The Miscellaneous Route:

Pros
1. You have several resources available to you that are far less time consuming than this route.
2. We recommend that you look at other options.
3. Use this as a last resort (if there is no local database, no service-learning staff, and both you and your students have no specific partners in mind.)

Cons
1. Run the risk of service sites that are not consistent with teaching course objectives.
2. Faculty are not creating partnerships; they are creating placements.
3. Faculty may have as many community partners as they have students in their class.
4. Faculty members have a lot less control over quality of the learning. (Have to build in quality control mechanisms, e.g. site approval process).
5. Run the risk that the focus becomes more about service, less about learning.

The Student Proposal Route:

Pros
1. Students may be more likely to have a genuine interest in the project if they self-select.
2. Students less resistant to service-learning because they can find a service site that fits into their schedules.
3. Easier on the faculty member in terms of finding service-learning placements.

Cons
1. Students not having a genuine interest in the project.
2. Students more resistant to service-learning because they cannot find a service site that fits into their schedules.
3. Faculty may have many community partners as they have students in their class.
4. Faculty members have a lot less control over quality of the learning. (Have to build in quality control mechanisms, e.g. site approval process).
5. Run the risk that the focus becomes more about service, less about learning.

The Faculty Interest Drives Partnership Route

Pros
1. Creating a partnership based on interest and passion.
2. May already have a rapport with staff at the organization. Don’t need an introduction.
   Established lines of communication.
   Can focus on building a partnership rather than simply finding one.
   Familiarity with needs and structure of organization.
3. Better sense of what your students’ experiences will be.
4. Better sense of how your course objectives will be met through service-learning at this particular organization.

Cons
1. If involved with the organization in another capacity prior to service-learning partnership, may need to re-negotiate or re-define roles.

The Service-Learning Staff Route:

Pros
1. Coordinator has knowledge of wide range of organizations
2. Coordinator can “weed out” the least relevant options
3. Coordinator can facilitate first contact between faculty and partner
4. Faculty have to identify the course objectives they hope to address via service-learning.
5. If you are new to service-learning, this can be very helpful.

Cons:
1. You are relying on a matchmaker who may not completely understand your course objectives.

The Database Route

Pros
1. Wide range of organizations at your finger tips.
2. You do the “weeding out” with your specific course objectives in mind.
3. You make first contact with partners.
4. A seasoned practitioner might enjoy this level of control.

Cons
1. Can be overwhelming, especially for a novice to service-learning.
2. “Weeding out” process rests with you which can be time consuming.