

Preparing for community engagement

- Formation on cultural humility, power, race
 - Possible pre-service reading [“In the Service of Life”](#)
- Review all available host partner materials to get to know your partner before going
- Instruct group on principles of being a good guest at the place they are going
- Comply with university policies, including required training for working with children and vulnerable adults, domestic and international travel policies
- Consider a connection to our Ignatian mission with the Universal Apostolic Preferences <https://jesuits.global/en/about-us/universal-apostolic-preferences>

During community engagement

- Keep in mind best practices about mutuality and reciprocity as you engage with community identified projects
- Encourage an Asset Based Community Development approach with students/ staff (look for strengths, resilience)
- Invite community speakers to share
- Ensure biased statements or perspectives by participants are challenged in the moment, not reinforced
- Encourage participants to be fully present and mindful during the experience (put away distractions like cell phones, take in the experience and bring details to reflection)

Embedded Ignatian Reflection at conclusion of community engagement

- We recommend on-site reflection whenever possible, find a quiet place
 - Establish reflection ground rules (such as)
 - Confidentiality (with clarification of mandatory reporting)
 - Be respectful (e.g., no interruptions)
 - Reflection is personal sharing related to your own experience, values and thoughts, it is not a discussion nor a political debate.
 - Permission to be honest with where you’re at today , Permission to change your mind/opinions
 - Use “I” language
 - Avoid generalizations like “these people.” Use names and examples; don’t attribute motives and feelings to others.
 - Share “Air Time” (we want to hear from everyone, so do not share too little/too much)
 - Active listening through body language
 - Cell phones, computers, iPads, etc., away during out time together
 - As facilitator remind the group that you may need to interrupt for time or to bring the group back to reflection
 - As a few guided questions depending on the time
 - Consider using the Praxis or Pastoral Circle models to “stay with the experience”; “What” “engage with values”; “So What?” consider questions of going forward; “Now What?”
- After reflection on the experience and what you noticed, experienced, had questions on, what emotions came up etc. finish the reflection with an invitation to the “now what?” Some questions to ask could be: What’s one thing you will do, say or think about

differently? How will today's experience impact you going further? What invitations do you feel called to?

- Encourage on-going reflection after this experience
 - Ignatian Reflection and Discernment <https://www.ignatianresources.org/>

Encouraged options for follow up and going deeper:

Ignatian Advocacy – encourage your group to join their voices with coalitions working on these issues for an online action, phone call to their elected official or even in person legislative visit. This aspect of civic engagement is very important.

- Jesuit Conference <http://cqrcengage.com/jesuit/jesuitadvocates?0>
- Catholic Relief Services <https://university.crs.org/>
- Ignatian Solidarity Network <https://ignatiansolidarity.net/advocacy/>

Consider reviewing resources from other universities such as:

- **Marquette University**
 - <https://www.marquette.edu/service/reflection.php>
 - <https://www.marquette.edu/servicelearning/ReflectionSessions.shtml>
- Xavier University <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/>
- Stanford University <https://haas.stanford.edu/about/about-our-work/principles-ethical-and-effective-service>

Creighton is a partner with several national resources which have many other tools:

- **Education for Justice** (contact kellytadeoorbik@creighton.edu to be added to Creighton University's institutional sign in credentials)