

Service learning stages

A how to guide for carrying out the stages in a project or service engagement



01

INVESTIGATION

Take an area of interest and get curious!

Ask:

- what's happening?
- what are the issues? why do they exist?
- is there an authentic need?
- what skills do I/we have to contribute?
- what ethical concerns exist here?



02

PREPARATION

Deepen your understanding.

Ask:

- how can I/we act as a partner?
- what type of action should I/we take?
- what might be the consequences of my/our actions?
- what resources do I/we need?
- what new knowledge might I/we require?



03

ACTION

Responding to an authentic need in an informed way.

Ask:

- does this activity/project feel authentic?
- are my/our actions thought out and considerate?
- how is the experience challenging your assumptions?
- am I/we working effectively with others?
- how can I/we improve?



04

DEMONSTRATION

Sharing outcomes

Ask:

- what have I/we learned about the people we worked with?
- who can I/we share this journey with?
- what can others learn from what I/ we have done?
- what might the next steps be?
- how can your experience apply to other situations?

WHERE'S REFLECTION?

Recall that **reflection** is an IB learner attribute:

"We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development."

So **reflective practice** happens throughout all stages of service learning. Being more **reflective** helps you to be more **effective**. Make time to apply your critical thinking skills!