

# Photography as Service-Learning - Individual ELO

Service learning is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection. Extended Learning Opportunities are also learning and teaching strategies that incorporate reflection and typically, like service-learning projects, encourage students to participate in learning that is meaningful to them. In many high schools today we find community service requirements for graduation. This ELO combines the components from ELOs and service-learning - research, reflection, learning and credit - into one meaningful project.

Visual literacy is a key skill for almost every job today. For example, hairdressers need photographs of styles they have created, realtors need photographs of houses they hope to sell, even animal rescue groups need images they can use to promote the work they do and get funding. This ELO is designed to help students understand and develop the skills they will need to be successful photographers in today's world, build their portfolio, and experience learning through service based activities.

## Overview

Student will need access to a camera and possibly a car

**Academic area:** Art and/or vocational photography, community service; 62 hours = ½ credit.

**Essential Question:** How can I use photography to help others?

**Community Partners:** Any organizations that need photography services (Suggestions include - The Humane Society or any animal rescue organizations, local child care centers, Summer Camps, organizations that need photographs of employees, particular events that need images, the local newspaper, community centers, teachers at a high school who need images of projects, etc.)

## Competencies

- Communication - Students will need to employ a broad range of communication platforms and styles to arrange meetings, discuss needs, and share what they have created through this ELO.
- Technology - Is the ability to use information and technology effectively empower deeper learning. Students will be required to collect images and share these images digitally using technology with service-learning partners.
- Professionalism - Is using sound judgment to meet or exceed workplace guidelines. Students participating in this ELO will develop the professional skills of respect, following workplace policies, etc as they interact out in the community.
- Problem Solving/Critical Thinking - Is the process of designing, implementing, and evaluating a strategy to an open ended question. This ELO will require students to develop critical thinking/problem solving skills as they determine what the needs of the service-learning partners and work to meet these needs within their own ability.
- Visual Literacy - Through the creation, collection, selection, and sharing of images taken at various service-learning sites students will learn to evaluate images to see if they meet the requirements of someone else - in this case the service-learning partner.

## Student Activities

1. Identify/brainstorm organizations, individuals, or groups who might need photography services. Contact organizations, ultimately finding three to work with.
2. Research what photography service could be done for each organization, come to an agreement with the organization, and complete a Service-Learning sheet (see additional materials) as documentation.
3. Create a Pinterest Board for each of the projects (suggested at least 25 pins per board). The Pinterest Boards should contain inspirational and sample images for each of the three projects. For example, if the student is going to photograph an animal rescue organization then they should create a Pinterest Board with at least 25 images of animals or animal rescue groups.
4. Conduct onsite visits. While on site, take field notes (see additional materials) recording how long they worked, what they did, what they might do differently next time, what they enjoyed, and/or what they didn't enjoy. These notes should be at least one page long for each service-learning project.
5. Completion of the work for each organization will include visiting organization, filling out the "On-site service-learning/field notes" sheet for each service-learning organization, editing images, saving a copy for the student's records.
6. Meet with each organization to make sure images meet the original needs/goals.
7. Write a three page reflection paper.

## Assessment

Student will create a final presentation using PowerPoint, Prezi, or Google Slide Show to answer the Essential Question. They will present this to teachers, community partners, staff and any administration during a one-time after school showcase. The presentation must include information about each organization, what the student did for each of the three service-learning projects, some excerpts from their field notes, some inspirational images from their Pinterest Boards, images the student took while doing the ELO, and excerpts from their reflection paper. (See **additional materials**.)

## More information/Additional Materials

- Sample Service-learning project (this includes the original images, article written by student and article that appeared in the newspaper):  
[https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B9d\\_ZZAdDUzjdVMxTnctalJNUTg&usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B9d_ZZAdDUzjdVMxTnctalJNUTg&usp=sharing)
- Rubric for evaluating Problem Solving:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4G\\_aYhhsq8jY3diV2RnbVg0Ym5CTFpMOVV5ZE5iMVNqMW04/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4G_aYhhsq8jY3diV2RnbVg0Ym5CTFpMOVV5ZE5iMVNqMW04/view?usp=sharing)
- Rubric for Evaluating Technology:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9YE9BMPSXLqdk5tT2VJbGtJSkNNTC1jUU54QIVteHNFcHZr/view?usp=sharing>
- Service-Learning sheet/Field Notes Handout:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/151UEuvYdnZHiAvLE-jvYmsWW2A\\_bn75DUR1LfncOBN0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/151UEuvYdnZHiAvLE-jvYmsWW2A_bn75DUR1LfncOBN0/edit?usp=sharing)

- Possible Rubric for Visual Literacy:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9YE9BMPSXLqcWxjVmFDV1dJZUU/view?usp=sharing>
- After project reflection handout for Service-learning:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GhBWjTLIF2HcjGeKLxgrZ7tiiLeWEKxtnpAPSMuTArg/edit?usp=sharing>

### **Reflections/Comments/Suggestions**

This ELO was created for at risk students who wanted to explore photography as a career. They had access to a car and they were seniors who were not interested or excited by the traditional teaching models but instead wanted to be out of the classroom taking pictures. This project allowed the student to serve the community, earn credit and do something he loved.

This ELO can be modified for IEP's or simplified at any point. Some students may not be able to do three service-learning experiences; some students may need to do service-learning projects in school for teachers or administrators. That's ok. The idea is still the same. Students may need assistance sharing images with the service-learning sites. Also make sure students clearly communicate that they are NOT professional photographers, in order to keep expectations realistic for service-learning partners.