



Service-Learning and the Common Core State Standards

If the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a roadway leading students to career and college readiness, service-learning is a vehicle for helping them get there in style.

Service-learning is a research-based teaching and learning strategy that engages youth in service to meet learning objectives and address real-world issues.



Below are some key traits of the CCSS and how service-learning correlates.

- ◆ **Demonstrating literacy with a variety of texts** — As students investigate an issue, they read a variety of texts, such as primary documents, arguments, books, and charts. They use a variety of communication tools with diverse people and organizations.
- ◆ **Applying learning to new situations, especially real-world contexts** — By definition, service-learning challenges students to demonstrate academic literacy through application in new situations, to solve a problem, or to carry out a project that address a real-world issue.
- ◆ **Knowledge and skills for success in college and career** — Students engaged in service-learning work collaboratively, exercise communication skills and think critically as they use the service-learning process to address the identified need. Students demonstrate social responsibility as they solve problems big and small, global and local.
- ◆ **Engaging students in critical thinking and problem solving** — The service-learning process engages students in investigation to analyze an issue, propose solutions, take action, and reflect on and evaluate their results and impact. Students encounter obstacles and opportunities that they work through with their peers, with guidance from teacher facilitators.



Learning to Give is free online resource, primarily for K-12 educators, focused on teaching all youth the skills, knowledge, and behaviors of philanthropy to promote a kinder and more engaged citizenry. **The 1,700 service-learning lessons are aligned with Common Core State Standards** and searchable by standard, academic themes, or issue-area themes.