

**Civic Engagement- Political and Non-Political Ways to Engage**

**Directions:** Your task is to choose at least one of the following projects, **or plan a different project**, and complete by the end of the week. If your project can be done effectively in a short period of time, please choose at least two. Your project submission worksheet should be used throughout, completed upon project completion, and turned in with your project’s tangible evidence. You may work in groups of up to 3, but make sure that you are teaming up with people that want to work on something you are passionate about. Before choosing projects/activities to engage in, you should always consider the following questions.

**Who would you like to help?** Is there a specific group of people or cause you are passionate about? It may be beneficial for you to consider projects that relate to your passion and interests.

**Do you want a community service activity that is reoccurring or a one-time event?** It is incredibly important to consider the amount of time you have to dedicate to your activity or project. Being honest with yourself will ensure that you have enough time to engage purposefully and enhance outcomes.

**What kind of impact do you want to have?** Do you want to be able to measure your impact, such as how many dollars have been raised to fight disease or how many cans were collected? Or, are you comfortable knowing you made an impact without clear evidence demonstrating the impact of your service, such as volunteering as a local lifeguard.

**What would you like to personally gain from the experience?** Maybe you’d like to gain certain skills that will assist you in the future. Or, you could be looking to make the community you live in or take part in better to improve your experience as a community member. You could even be looking to enhance your job or college resume.

Political Ways to Engage	Non-Political Ways to Engage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Start a petition for something you believe will benefit the community, get others to sign it, and address it to a specific legislator, executive, or governing body</li> <li>- Write a letter to a an elected official (e.g. US Congress or State Legislature, local officials like city council) on a major issue that you would like to see addressed</li> <li>- Compile photos and/or video of an issue you would like addressed in your community (e.g roads, parks, community lighting), identify the appropriate official to engage and put a plan in place to petition them for help</li> <li>- Engage your school board by writing a letter on an issue you believe needs to be addressed within the Waverly Community Schools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Send cards to soldiers serving overseas</li> <li>- Make birthday cards for the elderly and identify a senior facility to distribute them at</li> <li>- Make decorative placemats for homeless shelter</li> <li>- Plan a random act of kindness for a neighbor and document through video/picture</li> <li>- Raise funds and sponsor an animal at Potter’s Park</li> <li>- Complete a project to improve your classroom</li> <li>- Anonymously write classmates and/or teachers about their positive impact on you</li> <li>- Make “care kits” with shampoo, toothbrushes, combs, etc. to donate to homeless shelters or personal needs closets</li> <li>- Gather new or gently used art supplies to donate to children at homeless shelter</li> <li>- Create and distribute a list of hotlines for people who might need help</li> <li>- Gather and Donate used books to your local library</li> </ul>

**Grading and Rubric:** Your project will be worth a total of 20 points. Not all projects will naturally result in something tangible (physical or touchable). In these types of instances, it is up to you to create something tangible that accompanies your project submission in order to be assessed fairly and appropriately. An example may be photos of you participating in a neighborhood cleanup.

## **Scoring Rubric**

20 points: Student(s) planned for and completed at least one service project aimed at supporting community, the project was chosen based on actual need, the project submission worksheet was completed and handed in, including a reflective piece completed after the project was executed, and tangible evidence of the project(s) chosen accompanied the project submission.

18 points: Student(s) planned for and completed at least one service project aimed at supporting community, the project chosen was based on, at minimum, a perceived need, the project submission worksheet was mostly completed and handed in, and tangible evidence of the project(s) chosen accompanied the project submission.

16 points: Student(s) planned for and completed one service project, the project chosen was based on other factors than actual or perceived need, the project submission worksheet was satisfactorily completed and handed in, and tangible evidence of the project(s) chosen accompanied the project submission.

14 points: Student(s) planned for and partially completed at least one service project, the project chosen was based on other factors than actual or perceived need, the project submission worksheet was satisfactorily completed and handed in, and tangible evidence of the project(s) chosen was either not turned in or incomplete.

12 points: Student(s) planned for and partially completed at one service project, the project chosen was based on other factors than actual or perceived need, the project submission worksheet was missing several components, and tangible evidence of the project(s) did not accompany the project submission.

10 points or fewer: Student(s) failed to fully plan for or complete a service project, the project's purpose lacked sound reasoning, the submission worksheet was incomplete or not handed in, and no tangible evidence of the project(s) chosen accompanied the project submission.

### **Community Service Project- Submission Worksheet**

**Directions:** Please complete the following items during the planning and reflection phases of your community service project. You will hand this worksheet in with the tangible evidence of your project by the end of the week.

**Planning:**

1.) Are you working alone or in a group? If working in a group, list all members below: \_\_\_\_\_

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2.) Please discuss what you would like to accomplish with your project and who you are looking to help: \_\_\_\_\_

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3.) What would you like to personally gain from your project? \_\_\_\_\_

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4.) What project have you/your group decided on? \_\_\_\_\_

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5.) What materials, information, additional resources do you need to complete your project? \_\_\_\_\_

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6.) If working in a group, list each individual member's responsibilities: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Reflection:** Now that you have completed your project, please reflect on your service project in a few super paragraphs that answer the following questions: Why did you choose or plan this project? Did things go as you planned? How could you make your service project better in the future? In what ways did this project make a difference for others?? How did your engagement in this community service project expand your understanding of the community and your role in the community? Are you more likely to engage in service projects as a result of this assignment? What other projects are you interested in?