

## Augustana College

### EDUC 245 – Educational Psychology & Measurement

Concepts addressed:

Methods for Enhancing Student Learning through the Use of a Variety of Resources and Materials: Service Learning

The roots of service learning lie in promoting active citizens. Service learning provides a deliberate link between service and learning. It fosters life-long connections between students, their communities, and the world outside the classroom. It enhances traditional modes of learning by engaging students in their own educations through experiential learning. The underlying premise is that it is reciprocally beneficial to both the community and the students.

Advantages for the student:

1. Apply classroom knowledge (express ideas, read, problem solve, critically and creatively think, make judgments)
2. Increase knowledge about their community
3. Understand social problems
4. Enhance personal growth (self-image, broaden individual perspective, personal efficacy, risk taking, responsibility).

Advantages for the community:

1. Meets the need for assistance.

Three basic components to service learning include:

1. Sufficient preparation and setting objectives for skills to be learned
2. Performing the service
3. Reflecting and analyzing the experience

Examples:

1. Write stories for new mothers to encourage them to read to their babies (connection with learning how to "publish" their own writing)
2. Work and talk with the elderly (connection to history class)
3. Fund raisers for tsunami victims (connection to a language arts unit)