Case Study of a Service -Learning Project

An Art class addressed the problem of hunger in the United States through an examination of contemporary art.

I. Preparation

Framing Question: What skills and knowledge do students need to know to complete the project successfully?

Students went on a field trip to the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago to learn about modern art techniques. In the classroom, the teacher presented background information on contemporary art and enabled students to examine a variety of examples of contemporary art.

II. Action

Framing Question: What project will provide a benefit to the community while enabling students to learn and develop new skills and insights?

The teacher and students brainstormed social issues that might be expressed through contemporary art. The students decided to represent the issue of hunger through an art project that utilized contemporary art techniques. They created a collage for the student body. The students also spent a day at the Greater Chicago Food Depository sorting and packaging food.

III. Reflection

Framing Question: What have students learned about themselves, each other, and society?

Students reflected together on how art can impact the social issue of hunger. They also discussed the political problem of equitable distribution of food resources. The students presented their hunger collages to the rest of the student body to encourage them to think about hunger. The art project served as an opportunity for students to think about how they would represent hunger artistically and enabled other students to confront the problem of hunger.

IV. Evaluation

Framing Question: How did we do on the project and how can we improve?

The classroom teacher incorporated the final art projects and the students’ participation in classroom discussions in their grades. The teacher also led a discussion on what students learned through the project and how they worked together as a team. Finally, the teacher engaged in self-reflection to assess her own facilitation of the project and how she would improve the project for next year.