**Big Questions**

How do we define who we are?

What would you be willing to give up for equality?

What would you not be willing to give up?

Why do we reflect?

What makes reflection difficult?

Should we love the people we serve?

Do one’s motives for serving or giving matter? How?

Why do we serve?

**Opening Exercise**

The below option can be done: 1) individually only; or 2) individually and then in pairs, small groups or large groups:

* What was your motive for joining this AmeriCorps program?

**Clarification Questions**

1. What are the reasons the author gives for serving? Do you agree with these reasons? What other motivations are there?
2. What are the three reasons the author poses for writing this article?
3. What are the acronyms he uses?
4. What do you think the author meant by there is a “vogue for service”?
5. What do you think the author meant by “it seems to be so clear that service is good that we do not need to question service or talk about it”?
6. What are the reasons the author gives for why service is good?
7. What is the author talking about when he discusses external versus internal goods?
8. What does the title tell you?
9. The author states “To talk of money would then be to talk about difference and not just any difference, but difference of worth and power. To talk of money would be to put inequality in front of us”. Is service the same?
10. What is the dirty little secret the author talks about?
11. What is the crux of the piece that the author talks about at the end of the reading?

**Significance and Implication Questions**

**Significance Questions**

1. What do the acronyms mean?
2. Are there other reasons why people serve?
3. What do you think is the author’s point?
4. What does the author mean when he says “no matter where one comes down on the goodness of service, service, in principle and in practice, is not simple”?
5. The author talks at some point in the reading about wiping - We want to do it, not to discuss is. To discuss it would be in bad taste. Why does the author want us to consider this paragraph?
6. How do you feel about the statement the author makes – “we’re not improving those we serve: we’re only improving the conditions in which they find themselves”? Is this something that potentially, AmeriCorps programs are doing?
7. Do acts of service move us toward equality? Where will the server be 5 years from the service? Where will the served be?
8. For whom is service good and in what ways?
9. Is service enough? If all you do is serve…are you civically engaged?

**Implication Questions**

1. How can we, as AmeriCorps members and individuals, acknowledge the complexity of service with others….that service is not simple?
2. What does this reading have to do with AmeriCorps programs?
3. What should we take away from this reading?
4. In what ways can we discuss service with others?
5. Do we have an obligation to ensure that certain things happen as a part of year of service? If so, what are those obligations?
6. As you move forward, how can we focus more on “bridging the gap” – remedying the consequences of inequality?
7. The AmeriCorps Issue Areas are: Getting Things Done; Strengthening Communities; and Participant Development (Encouraging Responsibility and Expanding Opportunity). What does this article remind us of as we think about these four areas?

**Closing Exercise**

The below option can be done: 1) individually only; or 2) individually and then in pairs, small groups or large groups:

* What questions does this discussion raise for you and in what ways can you bring these questions up?