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After I read the book ”Service-Learning: From Classroom to Community to Career” by M. Watkins and L. Braun, I learned that service-learning is a way of teaching where students apply their knowledge and skills to share and address needs in the communities. Service-learning activities encourage communication and relations within the community.

Service-learning helps students become open to people from different cultural backgrounds. It’s very important since we live in a very diverse society. And for me as a future nurse it is important to recognize and accept that people have cultural values that may be different from my own.

I find that self-reflecting is one of the best parts of service learning. Working with people of different ages or abilities, gives us an opportunity to understand their lives and needs. It also helps us to learn more about ourselves. The reflections in the book, told by people about their experience with service learning, are just amazing. One girl who worked with children at the community center wrote in her reflection: “I learned more about myself because of this project- my style of working with others, what I like and don’t like about working with others, and what it is like being a teenager today.” By participating in my service-learning activity, I will have a great opportunity to learn what it is like to be an elderly person today. Reflection should take place before and after service; it also should help to develop critical thinking.

I liked the chapter about recognizing your learning style. I have never heard about Gardner’s seven types of intelligence. Now I know that my intelligence styles are bodily- kinesthetic and intrapersonal. I think that recognizing my learning style will help me to better develop my service –learning experience.

The book also is greatly helpful in preparing for my activities by providing me with an understanding of the phases of service-learning. It is good to learn that most of the participants go through the “pre on-site jitters phase”, which is a phase I am in right now. After I read about all six phases, I have a much better idea of what to do and how to communicate during my service -learning practice.