Certificate in Engaged Leadership
Critical Reflection Prompts and Readings-All Stages

You can find all readings here

To advance through the stages of the certificate:

1. Participate in 3 hours of leadership education and 20 hours of off-campus engagement
2. Read a brief article or watch a brief video (see below)
3. Meet for at least 30 minutes with a mentor to critically reflect on your recent experiences
4. Using the model below, craft and submit a written reflection of at least 250 words to your blackboard folder, which we will create after your initial meeting with your Engaged ambassador mentor.

Based on the What? So what? (Why?) Now what? method, reflect on a critical incident from the past 20 hours of engagement that stands out. This could be a conversation, observation, or something you overheard; an experience that caused you to feel excited, shocked, grounded, confused, grateful, uncomfortable, happy, angry, humble, upset, or challenged in your beliefs. First tell the story of the incident describing what happened in detail. Be sure to tap into your sensory perception: who was present, what did you see, hear, feel, etc.? Then describe what this experience means to you given your previous assumptions, knowledge, beliefs, values, and/or experiences. Finally, how will you apply what you learned from this incident to future academic, leadership, and community engagement pursuits?

Stage 1 Involved
Questions and readings that will guide you through this stage:

1. What is special about this place?
   Read article: “Building Communities from the Inside Out”, John P. Kretzman and John L. McKnight
2. How do my social identities shape my view of the world and influence choices I make?
   Read article: "Helping, Fixing, or Serving" by Rachel Naomi Remen

Stage 2 Committed
Questions and readings that will guide you through this stage:

1. How do I build collaborative relationships here?
   Read article: "Traditional vs. Critical Service-Learning: Engaging the Literature to Differentiate Two Models" by Tania D. Mitchell, pp. 58-62 on "Developing Authentic Relationships"
3. What tools are available to me to amplify what is working?
   Read excerpt: The Leadership Challenge, James Kouzes and Barry Posner, pp. 14-25
4. What risks and sacrifices can I take and make in this context?
   View video: Parker Palmer on Standing in the Tragic Gap

Stage 3 Capstone
Questions that will guide you through this stage (readings as part of 32-hour commitment)

1. How can I support others be their best?
2. Who determines when I have done a good deed?
3. What is meaningful work?
4. What is the community as I see it, the community as I want to see it, and my role to fill the gap?