

Welcome to Service Learning!

We're so pleased that you've chosen to join this year's cohort of students ready to use academic knowledge and skills to address genuine community needs. Everything we do in this class is grounded in the real world, and the projects you eventually develop should have a real impact on our community.

We've found that some students come to Service Learning with a passion for a particular issue, and some just bring their curiosity and willingness to learn and grow. Both kinds of students can be very successful in the course. But we've found that students who have some idea of the area they'd like to investigate and work on are able to hit the ground running more quickly, and sometimes accomplish more of their goals.

To help you narrow your focus a bit before the school year starts, please take a look at **3 different profiles** on the [Giraffe Heroes Project](#) page. These are people from all over the world who have "stuck their necks out" (took a risk of some kind) for positive change. **You may want to skim over several profiles before choosing** the 3 you would like to read about more thoroughly.

Then answer the following questions for EACH profile you chose (please type your answers in a new Document, and include each person's name above your answers):

- How did this person stick their neck out (take a big risk)?
- What kind of positive change happened as a result of this?
- What is the most impressive thing about this person?
- Why is this issue (the concern or problem this person recognized) important?

Last, answer the following questions, thinking about ALL the profiles you read:

- Which of these issues is/are most important to you? Why?
- For what other issues are you interested in creating positive change?

****If you are still having trouble imagining what kind of issue you might want to work on, take a look at the very **BOTTOM** of the Giraffe Heroes Project's [Service Learning page](#), where they describe examples of Service Learning projects undertaken by young students. These ideas may seem more manageable to you than some of the national- or global-scale projects you read about above.****

Your responses will be collected at the beginning of the school year. Please have them prepared for the first day of class. We look forward to meeting you!

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