

REFLECTION ACTIVITY

Group Reading

Goal: To share our reflections on service to ourselves and/or an audience.

Organize your team to do a group-reflection reading. This reading may be performed for the team itself, for clients of the agency, for other youth volunteers and parents at a volunteer celebration, or for members of the community at large.

Materials Needed

A collection of short readings from a few sentences to several paragraphs each. These readings may include journal excerpts from your team or another team that has carried out a service project. It may also include poems, brief stories, comments gathered from clients you have worked with, overheard remarks, inspirational pieces: whatever fine piece of writing or language that you can gather.

Preparation

Put together and organize the readings so that there is some “flow” in their presentation to the audience. Divide up the team members with the readings so everyone has a chance to read at least one. Alternate readers who stand up at a microphone or in front of the room, one at a time. Allow a few moments of silence between readings to allow the meaning to sink deep. Practice reading aloud and giving feedback to one another.

Performance

Ask the audience to focus on the words and how you say them. Be dynamic in your reading without being overly dramatic. Relax, read patiently, and have fun.

Some suggested resources for the readings: yourselves, other youth volunteers, clients from your agency, staff, Maya Angelou, Alice Walker, Robert Frost, Robert Fulghum, Marge Piercy, Martin Luther King Jr., John F. Kennedy, Bob Dylan, Aesop, Richard Bach, Lois Lowry, Robert Coles, e. e. cummings . . .

Other Options

- Include acting, performing, or miming during the reading
- Scatter the readers throughout the audience and have them “pop up” and read when it is their turn
- Include songs, or create songs out of the words; teach a refrain to the audience

This Group Reading idea is borrowed from the Y.E.S. Ambassadors reading at the 1996 Points of Light Foundation National and Community Service Conference.