

# Blogging for Community Service

**Please note: it is important to check with your school or organization that they approve of this activity as a valid community service option first.**

There are several ways you can earn Community Service Hours by contributing to our Blog. You can write a book review, can create a video or post a personal writing. Just let us know what it is first to make sure it is acceptable.

## Guidelines for Book Reviews

1. Books reviewed must be available through the Mid-Hudson Library System. You can check out our catalog online by going to <https://search.midhudsonlibraries.org/iii/encore/?lang=eng>.
2. Each book should be rated on a scale of 1-5.
  - 1 = You didn't like it and wish you hadn't wasted your time.
  - 2= Eh...You've read better
  - 3= Good Book
  - 4= Great Book
  - 5= Amazing Book
3. Each book review should be at least 2 short paragraphs but no longer than 3 paragraphs in length. Always include the title and author in each review with the following guidelines:
  - No Spoilers.
  - Include positive and negatives.
  - Mention at least three of the following:
    - Plot
    - Characters
    - Setting
    - Author's writing style
    - Flow (was it hard to get through or a real page turner?)
    - Other details such as: historical accuracy, emotions evoked, eye opening, inspirational, educational etc.
4. Review and edit your book review for writing, spelling and grammar.
5. When finished email to [teencafe@poklib.org](mailto:teencafe@poklib.org). We will email you back within one week with any necessary revisions. ( We won't ask you to change your opinion but we may ask for more clarity) Please make your revisions within one week and send back for publication.
6. You can see your review here: <https://poklib.org/youth/teen-central/teen-cafe-blog/>
7. Each book review = 1 hour community service.

## Guidelines for Videos

1. All videos must be original, filmed by yourself or a helper. Do not use any film that is from a movie, television or video game.
2. Videos must be at least 30 seconds long but not longer than 3 minutes.
3. Video content must be PG rated.
4. Videos must be clear, informative and serve a purpose.
5. **30-60 second video**= 1 hour community service; **1-2 minutes video** = 2 hours community service; **2-3 minute video** = 3 hours community service.
6. Review your video for technical details.
7. When completed send your video to [teencafe@poklib.org](mailto:teencafe@poklib.org) and we will review it
8. You can see your video here once it's published: <https://poklib.org/youth/teen-central/teen-cafe-blog/>

What can you make a video about? Here are some ideas:

- Review a library resource (book, eBook, audiobook, DVD, video game, etc.)
- Create a trailer for a book or video that would make someone want to check it out -- just like a real movie trailer!
- Pick an online library resource, app, website, database, etc. and create a "how to" or "tips and tricks" guide.
- Propose your own project. Send your proposal to [teencafe@poklib.org](mailto:teencafe@poklib.org) and we will contact you to discuss if it meets our requirements.

## Guidelines for Personal Writings

You can also opt to share your thoughts, poetry or stories. You may want to reflect on how Covid-19 or other events have affected you. Be aware that these are aimed at your peers, not a school project; so you can write in a more informal style (but if writing factual information remember to cite sources).