TOPICS AND IDEAS FOR INCORPORATING SERVICE-LEARNING INTO VARIOUS ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

Accounting
- Organize a fund-raiser for a nonprofit organization.
- Teach halfway house residents how to manage their finances.
- Develop accounting systems for small minority businesses or nonprofit organizations.
- Prepare tax returns for low-income or elderly people.
- Review accounting procedures for a nonprofit organization.

Art
- Paint public murals around community themes.
- Develop and present paintings, sculptures, etc. to homebound, hospitalized, or institutionalized senior citizens, physically handicapped people, or others.
- Teach art to children in shelters or elderly persons in assisted living.

Biology
- Educate elderly people on medical and nutritional practices.
- Conduct seminars for teenagers on the effects of chemical abuse on the body.
- Design informational materials to educate low-income parents about immunizing their children.
- Reclaim a park area.
- Teach high school students about recycling and begin a program in their school.

Business
- Organize workshops and informal meetings where those who are already in business show others how to start a business.
- Assist grass roots groups that advocate for the rights of persons who have low income or other disadvantages.
- Assist in establishing sound business practices for a food co-op.
- Organize the filing system and daily operations of a small nonprofit organization.

Chemistry
- Assist in counseling substance abusers.
- Publish information about the dangers of alcohol, nicotine, and other drugs in a community newsletter.
- Monitor levels of pollutants in local air and water; bring pressure on polluting industries to abide by regulations.
- Lead after-school chemistry clubs for students in younger grades.

Computer Information Sciences
- Develop computerized learning modules for use by youth and adults with mental illnesses.
- Create a data processing format and analysis service for nonprofit, community-based service organizations.
- Help youth from families with low incomes to learn about computers and explore careers in computer science.
- Help a nonprofit organization with their computer needs.

English and Journalism
- Assist a nonprofit community-based organization with the publication of a newsletter.
- Create promotional or informational materials for a local community group, organization, or outreach program.
- Help a nonprofit group promote an upcoming event or fund raiser.
- Assist with or establish an adult literacy program.
- Organize letter writing campaigns.
- Assist community-based organizations with proposal writing.
- Write letters to senior citizens.
- Write stories for neighborhood or small town papers.
- Respond to Santa letters.
- Help people interested in entering the work force write resumes.
- Write stories, poems, or plays using the community service experience as a starting point.

Foreign Languages
- Use translation skills to help new immigrants articulate needs.
- Work with local media to develop programs using foreign languages.
- Translate consumer information for speakers of foreign languages.
- Translate information concerning organization programs into languages or dialects common among community members.

History
- Document the history of a neighborhood or town using oral history techniques.
- Develop ways to help children of various ethnic heritages understand their own background and ancestry.
- Interview senior citizens about their life experiences, then compile a community history booklet. Examples of issues they might address include a flood, World War II, the Civil Rights Movements, or technology.
- Work with public organizations to establish displays that recognize the achievements and contributions of various ethnic groups to the culture of the area.
- Make presentations on important historical events to peers or younger students.
- Set up workshops to inform community members about the history of an issue and about possible strategies for resolving the issue.

Mathematics
- Tutor younger students in math skills.
- Develop math games to help younger students learn math skills.
- Conduct surveys on community needs and process and analyze results.
- Help food banks, food co-ops, or other organizations with their monthly or quarterly inventories.
- Establish a school store.

Political Science
- Help register voters and educate them about the democratic process.
- Conduct public issues or candidate forums.
- Work with local government or public institutions to help them solve problems such as graffiti, shoplifting, drug use, etc.
- Assist with the formation of neighborhood action groups.
- Write letters to the editor.
- Educate peers about the social costs of substance abuse and other key issues.
- Write letters to foreign governments to ask for humane treatment of prisoners or do public education work for Amnesty International.
- Assist government officials in making forms and documents attractive and readable.

Psychology and Sociology
- Work with children at a day care or school setting if studying child development psychology.
- Spend more time with senior citizens if studying psychology and aging.
- Counsel peers around common current issues.
- Establish a crisis hotline or work with an existing one on its community outreach.
- Assist with programs that provide counseling for battered wives, husbands, and children.
- Establish a clearinghouse of volunteer services to direct clients to needed sources of assistance or help with research at an existing clearinghouse.

Science
- Research a pest problem, such as the invasion of a new aquatic weed, and investigate possible solutions.
- Adopt a stream or other body of water. Through research and testing, determine its health and develop solutions.
- Develop a botanical guide to local wild flowers or a field guide to local parks.
- Work with a local human society, zoo, or nature center to assist injured animals.
- Make presentations on a wide variety of science-related issues to younger students.
- Assist with the work of nature centers of museums.