

Using Case Studies to Prepare for Service

In chapter four of *A Practitioner's Guide to Reflection in Service-Learning* by Janet Eyler, Dwight E. Giles, and Angela Schmiede, the authors suggest using case studies or stories of service to “help broaden student experience and also serve as a model to help students focus on what to look for when they begin their community service” (70).

Case studies and stories may be taken from newspapers, magazines, media, or other published materials. Some good selections are listed below. These stories can be used to fuel discussion or written reflections, help prepare students for service, provide cases to which they can compare their service experiences.

Resources suggested by Eyler, Giles, and Schmiede:

Albert, G. *Service-Learning Reader: Reflections and Perspectives on Service*. Raleigh, NC: National Society for Experimental Education, 1995.

Kozol, J. *Rachel and Her Children: Homeless Families in America*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1988.

Peavey, F. *Heart Politics*. Philadelphia: New Society Publishers, 1986.

Rose, M. *Lives on the Boundary: the Struggles and Achievements of America's Underprepared*. New York: Free Press, 1989.

Verghese, A. *My Own Country: a Doctor's Story of a Town and Its People in the Age of AIDS*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994.

The following are also good resources:

Anderson, C. and L. Runciman. *Open Questions: Readings for Critical Thinking and Writing*. Boston: Bedford-St. Martin's, 2005.

Davis, A. *Taking Action: Reading for Critical Reflection*. Chicago: The Great Books Foundation, 2012.

Davis, A. and E. Lynn. *The Civically Engaged Reader*. Chicago: The Great Books Foundation, 2006.