

Service Learning in Frederick County



A Blended Learning Environment
Where Real Community Problems are Solved

Background

- ✎ Began in 1996.
- ✎ SURDNA Foundation Grant.
- ✎ Two year evaluation by Drs. Joel Westheimer and Joseph Kahne.
- ✎ Particularly positive findings.
 - Changes in attitude towards government.
 - Students felt they could make a difference.
 - Informed of the issues.
 - Involved.

What is Service Learning Government?

- ✎ Study and application of content from Virginia and U.S. Government Standards of Learning.
- ✎ Blended learning environment.
 - Traditional Classroom.
 - Virtual Collaboration .
 - Field experience and internships.
- ✎ Solve real community problems.

How Service Learning Differs from Traditional Service Learning?

- ✎ Direct link with students' academic program and course work.
- ✎ Students enter same problem solving processes as local government supervisors/department heads.
- ✎ Projects presented at Community Forum before Board of Supervisors.

How are Students Selected?

- ☞ Only offered to high school seniors.
- ☞ Rising seniors complete an application.
- ☞ Review team comprised of Government Teacher, Social Studies Department Chair, Guidance Counselor, and Social Studies Administrator.
- ☞ Academic performance and Teacher recommendation are part of process.
- ☞ Students notified of acceptance before end of junior year.

What is Service Learning Orientation?

- ☞ Held at the Frederick County Administration Building.
- ☞ Students travel in personal vehicles.
- ☞ County Administrator meets with students.
- ☞ Students tour building to meet with departments sponsoring projects.
- ☞ Students rate projects.

Working Collaboratively

- ✎ Annual Veteran's Day celebration.
 - First group project.
 - Committees from across three high schools.
 - Create invitations, contact businesses to sponsor refreshments, design entertainment, and roll out red carpet.

Collaborative Technology

- ✎ Google accounts in the school domain.
- ✎ Use of Google Docs.
 - Shared with group, teacher, placement supervisor, and Social Studies Supervisor.
 - Encouraged to share all documents, presentations, etc.
- ✎ Exposes locality to variety of untapped technology resources.



Where to Learn More –

<https://sites.google.com/a/fcpsk12.net/service-learning-government/>



Questions??