

SERVICE-LEARNING GOALS: Digital Storytellers

Gero 103, Fall 2025

Assignment Overview:

Help bring aging services to life through short-form video content that educates, inspires, and connects with the community. Activities may include interviewing past and current clients, program staff, funded partners, and others; writing short stories; and creating innovative short-form video content for social media use.

GOAL 1: Explore the Role of Storytelling in Aging Services

Understand how personal stories and visual media can raise awareness and build empathy around aging-related issues.

GOAL 2: Develop Communication and Media Production Skills

Gain hands-on experience in interviewing, writing, and creating short-form video content for public outreach.

GOAL 3: Connect Academic Knowledge to Real-World Messaging

Apply concepts from Gerontology or Health Sciences to craft messages that educate and engage the public.

GOAL 4: Strengthen Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity

Learn to represent diverse voices and experiences in aging with respect and authenticity.

On the next page, you'll find a set of reflection questions designed to help you think critically about your service-learning experience. These questions are meant to support your learning by helping you connect what you observe and do with your academic studies and future career goals.

Before you begin answering the questions below, take a moment to consider how this experience might connect to your academic studies and future career. Your responses will help you reflect on your starting point and prepare you to make the most of your time supporting aging services. Thoughtful reflection now will make it easier to recognize your growth and articulate what you've learned when you revisit these questions later.

Student Instructions: Pre-Assignment

Before you begin your volunteer assignment, please complete the following steps:

Step 1: Create a New Word Document

- Open a new Word document.
- At the top of the document, include the following information:
 - Your Full Name
 - Assignment Title (e.g., Digital Storytellers)
 - Class Title (e.g., Gerontology 103)
 - Professor Name
 - Date You Are Completing These Questions

Step 2: Answer the Pre-Assignment Questions

Reflect thoughtfully and write your responses to the following questions in complete sentences:

1. What do you currently know about the role of storytelling and media in public health or aging services?
2. What skills or experiences do you hope to gain from creating video content and interviewing others?
3. How do you think short-form video can influence public understanding of aging-related issues?
4. What personal strengths or interests do you bring to this creative assignment?

When you're done, save your document with *LastName_FirstName_PreAssignment* to the desktop. Email your completed document to: volunteer@agencyonaging4.org. You will revisit these questions after your assignment is complete.

Student Instructions: Post-Assignment

Now that you've completed your volunteer experience, reflect on what you learned and how it connects to your academic and career goals. Please follow the same steps:

- Open a new Word document.
- Include your name, assignment title, class title, and date.
- Answer the post-assignment questions thoughtfully.
- Save to desktop as *LastName_FirstName_PostAssignment*.
- Email your **post-assignment responses and your multimedia content (videos, social media drafts, graphics)** to volunteer@agencyonaging4.org.
- Email both documents to yourself for your records and future reference.

Post-Assignment Questions

1. What did you learn about the impact of storytelling and media in aging services?
2. Describe a moment or story that stood out to you during your interviews or content creation. Why was it meaningful?
3. How did this experience help you improve your communication, writing, or media production skills?
4. What challenges did you face in representing aging-related topics, and how did you address them?
5. How has this experience influenced your perspective on aging and your interest in advocacy or public education?

We're here to support you!

If you have any questions about the assignment, the reflection process, or anything related to your service-learning experience, please don't hesitate to email volunteer@agencyonaging4.org.

Good luck this semester—we're excited to have you involved and look forward to seeing what you learn and contribute!