Service learning stages
A how to guide for carrying out the stages in a project or service engagement

INVESTIGATION
Take an area of interest and get curious!
Ask:
• what’s happening?
• what are the issues? why do they exist?
• is there an authentic need?
• what skills do I/we have to contribute?
• what ethical concerns exist here?

PREPARATION
Deepen your understanding.
Ask:
• how can I/we act as a partner?
• what type of action should I/we take?
• what might be the consequences of my/our actions?
• what resources do I/we need?
• what new knowledge might I/we require?

ACTION
Responding to an authentic need in an informed way.
Ask:
• does this activity/project feel authentic?
• are my/our actions thought out and considerate?
• how is the experience challenging your assumptions?
• am I/we working effectively with others?
• how can I/we improve?

DEMONSTRATION
Sharing outcomes
Ask:
• what have I/we learned about the people we worked with?
• who can I/we share this journey with?
• what can others learn from what I/we have done?
• what might the next steps be?
• how can your experience apply to other situations?

WHERE’S REFLECTION?
Recall that reflection is an IB learner attribute:
“We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.”

So reflective practice happens throughout all stages of service learning. Being more reflective helps you to be more effective. Make time to apply your critical thinking skills!