PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- **What is Service-Learning?**

- **Core Components of Service-Learning**

- **Project Examples**

- **Benefits of Service-Learning**

- **Statistics About Service-Learning**

- **More Information**

WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING?

Service-learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities.

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WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING?

Service-Learning is NOT:

- It is NOT a separate "program" or curriculum.

- It is NOT volunteering or community service.

- It is NOT logging a certain number of service hours in order to graduate.

- It does NOT require time out of school/program.

- Service-learning is NOT just about "going out and doing good." It involves learning and intellectual skills, performing needed service and producing real results that command respect.

The Education Commission of the States

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WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING?

Example of community service:

If students remove trash from a streambed, they are providing service to the community as volunteers.

WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING?

Example of service-learning:

- Students identify a streambed clean up as a true need in their community,

- remove trash from a streambed,

- analyze what they found,

- share the results and offer suggestions for the neighborhood to reduce pollution,

- tie their learning experience to their Biology classroom curriculum,

- and reflect on their experience

THAT is Service-Learning!

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CORE COMPONENTS OF SERVICE-LEARNING

Investigation

Planning

Action

Reflection

Demonstration/Celebration

[Evaluation]

Shelley Billig, RMC Research, 2009

Investigation:

Students research and determine community needs. Assessing community can make the service-learning experience personally relevant to the students and lead to visible outcomes that are valued by those being served. The students may identify the need based on opportunities provided by a community partner.

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Planning:

Working with community partners, students plan ways in which they will meet the community need. Planning/preparation may include developing a common vision for success, determining who will do what and when, identifying materials, supplies and related costs, and how the funds will be raised.

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Action:

This is the actual service portion of the academic service-learning activity where all participants implement the planned activities that will meet the identified community need. Can be direct (river clean up, tutoring, etc.), indirect (food drive, clothing collection, etc.) or advocacy (public awareness campaign, letters to legislators, etc.)

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Reflection:

Participants engage in some type of activity that allows them to think about the community need, their actions and their impacts, what worked and what did not, and ways the project could have been improved. These analytical activities take place at all stages of the project. (What, so what, now what)

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CORE COMPONENTS OF SERVICE-LEARNING

Demonstration/Celebration:

Students show others what they have accomplished, learned, and the impact of their activities. Celebration of the outcomes follows.

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CORE COMPONENTS OF SERVICE-LEARNING

Evaluation:

Students and teachers assess the effectiveness of the project and identify areas for improvements.

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CORE COMPONENTS OF SERVICE-LEARNING

K-12 Service-Learning Standards for Quality Practice (research-based)

- Meaningful Service
- Link to Curriculum
- Reflection
- Diversity
- Youth Voice
- Partnerships
- Progress Monitoring
- Duration and Intensity

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PROJECT EXAMPLES

- **K-12 schools** – Smyrna West Alternative School – Weaving looms

- **Community-based** – Meth Free TN: Youth Edition – 1,165 afterschool students across the state engaged in anti-meth service-learning activities.

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- Meth Free TN: Youth Edition – 42 anti-meth communication products developed and distributed by participants to peers and other community members, educating them on the dangers of meth.

BENEFITS OF SERVICE-LEARNING

Benefits for students and young people:

- Academic achievement

- Civic engagement

- Sense of self-efficacy

- Problem-solving skills

- Career possibilities
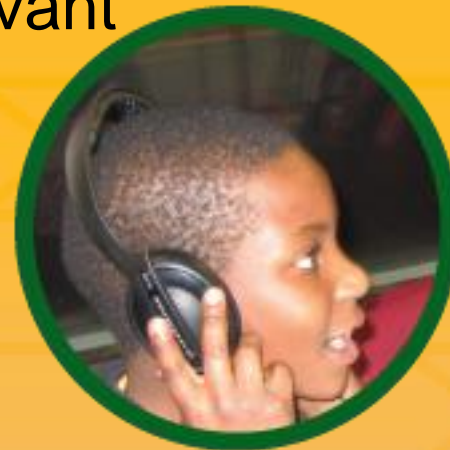
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BENEFITS OF SERVICE-LEARNING

Benefits for Students and Young People

What the National Research Says:

Academic achievement

- Grounded in how learning occurs

- Easily aligned with state and district standards

- Classroom studies become relevant to real world issues

- Benefits ALL students
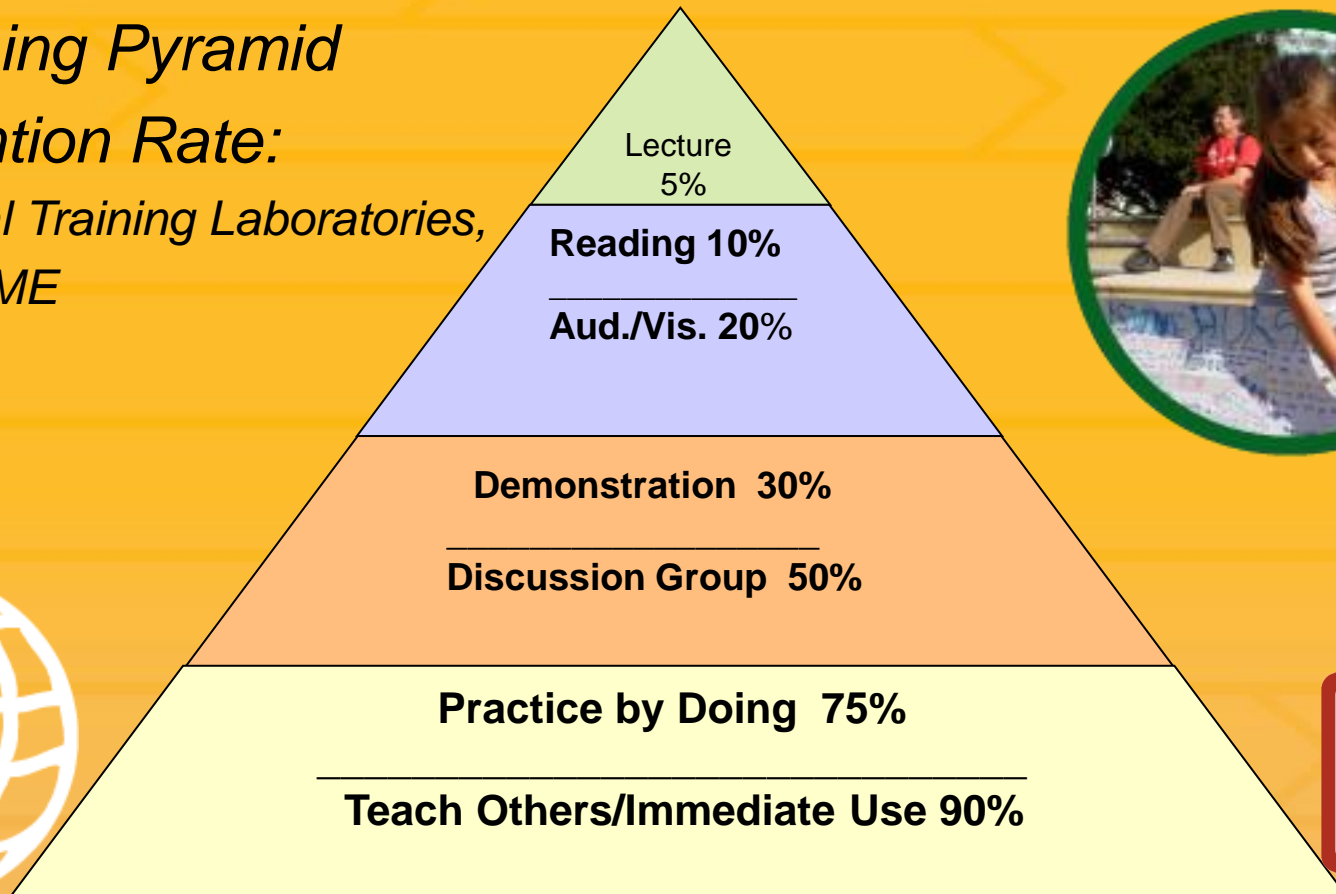
Education Commission of the States

BENEFITS OF SERVICE-LEARNING

Benefits for Students and Young People

Grounded in how learning occurs

Learning Pyramid

Retention Rate:

National Training Laboratories, Bethel ME

Lecture 5%

Reading 10%
_____
Aud./Vis. 20%

Demonstration 30%
_____
Discussion Group 50%

Practice by Doing 75%
_____
Teach Others/Immediate Use 90%

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BENEFITS OF SERVICE-LEARNING

Benefits for Students and Young People

- Character and Values
- Positive School/Program Climate
- Workplace Skills
- Higher Attendance Rates
- Civic Efficacy

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BENEFITS OF SERVICE-LEARNING

Benefits for institutions and communities:

- Connections

- School/program environments and community support

- Mission and reach

- Staff and volunteers' level of engagement and satisfaction

- Positive relationships with young people

- Decreased drop-out rates

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STATISTICS ABOUT SERVICE-LEARNING

2003-2006 Evaluation of student outcomes in TN service-learning programs conducted

by Dr. Molly Laird

Students exhibit:

- Growth in life skills, work motivation & civic responsibility

- Increased social competency, leadership and citizenship

- Positive change in student attitude and behaviors

- Improved school connectedness, school attendance and school performance in students at risk of school failures

- Decreased time spent watching television

- Decreased alcohol consumption

- Students who participated in service learning strengthened their communities

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STATISTICS ABOUT SERVICE-LEARNING

Service-Learning's Impacts on Students, Schools and Communities:

- Service-learning helps students acquire academic skills and knowledge.

- Students are more engaged in their studies and more motivated to learn.

- Student attendance improves.

- Students become more knowledgeable and realistic about careers.

- School climate improves.

- Service-learning provides an avenue for students to become active, positive contributors to society

- Service-learning leads to more positive perceptions of school and youth by community members.

RMC Research Corporation (Billig, 2000)

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MORE INFORMATION

Volunteer Tennessee

http://volunteertennessee.net/

Service-Learning Clearinghouse

http://gsn.nylc.org/clearinghouse

Generator School Network

http://gsn.nylc.org/

Corporation for National and Community Service

http://www.nationalservice.gov/

MORE INFORMATION

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