

# **The Service Learning Round Table Guide Booklet: Curricular Design for Community Based Engagement**

Dr. Kristy Taylor, Palm Beach State College, 2016



## **SERVICE LEARNING IS:**

**“... is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities (Fayetteville State University, 2015)”**

**Define service learning in your own words:**

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# Essential Components of Service Learning Programs

- Pedagogy that embraces **experiential** and **reflective** education.
- Intentionally **integrates** academic learning and relevant community service.
- It is a **reciprocal** collaboration between campus and community partners.
- Purpose is to **enhance** learning and never to compromise academic learning.
- Includes **structured** time for critical reflection.

(University of North Carolina, 2016)

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Source: University of North Carolina, Service Learning Series Guide: [http://ccps.unc.edu/files/2012/10/Service-Learning-Series\\_Guide-to-Service-Learning-Pedagogy.pdf](http://ccps.unc.edu/files/2012/10/Service-Learning-Series_Guide-to-Service-Learning-Pedagogy.pdf)

## Engaged Service Learning Courses

- Contain relevant information
- Provide clear goals and objectives
- Focus on collaborative partnership building
- Create a pathway for sustained community service and civic engagement
- Integrates academic content across services experiences and as a part of the teaching and assessment process
- Are disciplined-centered in order to enhance the course objectives
- Emphasis on rigor and assessment derived from learning experience

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# Slay the Dragon of Service Learning Curriculum Design

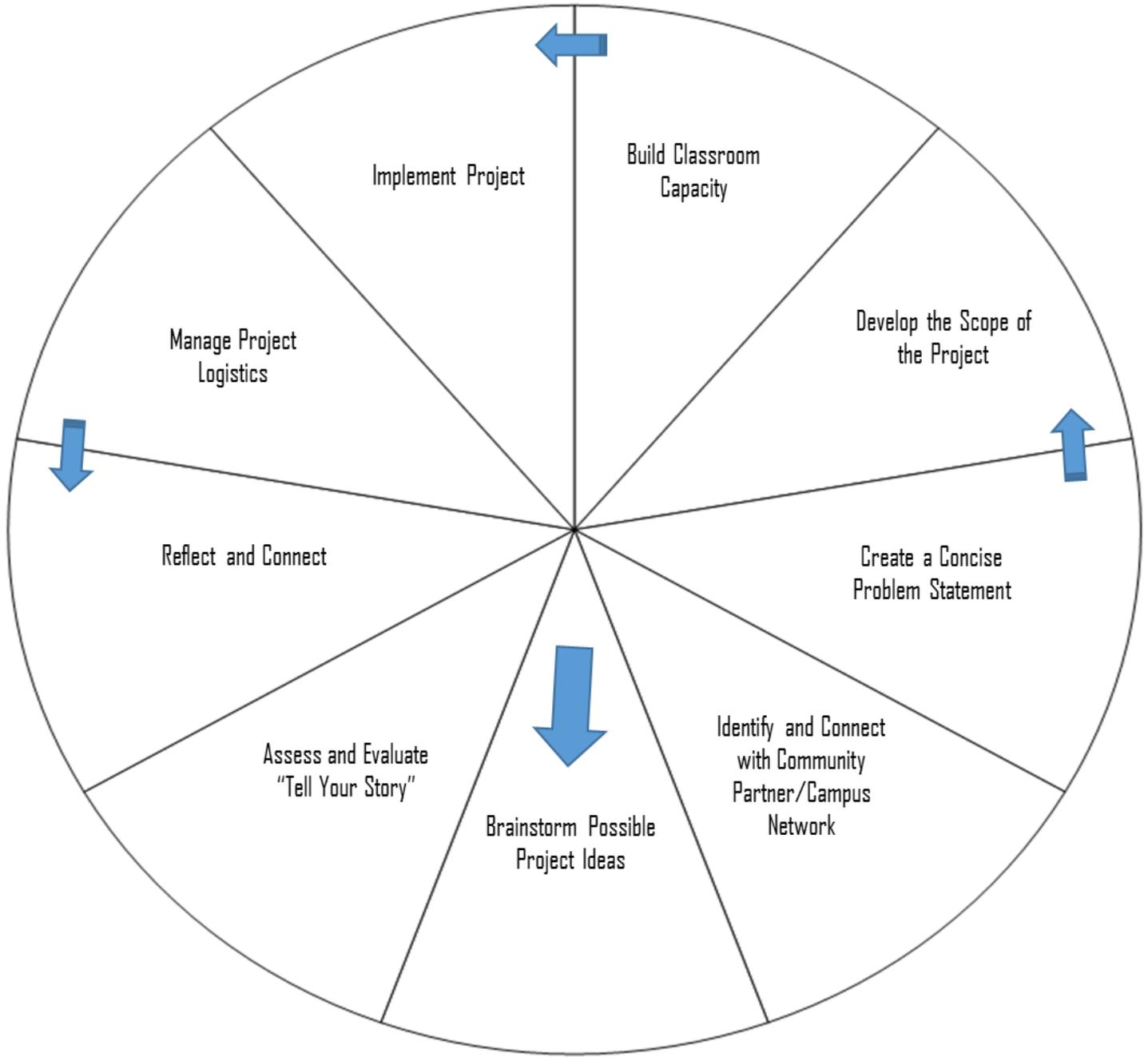


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Use the steps outlined in the next few pages to help you begin the service learning curriculum design process.

# Service Learning Round Table



## 1. Brainstorm Possible Project Ideas:

Consider the needs of the community, the feasibility of the project, and whether this will be a short or long term project for your course. Create basic course/project objectives.

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## 2. Identify and Connect with Community Partners/Campus Network

Who are the possible community partners that may be available to assist you with this project? Is this a project that completed on campus? Assess the resources already available to you. Will you be working with another instructor?

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### 3. Create a Concise Problem Statement:

If possible, work with your community partner to develop the problem statement. Also, use this opportunity to refine your objectives and strategy in alignment with the agreement between yourself and the community partner regarding the project. You may find that your initial idea has evolved since the beginning of the process.

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### 4. Develop the Scope of the Project:

Consider the following: What are your potential deliverables? What activities will you utilize to help students reflect and connect the information to the course objectives? *You will refine the reflect and connect activities in Step 8.* What is your assessment and evaluation strategy for this project? Are there any required forms or approvals that you need (supervisor approval, memorandums of agreement, release forms)? Ensure that you have clearly established roles in place for the students, yourself, and the organization. Include this information in your syllabus. Make a checklist of the resources you will need (Manage in Step 7.)

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## 6. Implement the Project (Purposeful Learning)

Consider the following: Be flexible during this period. What are your alternatives if something does not go as planned? (Use the planning phase to layout some alternatives.)

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## 7. Manage Your Logistics:

Consider the following: How will you be actively involved in the process? Again, ensure that everyone is aware of their roles and responsibilities. Who will the students contact, for example, if they are unable to attend an event?

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11.\* Finally, what quantifiable data will you collect? How will you tell your "story"? You should be able to provide an impact statement regarding the outcome of the project. This will help to "sell" your ideas for future projects.

Example:

Poor example:

This year 200 students, completed 800 service learning hours!

- This equates to only 4 hours per student. There is also no impact statement included.

Include manpower hours x dollar value in your statement. According to IndependentSector.com, currently 1 volunteer hour in FL is worth \$23.08 per hour ([https://www.independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time](https://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time)).

Good example:

This year 200 of our students, completed 800 service learning hours; we invested approximately \$18,464 dollars (800 x \$23.08) in manpower hours into the community as a result of our project. What is the impact of this \$18,464?.....

--As a result of our feed the community project, the local homeless shelter was able to accommodate an additional 250 people.

--As a result of our tutoring program, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade test scores were 10% higher in the local elementary schools

- In addition, our students learned valuable job skills such as....
- Students were better able retain and apply what they learned by.....
- We also received great feedback from local business leaders about.....
- The business leaders are looking forward to working with us again.....
- The course retention rate rose from the previous semester because.....

Use this planning guide as an opportunity to envision the story you want to tell:

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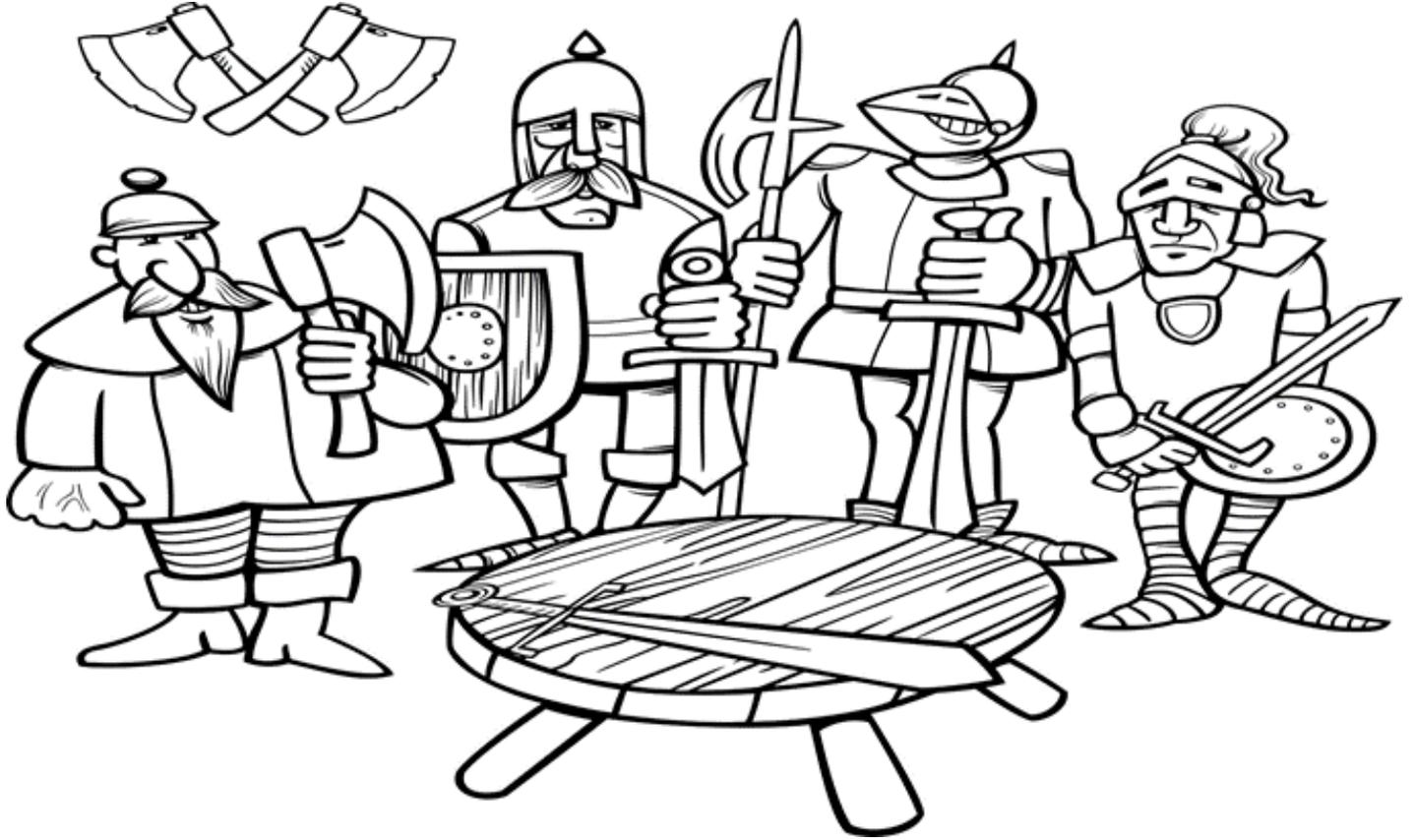
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Good Luck!

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