

Whose Money Is It Anyway? (B)

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Reflection B

Everyone has littered at some point in life. However, not everyone gets informed (or cares) to stop the habit. It does not seem like a huge problem; it's just a straw wrapper, right? In reality, the trash collects and collects when millions of people are tossing those same straw wrappers to the side. It leads to pollution of not only medians of streets, but lakes, rivers, ponds, and oceans. It doesn't just affect the beauty of an area, but it affects the animals living in those ecosystems. It was a small project that only took place for a short amount of time, but it was very important. It's important to not only throw away the trash, but to get a perspective on just how careless some people can be with paper and plastic waste.

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Reflection A

1. What did you do for your service action? When did you do it? What were your specific role and action steps? - I did a beach cleanup as my service action. I went to Jacksonville Beach from around 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM and picked up trash while walking across a large stretch of sand.
2. What did you learn about the issue or problem you chose? - I always knew littering was an issue for the environment, but I never realized just how common it was until I was the one taking care of it.
3. Did you meet new people? How are these people important to your community? - I didn't really "meet" anyone new; I more so came across beachgoers who noticed I was clearing. Most people, however, were just minding their own business.
4. Did the actual service turn out as you expected? Explain. - Yes, it did. I expected mostly plastic waste and cigarette butts, and that's what filled the trash bag the quickest.
5. Do you feel your action was valuable to the community? Explain why or why not. - I do. Although it seems minute, I could have potentially saved a few plastic bottles and empty chip bags from interfering with sea life.
6. Was this service project a true example of fulfilling citizen responsibilities to the community and civic participation? Discuss. - I think it's just human decency to keep the space around you clean, whether at home or outside. In that sense, I do think picking up trash is an example of fulfilling a responsibility as a citizen.
7. What could you do differently in the future to make the service better? - Because the day I did this was put off for so long, it was a very last minute visit to the beach for a little more than an hour. If I did this again, I would plan to spend a whole morning or afternoon there.
8. What do other people, like trusted adults and classmates, think about your project? What have they said to you about it? - I have gotten positive feedback over it. In daily life, anyway, I will pick up after people who litter, so I don't think my choice of service surprised anyone.
9. What can you do to help this service project grow and continue? - Raising awareness for the negative effects of air and water pollution is a good start. It's common knowledge that littering is bad, but no one is properly educated on how bad unless they go out of their way to research it.
10. In what ways has this service project affected you? Explain your responses. - It has given me a bigger perspective on the general public's stance on littering. I would personally feel guilty knowing I left an empty Gatorade bottle in the sand, but some people think nothing of it. It was interesting that firsthand.
11. Will you continue with this service experience? Explain why or why not. - I will try to make this an annual project. Even if it was a short amount of time, I still felt like I made a small bit of difference.
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01.04B Service Project

by Danielle Burke

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