**Pre-Engagement and Reflection in Community Engagement**

1. **Setting Up an Engagement Experience**
	1. Determine the issues or community you hope to serve and research relevant possible partners
		1. Utilize the CSLC to connect with possible partners if needed
	2. Contact a community partner
		1. Set up a time to talk with the partner – either by phone, via email, or in person
		2. Explain your organization’s purpose and goals while also listening to theirs.
			1. Make sure to address the degree of commitment from your group in this conversation
		3. Keep in mind it’s a PARTNERSHIP, thus you should respond to their needs!
2. **Plan the Before, During, and After for your Group**
	1. Any conversation through these 3 stages in the experience will help your group members learn!
	2. Utilize site leaders/committee to structure discussions and activities
3. **Pre-Engagement Questions**
	1. Why are we here? What am I bringing to this experience?
	2. *Identity*: How do you think socially constructed identity may influence the people, the area, and the culture you experience today?
	3. *Intention vs Impact*: What is your intended impact on the community? Is there any potential for harm?
	4. *Perspective*: What are some ways you think your attitudes and beliefs may be different than those of other cultures? How do you know? How do you think these differences may impact your experience?
	5. *Active Citizenship*: What do YOU hope to learn about working across different communities?
4. **During the Experience**
	1. Don’t have a conversation strictly between your own group members – establish a relationship with the community!
	2. Be mindful of any privilege you bring to the environment
	3. Come with humility and a readiness to listen and learn
5. **Reflection (After Engagement) – contact the CSLC if you need any reflection activities**
	1. Now what? How can we take what we’ve learned and apply it?
	2. **Identity:**What differences are you seeing in your beliefs/attitudes/understanding of society and the world?
	3. **Intention vs. Impact:**What was the lasting effect on the community partner?  What were the benefits and hindrances?  Did your experience fulfill its initial intent?
	4. **Perspective:**Looking back, what factors (organizations, culture, prior knowledge, classes, etc.) influenced how you framed your community engagement experience?
	5. **Active Citizenship:**Has your service reinforced your commitment to public action as a citizen?  How do you define the role of a “citizen” (as opposed to a “consumer” or an “individual”)?
6. **Wrapping up the Experience**
	1. Send a thank you note (if you weren't able to leave one on-site) to your community partner
	2. Communicate with your community partner for feedback, as well as to determine if you plan to continue the partnership