

# Sophomore Project Overview 2018-2019

As one of the top Service Learning schools in the nation, Pioneer High School requires students to participate in a multidisciplinary yearlong project in which students connect their study of a world problem (part of the content and common core standards) with community service (a SJUSD requirement for graduation). Students begin the school year looking at various world problems and then select one world problem they study and perform community service for during the year. The purpose of the project is to encourage students to gain knowledge about a world problem through research, reflection (learning) and a hands-on community service experience (serving). This project truly asks students to *think globally, [and] act locally*, which helps to achieve SJUSD's goal that all students master 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

## World Problem Definition:

A global problem that:

1. Is solvable
2. Affects at least 2 continents
3. Is stated in the negative

Examples: homelessness, water pollution, and illiteracy

Non-examples: tornadoes, seagulls pooping on people at lunch, and education.

Option 1:  
Choose a world problem you feel very passionate about and then find service that links to the world problem.

## Picking a World Problem

Option 2:  
Choose a service opportunity you are very passionate about and then select a world problem connected to it.

*Note: Not all service opportunities are available for people under 18, after school or even on weekends in the Bay Area. Students must find reliable and realistic community service before committing to a world problem.*

## Community Service- Frequently Asked Questions:

### **What counts for community service hours?**

- Service related to the world problem only.
- Service with a non- profit agency (religious organizations are acceptable but service may not include proselytizing).
- Service done after school, on weekends or holidays.

### **What does not count for community service hours?**

- Service performed for a parent or relative.
- Attendance at a PHS club meeting
- Service performed during school hours (including lunch/FLEX)
- Non-paid work at a *for- profit* group or organization
- Service for a religious organization that involves teaching religion.

*To there is doubt confirm with your History teacher.*

### **How many hours of community service are due for this project?**

Students needs to perform at least 15 hours of community service each semester. Students will not be able to carry over hours from semester 1 to semester 2. One purpose of the project is to perform service while learning in class so students must continue service throughout the year.

### **How do students record and turn in service hours?**

All community service must be recorded on the double-sided pink community service form titled "Student Time Card". To get credit for service hours the form needs to be thoroughly filled out (including all necessary signature) and turned in on time to the World History teacher. *Make a copy or take a picture of the completed form before turning it in.*

### **How does service completed between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade get counted?**

Students can use up to 15 hours of community they did over the summer towards their semester 1 community service requirement. In order to get credit for these service hours students must choose a world problem that is connected to their summer community service.

### **How do students find community service opportunities?**

Pioneer High School's Service Learning class informs students about many service opportunities so follow them online. Check out @phsservice on Instagram and @phsservice on Twitter, and Pioneer Service Learning on Facebook. The website- [www.phsservicelearning.org](http://www.phsservicelearning.org) has a lot of information about the SP project. Also, on Sept. 6 PHS will host a Service Fair during FLEX and Lunch. Students can meet with agencies onsite and follow up on their own. For additional opportunities go to [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org). *Family and friends are encouraged to support students by helping them find service and ways to complete it on time.*

### **Can students start their own community service?**

Yes, but to ensure the service will be accepted students need to get a CSI form from Rm. P4 and get confirmation. The Pioneer Service Learning class can support students who want to develop service.

### **What service opportunities are available on campus?**

The Blood Drive, S-Period Recycling and E-Waste.

## Sophomore Project Components

### **History:**

**Introduction to World Problems Lessons:** World History teachers introduce students to the concepts of service learning, social responsibility, and guide students through the process of selecting a world problem and pursuing community service.

**Outreach Fair:** Students attend the Outreach Fair (during FLEX and Lunch) and meet service related agencies. During the Outreach Fair, students work on their Sophomore Project Contract.

**Sophomore Project Contract** On this contract, students formally (and finally) select their world problem. Students indicate the world problem they have chosen, as well as list community service agencies they will pursue for community service. Students must discuss this choice with their parents/guardians, as the form requires a parent signature. *After this form is submitted, students will not be permitted to change their topic.*

**Current Event Assignments:** Each week students will complete a current event assignment, detailing how their world problem is in the news

**Sophomore Research Paper:** Students learn how to research incorporating a variety of sources through organized research techniques. Evidence from research is used to compile an essay that includes both facts and analysis on the causes, effects, and solutions of the world problem. Students use MLA format to compile a works consulted list.

### **English:**

**Community Inquiry:** Students will use Internet research to investigate services in their local community that address the spectrum of global issues. This is meant to help students find service opportunities in their community.

**Community Service Logs:** Students will complete five journal entries each semester, describing and reflecting upon their community service. Although these logs are submitted once a semester, the logs should be completed simultaneously with the community service.

**Original Poem:** Students write a poem inspired by their Sophomore Project.

### **Reflective Essay**

After completing their community service, students will reflect upon their experiences and describe the impact they made on their community.

## **3 Panel- Board and Binder:**

Students work alone or with 1-2 people to create a 3-Panel board at home, which reflects their yearlong work.

On the board students display pictures of themselves doing community service, their poem, a community service log, a quote and other information related to the world problem including graphs to educate the viewer. The board also incorporates a creativity aspect.

Along with the board students put together a binder with their written pieces.

The projects are set-up in the LMC at PHS in May to enable the community to learn about various world problems and to recognize students' hard work.

### **Important Dates:**

Sept. 5: Outreach Fair  
Sept. 7-11: Contract due in World History class\*  
Oct. 9: Community Service Check-In\*  
Dec. 14: Community Service Pink form due (15 total hrs.)\*  
May 10: 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Service form due with 15 more hrs.\*

**May 20: Sophomore Project 3-Panel Board and Binder Due**

**May 21: Open House (7:30am-6:30pm) for students and parents to see 3-panel boards and binders**

• = Requires parent/guardian signature

### **Community Service Awards:**

*Presidential Volunteer Service Award:*

Recognizes individuals who do a minimum of 100 hours in one year. The S-Period Ceremony is in the fall.

*Jefferson Awards for Public Service:* A nationally recognized award given for students doing unique and outstanding service. It is given to students monthly.