

**Service Learning Paper 2019-2020**  
**Edison High School**  
**Learning in Service to Others**

The **first step** in meeting your service learning requirement is to **volunteer** with an organization in your community for a minimum of **20 hours for returning students** and a minimum of **15 hours for new students**. To document your service use the Edison Documentation Sheet for Service Learning. **Final Documentation is due 10 January 2020.**

The second requirement for service learning is to reflect on your experiences. You can do this by writing a paper or preparing a power point. The following information applies to a written paper. If you choose an alternative form to present your reflections, they need to address the same questions as the paper. **Reflections are due 7 February 2020 and need to be turned in to advisors.** Your paper should be formatted in the following way:

The **purpose** of your paper/project is to reflect on your service learning experience. You need to include a paragraph response for **each of the following question sets.** Read them **carefully** so you understand what each section is asking for. You are encouraged to go beyond these minimum requirements. **If you did service learning at more than one location, you may either choose your favorite job, or you may describe more than one experience by extending your paper.**

Your paper should be formatted in the following way:

- Be a minimum of 2 pages long
- Have 1" margins
- Be in Times New Roman font, size 12
- Be double spaced, single spaced heading
- Have your name, grade, and date in the upper left hand corner

I. Paragraph 1 (Introduction):

- a. What was the name of the organization?
- b. Describe the organization, place or activity where you performed your service learning.
- c. Where was your service learning located?
- d. What do they do? (think physically)
- e. Who do they serve?
- f. What is their mission?

II. Paragraph 2 (Body):

- a. Why did you choose this as your service learning experience?
- b. What interested you about doing your service learning there?
- c. Are there other programs that do similar work? If so, why did you choose this one?
- d. How did you find out about the program?

III. Paragraph 3 (Body):

- a. What were your first impressions when you arrived to do your service learning?
- b. What were you most unsure about or not looking forward to?
- c. Did you have concerns about trying this new experience?
- d. What prior experiences helped you feel less worried about taking on this assignment?

IV. Paragraph 4 (Body):

- a. What were you most excited about?
- b. What were you hopeful for?

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- c. How did your experience match your expectations
- V. Paragraph 5 (Body):
- a. What were your specific job requirements?
  - b. What other jobs were being done at the facility?
  - c. Are there other duties you might want to try in the future at this location?
- VI. Paragraph 6 (Body):
- a. What were your goals in taking on this service position?
  - b. Did you just hope to complete your required hours, or did you hope to help others?
  - c. Did you hope to gain job experience, learn some new skills, or add to your resume and college applications?
  - d. Did you accomplish these goals?
- VII. Paragraph 7 (Body):
- a. Describe either a person you admired or an experience you had that you thought were interesting.
  - b. What was that experience like?
  - c. Why did that person deserve your admiration?
  - d. What do you have in common with this person?
- VIII. Paragraph 8 (Conclusion):
- a. What have you learned about yourself during this experience?
  - b. Why do you think that this organization is important?
  - c. Is this what you expected to learn?
  - d. Will you work with this organization again, why/why not?
  - e. What kind of volunteer work will you do in the future

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**EXAMPLE OF A PAPER REFLECTING ON A SERVICE LEARNING EXPERIENCE**

I never knew that volunteering to help others could be so much fun! I chose to do my service learning experience at the Ronald McDonald House. Ronald McDonald House is a home away from home for families of seriously ill children who must travel to Portland for medical care. I was assigned to the Ronald McDonald House at Emanuel Hospital. There is also a house up at Oregon Health Sciences University. I worked with a group of other volunteers preparing a dinner for the families that were staying there. This was all part of “Join Hands Day” which is a national event that encourages volunteering. *(Note: this is paragraph 1)*

I choose to work at the Ronald McDonald House because I have a cousin that has leukemia. My cousin lives in Prineville, and when he had to come to Portland to get chemotherapy, his family stayed at the house at OHSU. I thought if I could help, it would bring me closer to my cousin because his family had to go through some trying times while he was getting treatment. I think I am also interested in the medical field. It would be interesting to understand what families go through when they have a seriously ill child. *(Note: this is paragraph 2)*

I have to admit that I was nervous when I was getting ready to go to my volunteer experience. I didn't know if people would be happy or sad, or if they would even like me. I thought that maybe I would have to know how to cook a fancy meal. I found out that I was going to work as part of a team and do parts of meal preparation that I could do. That helped me to relax once I arrived. I remember that I was really looking forward to seeing what the house looked like, and if it was a comfortable place. I really hoped I would learn more about what families' go through when dealing with illness. I also hoped that I would get some good experience working as part of a team. *(Note: this is paragraph 3 and 4 combined)*

When I got there, I met Mrs. Smith, who was the meal coordinator. She assigned me to work with the group that was preparing the salad. I had to chop lettuce, celery, and tomatoes. I

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worked with two other people, Jim and Sue, who had volunteered for Ronald McDonald House several times. I also had to set the table, pour milk, and set the desserts at each place. After the meal was complete, I had to clear the tables and help with the dishwashing. Once all the residents were served, I also was able to eat and sit at a table with some of the residents. They asked me my name and where I was from. I found out about their families and where they were from. *(Note: this is paragraph 5)*

As I said earlier, I choose to work at the Ronald McDonald House because I have a cousin that has leukemia. My goals were to be helpful and learn about what it's like to work around people who are experiencing serious illnesses. I also had a goal of seeing if I liked doing that kind of volunteering. I found out that it was a more fun than I had previously thought. At dinner, people were happy and in good moods. I thought that was amazing and that I was a part of it. I think I met all of my goals and probably a few more that I didn't even think of! *(Note: this is paragraph 6)*

I thought the most interesting person I met was Mrs. Smith, the meal coordinator. She does this kind of work everyday and she was very positive. She had a husband who died of cancer and decided that she wanted to work helping others. She was lucky because she used to work in a school cafeteria and got this job instead. She was very funny and always helpful. I also thought the family I sat with was very interesting. I can't remember their names, but they had very positive attitudes. *(Note: this is paragraph 7)*

In conclusion, I am very glad I chose this experience. I learned that I am really good at working with people and being helpful. I learned that you have to have a positive attitude to deal with serious illnesses. I also learned that if Ronald McDonald House didn't exist, these families would have nowhere to stay. I would recommend this to anyone! *(Note: this is paragraph 8, the conclusion)*