“What We Don’t Talk About When We Don’t Talk About Service”

(Adam Davis, The Civically Engaged Reader)

Discussion or Reflection Activity

Share the attached article with your program participants during your pre-field training or course experience. Use the questions below as a guide for a group discussion or as a written reflection prompt.

(Questions from The Civically Engaged Reader, 2006)

Some possible questions for discussion or as a prompt for a reflection paper:

- Initial thoughts/reactions to the author’s ideas?
- What distinguishes community service from other forms of service?
- Why, according to Davis, do people serve? Do you agree with these explanations? What else might motivate service?
- For whom is service good, and in what ways?
- Why might service be a difficult subject to discuss?
- Where do you see inequality in the world around you? Which instances of inequality are troubling? Do some instances seem acceptable or just?
- Does service address inequality? If so, how?