
- Which parts of your service work come naturally to you? Which are uncomfortable?
- What came natural to me was talking and interacting with the students. I did not really feel uncomfortable at all.
- What challenges are you encountering at your site? Use analogies to think creatively: “Working with _____ (name of organization or specific person) is like _____ because _____.”
- “Working with the Teen Center is like going to a buffet because their is a large variation of options to do.”
- “Working with the Teen Center is like exploring the ocean because you do not know what will appear.”
- “Working with the Teen Center is like reading like the library each book has its story.”
- “Working with Teen center is like trying to hit the lottery because any number can appear.”



- How does your service work relate to your career plans? If you don't see a direct relationship (e.g. tutoring elementary school children for liberal studies majors), try to find an indirect relationship (e.g. tutoring elementary school children and developing strong listening skills will help any major).
- One of my career goals is to teach or learn more about other cultures and how people behave. I am not sure if I specifically want to work with teens later on, but I am thinking of being teacher and this definitely helps with getting to work with a diverse group of teenagers.

the places where they promote field trips can be expensive let alone some kids do not have the a way to get there. All these trip for most part are free for them.

So What? Now What?

I was able to learn so much since my first day at the site. I had never been to a teen center and did not really understand what its purpose was. With my visits I picked up on how the place functioned and how the students interacted and their behavior. To me simply having the opportunity to observe is something I enjoy doing, because the teens are themselves and that is when I am able to learn. I was able to connect the material from class with the visits at the site. After each reading I payed attention to what I had read and began to notice it when at my site.

My biggest goal in life is learning and passing on what I learn to the community and the youth. Each visit for me was a new opportunity to learn, most important lead the youth the down the “correct” path. What I was able to understand is that one does not need to volunteer we are exposed to many different types of inequities, social justice, problems, racism and much more on a daily. We have the power to learn and make a difference regardless of who we are.

During the start of any new adventure one creates infinite scenarios and outcomes that can occur. Many times we exaggerate and things are nowhere as bad ass we



imagine. Having the correct tools, helps us know what to do when interacting with the youth. What i would like to continue exploring is working more with the youth. I noticed that each teen was really different, however I would like to explore how is it that they develop, why

is it that they behave a certain way.

Since my first day of service learning until my last one, the way I felt did not change in the sense that I want to continue to learn and grow. Perhaps I did not make the most impact in all the kids, maybe they did not like me, but I am sure I made a difference in a couple of them. The site overall is a relatively new place and well equipped to keep teens occupied and off the streets. After speaking to the staff, I was told that their main goal keep the teens off the street and busy for them to stay out of trouble. That for me showed that they seek and care for the better of the teens because they are they future. I truly felt grateful for having the opportunity to learn from teens and staff.