



**Community Outreach through Distribution of the Arts (CODA)
Joint Educational Project**

**Fall 2011
Program Assistant: Elena Russell**

JEP Reflective Question Assignments

These JEP Reflective Questions are designed to help you reflect upon your CODA experience so that you can make the most of your community involvement. Please read through all of the Reflective Questions prior to beginning your JEP assignment. The questions are related to and build upon one other. We encourage you to refer back to previous responses and to take seriously your P.A.'s feedback. Doing so will help you to develop your ideas and arguments over the course of the semester and to learn more from your experiences.

As you respond to the questions, you should concentrate on addressing the main topic/question(s) (in **bold**). The subsequent prompts are focusing questions to help you identify critical factors related to the main question. Please feel free to go beyond the prompts and write whatever seems important to you about your experiences — especially when the topic is related to the issues raised in the main question.

Please refer to the materials you received in training for instructions regarding formatting requirements and uploading your responses to Blackboard.

Assignment #1: First Impressions

Describe your initial experiences at your CODA/JEP assignment. What are your most vivid impressions from your first few visits to the site? Describe a particularly memorable incident that has occurred at the site. **What are your goals and expectations for the next few weeks?** How are you planning your site visits to accomplish these goals? What do you hope to gain from this experience?

Two-page written response due on Blackboard Tuesday, October 3rd

One-On-One Chats:

This week you will be meeting one-on-one with your Program Assistant to talk about your experiences in CODA. In place of a written essay this week, we ask that you take a few minutes to note any questions, comments or concerns that you have about your JEP assignment so far. For example, what are you doing at the site and how are you adjusting to your new role? How are you relating to the people at your site? Are you having any problems with any of the logistical aspects of your assignment (e.g., schedule, transportation, Blackboard access, etc.)? *You do not need to submit these notes on Blackboard; rather, take them with you to your one-on-one chat with your PA so you are prepared and remember to talk about any issues that need to be addressed.*

Scheduled with your PA, October 10-14

Assignment #2: CODA Final Project Proposal: Art Inspired by the Community

Your final assignment is to create either a musical or visual art piece inspired by your experience as a CODA volunteer. Think about your most meaningful experiences as a volunteer and what you have learned or gained as a result. Your piece can be a performance, a drawing, a slide show, a painting, a song, a series of photographs or whatever medium you decide best demonstrates your experience. Just be creative. All final projects will be performed or displayed at the end-of-semester showcase.

A project proposal is due to the JEP house on **Tuesday, October 25th**, approximately one month before the due date of the

actual project and five weeks before the showcase. **The proposal should make it clear what you are trying to communicate or share about your experience and how the media accomplishes that.** If anything changes during your creative process (when you are painting, writing, etc.) you will include these changes in the final project analysis (see below).

Two-page written proposal due on Blackboard Tuesday, October 25th

Assignment #3: Online Discussion

As a CODA volunteer, you have the opportunity to share your talents with an “audience” of one sort or another. Yet because you work independently, you rarely have the opportunity to benefit from the experiences of other CODA volunteers. This forum is designed to counter the relative isolation of your volunteer experiences by providing an opportunity for you to share your insights and experiences with your peers.

Instructions: Log onto Blackboard and click the “Discussion Board” link on the main menu. Click on the “JEP Discussion” link. Your PA has posted the discussion prompt in a thread entitled “*Assignment #3.*” You may click on this thread to read and reply to the prompt. Or you may create a new thread (see below).

Discussion Prompt:

CODA was established to give non-performing arts majors a venue for artistic expression. **Share with your fellow students a little about your experiences as an artist and CODA volunteer.** What experiences did you have in the arts prior to coming to college? How have your experiences at USC contributed to (or detracted from) your identity as an artist? Why did you decide to become a CODA volunteer and what has your experience been like so far? **With your peers, discuss your perceptions of the USC climate vis á vis the arts and what the University could do to improve this climate.** If relevant, also discuss the role of the arts at your CODA site. How is artistic expression encouraged or discouraged by those at the site?

To review all of the postings, go back to the “Forum: JEP Discussion” page and click the box in the grey frame above all the list of threads to select all postings. Click “Collect” and a new page will open with each individual post listed by date. To respond to another student’s posting, click the orange “reply” button next to the thread. Enter your message (and upload any attachments, if relevant) and click Submit.

If you wish to take the discussion in another direction (while sticking with the general theme of the prompt), you may return to the “Forum: JEP Discussion” page and create a new thread. Give the thread a subject/title and enter your comments in the Message box. Click submit.

The Blackboard discussion will be available beginning Monday October 31, 2011. The last day to participate in the discussion is Friday November 4th at 11:59pm. To receive full credit for your participation in this discussion, you must post a minimum of one comment, question, suggestion, etc., in addition to your original posting that addresses the prompt.

Assignment #4: CODA Final Project

As noted above, your final project assignment is to create either a musical or visual art piece inspired by your experience as a CODA volunteer. Projects are to be turned in at the JEP about one week before the end-of-semester event (date TBA). **Give your piece a title and turn in (via Blackboard) a brief analysis (2-3 paragraphs) describing the idea behind your project and how it developed over the course of the semester. Be sure to explain why you chose to approach this project in the way you did and note anything that changed from your original proposal throughout your process.** For all artwork please describe the medium you used and explain why you chose it. For performances, please include an outline of the performance including an estimate of how long it will last.

Final project turned in at the JEP House and analysis submitted via Blackboard by Tuesday, November 22nd. End-of-semester showcase date TBA.