

SPEECH 72  
TESTIMONIALS ABOUT SERVICE LEARNING

Best Rewards

I had time to speak English. There are actually few times to speak English, except in my class. It was an extra reward that I had a great time with children.

- Student 1

When I first went to my volunteer job, the staff and other volunteers welcomed me, even though they didn't know me. They treated at me like an old friend, and everyone smiled at me. Afterwards, we went downtown to talk to homeless people, whom I had never met, and gave them something to eat. I was so scared, and I couldn't speak English. I simply smiled, and barely spoke to them. They also smiled and thanked me. I learned, although it was scary, if you talk with a smile, people will smile in return.

- Student 2

I will continue doing volunteer work after the conclusion of the class. I am committed to President Barack Obama's volunteer program to complete 100 hours in total. Once I complete these, I will receive a certificate. After this experience, I plan to help out in other places, like the Red Cross, or churches, where I can help more people, being more experienced, learn new skills, and earn more credits for college.

- Student 3

One of the best events was Thanksgiving Day. During that week, most of the parents gathered for the party, and they brought their own food. It was an international party. Most of the children were born in the U.S.A., but their parents are from foreign countries. There were all sorts of food, like Indian, Russian, Armenian and American food. They sang this song, called *Hello Mister Turkey, How Are You?* There was a turkey picture in the center of the table, and they were told it was the turkey's birthday. It was a fun day. At the end, I got the leftovers. This was so great, because I didn't have any food at home. I got so many things from that day. It was the best reward.

- Student 4

In my first volunteer experience, I was able to feed homeless people, and I was able to meet 16 people from around the world. This was by far the most English I had spoken with other non-native English speakers in one day.

Then I did another student volunteer job, where I was able to work with 826 LA, where I tutored kids to help them with their homework. They created books and movies, all with the goal to help children learn. I would strongly recommend more students participate in this activity in the future.

- Student 5

### Message to Future Students

Although at the time I was bothered, as I was in an unfamiliar environment, I had more of a chance than in my normal life to speak English. You feel good emotions and meet good friends.

- Student 6

If you're going to volunteer, try to go alone, instead of with your classmates, because if you have your classmates, you may not try to speak with the other volunteers. I changed my volunteer time from my classmates, so I had a better chance to speak with native speakers.

- Student 7

I was frustrated the first day I came to Speech 72, which was my first semester at LACC. My professor wanted us to find a place to do volunteer work. Many other students chose to drop and to find another class. Everyone knew it was a difficult task, because I had to solve everything by myself. **Later I realized it was a great opportunity, not a crisis.**

My first day as a volunteer, I was so nervous, because I was not good at speaking English. The place where I volunteered spoke only English. The more I spoke to them, the greater self confidence developed in speaking with Americans. **All of a sudden, as I approached the end of the semester, I want to recommend that volunteer jobs are good for improving your conversation with Americans.**

- Student 8

I would say that the experience of volunteer work is something that will help your vocabulary and language comprehension. It might seem boring the first time, but after several days, you will realize you are doing valuable work. There are people in need, who are very grateful, and they value your efforts, while you're gaining confidence to improve your English.

- Student 9

Students should find a good place to volunteer. They should enjoy this work because it is a volunteer job. I chose a child care center because I like children, and I want to learn about American children. I found I not only enjoyed it, but I learned about them, and boasted to my friends about these children. I also showed the children's pictures to my friends and family. It was a great experience for me. If you want to enjoy your volunteer work, here is my advice:

- look for a good place
- give them your time
- work with devotion
- become a friend with them
- smile, then. . .

You will enjoy your volunteer job.

- Student 10

