

Service Learning Reflection

After completing this recording, I realized that there many controversial topics that requires deep and critical thinking in order to create a concrete opinion about it. The questions made me think critically to truly understand the concept or main topic of a question. Some questions were a bit confusing, however I tried answering them the best that I could. The questions made me think about my personal experiences to see if had experienced any of the main issues such as: sexism, racism, classism, heterosexism. Although, I've never been affected by any of this issues, well at least I don't remember, I understand that they are important issues that do affect many other persons in the world. The question that intrigue me the most was the following: "What is your definition of racism? Classism? Sexism? Heterosexism? How have these issues affected you in your life? How do institutional structures support and maintain these systems of oppression?" It's not hard to understand that these are issues that have been very controversial for many years now. It's ridiculous that even after so many years these continue to be an issue, people should be more open-minded and accepting of other people who may be the same race, belong to a different social class, different gender, or have a different sexual orientation. We are in the 21st century, we should be moving forward so everyone can live in peace with one another.

Completing this recording was a bit long since some of these questions made me think and create a long yet descriptive opinion. Some of this questions were a confusing which is why I took longer to think about the meaning of the question to try and answer it correctly. I did have to search for the meaning of "heterosexism" since I had never really heard this term. After researching the term, I learned that heterosexism is discrimination against homosexuals based on

the belief that heterosexuality is the normal sexual orientation. Having several friends who belong to the LGBT community, made me realized that anyone deserves to be happy no matter their sexual orientation. Lately, I've also read stories of people who decide to commit suicide because they are afraid of revealing their sexual orientation to their families and friends. People shouldn't feel afraid, they should feel supported by everyone who surrounds them. It's not fair for these persons to end their lives only because some people are simply cold-hearted or are too worried of what other people may think if parents have a gay son or lesbian daughter. Parents should not hate their children for revealing who they truly are because being gay is not a crime, this is not something parents should be ashamed of since their sexuality will not harm anybody. If anything it will help the person revealing their identity, finally be able to live happily with who they truly are without having to act different in order to not be mistreated. I wasn't uncomfortable, I was just confused with some of these questions because I wasn't able to understand clearly what they were asking, at some point of my education I've either discussed or heard of most of the topics on these questions, in other words I'm comfortable answering questions about controversial topics as long as I always respond with words that will not offend anybody.

I found it a bit hard answering the following question: How do your privileged and marginalized identities impact how you relate to social justice concerns in your community/society and in your desired career path? This was the only question I was unable to answer since I didn't understand the main idea of this question and how one thing relates to another. I would need information on how my desired career relates to social justice or privileged/marginalized identities in order to understand the question better to answer it.

After working with kindergarten students in the spring, especially with bilingual students I realized the importance of helping these children to maintain their native language while also learning english effectively. It's important to have bilingual classrooms/teachers to help these students practice their speaking, writing, reading and listening skills in both languages. If the students begin to practice their skills at a young age, they will not struggle to speak, write, or read in either language since they have been developing their skills from the very beginning of their education. Schools should offer more programs for native spanish speakers in order to help them understand more about their culture and the importance of being bilingual. After working with these students, I decided that after I receive my bachelor's degree in Spanish, I will be able to teach students and help those who need more help to speak their native language. It's a shame that some hispanic parents don't teach their children spanish and the children then aren't able to communicate with their own grandparents or other family members because they don't know how to speak spanish. This issue is becoming very common in hispanic families, but this can change if teachers at school can encourage and help these students to speak their native language, after all speaking two languages will benefit you in many ways when you become an adult. I decided to work with young students once again, because I truly want hispanic students to be able to speak in both languages effectively. I hope that at the end of the semester, my service has benefited many students that will grow up speaking two languages successfully.

I feel that the most important issue right now is the racism, since there has been so many cases where hispanics/latinos have been verbally attacked by white americans simply because of their race. It's very infuriating to see the the president of the U.S is responsible for the actions of these people. Since the beginning of his political campaign, he's expressed his dislike/hatred

towards hispanics/latinos, especially Mexicans. If anything, the president should be thankful for us because we are the ones who work in the fields or food factories to deliver the produce for American companies, if it wasn't for us the economy of this country would not be as good as it is right now. The least issue that I know the least about is classism probably because it's not an issue that i've heard much information about it, but I would like know more to understand how it affects people.

I'm absolutely sure that I will never change my opinion on the importance of hispanic children speaking both english and spanish effectively. This topic is something that I'm very interested in and I've been working with students who are struggling speaking or writing in both languages. Parents should also see the importance and should begin teaching their children at home their native language, being bilingual is a privilege that everyone should truly appreciate and take advantage of that privilege. Also, I will always support the LGBT community because I have close friends who are part of this community and I want them to be have and free with their sexual identity. I don't believe any of my opinions can change any time soon unless something occurs that may cause a change in my beliefs, but I doubt it can happen.

I would like to know if I share any ideas with someone else in the classroom, school, or community.

- Is there someone in the classroom that is against the LGBT community?
- What are their goals after obtaining their bachelor's degree? How will they help their local community?
- Has anybody been affected by a racist attack in their community?