



# Back in the Classroom



<i>Objective</i>	To deepen students' understanding about invasive plants after an invasive removal workday.
<i>Audience</i>	1 or more students; ages 8+
<i>Duration</i>	15 minutes
<i>Materials</i>	Varies
<i>Background</i>	A hands-on, service-learning program can be a great way to either introduce the concept of invasive plants or deepen students' understanding of an already familiar concept. Either way, it's important to have students reflect on their experiences back in the classroom. This can be as simple as a journal prompt or thank you note or can take the form of a bigger project. Here are some writing and outreach ideas to get teachers started.
<i>Procedure</i>	<p><b>Writing</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Journaling prompts:</b> students write journal entries to reflect on their experiences learning about invasive plants. The writing can be kept private or students could share a thought/idea from their entry. Here are example journaling prompts:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rose, bud, thorn – ask students to write about their favorite part of the day (rose), what sparked an interest, and that they would like to learn more about (bud), and the hardest or least enjoyable part of their day (thorn).</li><li>• Have students write about the most interesting thing they learned during the program. What do they want to learn more about?</li></ul></li><li><b>2. Thank you notes:</b> Have students write thank you notes to the people who coordinated their invasive plant program. Have the notes include a thank you, but also one thing the student learned. Here are examples of thank you notes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each student can make their own card, or the whole class can make a big card.</li><li>• Each student can write their thank you on a cut out of a leaf and all the leaves can be arranged into a big tree.</li></ul></li></ol> <p><b>Outreach</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Spread the word, not the plant:</b> Have students share what they learned about invasive plants with the rest of their grade and/or school. Here is an example of an activity:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Invasive posters – have students work in small groups to create informational posters about an invasive plant. These posters can be hung around school to educate other students. See 'Invasive Plant Posters' activity for more details.</li></ul></li><li><b>2. Invasive plants at school:</b> Have students use knowledge they gained during their invasive plant program to investigate invasive plants on school property. Here are examples:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take a walk around the school property or nearby park and look for invasive plants.</li><li>• Make a map of the location of invasive plants at school.</li><li>• Make a field guide of invasive plants found at school.</li><li>• Write a letter to the principal explaining why restoration work including removing invasive plants is so important and requesting permission to remove invasive plants at school.</li><li>• Have a workday and remove invasive plants at school!</li></ul></li></ol>

*Inspiration Sources – The many schools and teachers we've worked with over the years; activities redesigned for our purposes.*