



Long Island University--Brooklyn Campus  
Common Ground Service Learning Program  
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*Sample Assignment: Exploring Common Ground*

***Faculty members: edit this sample for your purposes!***

*This assignment is designed to assist with the integration of service learning and your course curriculum. Please adapt the following to your course's specifications. You are welcome to use this language or any variation of it in your syllabus or in a class handout. It is strongly recommended that an assignment of this nature is used to prepare the students for the Common Ground visit: we find that students are better engaged, more empowered and more likely to participate if they complete an assignment of this nature. Contact us if you would like an electronic version for editing purposes.*

Social Work 101: Introduction to Social Work  
Spring 2003

### **DUE DATE: Second Class Meeting**

Learn about a program at LIU named Common Ground. You are required to visit the Common Ground web site on the internet and thoroughly read about the Common Ground Service Learning Program. The web address is: [www.liu.edu/brooklyn/commonground](http://www.liu.edu/brooklyn/commonground). Browse through the entire web site and read the Information for Students section carefully. Either take notes while you read or print out the information. To access the database of community agencies, please use the following username: cg78 and password: cg78.

After you have a clear understanding of the Common Ground Program, you are to type a one-page "reaction paper." Are you interested in participating in the Common Ground Program? If so, why, or why not? What relevance or importance does Service Learning have on your educational experience, particularly in the discipline of social work?

This course does not require that you participate in Common Ground. However, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of such a rich program that can enhance the concepts and theories that we learn in our social work class and provide the opportunity to connect theory and practice ~ it can truly be a *grounding* experience. If you do participate, you will receive extra credit and you will be invited to incorporate your experience into the final class project.

Staff members from the Common Ground program will visit our class next week to answer any questions that you may have. They will bring application forms for you to complete should you be interested in participating.