**How Does Service Change Lives?**  
Assessment Checklist

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| **Thesis, Purpose, and Significance**  **\_\_\_\_/5** | Thesis is not only argumentative, but is also “surprising” or “risky.” It responds to the assignment clearly and reflects author’s purpose. The essay shows originality or independent thought, and the significance of the problem addressed is clear and compelling. |
| **Argument**  **\_\_\_\_/5** | Claims and ideas are developed logically and thoroughly, and are supported through relevant evidence and sound, thorough reasoning. The writer acknowledges multiple viewpoints and anticipates objections effectively. |
| **Text Analysis and Usage**  **\_\_\_\_/5** | The writer accurately and thoroughly summarizes or paraphrases texts used, and demonstrates ability to read texts critically/analytically. The texts are synthesized into conversation with one another and with ideas of the writer thoroughly and effectively. |
| **Style and Voice**  **\_\_\_\_/5** | The writer’s style and voice are highly appropriate to the given audience, purpose, genre, and claims, and show originality and creativity. Word choice is specific, purposeful, dynamic, and varied throughout essay, and sentences are clear, active (Subject – Verb – Object), and to the point. |
| **Presentation and Organization**  **\_\_\_\_/5** | Topic sentences identify paragraphs’ purposes, reflect their content and contribute to overall unity of essay, and transitions indicate relationships between not only paragraphs, but ideas, and the overall organization of paragraphs is logical and purposeful.  The essay is free from grammatical or mechanical errors, and conforms to MLA rules for formatting and citation of sources perfectly. |
| **Writing Process**  **\_\_\_\_/5** | The writer engages in a process that demonstrates significant pre-writing and planning, revising, and reflection. |