

Writing Learning Objectives for Your Service Learning Agreement—Tips

Objective= [When] + [Who] + Will be able to + Measurable verb + [Task] + [Criteria]

Example: As a result of participating in service learning at Catholic Charities (when), I (who) will be able to identify (measurable verb) at least one cause of the persistent achievement gap in inner city school by the end of the semester (criteria).

Measurable Verbs

One way to identify measurable verbs is to use Bloom's Taxonomy. Ordered from more basic to more advanced, Bloom's Taxonomy provides a variety of verbs that can be used when writing objectives that help define how you will:

1. Know—what content knowledge do you need to have for this experience?
2. Be—what do you hope to become from this experience?
3. Do—how will you practice and refine your skills learned from this experience?

Examples:

Remembering

define, count, describe, draw, find, identify, label, list, match, name, quote, recall, recite, sequence, tell, write

Understanding

conclude, demonstrate, discuss, explain, generalize, identify, illustrate, interpret, paraphrase, predict, report, restate, summarize, tell

Applying

apply, change, choose, compute, dramatize, interview, prepare, produce, role-play, select, show, transfer, use

Analyzing

analyze, characterize, classify, compare, contract, debate, deduce, diagram, differentiate, discriminate, distinguish, examine, outline, relate, research, separate

Evaluating

appraise, argue, assess, choose, conclude, critique, decide, evaluate, judge, justify, predict, prioritize, prove, rank, rate, select

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Creating

Compose, construct, create, design, develop, integrate, invent, make, organize, perform, plan, produce, propose, rewrite

Criteria for Measurement (evidence)

While this may not be part of your actual objective, it is important to know how you will know that you have succeeded.

Example:

As a result of my service learning with the elderly, I will be able to critically evaluate popular narratives about aging in America.