



Reavis High School

Senior Government Project



One important aspect of citizenship education is teaching the relationship between the rights that one has in the community and the responsibility one has as a member of that same community. In order to help students become more familiar with the organizations that provide services to our community, Reavis High School, through the Social Studies Department, requires a Community Service Project.

While enrolled in a U.S. Government class, the student is expected to complete this project that will serve as a **mandatory requirement to pass the course**. The following is a list of project expectations.

Guidelines:

- ◆ Seniors can either complete 12 hours of community service, or they may attend 5 government meetings.
- ◆ Community Service is defined as unpaid, after-school work **for a non-profit organization**. The student cannot receive other credit for that work. Neither court-ordered service nor National Honors Society hours can be counted for credit.
- ◆ Service must be a non-worship (religious) related event.
- ◆ Government meetings will be defined as attendance at any regularly scheduled, open meeting of public officials, either elected or appointed.
- ◆ Only 6 hours can be counted for volunteer service with a Reavis Sport/Activity. If, however, the service at Reavis serves the community, 12 hours can be accepted. (See Government Teacher)
- ◆ All hours should be pre-approved by the teacher to ensure credit.
- ◆ **All Service Hours/Government Meetings AND reflection paper are due 10 days before the last day of class.**

Meeting the Standard: The student must complete all of the requirements to gain credit. Partial completion of hours or meetings will not meet the standard (0 points).

Community Service

- ◆ Complete 12 hours of service.
- ◆ Complete Log Sheet—Signatures, contact person, address, and phone numbers are all required.
- ◆ Create a 3 page, typed reflection paper. Details of the paper components can be found on another handout.

Government Meetings

- ◆ Attend 5 government meetings. (Phone numbers and addresses can be found on another handout.)
- ◆ Complete Log Sheet—Signatures, addresses, and meeting times are all required.
- ◆ Create a 3 page, typed reflection paper. Details of the paper components can be found on another handout.

Reflection Guidelines for Service and Government meetings:

Due: _____

3 typed pages of reflection on your experiences volunteering or observing government. Double spaced, one inch margins, size 12 font (name, date, period, service or meetings typed single spaced at top of first page).

Your reflection paper must address the following question & definition:

What is civic virtue? Why is it important in a Democracy? How did your experience relate to civic virtue?

The following are suggested topics to write about in your paper:

Community Service

(12 hours + reflection paper)

- ✓ First mention how your participation is an example of civic virtue
- What organizations did you help?
- What services did you provide?
- Who benefits from this service?
- Who did you meet during your service?
- Are there any interesting stories to relate?
- Would you encourage others to volunteer there?
- Are there suggestions you would make for improving the organization?
- Do you think that community service can be a valuable experience for high school students?

-OR-

Government Meetings

(5 meetings + reflection paper)

- ✓ First mention how your participation is an example of civic virtue
- Where did you go for your meetings?
- What services do the organizations provide?
- How would you describe what happens at the meetings?
- Are the elected officials approachable, friendly, easy to understand?
- What types of issues were addressed at each meeting?
- Do you have interesting stories to tell about your experiences?
- What did you observe about democracy at the local level?
- How do you explain the difference in community participation between each community?
- Is attending meetings a valuable experience for a high school senior? Explain