

Writing Journal: Service Learning

According to Peter Felten and Patti Clayton, service-learning is part of the curriculum at many institutions because it allows students to connect their coursework with involvement in the community. Research shows that service-learning results in better academic performance and critical thinking skills. In addition, service-learning helps students develop empathy and to be more socially aware. Many students that participate in service-learning stay active in the community and in politics after graduating. As a middle and high schooler, I participated in community service as was required by my school, and I can attest that it made me a better student. I'm still empathetic, open to new ideas, and involved politically, especially in the disability rights and neurodiversity movements, and hope to stay involved in the coming years. Involvement in the community is an important but overlooked component of personal development.