

## Human Relations in a Multicultural Society (Minnesota State University, Mankato) Service Learning Reflection Paper Rubric Points

---

### Service Learning Placement –

Describe the who, what, where, when, how, and why of your placement. Explain what the experience was, what kind of people you worked with, what tasks you performed, what the environment was like, why you elected that experience. As part of the **what**, you will discuss the following items.

### Common Cultural Dimensions -

Describe one or **two** cultural conventions that you shared with the participants of your cultural experience. These are things that you discovered that you had in common with the alternate culture(s). What did you learn through your service learning experience about the other culture and yourself? What is similar or even the same and how did you respond--was it surprising or expected and why?

### New Cultural Dimensions -

Similar to the previous, describe one or **two** cultural conventions that were **new** to you thanks to the service learning experience. These are things that you had not previously encountered in your life. What did you learn through your service learning experience about the other culture and yourself? What is different in the other culture and how did you respond to this difference? Was it surprising or expected and why?

### Meaning Behind Cultural Differences -

**Reflect** on one or **two** of the new cultural dimensions. You've described what was different and how you hadn't experienced those conventions before. Now think about the meaning of those conventions from your own viewpoint and the viewpoint of those in the culture. What did you learn? What are the cultural reasons behind those differences / similarities? Why do **you think** the culture engages in those conventions and what does it mean to them?

### Your Stress Points –

Describe one or **two** intercultural stress points you encountered during your service learning placement. These are situations that caused “cognitive dissonance” for you. How did you feel? What were the experiences? Why do you think the culture shocks were significant; how significant were they? How did you deal with them, especially if you attempted something that was difficult for you (culturally)?

### Your Use of Influence -

Describe something that was difficult for you to do or that you did not think that you were going to be able to accomplish or something that, upon reflection, you're surprised you achieved (or failed). This may be connected to your stress

point, but ensure that you are talking about a **task** that you attempted (and whether you accomplished it or failed) and what you learned because of it.

#### Changes in Your Behavior -

What changes did you have to make in your own behavior in order to succeed in your service learning experience? This is not talking about how you were changed by the experience, but what you had to consciously change about yourself in order to succeed through the experience.

#### Applications to Life in the Future -

Here is how you have been changed by the experience. What is new about you? What have you learned over all? How will you apply this to future behavior?

#### Outline

Placement

(2) Common Cultural Dimensions

(2) New Cultural Dimensions

Meaning Behind Differences

Stress Points

Influence—dealing with difficult tasks

Behavior Changes

Future Applications