



Did They Learn Anything? Assessing Civic Learning in the Classroom

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Faculty are fully competent when it comes to assessing student mastery of the course content. Assessing the civic learning that results from a service learning experience can be more challenging. The Center for Service and Learning (CSL) is a valuable resource for faculty interested in assessing student civic growth as a result of their course. The following is an overview of the ways in which CSL can assist anyone interested in assessing their service learning course and furthering their civically engaged teaching and scholarship. [Kristin Norris](#), the Interim Assessment Specialist, is interested in working with faculty at various stages of implementing a service learning course.

Specifically, she can:

- Help to identify appropriate assessment tools based upon the civic learning outcomes the service experience is designed to achieve
- Administer [assessments](#) (pre-test, post-test, reflection prompts, assess responses, end-of-semester course evaluations) using a number of formats (paper-based, online surveys, or in-class administration)
- Assist faculty in designing reflection activities that yield deeper, more meaningful reflections using technology ([digital storytelling](#) or [eportfolios](#))
- Assist with data analysis
- Collaborate on a scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) project



Writing civic learning outcomes can be difficult. Assessing the extent to which students have achieved the civic learning outcomes can be even tougher without having the proper suite of tools at your disposal. The CSL wants to work with faculty and staff who are integrating a service learning component into a course so that when students answer the question, "Did you learn anything?", their responses reflect the full spectrum of outcomes, including a movement towards civic mindedness.