

Service-Learning Is Not...

There are many types of community involvement. However, it is important to note some vital distinctions between Service-Learning and these other forms of participation:

Volunteerism:

- The primary emphasis is on the service being provided and the primary intended beneficiary is clearly the service recipient.

Community Service:

- The primary focus is on the service being provided, as well as the benefits the service activities have on the recipients.

Internships:

- Engage students in service activities primarily for the purpose of providing students with hands-on experiences that enhance their learning or understanding of issues relevant to a particular area of study.

Field Education:

- Provides students with co-curricular service opportunities that are related, but not fully integrated, with their formal academic studies.

**The key difference is that service-learning is directly connected to academic work and includes some kind of reflection activity that helps students make those connections between their service experiences and their coursework.

From Andrew Furco, "Service Learning: A Balanced Approach to Experiential Education." Expanding Boundaries: Service and Learn. Corporation for National Service, 1996.