



Present On A Service-Learning Student Perspective At A School Board Or Other Public Meeting

Source: National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, May 2008

For additional resources on this and other service-learning topics visit Learn and Serve America's National Service-Learning Clearinghouse at www.servicelearning.org.



GOAL:

Use your story to show that service-learning programs make a difference. Present on service-learning to your student government, Chamber of Commerce, school board meeting, a school assembly, or other audience.

GETTING STARTED:

Think about your own service-learning experience. Your story can be an invaluable tool for making the case for service-learning.

1. Get in touch with a contact from your intended audience (i.e. a school board member, PTA president, community relations officer for television or radio stations, etc.) to discuss setting a date for you to come and make a service-learning presentation.
2. The annual Learn & Serve Challenge can be an especially good time for scheduling an event. See www.learnandservechallenge.org for more information.
3. Contact Learn and Serve America's National Service-Learning Clearinghouse (NSLC) at 1-866-245-SERV(7378) or visit our website at www.servicelearning.org to order the free *Bring Learning to Life* campaign tools (8 minute DVD, brochure, posters, and getting started guides for parents and teachers). Remember to order enough materials for your audience.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *Bring Learning to Life* video or DVD and brochures.
- DVD player or VCR to play service-learning promotional video(s).
- Flier for attendees that includes information on service-learning, state-specific statistics and impacts, short testimonials, etc., or you can simply use some of the *Bring Learning to Life* materials.

BEFORE THE MEETING:

Remember that you want to convey a message that will stick in the minds of your audience. Give them clear ideas to take away from the meeting.

- Your own story is the best example that you can give. Reflect on your experience and think about how best to describe the ways service-learning has affected your life. Ask yourself how service-learning impacted your learning, your commitment to service, and your future career and education plans. The answers can be the foundation of your presentation.

- Watch *Bring Learning to Life* and see if you have any ideas for a service-learning project particularly appropriate for your school or community. Make notes for discussing those ideas to make the meeting more personal and to help localize the idea of service-learning.
- You can make individual packets containing all the *Bring Learning to Life* information or you can set up a display area to show off the materials.
- Create your message, connecting what you say to the video. Possible themes could be how service-learning improves academic performance and/or engages students with hands-on, active learning.

DURING THE MEETING:

- Use the visual appeal of the *Bring Learning to Life* materials to strengthen the message that starting a service-learning program will benefit schools, students, and the community.
- Point out key information that you feel may really connect with your school. Remember: make it personal! Your story will help your audience visualize the advantages of a service-learning program at your school.
- Follow up at the end of the meeting by reminding attendees of the benefits a service-learning project can have for youth and communities.
- Answer questions attendees may have. If you're stumped, don't worry. Just send them to the NSLC website for more information or to ask reference questions (contact information is on all the *Bring Learning to Life* materials).

AFTER THE MEETING:

Contact one or two audience members to follow up on questions, ideas and feedback.

RESOURCES:

[What is Service-Learning?](#)

www.servicelearning.org/what_is_service-learning/index.php

[Bring Learning to Life](#) materials

www.servicelearning.org/lisa/bring_learning/

[Resources for Parents page](#)

www.servicelearning.org/instant_info/parents/index.php

[Learn and Serve America logo](#)

www.cns.gov/about/media_kit/logos.asp

[Why Districts, Schools, and Classrooms Should Practice Service-Learning](#)

www.servicelearning.org/instant_info/fact_sheets/k-12_facts/why/

[Impacts of Service-Learning on Participating K-12 Students](#)

www.servicelearning.org/instant_info/fact_sheets/k-12_facts/impacts/

[Parent & Family Involvement in K-12 Service-Learning](#)

www.servicelearning.org/instant_info/fact_sheets/k-12_facts/family_k-12/

[Service-Learning with Disadvantaged Youth](#)