

# LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

*Landis Center for Community Engagement*

522 March Street • Easton, Pennsylvania 18042 • tel 610-330-3067 • <https://landiscenter.lafayette.edu>

## ***General Personal Reflection***

- What do you bring to this experience? How much effort are you willing to put forth?
- How did this experience make you feel? How do you think it made others feel?
- What assumptions and expectations did you bring to this experience? What assumptions and expectations do you think others brought about you?
- How did your experience reveal your values, attitudes, and biases? How did it challenge or reinforce your values, attitudes, and biases?
- What was it like to work with community members and other students from different ethnic or cultural communities? How are your life experiences similar or different from theirs?
- In what ways did you do well in this experience? What personal characteristics helped you do well? What was difficult for you? What personal characteristics contributed to your difficulties?
- How have you changed as a result of this experience? How will these changes affect your future behaviors?

## ***Project-Based Questions***

- What are the strengths and limitations of the project?
- Does the project address immediate needs or long-term solutions?
- If the project continued, would the problem go away eventually?
- If the project stopped in order to try another approach to the issue, would the community suffer?
- Are there assets in the community that are not being tapped? Is our involvement so focused on the community's deficits that we haven't seen its assets?

## ***General Analytical Questions***

- What concepts/theories/facts/principles have you learned that relate to your experience? To what extent were they validated or challenged by the experience?
- What do we know about the social issue being addressed and about how it has affected this community in particular?
- What are the symptoms of the problem, and what are the causes?
- What social issues, such as racism, class stratification, and sexism, are connected to this problem? To what extent can a difference be made on this issue without addressing these social problems?
- How do differences in power and privilege emerge in this experience? What underlying systems influence these power dynamics? What are their effects?
- What underlying systems maintain the problem and the power dynamics? How can they be addressed? Dismantled?
- What ethical issues emerged during this experience?

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- How do the ethical principles and practices of your discipline align, or not align, with the core beliefs of the community or organization you are working with?
- What tensions between individual interest and common good did you observe? What trade-offs between them occurred? To whom were they beneficial? Were they appropriate?
- What is progress? Is progress good for everyone?

## ***Questions to Explore Future Action***

- Is enough known about the issue in this community or is more research needed?
- Who needs to understand the problem better? Why?
- Have the voices of all community members been heard? What steps have been taken to ensure everyone agrees on the direction of the effort?
- Is more funding needed? Who would use the money and what would they use it for? Who can be approached for funding?
- What laws or policies affect the issue? How did they come to be?
- What stance do local and/or national politicians take on the issue?
- How are other groups or individuals working to address the problem? How might a coalition coordinate the effort? What are the strengths and weaknesses of this approach?
- What campus or community organizations could be tapped to make the effort stronger?
- How can students use the knowledge and skills they gain in college, particularly in their career fields, to address the issue?

*Adapted from: Jacoby, B. Service Learning Essentials: Questions, Answers, and Lessons Learned. Campus Compact 2015*