Global Issues: Local Teaching

Clark Erwin-Billones
We Teach Because...

• Many of us are interested in improving the world

• We care about the future of our earth, country, and community

• We want people (students) to be educated, make smart decisions, and live productive and satisfying lives

• Service-learning is a great way to combine these points
Vocabulary Related to Service-Learning

• **Volunteering**
  Unpaid work, usually helping because you care
  (reading to students, taking care of animals)

• **Community Service**
  Improving the area/city you live in
  (picking up trash, planting trees)

• **Service-Learning**
  Direct volunteer service (physical work) combined with learning
  and reflection (thinking about what you learned)
Global Issues: Local Teaching

• Service-learning is a way to bring global issues into education

• Students learn about real problems and are part of the solution

• Teaching and learning can become ‘hands-on’ and active, which engages students in the subject and in global issues

Photo Credit: Clark Erwin-Billones
Volunteer Views and Data

• U.S. Americans like to volunteer

• Countries and cultures have different ideas and beliefs about volunteering

• My experience and ideas come from my U.S. view

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics...

• 25% of U.S. Americans volunteered in 2015 (the last year reported) or about 63 million people

• Teenagers (16-19 years old) had one of the highest volunteer rates in the U.S. (26.4%) https://www.bls.gov/news.release/volun.nr0.htm
This Hour, We Will Discuss...

Global Issues (whole world)...
- That affect your community
- To bring into the classroom
- That are interesting to students

Local Teaching (your class/community)...
- That uses English communication
- That involves a service-learning project
- That uses student-centered projects
Specific Goals for this Hour

• To be able to learn about what service-learning is and see examples at different educational levels

• To learn about the main steps to build in service-learning and/or student-centered activities into your classroom/club

• To be able to understand how service-learning activities can help students learn English
Language Goals

• Increase students’ use of English in communicative discussions around global issues

• Improve students’ comprehension in using English to give directions, follow instructions, and ask and answer questions around specific tasks

• Encourage students to express their feelings and opinions while using English
Service-Learning Basics

Students should...

1. Find a project to participate in

2. Learn about the issue
   (articles, videos, presentation, speakers)

3. Participate in service project (most were 2-3 hours total)

4. Reflect on what they did and evaluate their work and opinions
Service-Learning Examples

Primary – Secondary and University – Adult
Primary/Secondary Example: Trash Cleanup

Students **learn** about:

- Plants and animals in a local nature area
- Pollution and garbage globally and/or locally
- Why you shouldn’t throw trash on the ground

Photo by: kennethkonica, from Photopin, February 2017. http://www.flickr.com/photos/38912465@N00/33137754445
Primary/Secondary Example: Trash Cleanup

Earth Day is April 22
http://www.earthday.org/

- **Service**: Students go to a nature area to pick up trash
- **Duration**: 1-2 hours service plus transportation time

Photo by: NASAKennedy, from Photopin, April 2017.
http://www.flickr.com/photos/108488366@N07/33908440461
Primary/Secondary Example: Trash Cleanup

Evaluate by...

- Counting how many pieces of trash they pick up, weighing it, finding the heaviest piece, adding it together (math)
- Guessing/hypothesizing why trash is in nature (science)
- Creating solutions for this problem (language arts)

Primary/Secondary Example: Trash Cleanup

Reflect by:

- Thinking about the importance of the project
- Sharing what they learned
- Discussing how they felt
- Giving their opinions

Where to Start?: Think About...

• Big events or projects that happen once a year that relate to your curriculum

• A local problem that students could create a solution for

• A global problem that students can create local awareness of

Service-Learning with University Students
What I Did: Service-Learning Component

I made the service-learning project student-centered

Students participated in:

• Planning (researching, presentations)
• Decision-making (which project, when?)
• Activities (learning and service)
• Assessments (evaluations and reflections)
# Student-Centered Service-Learning

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Form groups</td>
<td>Choose a project</td>
<td>Give presentation</td>
<td>Learn more about the project/topic</td>
<td>Service-learning reflection</td>
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<td>Evaluate peer presentations</td>
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<td>Research ideas, NGOs, events</td>
<td>Meet and interview</td>
<td>Vote on project</td>
<td>Service-learning project</td>
<td>Class reflection</td>
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<td>organization or staff</td>
<td>Coordinate logistics</td>
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<td>Learn vocabulary</td>
<td>Read an article and present it to a group</td>
<td>Give presentation on a service proposal</td>
<td>Watch a video and discuss a global topic</td>
<td>Service-learning reflection write-up</td>
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<td>Comprehension activities</td>
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<td>Evaluate peers</td>
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<td>Guest speaker visit</td>
<td>Interview an expert and share with the class</td>
<td>Vote on project</td>
<td>Service-learning Project</td>
<td>Class reflection</td>
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<td>Letter writing</td>
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<td>Plan logistics in groups</td>
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Student Proposals

• Share the students’ proposals
• Think about what parts of this project may work in your classroom

Photo Credit: Clark Erwin-Billones
Student Project Proposals

• Volunteering for a 10K race that raises money for suicide prevention
• Volunteering to cook and spend time with people at a homeless shelter
• Starting a school club which promotes education and activities to combat a global issue (climate change, child nutrition)
• Collecting art supplies to give to children and decorating the suitcase we send them in
• Participating in an environmental project with children at a local nature area
Evaluating: Proposals and Presentations

• All requirements included (rubric)
• Presentation skills (body language)
• Project interest, time required
• Students voted on which project the class would participate in

Photo Credit: Clark Erwin-Billones
The Students Voted For...

The Winner:

- Collecting art supplies for children!

Image Credit: COW
The Project...

1. We read information about where the supplies were going
2. We collected supplies from family, friends, schools, etc.
3. We met and decorated 2 suitcases that would travel with a student group
4. We stuffed the suitcases with art supplies and gave them to the travelers
5. Students wrote a reflection/evaluation paper about the course goals (1 page) and this project (1 page)
The End Result: Young students creating art work with new art supplies

Photo Credit: Color Our World

Spring 2014 Service Learning Project for IU 180: Globalization and My University
Evaluation and Reflection

The students were required to write about:

- Their experiences
- Their thoughts and feelings
- The project requirements
- The best and worst
- Something they learned

- What do you think about the COW project?

- Did it involve education, direct service, and reflection?
Motivation and Inspiration

Service-Learning?
Why Promote Service-Learning #1

• Helps to improve the world

• Students learn about issues that affect them (reading articles, watching videos, doing service)

• Thinking, writing, discussing ideas and solutions

Photo Credits: Clark Erwin-Billones
Why Promote Service-Learning #2

• Builds relationships
  ...Among students
  ...With the community
  ...With organizations
  ...With yourself

• Encourages English communication during the project with questions, directions, and conversations

• Students can write down new words and find definitions

• Students can talk with the community members or organization staff to learn something new

Photo Credit: Clark Erwin-Billones
Why Promote Service-Learning #3

• Develops civic responsibility (how to be a good citizen) by
  ...Teaching that everyone can make a difference
  ...Gaining a sense of accomplishment by doing work and seeing results

• Students can discuss or write up solutions to the problems they learn about

• They can write a poem, song, or rap

• They can write an article about the issue and share it

"Responsibility" by Global Peace Tiles, from PhotosForClass.com, March 2011.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/peacetiles/5558484738/
Why Promote Service-Learning #4

• Engages students by
  ... Getting students moving and doing (kinesthetic learning)

...Doing real work with real consequences (good ones)

...Building confidence in different ways than in the classroom through
  - problem solving (moving things)
  - using different strengths/skill sets
  - developing leadership qualities

“Students working in nursery” by treesftf, from PhotosForClass.com, March 2009.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/plant-trees/3343453750/
Why Promote Service-Learning #5

• Participants develop critical thinking skills by
  ...Evaluating the criteria that makes a good service project
  ...Evaluating the project parts like the organization, the timing, etc.
  ...Reflecting on their service and their experiences
  ...Reflecting on what they learned

• Students can complete writing, journal entries, discussions, formal assessments

“Evaluation” by Enokson, from PhotosForClass.com, September 2011.
https://www.flickr.com/photos/vblibrary/6198416827/
Design a Service-Learning Project...

That fits your needs and your students’ needs!

• Try some student-centered activities

• Know what your students can do and what is possible (primary vs. secondary vs. university)

• Ask your students what they are interested in

• Listen to your students opinions and ideas
How to Get Started with Service-Learning

Think about different ideas about bringing service-learning into your classroom

• Connect to the curriculum
• Project organizer (you, students, organization)

Where to Start: Origins of Service

• Religious group
• Fundraising group
• Schools
• Medical organization
• Community organization
• Social advocates/NGOs (environment, animals, social issues)
How to Plan a Service-Learning Project

Think about the type of project work

- Skills or training needed
- Clothing or equipment
- Indoor or outdoor temperature
- Water and food available
Brainstorm a Service-Learning Project

- Global problems or issues that you teach
- Curriculum topics that could involve a service-learning project
- Focus on creating ideas (brainstorming)
- Think for 2 minutes
- Don’t worry if these ideas don’t work
- There are no wrong answers in brainstorming!

Consider These:
- Social Activities
- Fun Factor
- Student Interests
- Community Needs
- Curriculum Requirements
List Your Ideas

On a piece of paper write down 3-5 issues or volunteer groups you might partner with:

• 1.
• 2.
• 3.
• 4.
• 5.
Global Activities in Your Classroom/Club

Choose a language learning activity that:

• Relates to a global issue
• Uses communicative language practice

Take a minute or two to think of an activity and then you can share it.
Service-Learning Extension Ideas

• Explore a nature area for insects and plants near the school
• Learn about the plants and insects found
• Sketch pictures of plants and insects
• Research what was found
• Back in class, students describe their drawings to the class along with information about what they learned from their research
Global/Local Issue Project Ideas

• Identify global/local issues
• Poll community members (classmates) about the biggest issues
• Interview family, friends, classmates about their opinions

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<tr>
<th>Air Pollution</th>
<th>Car Accidents</th>
<th>Plastics in Sea</th>
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<td>Marta</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Karina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pierre</td>
<td>Luda</td>
<td>Maria</td>
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• Record data on a graph
• Report on data (how many people voted for each issue)
• Share opinions and present their data and ideas to the class
A Guest Speaker Visits

• A guest speaker comes in to present information on an issue
• Ask questions in English, if possible
• Research solutions and discuss in class
• Write thank you letters to the speaker
• Students peer correct letters editing for spelling
Controversial Issue Project Ideas

• Learn about journalism writing and bias/neutrality
• Research an issue
• Watch a news story online about the issue
• Students get into groups of...agree, disagree, neutral or ???
• Write an article in groups that reflects their point of view
• Read it to the class
• Evaluate if they were neutral or biased
Global Issue Related Project Ideas

• Learn about a health or safety issue (article and facts about malaria)

• Work in pairs to create a campaign to educate the public on the issue

• Design materials including a slogan, song, and mini-poster with 3 facts about malaria

• Present it to the class
Tips, Techniques, and Reflection...

Let’s look closer at some ideas to make things easier
Ask guest speakers to join the class!

- Talk about a global/local issue
- Share experiences, stories, photos, videos, or realia (real objects from their work)
- Leave time for discussion student questions
Do You Know an Expert?

Do you know someone who is a...

- Teacher or staff member from school
- Friend, relative, or their friend
- Someone from non-government organization (NGO) (university, doctor, journalist, writer, embassy staff)

“Chitral International Workshop” by groundreporter, PhotosForClass.com, May 2014. 
https://www.flickr.com/photos/16901703@N06/14249551342/
More Project Planning Logistics

Keep In Mind

• Permission from the school and parents (Do you need to talk to someone first?)
• Transportation (How will you get there?)
• Expenses (trash bags, meals)
Student-Centered Projects

Encouraging Student Success

• Plan early to allow for delays, other issues

• Focus on learning lessons and problem-solving. No project is perfect!

• Have fun! Students should enjoy learning. And teachers should, too!

Final Reflection Questions For You

• Did you learn something new?
• Are you inspired to do a service-learning project?
• Could you use some of these ideas in your class/club?
Thank You for Participating!

Check Out the Follow Up Discussion on the Ning!

Ask questions or get more information!
Post Webinar RESOURCES

• The University of Alabama: A Checklist for Implementing Service-Learning in Higher Education, June 8, 2012
  http://jces.ua.edu/a-checklist-for-implementing-service-learning-in-higher-education/

• Edited by Sarena D Seifer and Kara Connors, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health for Learn and Serve America’s National Service-Learning Clearinghouse Faculty Toolkit for Service Learning in Higher Education, 2007

• United States Environmental Protection Agency: Service Learning
  http://www.epa.gov/osw/education/pdfs/svclearn.pdf