

Service Learning Assignment (75 Points)

Due Date: Week 14

Assignment Submission: This assignment will be submitted through Blackboard, and posted on your e-Portfolio on the “Service Learning” page.

Assignment Instructions/Service Learning Guidelines

Students will be expected to research a health-related organization(s) of their choice. This can be an organization in Norfolk, in your hometown, or anywhere! Examples can include:

- a hospital, dental clinic, hospice, or other health offices (doctors’ offices will not be approved)
- Volunteer with another non-profit or organization that relates to health.
 - Here is a great way to find volunteer opportunities with nonprofits in the ODU area:
 - www.volunteerhr.org – List of all nonprofits in Hampton Roads. Search in the Find a volunteer opportunity to find some awesome non-profits looking for assistance.
 - <https://app.helperhelper.com/login> - Sign in with your ODU email to find additional service opportunities.

You will choose an organization and then answer the following questions:

1. **List the Community Partner / Organization you chose:** American Red Cross
 - a. **Provide a brief summary of experiences volunteers can have with the organization**
 - i. As an American Red Cross volunteer, there is a large range of opportunities for everyone. Most famously known for their blood drives, volunteers for the Red Cross can be blood donors, recruit others to donate, or be a driver that would transfer donated blood units from the drive to a lab. Volunteers can also educate others by teaching CPR classes if they are certified, assist in fundraising efforts by raising money or donating themselves, or support the armed forces by volunteering at a veterans hospital or clinic. During national emergencies, like a global pandemic, volunteers can come to help deliver food, medical supplies, and aid to those in need. With natural disasters they can provide any type of food, shelter, or comfort to those affected by the crisis.
2. **Please write a description of the Community Partner(s) by answering these questions:**
 - a. **What is their purpose/mission?**
 - i. The Red Cross Mission is “The Red Cross, born of a desire to bring assistance without discrimination to the wounded on the battlefield, endeavors—in its international and national capacity—to prevent and

alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found. Its purpose is to protect life and health and to ensure respect for the human being.”

b. What services does the partner provide?

- i. Some services the American Red Cross provides is 40% of America’s blood supply, gives shelter and food to those in need, supports the military both domestically and internationally, and teaches skills to save lives like CPR.

c. What needs of the community do they address?

- i. In times of need like pandemics, natural disasters, or other life shaking instances like medical emergencies the American Red Cross aids its communities by offering shelter, food, emotional support, health services, and critical relief items. To directly help the community at this time Red Cross is giving out items like face masks to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. In their aid for other emergencies the community is always aware that they can count on the American Red Cross to benefit them in their time of need.

d. Why is this organization important to the community?

- i. The American Red cross is important to this community because they offer services that not only benefit those who would not have certain items without them but they educate others on how to benefit their own communities. The American Red Cross is responsible for 40% of the nation’s blood supply and it is because of communities much like ours work with the Red Cross to help others and maybe even help ourselves one day. Not only does this organization help with medical needs like blood donations but it also collects food to give to those in need. Without this organization many lives would be lost and some without vital items in order for them to live comfortably.

e. Find one article/video about the organization and the work they are doing in the community.

- i. Below is a link to an article from Wavy News 10 that is giving out information on how and where people can get free Covid-19 tests offered through the American Red Cross. This event took place on November 18, 2020 in the Hampton Coliseum.
- ii. <https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/hampton/american-red-cross-offering-free-covid-19-antibody-testing-at-hampton-coliseum/>

3. After reflecting on the organization’s goals and mission, have your values, opinions, and/or beliefs about the importance of health changed or grown? Be specific.

- a. After much reflection on the American Red Cross' goals and mission I would have to say that my opinions have grown stronger about the importance of health. Every year during highschool I would see the senior class have a huge blood drive at the end of the year and students would be so excited to help out those in need. I always thought that the drives were great but I didn't understand how vital they were until I began this project. Reading that 40% of the nation's blood supply is given to hospitals and clinics from the Red Cross is absolutely amazing to me. On the Red Cross website it talks about how one blood donation can save up to 3 lives. This specific information motivates me to encourage others to volunteer and give blood whenever they can.

4. Thinking about the community partner:

a. How do these services relate to your intended career field?

- i. My intended career field is Environmental Law and consulting. The American Red Cross and its services relates to this field by improving the environment for people in their time of need and leading in clean up projects after natural disasters. When a natural disaster hits often times the waste that is usually cleaned falls behind in the cleaning schedule or is flooded into waterways. These factors would impact my job by altering the water quality, possibly ruining sustainability initiatives, and could cause hazardous waste. With organizations like the American Red Cross there to help after disasters like this along with benefitting people not only will make my job simpler but make me feel better about the world.

b. What Degree Program (other than your current major) could it relate to?

- i. The nursing program most notably benefits from the American Red Cross. The blood drives that they run immensely benefit the medical field and saves lives not only in this community but the nation.

c. Would you choose to pursue that major as your parallel major?

- i. I would not pursue nursing or any other field in medicine as my parallel major.

d. Why or why not?

- i. To put it simply, I am a very emotionally person. I understand that it is important to care about every patient but I know that I could not do my job effectively while seeing people sick and suffering. It makes me very sad even thinking about it. Along with that I have a fear of germs being transferred from person to person. I tend not to touch others because of this and even though I would wear glove in this profession I would rather work with the environment.