

**Community Service Alternative Assessment Portfolio
Reflection Essay Prompt**

Students are required to submit a reflection essay. With this reflection essay, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of community service, problem-solving and critical thinking. **Drawing upon your community service experience, write a minimum eight to ten pages, doubled-spaced essay reflecting on community service as one of the four core values of the University of La Verne.** The essay is an academic paper; therefore, include a bibliography with at least six reading resources, particularly the *What is Asset Based Community Development* article, located on the Reading and Resources section. Articulate how an Asset Based Community Development approach, self-reflection, and reciprocity are central components of community service.

This assignment combines several elements, focusing on detailed examples of your experiences connected to thoughtful reflection. **This is not an essay that defines terms or proves that you have done your community service hours. The goal, rather, is to use your specific experiences for a deep reflection on both the organization with which you engaged and the population it serves.** Then, consider even more broadly the general concept of service to the community and the reciprocal relationship that developed while serving the organization.

In approaching the essay, thoughtfully integrate the following:

- Your understanding of what it means to be engaged in your community
- Limitations and benefits of community service
- How and why community service should or should not be a greater part of our societal values
- An understanding of the Community Service organization’s role in meeting the needs of the community and how it meets those needs
- The challenges faced by Community Service organizations
- A full understanding of the needs of the population student has served
- How the service experience has impacted/affected/changed your views of serving others, since you completed the service
- An understanding of Asset Based Community Development model as related to a deficit-based model and asset-based approach

NOTE: Correct application of grammar/Standard American English and spelling is required for meeting approved status.

Self-Evaluation of Your Essay Before Submission

Approved

- Reflections apply to society, not just self
- Reflection essay is focused and clearly written
- Examples are specific and detailed
- Paragraphs are focused
- Thorough consideration of concept of service set forth by University
- Detailed discussion of service’s impact upon self
- Explicit understanding of community organization and its served population
- Understanding of Asset Based Community Development model
- Demonstrates working knowledge of academic community service literature
- Bibliography with at least six readings

Denied

- resources from the reading resources
- Reflections are narrow and apply only to self
- Reflection essay is unclear or strays from main ideas
- Many examples are vague and non-specific
- Paragraphs lack focus/clear relation to main idea
- Idea of service considered in inexplicit ways
- Vague/missing discussion of impact upon self
- Understanding of community organization and served population is vague
- Grasp of Asset Based Community Development approach unclear or not addressed
- Academic understanding of community service literature vague or not addressed
- Incomplete Bibliography