



Change Philanthropy. Connect Humanity.

The Learning by Giving Foundation gives students real capital to invest in community nonprofits while learning about effective charitable giving and becoming community leaders.

Blog Contest ~ A Student's Guide

Learning by Giving (LxG) wants to hear from you! The grant making process is unique for every student and we value insight into your experience. We hope this contest provides you with the opportunity to reflect on your experience and have a chance to earn additional grant funds for your class to distribute to local nonprofits.

This semester, LxG will accept blog entries related to different aspects of the grant making process and philanthropy: from needs assessment to site visits to grant ceremonies. We will select one entry to be featured on our website. If selected, your class will get an additional \$1,000 to direct to a nonprofit. Check out blogs from previous semesters [here](#). *Note: we may choose to post more than one winning entry per topic and will divide the grant funds.*

A successful blog entry will:

- ✓ Reflect on your unique experience and learning. Instead of documenting what you did in class, focus on one aspect of your learning and what impact it has had on you and/or your understanding of philanthropy;
- ✓ Consider an audience that is unfamiliar with your course and discipline (anyone who visits the website may see your blog) and therefore clearly convey complicated concepts;
- ✓ Structured like a blog; check out suggested blog structures [here](#).
- ✓ Be revised and edited / ready to be published (we will edit for clarity, if needed);
- ✓ Have a word count between 500-650;
- ✓ Submit one photo to accompany your post (optional but preferred);
- ✓ Include the following details: name, institution, major, year (freshman → senior).
- ✓ Include any social handles if you want us to tag you!

How to Participate - 2 steps!

1. Follow LxG on socials; we'll keep you posted on topics, deadlines, & winners:
Facebook: [learningbygivingfoundation](#)
Twitter: [LearnGive](#)
Instagram: [learningbygiving](#)
2. Submit your blog entry by the deadline to: blog@learningbygivingfoundation.org

FAQs:

- up to 5 entries may be submitted per class per topic (first 5 received will be considered);
- each student may submit one entry per topic.



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Blog Topics

Blog Entry #1 - Due Thursday Feb 6, 2020 by 5pm ET

Why did you choose an experiential philanthropy course?

Questions to get you started (do not answer systematically; review blog structure [tips](#)):

- what do you hope to get out of this class by allocating real money?
- what are your perceptions of philanthropy currently?
- do you know your community, social issues, and what do you hope to learn?
- is this class different than other classes you've taken; if so, how?
- what about this class excites you and/or intimidates you?

Blog Entry #2 - Due Thursday, Feb 27, 2020 by 5pm ET

Needs Assessment: What did you learn about the needs of your community?

Questions to get you started (do not answer systematically; review blog structure [tips](#)):

- what resources did you use to learn about your community's needs?
- did one particular need surprise you and/or your class? Why?
 - If you include data be sure to credit your source.
- are you able to see the need in your community or is it "invisible"? Explain.

Blog Entry #3 - Due Thursday, March 19, 2020 by 5pm ET

Crafting a Mission Statement: what was the process and outcome?

Questions to get you started (do not answer systematically; review blog structure [tips](#)):

- what purpose does the mission statement serve?
- what values and or vision statement did you craft first?
- what was most challenging and most rewarding?

Blog Entry #4 - Due Thursday April 9, 2020 by 5pm ET

Site Visits: What did you learn by going on site visits?

Questions to get you started (do not answer systematically; review blog structure [tips](#)):

- what did you think about nonprofits before your visit and what was challenged?
- were you able to see any theories you learned in your class visible at the org?
- what advice would you give to someone who has never done a site visit?

Blog Entry #5 - Due Thursday, April 30, 2020 by 5pm ET

Larger Lessons: how has this semester changed you?

Questions to get you started (do not answer systematically; review blog structure [tips](#)):

- what is one way in which the grant making process reshaped your thinking outside the classroom?
- how will you apply what you learned in the classroom to your everyday life?
- how has your perception of philanthropy changed? How did you define "philanthropy" before the class and how do you define it now?