

Discussion Questions and Reflection Activities for

Kahne and Westheimer's, *In the Service of What? The Politics of Service-Learning***General Discussion Questions:****Pre-reading (some appropriate for post reading):**

- What does the title of the article suggest to you? Why would the “politics” of service-learning be an important issue to consider?
- What does service mean?
- What does “political” mean?
- Do you believe service is political? Why or why not?

Possible uses for in-class discussion

1. Photocopy the two case studies. Ask students to read the case studies and to do a quick analysis comparing the two:
How are they alike? Different? Read and compare your answers
Kahne and Westheimer's analysis of the two positions.
2. Introduce the idea that high quality service-learning practice impacts students in three domains: Moral/Personal, Political, and Intellectual. However, students have different motives for engaging in service. What would be a charity motivated perspective? What would be a social change motivated perspective? Brainstorm and report out. After brainstorming, compare ideas to Kahne and Westheimer table and descriptions (in pairs or groups or as a whole group with faculty as discussion leader) and identify added or deepen concepts. Reference and compare Andrew Furco's description of student preferences (Moely, Furco, and Reed. ((2008) Charity and Social Change: The Impact of Individual Preferences on Service-Learning Outcomes. Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning. Vol 15, Number 1.)

Post-Reading

1. Draft a reflection using the three domains identified by Kahne and Westheimer. What are your personal goals in each domain?
2. Draft a reflection defending your motives for service. Examine said motivations using a charity or change perspective. Are you in one camp or another? Do you cross boundaries?
3. What are the implications of this framework for the work of this class? What are the political implications of our service work? How do we mediate that effect in the work we do?