Journal Entry 1

Topic: a) what, when, where, how**; b)** who

a) Describe your service experience. What is the name of your agency and what is its mission? What do you do? Why have you chosen this agency? When do you go? Where is it located? How does the organization work?
b) Whom do you serve? What did you enjoy about meeting them and working with them?

Journal Entry 2

Topic: Service work and your social justice issue presentation

Relate your service experience to the social justice issue you have chosen to present in class. Place your reflections on your personal experiences within the broader context of the research you've done to understand this issue.
Example: working in a daycare; issue: children and poverty. Tutoring; quality education for all. Working with the elderly; issues related to seniors.

Journal Entry 3

Topic: Responsibility and personal mission

When Jesus began his public ministry in his hometown of Nazareth, he went to the synagogue to pray. There he took a scroll and recited from the prophet Isaiah, **"The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord"** (Luke 4:18).

How do these words apply to your service work? How are you being challenged in your "typical" service day to take responsibility for others? How does your work benefit the welfare of others?
Think about your personal goals as a senior and reflect on how the added responsibility of service encourages you to take on responsibilities for yourself and others.

Journal Entry 4

Topic: How service stretches us.

Scripture presents faith as an active force that constantly moves us to bold measures involving personal risk. This might mean leaving our comfort zone.

Think about your service work as a journey of faith. What do you leave behind in your comfort zone and what do you embrace that is unfamiliar? What risks do you take?

What personal qualities such as humor, compassion, and fortitude do you rely on to help you in your journey? How are you stretched to become a new person? Include specific service experiences that address these questions.

Journal Entry 5

Topic: Freedom and service

All who are led by the spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry 'Father,' it is that very spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God. We suffer with Christ so that we may be gloried with Christ (Romans 8:15, 17).

The key characteristics of faith are its qualities of freedom and love.

a) Reflect on the gifts of freedom and love as you experience them in your service work. Have you found it easy or difficult to move from concern for self to concern for others?

b) Freedom is often centered on personal rights rather than responsibilities. Reflect on freedom from the perspective of St. Paul. How does Christ's suffering allow us to be free?

c) Has your concept of freedom changed as a result of doing service?

Journal Entry 6

Topic: Connect STA's motto with your service experience

Ex Umbris in Veritatem
Out of Darkness into Truth

It has been suggested that our school motto might be translated as "out of the shadows into the light" and thus interpreted as "going from appearances to reality," or "going from looking good to being good."

Our society is one of images. Some are staged and very contrived while others are authentic and speak to us genuinely.

a) How has service work helped you delineate what is contrived and what is authentic? Has your experience helped to shed light on what is true about society and yourself? What authentic images will you remember from your service work?
b) Has service helped you understand the value of our school motto? Is it a motto you might choose to live by?

Journal Entry 7

Topic: Vision and service

In the report *Our Global Neighborhood,* economist Barbara Ward writes about "neighborhood ethics" and "neighborhood values." She suggests that "people have to see with new eyes and understand with new minds before they can truly turn to new ways of living." Ward continues, "…this total upheaval in the imagination has marked the beginning of a new life…a turning of the heart, a '*metonia'(conversion)…*"

The role of the imagination, or lack thereof, is being recognized as one of the key mediums to understanding our lives and shaping our future.

a) In his reflections on the injustices in society, Robert Kennedy is famous for quoting George Bernard Shaw's question, "Some people see things as they are and say *why?* I dream things that never were and say *why not?*" Does your service work leave you asking questions or imaging a different world?
b) At the center of Christ's vision of the Kingdom of God is a moral code that gives us a blueprint from which to imagine what might be. Write about your understanding of Christ's vision and how it sheds light on our human experience.
c) Has your angle of vision or imagination changed in your senior year because of your service experience? Include specific examples in your answer.

Journal Entry 8

Topic: Service and scripture

Select a favorite scriptural passage.

What is the scriptural passage you have chosen and why is it important to you? Interpret this passage and then relate it to your service experience.

Journal Entry 9

Topic: Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

In your Social Justice classes you learned the principles of Catholic social teaching. The core of these principles and major themes are:

1. The dignity of the human person: the human person is sacred.
2. The call to live in communities: the human person is social.
3. Solidarity: we are our brothers and sisters' keepers.
4. Rights and responsibilities of the human person: every person has the right to life and the basic needs for life. Every person has the corresponding duty to protect the rights and needs of others.
5. The principle of subsidiary: all people have the right to participate in the decision making processes which affect their lives. Leadership has a positive moral function of promoting the common good.
6. The principle of the common good: we are all called to contribute to the social conditions that allow people to reach their full potential and to realize their dignity.
7. The dignity of work: work has dignity; workers have rights to fair wages, property, unions.
8. Option for the poor and vulnerable: we put the needs of the least amongst us first (Mt. 25: 31-46).
9. Stewardship for the Earth: we are to care for God's creation.

Make a conscious connection between your service work and the principles of justice. Were you able to put a human face on these principles? Did you gain a greater understanding of these principles because of your work? Draw on specific experiences.

Journal Entry 10

Topic: Prayer and service

In Victor Hugo's famous play, *Les Miserables,* the title character Jean Valjean famously states, "to love another person is to see the face of God."

a) Reflect on the connection between prayer, our human struggles, and our reliance on God. Were you able to meet God in the people you met?
b) Through your service you were challenged to do what is good. Identify personal challenges and explain how you met them.
c) Has your sense of prayer been deepened or redefined as a result of the people you have met or the experiences you have encountered?

Journal Entry 11

Topic: Speak, Act.

In his Nobel Prize acceptance speech Martin Luther King said, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

Best known for his powerful statement about the failure to speak out against the Nazis, Martin Niemoeller said: "First they came for the Communists, but I was not a Communist so I did not speak out. Then they came for the Socialists and the Trade Unionists, but I was neither, so I did not speak out. Then they came for the Jews, but I was not a Jew so I did not speak out. And when they came for me, there was no one left to speak out for me."

a) How do King's and Niemoller's words challenge us to seek the truth and speak the truth? How can you actively meet this challenge in daily life?
b) How has your service experience compelled you to speak and act as an advocate? Draw on specific experiences.

Journal Entry 12

Topic: Thoughts on your senior year

How have your experiences throughout the year helped to further shape your sense of self and become a man for others?