PRE-POST TAPE REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT

This is an assignment to help you think about the major issues of the course, at the beginning and the end of the semester. You’ll utilize this assignment to help you clarify what you learned from this course, and how it relates to the course learning outcomes.

INSTRUCTIONS: Reflect on the following questions and record your verbal responses to them. You will NOT turn in the tape, but you will write a reflection paper about your experiences, using quotes from your tape recording. At the end of the semester, you will answer the same set of questions, listen to both recordings and write a final reflection paper based on your analysis of both tapes. It is best to record the first tape using just what you know at this moment. No one else will listen to this tape, so be honest, thoughtful, and use it as an opportunity to explore your opinions.

METHOD: You may record your responses on an audiotape, a videotape, a CD, or on your computer. Make sure you mark and keep the tape in a safe location, as you will use it again at the end of the semester. Again, DO NOT hand in the tape.

QUESTIONS FOR THE TAPE RECORDING:

Self and Social Awareness
1. What is your definition of racism? Classism? Sexism? Heterosexism? How have these issues affected you in your life? How do institutional structures support and maintain these systems of oppression?
2. How do your privileged and marginalized identities impact how you relate to social justice concerns in your community/society?

Service and Social Responsibility
3. Please rate your response to this question on a scale of 1-10 (1 = strongly disagree; 10 = strongly agree) and explain why you gave yourself this rating:
   • I have a responsibility to contribute to greater societal well-being.
4. What are the goals of “service?” From your perspective, what acts of “service” have the greatest impact? How are individual acts of charity related to efforts to bring about long-term social change?

Community & Social Justice
5. According to the U.S. Census, Native Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and African Americans have significantly higher rates of poverty (24.5%, 22.7%, 21.7%) than non-Hispanic whites and Asian Pacific Islanders (7.8%, 10.2%). What do you think are the root causes for these disparities? In your opinion, whose responsibility is it to address these disparities?
6. INSERT A QUESTION ABOUT A SPECIFIC COMMUNITY ISSUE THAT IS RELVANT TO YOUR COURSE.

Multicultural Community Building/Civic Engagement
7. Please rate your response to this question on a scale of 1-10 (1 = strongly disagree; 10 = strongly agree) and explain why you gave yourself this rating:
   • I have the power to bring about change in the social conditions of my community, society, nation and world.
8. Are you involved in a movement to bring about social change? If not, why not? Do you think you will be involved in a movement to bring about social change in the future? Why or why not?
Course/Section/Theme-Specific Content (Examples from Hunger & Homelessness)

9. What do you think are the causes of homelessness? What are some ways to eliminate or drastically reduce hunger and homelessness in our society?

10. What is your reaction to the following statements? Talk about whether you agree or disagree with these statements and why.
   - In the U.S. society today, almost anyone who works hard can be successful.
   - Some people will always be homeless and/or hungry. It’s just the way things are and will always be.

AFTER YOU RECORD YOUR TAPE...

Listen to your taped responses and write a thoughtful 3-page paper on your reflections. Use quotes from the tape to clarify your points. I will NOT be evaluating these journals on the content of your opinions or ideas, but on the depth of reflection. Shallow reflection merely states an opinion without giving it substance or examples for clarification. Deeper reflection makes connections between the issues, raises questions, demonstrates thoughtfulness, and explicates contradictions. I am looking for much more than a report. I am looking for an examination of your relationship to these questions. If you have a particular opinion, speculate on why you think it is so and how your social group identities may impact your opinion. If you are unclear about an issue, or know that you do not have enough information to formulate a thoughtful opinion, speculate on what you would need to formulate an informed opinion.

Feel free to be creative with the format of this journal. You may write it as a letter to yourself, to your best friend, or to your family. It may be a letter to a community member, a niece or nephew, or to someone you will work with in the community. Make sure you answer all seven questions.

1. Think about the whole experience of recording this tape. What were the most important insights you gained? What questions intrigue you the most?

2. Describe your experience of making this tape. Did you go beneath the surface or stay on the surface? Do you feel you were honest in making this tape? Did you make any discoveries? Were you uncomfortable with some topics? If so, which ones? Did your thoughts flow, or were you tentative? Why do you think this was so?

3. Which of the questions was the most difficult to answer and why?

4. Give an example of how your social group identities (race, class, ethnicity, gender, language, nationality, ability, age, etc.) may impact your opinions and your relationship to “service.”

5. Which issues do you feel you know the most about? The least? Why do you think this is?

6. Which opinions that you have are you least likely to change? Most likely to change? Why?

7. Generate some questions that you would like to explore as a result of making this tape.
PRE- POST-TAPE REFLECTION ASSIGNMENT – PART TWO

This is a chance to reflect on your most important learning through the semester. Now that you have learned about issues of hunger and homelessness, record your responses to the same questions you asked yourself at the beginning of the semester.

INSTRUCTIONS:

STEP ONE. RECORD ANSWERS: Reflect on the following 10 questions and record your verbal responses to them. You will NOT turn in the tape, but you will write a reflection paper about your experiences, using quotes from your tape recording.

STEP TWO. LISTEN: Listen to both tapes and re-read your first paper.

STEP THREE. REFLECT AND WRITE: Write your final paper, reflecting on the changes and insights you gained in the exercise. Make sure to use quotes from your tape recordings to capture the learning and growth that you have accomplished this semester.

QUESTIONS FOR THE TAPE RECORDING:

Self and Social Awareness

1. What is your definition of racism? Classism? Sexism? Heterosexism? How have these issues affected you in your life? How do institutional structures support and maintain these systems of oppression?

2. How do your privileged and marginalized identities impact how you relate to social justice concerns in your community/society?

Service and Social Responsibility

3. Please rate your response to this question on a scale of 1-10 (1 = strongly disagree; 10 = strongly agree) and explain why you gave yourself this rating:

“I have a responsibility to contribute to greater societal well-being.”

4. What are the goals of “service?” From your perspective, what acts of “service” have the greatest impact? How do you value individual acts of charity, versus, efforts to bring about long-term social change? How are they related?

Community & Social Justice

5. According to the U.S. Census, Native Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and African Americans have significantly higher rates of poverty (24.5%, 22.7%, 21.7%) than non-Hispanic whites and Asian Pacific Islanders (7.8%, 10.2%). What do you think are the root causes for these disparities? In your opinion, whose responsibility is it to address these disparities?

6. INSERT A QUESTION ABOUT A SPECIFIC COMMUNITY ISSUE THAT IS RELVANT TO YOUR COURSE.

Multicultural Community Building/Civic Engagement

7. Please rate your response to this question on a scale of 1-10 (1 = strongly disagree; 10 = strongly agree) and explain why you gave yourself this rating:

• I have the power to bring about change in the social conditions of my community, society, nation and world.

8. Are you involved in a movement to bring about social change? If not, why not? Do you think you will be involved in a movement to bring about social change in the future? Why or why not?
Course/Section/Theme-Specific Content (Examples from Hunger & Homelessness)

9. What do you think are the causes of homelessness? What are some ways to eliminate or drastically reduce hunger and homelessness in our society?

10. What is your reaction to the following statements? Talk about whether you agree or disagree with these statements and why.
   - In the U.S. society today, almost anyone who works hard can be successful.
   - Some people will always be homeless and/or hungry. It’s just the way things are and will always be.

WRITING TAPE REFLECTION #2
Because you are integrating the learning from the whole semester, take time to make this a thoughtful, interesting essay. Feel free to be creative with the format of this assignment. You may write it as a letter to yourself, a friend, a future child, or another service learner. Use your best writing and deepest reflection. And, most importantly, write for yourself rather than for the professor. Listen to your taped responses and write a thoughtful paper on your reflections. Use quotes from the tapes to clarify your points

1. Reflection on the process of making the tapes. (Overall)
Think about the whole experience of recording these two recordings. What were the most important insights you gained? What differences did you notice in your tone, confidence, complexity of response, comfort level, and/or access to knowledge on the different questions? In which of the areas did you experience the greatest intellectual growth? In which areas did you still want to learn more? In which areas did you experience the least change?

2. Self and Social Awareness
Listen to your responses to questions 1 and 2 about the privileges of your identities. Did your understanding of the concept of privilege and social justice change over the course of the semester? Did you experience growth in terms of your understanding of your relationship to issues of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, ability, age, language, nationality? In what ways?

3. Service and Social Responsibility
Listen to your response to questions 3 and 4. Cite some examples of how you’ve reflected on your role in charity vs. social change, being an ally to those who are marginalized, or being part of the “problem” vs. being part of the “solution.” How did your understanding of your own social responsibility change from the beginning of the semester to the end?

4. Community & Social Justice
What do your pre and post responses to questions 5 and 6 tell you about your understanding of structural causes of inequalities? What experience from the class deepened your understanding of these issues? What do you still want to learn about this?

5. Multicultural Community Building
Review your responses to questions 7 and 8. Do you now feel more capable of being a “change agent?” What experiences from the semester might have contributed to this? From your service? From the classroom?

6. Overall Reflection
Now that the course is almost over, what has been the most meaningful to you about your experience?

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT
Complexity and depth
Critical personal reflection
Analysis of power relations
Integration of academic, personal, classroom, and community learning
Use of quotes from your tapes.
Writing style (proper grammar and spelling, good organization of ideas, good use of evidence and examples, avoidance of generalities, compelling, clear, interesting writing)