

Module 5 Identification of special needs within the community

This sheet is suggested to help you identify under represented special interest populations within the community. You will use your observation skills to be able to determine needs and how best to possibly address those needs through a service-learning project.

Name _____

Class _____

Portrait of the subject- Describe the way people are dressed, their mannerisms, their demeanor, way of speaking and way of acting. Start with an in-depth description initially in the field. Focus on things that set people apart with others or identify them. Be sure to identify any physical characteristics that might be important to determining needs.

Description of the Setting- Take a picture or draw the setting so you can give a more complete description later. This might help you determine a service-project later when you reexamine the potential needs within the setting. Identifying the gap between current situation and desired situation. What product or processes is your project partner currently using, and what are the problems with current approach that is motivating this project?

Activities- What is happening in the setting, who is interacting with who? What are the roles of the various subjects?

Observer behavior- What is your behavior and what are you thinking while you are taking the field notes. Be sure to note any biases while observing. This might taint your judgment and might bias the information that you are presenting.

Stereotypes or prejudices- As you are making your observations; do you see any difficulties associated with accessibility or use of public or private materials?

Additional Contact people- Make note of subjects that might be good resources to determine needs within the community as contacts for later.

Adapted from: Bogdan, R. C. Biklen., SK (2003). *Qualitative research for education: An introduction to theories and methods*.