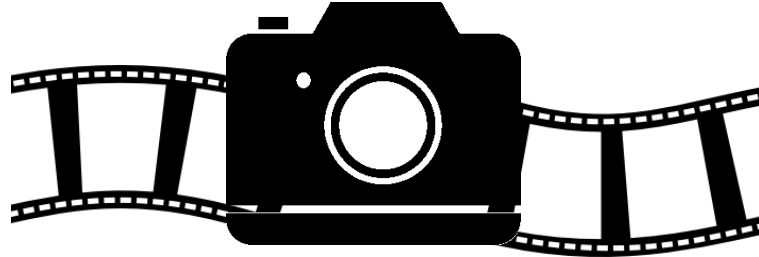


“PICS” RESEARCH METHOD

Developing the Big Picture in Service Learning



Meaningful service learning requires well-planned research! Although internet searches and print materials can be useful sources, other forms of research must be utilized in order to optimize your efforts. The “PICS” method consists of four research methods to help collect valuable information that can be used to develop an impactful service learning project.

- **Publication** - any type of visual or print reference that is published and available digitally or in print. These include books/newspapers/magazines, internet sites, films, and videos.
- **Interview** – involves surveying the opinions or experience of a group of people, based on a series of questions.
- **Consultation** – includes interviewing an individual who is skilled or knowledgeable in the area that you are researching. This includes both school and community members.
- **Surveillance** – involves observing a situation, location, or group that connects to your area of research and noting your findings.

PART 1: “FOCUSING” YOUR THOUGHTS

Working on your own or with a group, use the graphic organizer on the next page to brainstorm a research plan using the PICS research method. In the center, pick the topic you wish to focus on for your service learning project. In each of the labeled sections, determine what resources you **could** use for that specific method, including how you might use them (i.e. purpose).

PICCS

PUBLICATIONS

Sources:

Puurpose:

INVESTIGATION

Sources:

Purpose:

TOPIC

CONSULTATION

Sources:

Purpose:

SURVEILLANCE

Sources:

Purpose:

PART 2: "DEVELOPING" YOUR RESEARCH PLAN

Use this section to elaborate on your ideas from Part 1. Write the topic you are exploring in the box below. Then, use the accompanying spaces and graphic organizers to document your findings after using that method. Once you have created and executed your research plan, you can use your discoveries to form your service learning project.

Topic to explore: _____

A. Publications

Complete the table below according to the specific published sources you selected (newspapers, books, internet sites, TV news, videos, etc.) and what you discovered after utilizing them.

Sources Used	Findings

B. Investigation

Use the prompts below to develop an outline for survey to help you investigate what people think or feel about the topic you are exploring for your service learning project. First, determine who and how you will survey. Next, draft the questions you will use in the spaces provided. Finally, record the results of your survey at the bottom of the section. Alternatively, you can illustrate your finding with a graph or visual representation, depending on the type of survey you selected.

- *Who will you survey? (Students, friends, the whole school, family members, etc.)*
- *How many surveys will you distribute?*
- *What type of survey will you distribute? (Electronic, print, etc.)*
- *Whose permission do you need to distribute the survey?*

Survey questions:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Findings:

C. Consultation

Use the prompts below to develop a plan for consulting a person who is knowledgeable about your service learning topic. Then, use the chart below to brainstorm at least five questions you will incorporate into your consultation. During the consultation, record the responses to each respective question.

- **Who will you consult?**

- **How are they connected to the topic you are exploring?**

- **Why did you choose to consult this person/group?**

Questions	Responses
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

D. Surveillance

Use the chart below to gather information about your service learning topic through your own surveillance. First, determine which groups, individuals, or situations you will observe. Then, note how you will conduct the surveillance. Finally, record your findings in the appropriate column.

Group/Individual/ Situation	Method of Surveillance	Findings