

Summer Community Health Service-Learning: Reflection Questions

We ask that you submit two pieces of reflective writing, one following your second week at the placement site, and one at the end of your service. We do this:

- to document your growth and learning over the summer, and
- to help us evaluate the effectiveness of the program in providing meaningful and/or transformational educational experiences.

Making your thinking visible through written reflection helps us see what you're learning from the exposure to different people and settings, what expectations and assumptions you brought and how they may have been challenged or expanded, and it gives the program leaders an opportunity to respond in developmentally appropriate ways. There is no page limit, but we ask that you honor the spirit of the assignment and really try to share the ideas and experiences that have caused you to question or struggle or grow in understanding. You may use other art forms of expression for one of the two assignments. If you are having trouble getting started, here are some prompts.

At two weeks:

What were your expectations beginning this assignment? In what ways have those assumptions been revealed, challenged, reframed or confirmed?

General:

What?: What is the most important thing you've learned?

So What?: Why is it important that you learned it?

Now What?: How will this experience shape your learning and action?

About the site:

- Why did you select this placement?
- What is the mission of the agency/organization where you are working? What are its greatest strengths?
- How does the work of your agency/organization fit into the context of health care delivery overall?
- What are the major problems faced by the organization in meeting its mission and goals?
- How does the context of the lives of the people/patients you're seeing affect their health? What are the implications for clinical practice?

About your learning:

- What were your first impressions?
 - How do you feel about the people with whom you are working?
 - What is different from what you expected?
- What has been most difficult/problematic for you?
- What is one thing you've learned that you'll apply in the future as a clinician?

What have you been able to accomplish?

Next steps:

What gaps in service have you identified?

How might you continue the work going forward? Is there a need/plan for sustainability?

Study without reflection is a waste of time; reflection without study is dangerous.
-Confucius