

## University of Virginia Center for Politics



### Democracy Corps Lesson Plan 9: Service Learning

#### **Purpose:**

This lesson is a part of YLI's Democracy Corps service learning program. The ideal Democracy Corps experience includes Service Learning that provides students with field experience related to their target issue. The blending of the two programs helps students understand the complexities of the issue they are addressing and strengthens the arguments they will make for change during the final phase. It is always powerful when citizens can support their ideas for change with real-life experiences.

Democracy Corps does not delineate the specifics of organizing a Service Learning project, but recommendations for books and websites that do provide detailed information are listed below.

#### **Books:**

- Community Service-Learning: A Guide to Including Service in the Public School Curriculum. Edited by Rahima C. Wade.
- Building Bridges: Connecting Classroom and Community through Service-Learning in Social Studies. Edited by Rahima C. Wade. This book offers specific examples of service learning projects.
- The Complete Guide to Learning Through Community Service Grades k-9. By Lillian S. Stephens.

#### **Reminder:**

The Service Learning Project will enhance the Democracy Corps experience for students, but it is not mandatory.

#### **Website**

Service Learning Clearinghouse [www.servicelearning.org](http://www.servicelearning.org).  
Comprehensive guide to service learning programs.

