Service Learning as a Pedagogical Model in Psychology

Nickolas Shizas, Michael Getto, Grace Maloney, Sarah Osman & Emmanuel Joseph
Presentation will address

1. Service Learning & Psy 101 Project
2. Benefits / Considerations for Service Learning
3. Psychology Concepts Applied
4. Insights Gained from the Project
5. Recommendations for Teachers & Students
Structure of Psy 101 Project

- Learned and applied Psychological theory and principles to the work and services they performed.
- Each student served three days (and some went for 4).
- Students Could Select From:
  - Habitat for Humanity – House Site or Restore Site (Joliet, IL)
  - Together We Cope (Tinley Park, IL)
  - Palos Restoration Project (Forest Preserve Restoration)
  - PADS "Agape Soup Kitchen" (Hosting monthly dinners, Palos Hills)
  - Honors Showcase (present a poster of their service project)
  - Student’s own sites
Structure of Psy 101 Project

- Final Presentation (6 minutes)
  - Share experience from service.
  - Skills or insights gained from service.
  - Three psychological concepts that connect to service experience.

- * (Available on Session Handout)
Service Learning

Service learning is an experience in which educational goals are met through volunteer service. (Wilson, 1998).

I viewed service learning in Psy 101 as a twofold process:

1) performed valuable acts whereby they learned the importance of community service

2) applied course material to the service experience (teaching method).
Benefits of Service Learning

Motivators / Benefits of using Service-Learning:

- increased understanding of material (hands on experience)
- students will personally develop skills (life skills)
- creation of university / community partnerships
- increased awareness of community issues for students & faculty

Abes, Jackson, and Jones (2002).
Pribbenbow (2005)
Considerations of Service Learning

Barriers to using Service-Learning in the classroom:

- coordinating the service project may take considerable time; difficulty balancing professional responsibilities
- challenges in assessing student work via service learning methods
- insufficient relationships with community partners.

Abes et al., (2002)
Bulot & Johnson (2006)
# Psychology Concepts Applied

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Insights Gained

Images:
http://www.michelemmartin.com/.a/6a00d83451fd2469e201a73df37683970d-800wi
Recommendations for Instructors / Students

- Provide Multiple Options for Students  (Sarah / Emmanuel)
- Presentations are Key!  (Emmanuel / Mike)
- Introduce Service Project Early  (Grace / Mike)
- Keep an Open Mind – application in any environment  (Mike)
- Provide a Schedule / Signature Sheet  (Nick)
- Honors vs. Non-Honors?  (Nick)
References


Thank You!

- Let’s answer your questions!!