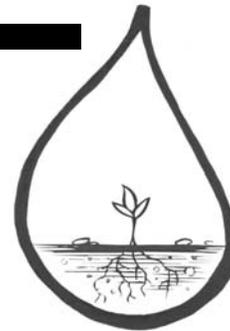


Building Environmental Youth Leadership

A High-School Service-learning Curriculum



TOPIC:

Team-building,
Mission-building,
Background research
Action-planning

OBJECTIVES:

- Students will record and process lessons learned through service-learning activities.

LENGTH:

Ongoing

ENVIRONMENT:

Indoors or Outdoors.
Need a place for students to be comfortable write or draw.

MATERIALS:

- Copies of the journal cover for all students.
- 5-10 pieces of heavy white paper for each student.
- A deep stapler appropriate for binding the journals.
- Art supplies for decoration.

Journaling

Background:

As students move through the service-learning process, they will compile a lot of experience and information. Journaling provides them a way to record and reflect upon these bits and pieces. The format provided allows students to work in varied genres—pictures, words, collage, etc. Group leaders may choose to use the journal like a lab notebook in some instances, interspersing assignments with personal reflection. In this activity, students begin the service-learning process by constructing and personalizing their journals.

Activity Outline:

Beforehand:

Make two-sided copies of the journal cover on colored paper for each student. Lighter colors work best for these covers as they allow student decoration to show. Also, gather 5-10 pieces of heavy white paper for all participants. Lay these materials out on a table with the stapler so that students may collect and construct their journals.

Personalizing the Journal:

Students gather for instructions. Take a moment to preview the objective of the activity. Encourage students to discuss ways that students can use their journals throughout the service-learning process. Then, instruct them to collect materials and construct their journals according to the following guidelines:

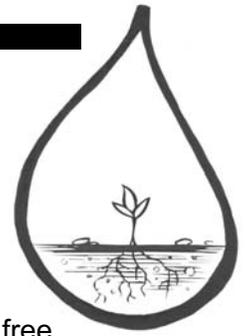
- Lay the cover sheet face-down on the table. (This means the title and circle will be facing the table. The mission prompt is facing up.)
- Place 5 to 10 sheets of white paper directly on top of the cover sheet. (1 sheet equals 4 journal pages.)
- Fold these sheets in half width-wise, so the cover and title face outward.
- Staple twice along the fold.

Once all students have constructed their journals, discuss the importance of personalizing them. This provides a means of identifying one's own journal. But, it also signifies ownership. A journal should be an expression of the individual who owns it, a place for free-thought and experimentation. Students should take time to consider their individuality and interests in the service-learning project. What do they want to get out of it? What roles do they envision playing on the team? How will the project affect them? Then, create a journal cover that expresses these feelings and ideas. Provide art supplies—crayons, markers, glitter, glue, magazines, yarn, fabric, leaves, etc.—to use for decorations.

Provide plenty of time for decorating. Then, ask participants to clean up the art supplies and journal materials.

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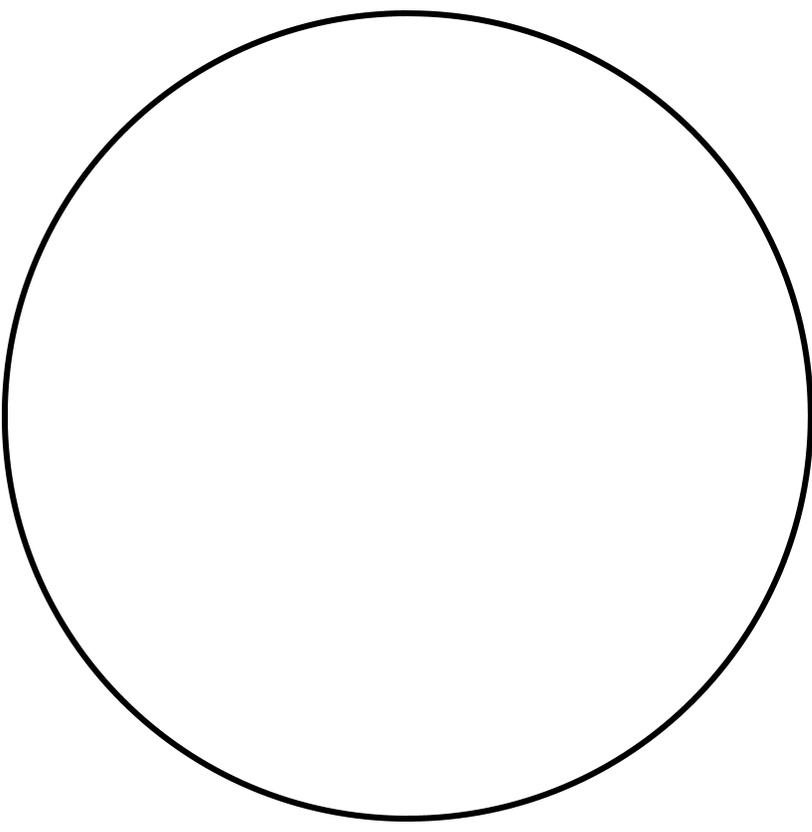
Using the Journals:

Students gather for conclusion. Stress that journals are places for free expression. Although these may be used for assignments from time to time, students should also use their journals for personal recording and reflecting. Remind them of various uses they suggested earlier.

Instruct students that they may make more journals and/or new covers as they progress through the service project. Journalers often make the mistake of sticking with a particular journal even when it no longer feels right. Then, the creativity fades into drudgery. Team members must realize that they will change throughout the service-learning process. The feelings and roles they captured on their cover today may not be the same tomorrow. Some students may also consume their pages more quickly than others. In either case, they should construct and decorate a new journal. Keep the creativity flowing. However, students should not toss out their previous journal. It will contain valuable thoughts and records. Finally, they should be mindful of waste, reusing unwritten pages when possible.

This Journal Belongs To:

Environmental Youth Leadership Team



This project is being funded in part by the Coastal Zone Management Act, by NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management, in conjunction with Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program and MN DNR Waters.

Mission: