

## TRITON COLLEGE SCHOLARS PROGRAM SERVICE LEARNING

### The Reflection Instrument

The reflection instrument serves to distinguish volunteerism from service learning. After volunteering, you will reflect, in writing, on your experience. You may choose either to type a one-page journal entry after each visit to your service-learning partner, including during training, or you may hand in a 5-7-page essay at the completion of your service. Whichever you choose, please include the following information:

#### Journal entries – Date all entries

First entry: Name of partner and why you chose that partner, description of interview

All entries: Description of what you expected to happen, description of what did happen, description of your reaction. Be sure to include detail and record any emotions that you feel

Final entry: Whether you feel that you made the right choice of a partner, what you have learned, whether you will continue with that partner

Your journal must include a minimum of ten entries

#### Essay

**Essay Format:** All essays must be typed/word processed. Include your name, Date, and SL Partner name on three single-spaced lines in upper left corner on page one.

Essay title centered above essay

1-1.5 in. margins left, right, upper and lower

Double space between each line

12-point font

5-7 pages

Each page numbered

**No illustrations, scrollwork, borders or pictures.**

#### **Essay Content:**

*Introduction:* Identify your SL partner and explain why you chose the partner. Describe your preconceptions, or what you anticipated finding/doing at the site.

*Body:* Describe your interview and your reactions to the interviewer and the site. Describe any interesting or surprising physical aspects of the site. Describe your duties/activities and explain which ones you liked, did not like, and felt you did well and why you did well. Describe your reaction to the site's clients/visitors. Explain whether your reaction was something other than you expected. Describe one-two specific examples of working with clients/visitors and why those particular interactions affected you. Describe what you learned. Explain whether you will change your future behavior/decisions based on your SL. Explain why you will or will not return to that site.

*Conclusion:* Summarize what you learned through your experience.