

URL: <https://stvp.stanford.edu/clips/how-you-can-make-a-difference>

Stanford University President Marc Tessier-Lavigne talks about ways to quench a desire to make a social impact in the world. Bring a “spirit of service” to whatever you do, and appreciate that any form of work can be mission driven and contribute to solutions, he says. He also suggests volunteering as time permits or committing to a cause completely at some point in the future. “Life is long and lived in chapters,” Tessier-Lavigne explains.



## Transcript

- So if you wanna have a social impact, how do you go about it? A few things.. You bring that spirit to whatever you do and be respectful of the fact that whether someone is doing fundamental research that it's not obvious what the impact is going to be or is directly working to help homeless people or working with patients in an intensive care unit, that all of those are doing good in society.. We have to be respectful of the fact that all are possible.. That's number one.. Number two.. There's the opportunity for multitasking so if you are doing fundamental research, and you want to have something more tangible, there's so many service opportunities, there's so many people who could benefit from your direct activity.. Go work with Habitat for Humanity on the weekend.. There are many many opportunities here in the community.. And then the third point is, life is long and lived in chapters.. You could do something for awhile and then you can change and do something else..

And then change and do something else.. And you don't have to always try to do everything in each chapter of your life.. I think, bring that spirit of service to the community, to the country, to the world and try to have it infuse everything that you do, but don't feel that you necessarily have to do it all at once...