

Reflections on Community Engagement and Service Learning: Essay Competition

For service learning students at California State University, Los Angeles, learning does not begin and end in the classroom. It takes place in the community, where students are making a difference, helping individuals, serving agencies, and addressing social issues. We'd like to know more about the many ways students are contributing to the community and putting academics into action.

We're looking for a brief, engaging narrative about your service learning experience. You might consider some of the following questions, which are meant to provide inspiration for your reflection. How did you put your academics into action? How did you serve individuals, agencies, and/or the community? What did you learn about the community? How did the experience change you? How did it change your understanding of social issues? How did it make your coursework meaningful? What did you learn about your role in the community? If you have any photos or images you'd like to attach please include them as well.

Reflections will be reviewed by a committee. The strongest reflections will be awarded with coupons from the CSULA bookstore:

- First place: \$50 CSULA bookstore coupon for an educational item.
- Second place: \$25 CSULA bookstore coupon for an educational item.
- Third place: \$10 CSULA bookstore coupon for an educational item

Entering the contest is easy! Just share your story with us. You've probably already written reflections and final papers for your service-learning course. Feel free to submit or revise these as appropriate.

Format: Stories should be 500-1000 words (two-four double-spaced pages).

Be sure to include the following:

- a. Contact information
- b. Course name, number, quarter, and instructor
- c. Community agency served and name of agency supervisor

Submit your essays by email to mhawley@calstatela.edu **Deadline: June 5, 2009**

Submission of the reflection signifies that the entrant grants permission to Cal State University Los Angeles and the Office of Community Engagement at CSULA to use their essays or photos without notifying them, such as university sponsored websites, promotions, broadcasts advertisements, posters, slides, as well as for non-university purposes. Entrant waives right to inspect or approve finished essays or images or any electronic matter that may be used with them. Authors will always be credited for their work but will receive no compensation other than educational items announced above.

The entrant releases the CSU and its employees and agents, including any firm authorized to publish and/or distribute a finished product containing the images, from any claims, damages or liability which I may ever have in connection with the taking of use of the images or printed material used with the images.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Hawley, Faculty Director of Community Engagement, at 323-343-5815 or mhawley@calstatela.edu.