



VI. Develop Your Service Project

After completing your debate, ask yourself how you will fulfill your obligation to combat climate change. Whether you live in a developed or developing country, what should you do? What can you do?

Service projects can be divided into two main categories: physical service and service-learning. Physical service involves making a visible difference, such as working in a garden, planting trees, or painting a mural. Service-learning involves educating volunteers about a specific issue, such as participating in an educational seminar or performing skits. Both types of projects can create effective change in your community.

TIP: Download the [Service Project Template](#) and fill it out as you work through this guide.

Part 1: Create Your Project

Choose a Project Type

- Decide which kind of project – service-learning or physical service – would be best for your group.
- In physical service, make sure everything you plan for your volunteers is safe.
- For both types of projects, make sure you have permission for your project. Obtain written or verbal permission from proper authorities before you solicit participants to engage your project plans.

Physical Service Project Ideas

Design a project that builds on your debate. Given the spring 2009 topic, “Developed countries have a higher obligation to combat climate change,” consider your obligation to climate change. What can you do to take action? Some ideas:

- Plant trees
- Organize a clean-up for a neighborhood, abandoned lot, or public park
- Clean up a creek or stream
- Distribute items like energy-efficient light bulbs and reusable water bottles

Physical Service Project Tips

- A good way to choose a useful environmental project is to consult local community organizations for advice. You can also survey community areas such as parks, community centers, public gardens, public waterways, and schools.
- Speak with someone in charge of ground care, like a head gardener or janitor, before going to someone in a higher position of authority. People who work with the environment every day often will be more willing to listen, since you are going to do some of their work!
- Go into any meetings with some ideas. For example, if you are proposing to paint a mural on a wall, bring some images with you.
- Spend time assessing the amount of time you will need to complete the project and the number of people you need to participate. Choose a project that 1) takes advantage of workers so everyone has work to do; and 2) can be accomplished in the time you have allotted.
- Know your budget. Before going into a project, research the real costs and decide how much you can spend.
- Utilize resources. If you know someone who is a gardener, for example, ask him or her for advice



or to help supervise participants' work.

- Be open to your service partner's suggestions. Remember that you are volunteering in their space, and they have to live with the results.
- Remember to clean up any messes you may have made during your service day.

Service-Learning Project Ideas

- Perform public skits about climate change
- Make and distribute environmentally safe cleaners
- Have people sign petitions for climate change legislation
- Share your climate change ideas with your local community

Service-Learning Project Tips

- Ask those in charge of community or school groups for their advice. You could ask what environmental issues they believe to be the most important to address.
- Obtain any permissions you need to do a performance, post information, or give presentations.
- Wear matching T-shirts during your service, so people will recognize you as a group.
- Perform service in busy, open areas. Not only is this safer, but the more people you reach out to, the more minds you can change. Places like malls and supermarkets may allow you inside to perform, but if they don't, busy street corners work just as well.
- Make sure you have someone to take pictures and document your service. You will need to put together an e-portfolio of your project.
- If you need to recruit people for an event, such as hosting a meeting about local climate issues, make flyers to publicize the event, and contact local environmental groups. Remember that

food is a great way to encourage participation!

- Distribute literature about your issue. Provide links to websites where people can learn more and get involved themselves.

Part 2: Document Your Project and then Create and submit your e-Portfolio

What is an e-Portfolio?

An e-portfolio is a simple multimedia presentation that will communicate the value of your service project while educating a global audience. Effective e-portfolios aren't flashy, but simple and informative. Your audience should come away with an appreciation for your service project, and ideas for how they might repeat what you did on a similar or larger scale.

What should my e-Portfolio look like?

There are many ways to document your service project and submit it as an e-Portfolio. Here are some ideas:

- Create a PowerPoint presentation
- Write and design a two-page online photo-graphic brochure
- Make and post a short documentary video
- Create a 'zine and circulate it via email and online to your school

The best e-portfolios will:

- Speak to a global audience
- Teach viewers about how you did what you did
- Communicate the value of your service project
- Present a simple, high-quality summary of your service project