

Dear
YOUNG AMERICAN
Find a Way to Serve

Students will:

- explain how service and leadership require personal sacrifices
- analyze ways in which service and sacrifice benefit not only local communities, but the greater global community

Core Value Focus: Sacrifice**Introductory Activity:**

Have students provide an update on the goal setting assignment from the last lesson. Ask students if they found it difficult to ask for help. Share a goal you may have set as an adult and how you achieved it.

Explain to students that you will be discussing sacrifice today. Lead a short discussion with students about the term sacrifice. Often, sacrifice is related to big actions, but guide students to think of smaller sacrifices such as time, a possession, or food. Challenge students to think of times when sacrifice was only a minor “inconvenience” rather than a grand action.

Whole Group Activity:

Watch the Dear Young American video *Find a Way to Serve*, featuring Medal of Honor Recipient Ron Shurer. Ask students to make notes of observations or any advice that he offers.

Individual Activity:

Following the video, have each student write a one-paragraph response to one or several of the following prompts.

- Ron Shurer offers powerful advice when he states, “find a way to serve something that’s greater than yourself.” What does he mean by something greater than yourself? How does this service require sacrifice for someone who serves their community?
- Ron Shurer says that service to others can “set you up for the rest of your life.” What do you think he meant by that? How can serving and sacrificing for others improve your own life?
- Sometimes to help truly help others, we have to rethink our view of the world and those around us. Ron Shurer says, “you [should] take a step back from yourself and see the whole world.” How can you “step back from yourself?” How does opening your mind connect with sacrifice?

Whole Group Activity:

Have students share their responses. Ask students what examples of sacrifice and other values they noticed in the video.

For Next Time: Ask students to demonstrate what they learned from the lesson

Ron Shurer’s message to you is to find a way to serve. By serving, you will have to sacrifice something—your time, your energy, possibly giving up something you want to do. Ron Shurer stated that, no matter how small the act, you’ll find a lot of value in serving, and it will set you up for the rest of your life. Following his advice, find one way to help a student or teacher within your school. Keep track of what you had to sacrifice in order to serve. This will help you actively make sacrifices when weighing the value of service over personal wants.