

## Activity 8

# Personal Service Pledge

6<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

<b>Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pledge to complete a personal service project.</li> </ul>
<b>Standards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6-8.1</li> <li>■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6-8.4</li> <li>■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.6-8.1</li> </ul>
<b>Materials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Service Project Ideas printable</li> <li>■ Student Pledge Card printable</li> </ul>
<b>Preparation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Print a copy of Service Project Ideas for each student.</li> <li>■ Print a copy of the Student Pledge Card for each student.</li> </ul>
<b>Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tell students that 9/11 Day is a national day of service, which means helping or doing things for other people.</li> <li>■ It is also a day of remembrance, when we honor the thousands of people who died in a series of events on September 11, 2001.</li> <li>■ Point out that after September 11th, people didn't focus about their differences; they felt connected to one another. They did kind things for each other and served their communities together.</li> </ul>
<b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tell the class that it is time for them to select a personal service project to do on their own.</li> <li>■ Model how to brainstorm possible service projects.</li> <li>■ On the board, recreate the graphic organizer on the Service Project Ideas printable students will complete later.</li> <li>■ Ask volunteers to suggest two or three service project ideas.</li> <li>■ Write them in the left column.</li> <li>■ Choose one of the ideas and ask students to name positive and negative aspects of the idea. Example: Donating children's books to the library will help children in the area (positive), but it could be expensive if we have to purchase new books (negative).</li> <li>■ If time allows, repeat the process for the other ideas you wrote on the board.</li> <li>■ Point out some of the negatives, and ask students to think of ways to eliminate or reduce them. In the example of donating books to the library, students might say they could avoid purchasing new books by donating books they no longer read.</li> <li>■ Distribute a copy of Service Project Ideas to each student.</li> <li>■ Have students fill out their own graphic organizers based on project options they are interested in completing.</li> </ul>

**Introduction**  
(continued)

- If students struggle for ideas, share some of the ideas on the page: 9/11 Day: More Good Deeds for You.
- Have volunteers talk about which ideas they are considering and explain why.
- Have students circle the idea they are going to complete.
- Once all students have chosen a service project, meet with them individually to talk about the project they circled on the Service Project Ideas page.
- As you discuss their selections with students, consider whether they have the necessary resources and support to complete their project outside of class. If not, gently encourage them to choose a school-based project.
- Discuss when and how the student will complete the project, including discussion of what supplies they might need.

**Activity**

- Distribute a copy of the Student Pledge Card to each student.
- Ask students what a pledge is. If needed, remind them that a pledge is a serious promise that a person makes to do something.
- Explain that when students sign the Student Pledge Card, they are making a promise to complete the service project they choose.
- Have students fill out the Student Pledge Card.



## Service Project Ideas

Brainstorm a list of service projects you are interested in completing on your own. For each service project, list one or more positive and negative points. After considering both the good and the bad, decide which project you will complete and circle it.

Service Project	Positives	Negatives



# Student Pledge Card

# #IWILLFOR911DAY



For 9/11 Day, I pledge to perform the following good deed in tribute:

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My Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Visit [911day.org/IWillPledge](http://911day.org/IWillPledge) to share your good deed, or post of social media, #IWillFor911Day

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