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International Service Learning Reflection Journal

Margaret Sass

Purdue University, sassm@purdue.edu

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INTERNATIONAL SERVICE LEARNING REFLECTION JOURNAL

Margaret Shu-Mei Sass, EdD, JD



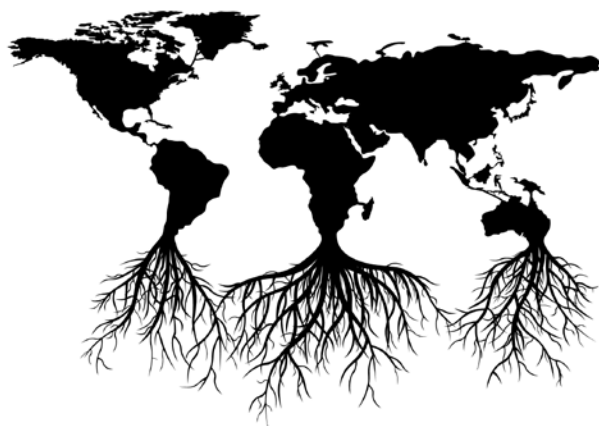
PULSE

Purdue University Learning
and Service Engagement Series

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE LEARNING REFLECTION JOURNAL

By Margaret Shu-Mei Sass, EdD, JD

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to studying abroad! You are on your way to a great cultural adventure, an academic journey, and a self-reflective voyage. This handbook provides an opportunity for you to understand your own personal cultural path throughout the course, to examine what you are learning about the country you are visiting and about yourself. You have now entered a new world of opportunity. Take advantage of this academic expedition and explore!

How this handbook works:

- Take the pre-entry reflection prior to your international trip
- Finish the pre-entry assignment if required by your professor
- Fill out the daily journal or weekly journal based on your professor's instructions
- Complete the final reflection assignment if required by your professor
- Complete the re-entry assignment if required by your professor
- Complete the re-entry reflection and the Public Affairs Scale after your return from your international trip
- Complete the re-entry assignment if required by your professor

PRE-ENTRY REFLECTION

1. Why did you choose to study abroad?

2. Why did you choose this particular country?

3. What do you expect to learn?

4. How do you think this class relates to your career path?

5. What do you think culture shock is?

6. Do you expect to have culture shock once you arrive? Why or why not?

7. Is there anyone you can talk to about this trip prior to departure?

8. How are you preparing to communicate with residents of the country you are visiting?

9. What do you know about the country you are visiting?

10. What concerns you the most about visiting this country?

11. How are you feeling right now about your future international trip?

PRE-ENTRY ASSIGNMENT A

1. Describe the country you are visiting (1) politically, (2) geographically, and (3) culturally.

2. What do you expect to see once you arrive?

3. What do you plan to visit while you are there?

4. What is your plan of action if you get lost?

5. How do the people of this country communicate verbally and nonverbally (gestures, eye contact, etc.)?

6. Research some of the current events in this country. Bring an article to class and be prepared to discuss it in small groups.

7. Draw a map of the city you will be staying and working in on the back of this page.

Get into groups and discuss your responses.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SCALE

Please read each of the following statements and rate the extent to which you agree with each one of them by using the scale provided:

1. Strongly Disagree 2. Not Strongly 3. Disagree 4. Sure 5. Agree

1. I have had one or more service-learning classes

1 2 3 4 5

2. I participate in the political process

1 2 3 4 5

3. I know I can make a difference in my community

1 2 3 4 5

4. I am confident that I will participate in community service activities in the future

1 2 3 4 5

5. I have worked collaboratively in a student organization to influence my community's quality of life

1 2 3 4 5

6. People I know share an interest in community service

1 2 3 4 5

7. Volunteering allows me to gain a new perspective on things

1 2 3 4 5

8. I plan to do some volunteer work next year

1 2 3 4 5

9. Volunteering makes me feel like I am contributing to the community

1 2 3 4 5

10. Volunteering will help me succeed in my own profession

1 2 3 4 5

11. Volunteering lets me learn through direct "hands on" experience

1 2 3 4 5

12. I do things for a cause bigger than myself

1 2 3 4 5

13. I feel an obligation to contribute to the community

1 2 3 4 5

14. Community service is necessary to making our communities better

1 2 3 4 5

15. I feel that I can make a difference in the world
1 2 3 4 5
16. I am able to communicate effectively with people from different cultures
1 2 3 4 5
17. I understand the challenges faced by people from different cultures
1 2 3 4 5
18. I have been involved in organizations providing services to people from different cultural backgrounds
1 2 3 4 5
19. I avoid imposing values that may conflict with cultural groups other than my own
1 2 3 4 5
20. I could not easily get accustomed to living in another country (recoded)
1 2 3 4 5
21. I can easily relate to people that are different from me
1 2 3 4 5
22. Traveling allows me to understand different cultures
1 2 3 4 5
23. I have participated in a study abroad or exchange program
1 2 3 4 5
24. In the future, I will travel to other countries to better understand culture and diversity
1 2 3 4 5
25. I have been involved in organizations providing services to diverse populations
1 2 3 4 5
26. I understand the importance of being true to my word
1 2 3 4 5
27. I am dependable and reliable
1 2 3 4 5
28. I stand by my decisions even when others protest
1 2 3 4 5
29. I am aware of what kind of person I am
1 2 3 4 5
30. In nearly everything I do, I am striving to improve myself and become a better perso
1 2 3 4 5

31. When I am in groups, I am thoughtful of other people's feelings
1 2 3 4 5
32. When I make mistakes, I am able to admit them
1 2 3 4 5
33. I usually take an active interest in someone else's concerns
1 2 3 4 5
34. I try to make certain that my actions never intentionally harm another person
1 2 3 4 5
35. When making a decision, I weigh the consequences of each alternative
1 2 3 4 5
36. When I listen, I regularly try to take someone else's perspective
1 2 3 4 5
37. When working in groups, I try to assure everyone's voice is heard before a decision is reached
1 2 3 4 5
38. I am in part responsible for the quality and quantity of knowledge I obtain from the courses I take
1 2 3 4 5
39. When I am a leader, I am sure to recognize the accomplishments of others more than myself
1 2 3 4 5
40. I try to build a consensus where everyone finds a decision acceptable before an important change is made
1 2 3 4 5

Scale Key

Community Engagement: Items 1 – 15

Cultural Competence: Items 16-25

Ethical Leadership: Items 26-40

Reference

Levesque-Bristol, C. & Cornelius-White, J. (2012). The Public Affairs Scale: Measuring the Public Good Mission of Higher Education. *Journal of Public Affairs Education, 18, 4.*

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How did the experiences today affect you emotionally?

What did you learn about the organization you are assisting?

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Is there anything you would do differently today?

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END OF COURSE REFLECTIVE PAPER

PURPOSE OF THE PAPER:

- To reflect on and connect your service learning project with the objectives and content of the course.
- To demonstrate your understanding of course readings and activities
- To show how your service learning project helped you understand the course material better. consider how SL deepened your understanding of these materials

CONTENT OF THE PAPER:

- The paper should include the service learning project summary, synthesis of project and course materials, and your personal reflection.
- The paper should be 4-6 pages long in required APA format.

QUESTION/THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER:

- Define your project and the purpose.
- Define what activities you performed and with whom.
- What does service learning mean to you? Has that definition changed during the course of the semester?
- How did your project incorporate the material you learned in class?
- Did the material help you complete the project? Did you find this difficult?
- Is there anything you learned that was unexpected? Explain.
- How was the community served through your project?
- Would you consider returning to the agency or continuing the project long-term?
- Is there a different agency you think your project would have worked better?
- Did you accomplish everything you set out to do?

RE-ENTRY REFLECTION

1. How satisfied were you with your international study abroad course(s)?

2. Are you satisfied with the country you chose? If not, what country do you wish you had chosen?

3. Did you learn what you expected to learn?

4. What important things did you learn while studying abroad?

5. How do you think this class related to your career path? Explain.

6. Do you think the community service related to the course objectives? Explain.

7. Did you have culture shock?

8. If you did have culture shock, how did you manage it?

9. Is there anyone you talked to about this trip once you arrived back in the states?

10. What did you learn about the country you visited?

11. What did you think needs to change about the country you visited?

12. How are you feeling right now about your international experience?

13. Is there anything you would do differently when visiting another country again?

RE-ENTRY ASSIGNMENT B

1. Describe the country you visited (1) politically, (2) geographically, and (3) culturally.

2. Did you see what you expected to see once you arrived? Why or why not?

3. What places did you visit while you were there?

4. How did the people of this country communicate verbally and nonverbally (gestures, eye contact, etc.)?

5. If you got lost while visiting different locations, what did you do? How did you feel?

6. What were some of the social concerns regarding the country you visited? What would you suggest on how to change those deficits?

7. Draw a map of the city you stayed and volunteered in on the back of this page.

Get into groups and discuss your responses.

POST-PUBLIC AFFAIRS SCALE

Please read each of the following statements and rate the extent to which you agree with each one of them by using the scale provided:

1. Strongly Disagree 2. Not Strongly 3. Disagree 4. Sure 5. Agree

1. I have had one or more service-learning classes

1 2 3 4 5

2. I participate in the political process

1 2 3 4 5

3. I know I can make a difference in my community

1 2 3 4 5

4. I am confident that I will participate in community service activities in the future

1 2 3 4 5

5. I have worked collaboratively in a student organization to influence my community's quality of life

1 2 3 4 5

6. People I know share an interest in community service

1 2 3 4 5

7. Volunteering allows me to gain a new perspective on things

1 2 3 4 5

8. I plan to do some volunteer work next year

1 2 3 4 5

9. Volunteering makes me feel like I am contributing to the community

1 2 3 4 5

10. Volunteering will help me succeed in my own profession

1 2 3 4 5

11. Volunteering lets me learn through direct "hands on" experience

1 2 3 4 5

12. I do things for a cause bigger than myself

1 2 3 4 5

13. I feel an obligation to contribute to the community

1 2 3 4 5

14. Community service is necessary to making our communities better

1 2 3 4 5

15. I feel that I can make a difference in the world

1 2 3 4 5

16. I am able to communicate effectively with people from different cultures

1 2 3 4 5

17. I understand the challenges faced by people from different cultures
1 2 3 4 5
18. I have been involved in organizations providing services to people from different cultural backgrounds
1 2 3 4 5
19. I avoid imposing values that may conflict with cultural groups other than my own
1 2 3 4 5
20. I could not easily get accustomed to living in another country (recoded)
1 2 3 4 5
21. I can easily relate to people that are different from me
1 2 3 4 5
22. Traveling allows me to understand different cultures
1 2 3 4 5
23. I have participated in a study abroad or exchange program
1 2 3 4 5
24. In the future, I will travel to other countries to better understand culture and diversity
1 2 3 4 5
25. I have been involved in organizations providing services to diverse populations
1 2 3 4 5
26. I understand the importance of being true to my word
1 2 3 4 5
27. I am dependable and reliable
1 2 3 4 5
28. I stand by my decisions even when others protest
1 2 3 4 5
29. I am aware of what kind of person I am
1 2 3 4 5
30. In nearly everything I do, I am striving to improve myself and become a better person
1 2 3 4 5
31. When I am in groups, I am thoughtful of other people's feelings
1 2 3 4 5
32. When I make mistakes, I am able to admit them
1 2 3 4 5
33. I usually take an active interest in someone else's concerns
1 2 3 4 5
34. I try to make certain that my actions never intentionally harm another person
1 2 3 4 5
35. When making a decision, I weigh the consequences of each alternative
1 2 3 4 5

36. When I listen, I regularly try to take someone else's perspective
1 2 3 4 5
37. When working in groups, I try to assure everyone's voice is heard before a decision is reached
1 2 3 4 5
38. I am in part responsible for the quality and quantity of knowledge I obtain from the courses I take
1 2 3 4 5
39. When I am a leader, I am sure to recognize the accomplishments of others more than myself
1 2 3 4 5
40. I try to build a consensus where everyone finds a decision acceptable before an important change is made
1 2 3 4 5

Scale Key

Community Engagement: Items 1 – 15

Cultural Competence: Items 16-25

Ethical Leadership: Items 26-40

Reference

Levesque-Bristol, C. & Cornelius-White, J. (2012). The Public Affairs Scale: Measuring the Public Good Mission of Higher Education. *Journal of Public Affairs Education, 18, 4.*

**For more information, please contact Margaret Sass at sassm@purdue.edu
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