

**Meaning of Service  
AmeriCorps Programs  
Various Locations in Maine  
2007**

**Introduction**

Civic Reflection is a monthly conversation series that brings together AmeriCorps volunteers throughout the state of Maine to reflect on their service. We will discuss significant readings that relate to civic engagement and volunteer service. These readings illuminate fundamental questions about service and volunteers will be asked to share their experiences of service in relation to the readings. There will be a discussion group in the Portland area and one in the Augusta area. If there is sufficient interest from volunteers in other parts of the state other discussion groups may be developed.

**Guiding Questions and Readings**

All the readings can be found in Adam Davis and Elizabeth Lynn, eds., *The Civically Engaged Reader* (Chicago: The Great Books Foundation, 2006). All volunteers who participate will receive a copy of this book. In addition, dinner will be provided before each discussion. Specific dates and readings have been chosen for each month. But if volunteers' interests and needs suggest other dates, readings or topics for discussion, it is intended that this series be flexible and responsive to these interests.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Guiding Questions</b>	<b>Readings</b>
March 20 (at AmeriCorps Training)	What is compassion? How does it affect our perceptions of the world?	Sogyal Rinpoche, "Compassion: The Wish-Fulfilling Jewel"
April 19	When does service involve harm? When does it involve deception?	William Carlos Williams, "The Use of Force" Billy Collins, "The History Teacher"
May 23	Why do we serve? Why should we? Do motives matter in service?	Adam Davis, "What We Don't Talk About When We Don't Talk About Service" Margaret Sutherland, "Dry Dock"
June 28	When does service drain us? When does it strengthen us?	Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, "Luella Miller" Anna Akhmatova, "If All Who Have Begged Help"
July 25	When do we serve well? When poorly? How do we know the difference?	Dave Eggers, "Where We Were" Walt Whitman, "Selections from Specimen Days"

This discussion series was developed by Greg Fahy, Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Maine at Augusta ([gregory.fahy@maine.edu](mailto:gregory.fahy@maine.edu)).