

Activity 7

Class Service Pledge

9TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE

Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Collaborate with peers to select a group service project. ■ Pledge to participate in a group service project.
Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.9-12.3 ■ CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.9-12.1
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Student Pledge Card printable ■ Journal: Group Reflection printable
Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Preview the 9/11 Day Ambassador videos and select the ones you will use in your brainstorming session. ■ To help students get started if they have difficulty brainstorming, prepare a list of a few service projects that connect in some way to the stories of the 9/11 Ambassadors. ■ Some groups connected to 9/11 Ambassadors that you might suggest serving include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims of a tragedy or disaster (Will Jimeno) • Veterans or their families (Wendy Ploger, Rob Grunewald, Mari Tobin, Kathy Dillaber, Brian and Alma Hart) • First responders (John Feal, Jay Winuk, George Martin, Dan Nigro) • K-9 first responders / service dogs (David Lim) • Cancer patients / survivors (Candiacce Baker) ■ Print a copy of the Student Pledge Card for each student. ■ Print a copy of Journal: Group Reflection for each student.
Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In the days after 9/11, people across the country felt united by a desire to help and support one another, creating an extraordinary spirit of empathy and resilience. ■ Many Americans stopped thinking about the differences that often separate us, at least for a while. ■ For those who lived through the tragedy of 9/11, that time of caring and helpfulness remains an important reminder that we are stronger as people, and as a nation, when we work together

**Introduction**

- Tell the class that it is time for them to complete a school service project together.
- Brainstorm possible service project beneficiaries together.
- Share a selection of [9/11 Ambassador interview](#) from 911Day.org with students.
- Draw a concept web or mind map on the board and write “Class Service Project” in the center circle.
- Have students call out ideas for people or groups related to one or more of the 9/11 Ambassadors that could benefit from a potential service project, writing each suggestion in its own circle connected to the center circle. Try to keep the list between five and eight ideas; combine ideas if they are related.

Activity

- Have students organize themselves into small groups based on which service project idea they want to focus on. This may be best accomplished by having students turn in a ranked list of their two or three favorite options, so you can preview group distribution and make any suggestions to individual students about their selections.
- Assist with even group distribution if necessary, but wherever possible, allow students to work in groups of any size so long as they are organized and function efficiently.
- Instruct students to assign roles within the group as needed, such as discussion leader, note-taker, and researcher.
- Encourage students to brainstorm and select a specific service project based on their shared interest through whatever deliberative process their group agrees upon.
- Check in with each group constantly during this process to ensure members are participating equally and the group is progressing steadily.
- Be prepared to offer suggestions for debate and consensus building where needed.
- Meet with each group to hear details of their planned project (or have them submit details in writing), offering suggestions for improvement or redirection where needed.
- Be sure to secure administrator approval/permission for the service projects.
- Have students reflect on their experience with the decision-making process by completing Journal: Group Reflection.
- Distribute a copy of the Student Pledge Card to each student.
- Have students fill in the fields on the cards.



Name _____ Date _____

Journal: Group Reflection

Summarize the process your group used to decide on a group service project.

Did you feel this process was effective? Why or why not?

Do you feel you contributed equally to the group? Did you feel heard by other group members?

If you were starting the process over, how would you improve the process your group used?



Student Pledge Card

#IWILLFOR911DAY

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

My Name _____

Organization (if any) _____

State _____ Country _____

Visit 911day.org/IWillPledge to share your good deed, or post of social media, #IWillFor911Day

 @911day  @911day
 @911day  911day.com

