

Civic Engagement Project

Students will work individually or in small groups to create and complete a civic engagement project in your local community. This assignment is comprised of the following three parts.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| I. Civic Engagement Project Proposal | 150 points |
| II. Completing a Community-Based Civic Engagement Project | 150 points |
| III. Reflective Essay | 200 points |

Part I – Civic Engagement Project Proposal

Group proposal must include all of the following:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| I. Group members' names with contact information (FGCU email, cell-phone #'s) | (10 pts) |
| II. Identify and explain meaningful Community-Based Issue(s) to be addressed | |
| o Define the Problem—including contextual factors | |
| o Conduct research, contact community partners, etc. | |
| o Include information on issue, including research, contacts | (30 pts) |
| III. Identify Multiple Solutions/Strategies (brainstorming) | |
| o Generate Solutions—brainstorm a full range of possible solutions or strategies for resolving the identified issue | |
| o Conduct research, contact community partners, etc. | |
| o Include range of solutions, research and contact information as evidence | (30 pts) |
| IV. Identify your Strategy | |
| o What strategy will you adopt to resolve the issue? | |
| o What do you expect will be the results of this project? | |
| o How and why do you think it will be a feasible solution? | |
| o Clearly define the creative component of your project that extends the project to the community at large | (20 pts) |
| V. Method – Describe the sequence of events to occur with estimated time frame | (20 pts) |
| VI. Develop roles and responsibilities for each team member | (10 pts) |
| VII. Group Proposal Presentation | (30 pts) |
| | Total: 150 pts |

Proposal Guidelines:

- 3-4 pages typed, double-spaced
- Times New Roman font, 11 point
- One proposal per group

Part II – Civic Engagement Project

As you complete your Civic Engagement Project, keep track of your hours on the Service Learning Timesheet. Remember a minimum of 10 hours must be completed and verified and the creative component that engages the community must be evidenced to earn full credit.

Remember to include team meetings, phone calls, e-mails, and time spent completing project. If you are working through an organization, please have a representative sign-off on your Timesheet for verification. If you are **not** working with an organization, you must present evidence of project completion. Your instructor will sign off on your official FGCU Service Learning Verification Form based on your hours and signatures recorded on your Timesheet.

Total: 150 pts

Part III—Reflective Essay

Your Reflective Essay must include the following components:

- I. Project Evaluation – Provide a very brief overview of your Civic Engagement Project (the issue you addressed, the strategy you used to address the issue, who you worked with) and then evaluate the outcome of your project. This evaluation should provide a full critique of the results of your work. In this critique, you must make connections to a minimum of four concepts from your readings and class discussions/lectures. (30 pts)
- II. Civic Contexts and Structures – Describe the various contexts and communities within which you worked on your project, focusing on your interaction with others and your ability to listen to other points of view and navigate the various issues that were raised during the course of your project. What allowed you to (or didn't allow you to) achieve your project goals? How did you engage these issues? (30 pts)
- III. Civic Communication – Describe the various communication tools that you used during the course of your project. How did you interact with community groups? How did you interact with other students? What processes did you go through to resolve disagreements and determine the best course of action? (30 pts)
- IV. Diversity of Communities/Cultures – Describe the growth and change that you experienced as an individual as a result of this project. What different groups or communities or individuals did you interact with that broadened your experience? How did they broaden your experience? How and why does this type of interaction matter? (30 pts)
- V. Knowledge – Connect your experiences and the knowledge that you have gained as a result of this experience to your own academic study. How does this new experience inform your academic program? How is your academic program of study relevant to your role as a citizen? (30 pts)
- VI. Final Group Project Presentation (50 pts)

Total: 200 pts

Reflective Essay Guidelines

- Each student must write his or her own paper, without consulting with other group members.
- 6-8 pages typed, double-spaced.
- Times New Roman font, 11 point.
- Peer Workshop: Students must bring a substantial draft of their essay to class on the Peer Workshop date. The draft essay and the peer workshop that is completed must be turned in with your final Reflective Essay or you may lose substantial points.

Your Service Learning Hours will be documented by completing the agreement and verification form available from the Center for Civic Engagement.