

What is Service?

Service is getting involved in your community and participating in government.

Middle School Civics Teacher, Prince William County, VA

Service is contributing actively to the wellbeing of your community for the benefit of others.

High School Government Teacher, Prince William County, VA

Service is taking up careers and volunteer opportunities that benefit the greater good.

Middle School Civics Teacher, Miami-Dade, FL



Why is it important?

Service is how we build stronger communities together. For students, service may include volunteerism and other forms of civic engagement within their schools and communities. It also includes opportunities for students to explore different career paths in the military, government, private and public sectors. Service provides a lens for students to think about their futures in terms of giving back to their communities. Teaching is a great example of public service!

Examples of what students can learn through service:

Service Knowledge

- The function of local school and community boards
- The history of a place and the people in it
- Community assets and challenges

Service Skills

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Self-reflection

Service Dispositions

- Empathy
- Responsibility
- Reliability



Making connections:

Students are aware of the challenges their communities face and want to make a difference. You can connect service to civics by thinking about service projects as great opportunities for students to practice civic engagement. You can connect service to leadership by encouraging students to explore service as a field full of people seeking to better their communities through their own unique talents and skills.



Questions to consider:

- How do I define service?
- How do I teach service knowledge, skills, and dispositions?
- How do I inspire service from within the classroom?