BE IN THE NATION’S SERVICE

Why?
In the Preparation section we talked about identifying your values. It’s important to not only be aware of your own values, but also those of the community you are a part of and serving in. Do the values align or is there opposition? When we examine how values intersect, we gain insight into how we can use commonalities or differences to deepen our service experience and move forward.

How?
At Princeton, service is central to the mission of the University and is embodied by our informal motto “In the nation’s service and in the service of all nations.” How does this align with your values? How are you serving “in the nation’s service”? Depending on where you are serving, the values of your community could be quite different. No matter the values, what’s important is to take the time to identify what they are and how they align or differ from your own.

Things to Consider:
There is no one way to be “In the nation’s service and the service of all nations.” For example, what do you think about the list below? Do all these types of service “count”? why or why not?

Public service  
Military service  
Social entrepreneurship  
Regular volunteerism  
Community organizing and advocacy  
Small acts of kindness  
Donating resources (clothing, food, money)

ACTIVITY

Values Intersection
Using the space below, list out your values and the values of the community in which you are serving. Draw a line between values to highlight positive connections.

Your Values  
Community Values

How will you use the commonalities above to move your work forward?

Based on your values and the experiences you have had doing this work, what would your motto for service be?

Things to Consider:
What if Princeton’s unformal motto was personalized to “what do you do in service?” What would you say?