



Tips for Thinking about A Community Work Experience from Cotting School's Project Bridges Program

Every work site and task is different, but here is a list of what they have in common:

- * Students can learn new things at any work site (skills and experience)
- * Students can meet new people at any work site (references and networking)
- * Students can learn about different jobs at any work site (career exploration)
- * Students can learn about their strengths and challenges at any work site (self-awareness)

What is the real value of community work?

- * Establishing oneself as part of a community outside school or home
- * Making connections with people and causes
- * Expanding one's personal network of employer references and relationships
- * Gaining confidence from trying new things, meeting new people, asking questions and learning about one's strengths and challenges in a professional setting
- * Ownership over one's experience

What are some questions to explore as your child participates in community work?

- * What does it mean to make a "good impression?"
- * What kind of clothing is appropriate for this work site?
- * What are the different jobs I am observing at this work site?
- * How are my social interactions at work different than my interactions at school and home?
- * Where are the opportunities for increased independence at work?
- * How is my current experience connected to my future plans?
- * What am I learning about myself?
- * What am I learning about the kinds of jobs that are available?
- * How much help is too much?