

Reflection Question Sampler – CCDP Charrettes

These are examples of questions used in post-charrette reflection. Generally one or two questions are drawn from each category (Skills, Impact, etc.) for a maximum 10-question survey. (Duplicative options below simply represent different ways of wording the same question.)

General/Personal:

- Each of you had something you wanted to get out of the charrette weekend -- was this achieved? How so?
- Did you get out of the charrette what you hoped? How so? (Hartwell)
- How did this charrette increase your understanding of community engagement? (Hartwell, Hoschton)

Skills:

- What new skills and information did you take away from the weekend? (Boggs)
- Describe your role at today's session. What new skills did you acquire? What skills would have been most useful? (Rocksprings)
- What new skills did you learn? How will these skills help you in your future career? (Race and Place, Salem Campground)

Impact of Project on the Community:

- Do you think you made an impact? How exactly? (Blackwell)
- Do you think the charrette made an impact? How exactly? (Poplar Yards)
- What is one question you would want to ask the community? (Hartwell)

Advice:

- What advice would you give a fellow student interested in participating in a charrette? (Boggs, Salem Campground)
- What would you tell a student who is going to follow you and complete this project? (Race and Place)

Challenges:

- What was the greatest challenge for you during the weekend? (Boggs)
- What are the major obstacles in achieving solutions in the community, and how will your work move past those obstacles? (Blackwell, Hartwell)
- What was a challenge you encountered as part of your team or individually in developing knowledge about this project? (Race and Place)

- What information is still missing that we need to know before our next charrette workday? (Hartwell)

Assumptions/New Knowledge:

- What assumptions or expectations did you bring to the public input session today? How has your understanding of the community changed? (Rocksprings)
- How did this charrette increase your knowledge of vulnerable populations and issues surrounding poverty and race in America? (Blackwell)
- How did the Camp Hooray charrette increase your knowledge of people with developmental disabilities? (Camp hooray)
- How did this charrette increase your knowledge of designing for historic, vernacular places? (Salem Campground)

Future Impact on Charretter:

- Have you had an “Ah-ha!” moment during this community engagement experience? How do you think you might apply this newly-discovered insight in your future? Describe it and why it was significant to you. (Race & Place)
- How can you best use/apply what you’ve learned in the future, either in your classes or your career? (Poplar Yards)

Future Project:

- What was an idea/suggestion you heard or thought of today that shows the most promise? What is needed to achieve it? (Rocksprings)
- Work still needs to be done. What is the task we should do immediately to help make this project work better? (Race & Place)
- Other comments/suggestions for future charrettes? (Salem Campground)

CLASS BLOG AND SKETCHBOOK/NOTEBOOK

Objectives:

The class blog and notebook will give you an opportunity to reflect on what you have been learning from the project, how it applies to other interests of yours, what challenges we are facing, and hopefully – how we can address those challenges. It also gives the instructors insight into how to adjust the class to improve learning outcomes.

Project Description:

Keep a small notebook/sketchbook for the class – bring it to the site to jot down things you would like to remember, bring it to class for writing reflection. **The notebook will be collected and reviewed twice by the instructors – at midterm and at the end of the class.** It can be any type of bound notebook that you would like – but small enough so it is easily carried to the worksite.

The blog will provide space for a longer reflection that is shared with the class and with the general public. The blog can:

- provide a forum during the semester for discussion and reflection within the class.
- share our experiences with others interested in design/build work
- promote design/build as a part of the design curriculum.

Each student will be responsible for writing two blog posts within the semester. You will sign up on a weekly schedule, so the entire semester will be covered. Two to three students will be assigned each week – you may compose a blog together or each of you can post a separate entry.

The blog will have two audiences: participants in the class (during the semester) and others interested in design/build practices (after the semester is complete). Therefore, the posts should be professional and thoughtful.

In your post, reflect on what we have been doing in the prior week of work. Take photos during the week to illustrate your post. Explain what we are doing and why. Be honest about challenges we are facing – either as a group or as an individual, - and what we are doing to address those challenges. Also, share successes and “Aha!” moments. Posts early on in the process should introduce the reader to the project, the site, and our methods (hopefully the insights will happen later!).

You are strongly encouraged to post comments to other people’s blog posts, add reflections and responses, and elaborate on the blog site.

Blog Location:

Wordpress.com

Username: land6911

Password: des1gnbu1ld (substitute “i” with the number “1”)

View the site at: <http://land6911.wordpress.com>

BLOG SCHEDULE will be distributed during the second week of class. **You can trade dates with others in the class – just make sure you have one post in the first half of the semester and one in the second half.**

BLOG - DUE BY MIDNIGHT TUESDAY AFTER THE WEEK YOU ARE ASSIGNED

Evaluation: completion, clarity of writing, professionalism, relevance of topic and insight to others interested in design/build, ability to generate productive discussion and reflection.

Examples of Reflection Questions based on the “What? So What? Now What?” Model

What?

- What happened?
- What did you observe?
- What was your role at the community site?
- What issue is being addressed or population is being served?
- What were your initial expectations?
- Why does this organization exist?

So What?

- Did you learn a new skill or clarify an interest?
- Did you hear, smell, or feel anything that surprised you?
- How is your experience different from what you expected?
- What impacts the way you view the situation/experience? (What lens are you viewing from?)
- What did you like/dislike about the experience?
- What did you learn about the people/community?
- What are some of the pressing needs/issues in the community?
- How does this project address those needs?
- What about your community involvement has been an eye opening experience?
- How did the experience relate to your coursework?
- What specific skills have you used at your community site?
- Has your view of the population with whom you have been working changed? How?
- How has the environment and social conditions affected the people at your site?
- Has the experience affected the way you view the world? Homelessness? The nature of families? How?
- Did anything about your community involvement surprise you? If so, what?
- What did you do that seemed to be effective or ineffective in the community?
- How does your understanding of the community change as a result of your participation in this project?
- Talk about any disappointments or successes of your project. What did you learn from it?
- What sorts of things make you feel uncomfortable when you are working in the community? Why?

Now What?

- What seem to be the root causes of the issue addressed?
- What other work is currently happening to address the issue?
- What learning occurred for you in this experience?
- How can you apply this learning?
- What would you like to learn more about, related to this project or issue?
- What follow-up is needed to address any challenges or difficulties?
- What information can you share with your peers or the community?
- If you could do the project again, what would you do differently?
- Have your career options been expanded by your service experience?
- How can you continue your involvement with this group or social issue?

How can you educate others or raise awareness about this group or social issue?

During your community work experience, have you dealt with being an "outsider" at your site? How does being an "outsider" differ from being an "insider"?

Other Questions

- Do you see benefits of doing community work? Why or why not?
 - What institutional structures are in place at your site or in the community? How do they affect the people you work with?
 - What did you do that seemed to be effective or ineffective in the community?
 - What are the most difficult or satisfying parts of your work? Why?
 - How are your values expressed through your community work?
 - Complete this sentence: Because of my service-learning, I am....
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