

LESSON: H-UVII-L3

The Next Step: Volunteering and Giving Service

Unit VII: Building Better Futures: Narrative, Recovery, and Responsibility

Grade Levels: 9–12

Time: 120 minutes



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Objectives

- Describe various volunteerism programs and explain their functions.
- Apply knowledge and skills in addressing a community, state, or national need through the completion of a student-designed service project.
- Engage in active citizenship through the giving of their time, talents, and skills.

Key Terms

- AmeriCorps
- Senior Corps
- Citizen Corps
- Teach for America
- Peace Corps

Lesson Materials

- AmeriCorps web site (found at <http://www.americorps.gov>)
- Citizen Corps web site (found at <http://www.citizencorps.gov>)
- Peace Corps web site (found at <http://www.peacecorps.gov>)
- Senior Corps web site (found at <http://www.seniorcorps.gov>)
- Teach for America web site (found at <http://www.teachforamerica.org>)
- 9/11 Day of Service web site (found at <http://911day.org>)
- “About United We Serve” (found at <http://www.serve.gov/about.asp>)
- “Stories of Service” (found at http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/current/stories.asp)
- Journals

Lesson Plan

- As a warm up activity, give students five minutes to respond to the following questions:
Have you ever been in the position to help someone in need? Describe the situation.
What was the outcome?
How did you feel when it was over?
Explain to students that the situation should have significant relevance. Have students share their responses with the class.
- Using the computer lab or the media center, have students research volunteerism and service programs and answer the following questions:
What is AmeriCorps?
What is the Peace Corps?
What is the 911 Day of Service?

What other volunteerism and service programs can you describe (for example, Citizen Corps, Senior Corps, Teach for America, etc.)

Choose one organization. What is its origin and how is it funded?

Who are its members and how can you join?

What are the benefits to joining?

Make a list of all the civic or community activities in which the organization is engaged.

- Have students brainstorm a list of possible community projects in which they would like the school to become involved. Then select one through a class vote. (Topics could include but not be limited to the following: poverty, hunger, disaster relief, community blood drive, support for the military/veterans.)

- After the students select a project, have them execute the project by completing the following tasks:

Create a survey to assess the needs of the target group

Brainstorm ideas for publicizing the event

Contact local businesses or organizations to solicit aid/support

Design posters and brochures to publicize the event

Contact media for coverage and publicity

Set deadlines and develop a schedule for completion of all project components

Write thank you letters to community members, businesses, or organizations that participated in the project

(Note to Teacher: This is a general list of tasks. It can be tailored to meet the specific needs of the selected project.)

- Once the class project is completed, have students read “Stories of Service” and then write and submit their own story of service.

Evidence of Understanding

- Have students write a reaction essay to any phase of the project.
- Have students journal the process and any challenges they faced, and describe how they overcame them.
- Monitor student/group progress throughout the project.
- Use rubrics to evaluate the project.

Taking Action and Giving Service

Have the students identify and explore services their communities that provide for the unemployed, homeless, or others in need.

- Ask them to research information about the programs in their community that provide clothing, food, jobs, medical and legal services, and shelter to people who cannot afford them.
- Encourage the students to do volunteer work with these agencies.
- Have them gather information to write letters to the editor of the local newspaper or editorials concerning current issues in the community and suggest ways to make it better.