Beach Ball Reflection

Material Needed: Inflatable beach ball

Activity Prep: Using a marker, subdivide the beach ball into 15-20 sections. In each section, write a question that requires some reflection (see sample questions below).

Activity Overview: All of the participants stand in a circle (including the facilitator!) and the beach ball is “bumped” three times around the circle. After three “bumps”, the participant with whom the ball has landed with, reads aloud the question located at their right thumb and answers the question. The participant then hits the ball back into the circle and the process is repeated. The activity concludes when all participants have the opportunity to answer at least one question.

Sample Reflection Questions:

1. What did you like best about this project?
2. What did you like least about this project?
3. What are two things you learned from participating in this project?
4. What surprised you most about this project?
5. Why do you think this project was important?
6. How do you think this project will help your community?
7. Why was it important we all worked together on this project?
8. What are some challenges we faced in this project?
9. What is something you wished had happened but did not during this project?
10. If we did this project again, what would you do different?
11. What was the most fun part about this project?

Graffiti Reflection

Material Needed: A few sheets of flip chart paper or other large paper, tape and markers or crayons

Activity Prep: Depending on how many people you have in your group, you may need to create multiple stations. Ideally, there will be 3-5 participants to each sheet of paper. Put a couple sheets of large paper and lots of markers/crayons at each station.

Activity Overview: The goal of his activity is to have participants use pictures, words, symbols, etc. to reflect on the project. The final sheets of “graffiti” are hung on the walls and used to facilitate a group discussion.
If necessary, divide the participants into groups of 3-5 and have them move towards the stations set up throughout the room. Inform the participants to take a few minutes to reflect quietly, on their own about the project they completed. Consider reading the following prompting questions:

1. What did this group accomplish during this project?
2. What impact did this project and the work you all did have on the community?
3. What did you learn during this project?
4. What impact did you as an individual have on this project?
5. What impact did this project have on you?

After a few minutes to reflect, prompt the students to draw pictures or write words on the paper that represent the recent project. This can be any symbol, picture, word, etc. that represents how the activity affected them personally or what they accomplished during the project. The participants can work together as a team to draw/write or just work independently to create different elements of the drawing. Perhaps, read aloud some of the promoting questions above as they draw/write.

When it appears everyone is done drawing, ask participants to hang the papers around the room. There are two options to share out the graffiti reflection papers.

(1) Go around to each group asking them to share their paper and what is represents to them as a group and/or as individuals in the group.

OR

(2) Create a gallery walk by having everyone walk throughout the room observing the graffiti reflection papers. Once everyone has had a chance to walk around, encourage the group to share either pieces of their drawing and what it means to them or similarities, differences or potential questions they have about drawings in the room. Note: you will need at least 2, ideally 3, groups to share out this way.

### Connection Web Reflection

**Note:** This activity works best with groups of 10-20

**Materials Needed:** Ball of yarn or string

**Activity Overview:** In this activity a “web” of yarn is formed as participants stand in a circle and toss the yarn to one another as they reflect and answer prompting questions or self-select to share a reflection. The yarn adds a fun element to reflecting together and creates a visual to see how they are all connected through their shared experience of working together on a project.

Instruct the group to stand in a circle. As the facilitator, hold the end of the yarn ball in one hand and the ball of yarn in another. Let them know you will be asking a question and if anyone would like to respond,
they open their hand/raise their hand indicating they would like to receive the yarn ball to answer. (see examples of prompting questions below) When you make the first toss for the participant to answer the reflection question, hold onto the end of the yarn ball allowing there to be a line of yarn now connecting you and the participant who will be answering the question. Once this participant has answered the question, you can either offer the question to the group again to see if anyone else would like to answer or prompt with a new question. Eventually, everyone should have the opportunity to share at least one reflection, creating a web between everyone in the group.

An alternative to this activity is to not use prompting questions, but rather, allow participants the opportunity to openly share at their discretion. If the group is quiet, resulting in the activity is not moving along, the facilitator can then use the prompting questions.

1. What did you like best about this project?
2. What did you like least about this project?
3. What are two things you learned from participating in this project?
4. What surprised you most about this project?
5. Why do you think this project was important?
6. How do you think this project will help your community?
7. Why was it important we all worked together on this project?
8. What are some challenges we faced in this project?
9. What is something you wished had happened but did not during this project?
10. If we did this project again, what would you do different?
11. What was the most fun part about this project?
12. What did this group accomplish during this project?
13. What impact did you as an individual have on this project?
14. What impact did this project have on you?

*These activities have been adapted from Jens, J. University of Wisconsin-Extension, 4-H Youth Development Reflection Activities for Community Service Learning