Small Group Exercise Part 1

Please appoint a scribe to take notes for your group. For each person in your group who has worked with service-learning, please think through the story of a recent project. If your service-learning classes are like our service-learning classes, not everything went completely smoothly. As you share your story with the group, please think about any issues you had as they relate to the students who were involved. Consider the following:

What made it challenging for the students?

If so, what types of problems are they (issues internal to the students? issues related to the environment or people the students work with? Issues related to the task they are asked to complete?)

How were issues resolved? (Did the students figure it out? Did the community partner help? Did you intervene?)

Once you have thought through these stories, consider what you have heard from all members of your group. What kinds of issues have you had in common?
Small Group Exercise Part 2

One of the many challenges for service-learning is that projects typically have a well-defined start and an end, bounded by the academic calendars in which we work. Please first use this simple timeline to plot where on the timeline the issues you identified in exercise one occurred (you can assume time is a continuum, because, of course it is).

Beginning

End

Share your timeline with your group, and see if, again, there are commonalities. Are there particular times during a project that are more problematic than other times? Why do they occur? Please be prepared to report back to the larger group.