

CREATING A SERVICE-LEARNING UNIT IN TEN EASY STEPS (Response)

STEP 1: Think about your curriculum. What is one service-learning project that would fit in with the curriculum that your students are studying? Have the students surveyed the community or discussed among themselves to find a need that would apply? *ART: Upper level students making puppets that teach the primary grade students lessons in character. Students asked the Parkview School teacher what kind of instruction the little ones needed.*

STEP 2: In what particular discipline (class) will the project occur: *Art/Language Arts.*

STEP 3: What is the organization (school, group, etc.) that you will be working with? How have you assessed its needs?

The Pre-school or First Grade Class of Parkview School. Discussion with their teacher reveals the need to teach skills of getting along and being nice to one another.

STEP 4: State the academic goals of the unit that will link service to this organization with learning in the classroom and also name the core ethical values this unit will foster.

- *To develop an appreciation of puppetry as a cultural and artistic tradition.*
- *To develop oral and written communication skills through oral presentation and puppet show to the First Grade class.*
- *To participate in a collaborative project that requires planning, problem-solving, technical skills and artistic effort.*
- *To experience the value of helping others, demonstrate responsibility and develop empathy through an interdisciplinary service project that addresses the Core Curriculum Standards. (Core values)*

STEP 5: What PREPARATION will be necessary for this unit?

Motivational internet assignment with a focus: "Let's teach each other something new about puppets." Students must explore Web sites to prove or disprove the statement that puppetry is a new art, designed just for amusement. Teacher makes arrangements with pre-school/1st grade teacher about date, time and site of concluding puppet show.

STEP 6: What SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES will occur in the unit?

- *Internet assignment that shows puppetry belongs to a rich tradition of teaching others.*
- *Deadlines given for project stages: paper sketch; cut-out design; head, body construction; making clothes; oral presentation in class, , writing of puppet script; performance; journal article.*
- *Rubric given to explain grading.*
- *Completion of puppets with students presenting the autobiography of their creatures to the class.*
- *Creation of puppet skit (usually with help from English Department) that stresses social and emotional skills.*

- Actual puppet show for primary school students. Local TV station covers event.

STEP 7: What Core Curriculum Standards will the unit address? Visual & Performing Arts 1.1-1.2; LAL 3.1-3.4; 21st Century Life & Career Skills 9.1; 9.3; Comp. Health & PE. 2.2

STEP 8: What kind of REFLECTION will be used and how will it tie into character education?

How will your students DEMONSTRATE what they have learned?

- Student journals during the preparation and action stages.
- Class discussion on their feelings after the performance.
- Student written and/or oral response to this question: To improve students' writing skills, the art department supervisor has indicated that this unit be replaced by a term paper on topics such as "The Origin and Development of Puppetry as an Art Form." Defend this project, explaining its academic and emotional worth to you.
- Demonstration: Actual Puppet Show
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STEP 9: What kind of assessment will you use in this project? Student puppet graded according to rubric; Student skit graded according to rubric.

STEP 10: What kind of RECOGNITION will you have to celebrate success? Joint party with primary students and upper level students after the puppet show. Local media coverage.