

Section 1:

#1 "To start off with, how would you feel if a 10 year old's brain was filled with the harrowing images of people suffering from starvation or diseases? It is most certainly obvious that their young, growing minds are absolutely not ready to see the dark outside world. How would you feel if you were in year 5, and every weekend, you had to see people slowly but painfully passing away? Undoubtedly, we must spare young children from the real world, even if that means less people helping out those in need."

Strengths: Your emotive language and rhetorical questions effectively appeal to the reader's emotions. Your use of phrases like "harrowing images" creates a vivid picture.

Weaknesses: Your argument assumes that all volunteering exposes children to extreme suffering and death, which is a misleading generalisation. You mention "seeing people slowly but painfully passing away" as if this were a typical volunteering experience for children, when most school volunteering involves activities like litter collection, helping at community events, or visiting care homes for socialisation activities.

I believe that mandatory volunteering could be harmful to young students, but many age-appropriate volunteering opportunities exist, such as helping at school fêtes or participating in beach clean-ups, which can teach responsibility without exposing children to traumatic situations.

#2 "In addition, if students become aware that community service was always able to help them, it is so clear that they would take that as an advantage. Students will have the temptation to stop working and studying hard, because either way, there would be many people to help them. When the students grow up, they will have to thought of getting a job, because those students helping out would aid them for free."

Strengths: Your attempt to identify a potential long-term consequence shows forward thinking. You're considering how behaviours in childhood might affect adult life.

Weaknesses: Logical fallacy → Your argument confuses being a volunteer with receiving volunteer help. You state that students who volunteer will "have the temptation to stop working" because "there would be many people to help them", but this doesn't follow logically. Volunteering means giving help, not receiving it, so the connection you're trying to make isn't clear.

Mandatory volunteering might have downsides, but I believe it actually teaches students the value of hard work rather than discouraging it. When students volunteer at a food bank, for instance, they learn that support services require dedicated effort from many people.

#3 "Moreover, imagine your time to complete homework was taken away for volunteering. How would you manage to hand in all your assignments on time? Just because community service is taking away time from students to help them be kind people, you are also taking away time to study and become smarter."

Strengths: Your point about time management is relevant and practical. You effectively highlight a genuine concern that many students would relate to.

Weaknesses: Incomplete argument → You present volunteering and studying as completely opposed activities, without considering how they might be balanced or integrated. You don't acknowledge the possibility of reasonable time limits on volunteering requirements or how schools might adjust homework expectations accordingly.

I believe we could address time concerns by implementing a modest volunteering requirement of perhaps one hour per week, which would teach valuable skills whilst still leaving ample time for academic work and allowing schools to consider this commitment when setting homework deadlines.

■ Your persuasive piece shows passion for your position, which is commendable. However, your arguments would be more convincing if you avoided extreme examples and considered counterarguments. For instance, when discussing children's exposure to suffering, you could acknowledge that age-appropriate volunteering exists whilst arguing it's still best kept optional. Your time management point is strong, but would benefit from suggesting reasonable limits rather than rejecting all volunteering. Additionally, your middle paragraph about students becoming dependent contains a confusing leap in logic that weakens your case. Try to maintain a clearer cause-and-effect relationship in your arguments. You might also consider addressing the potential benefits of volunteering that proponents would raise, and then explain why these benefits don't outweigh the drawbacks you've identified. This approach shows you've considered both sides whilst still advocating for your position.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2:

Imagine being slumped in a rickety chair, hours past your bedtime, with a pen and blank paper staring straight through your soul. Trembling, your clammy hand hovers over the paper, which is as blank as a starless sky. You have gotten no work done, and the assignment is due tomorrow. Would you want this to be every student's reality, just because of mandatory volunteering? Clearly, if volunteering becomes mandatory for students, they will see the horrors of the world, become too reliant on community service to help them, and have inadequate ~~amount~~ [amounts] of time to complete their work. Let's examine the facts.

#1 To start off with, how would you feel if a 10 year old's brain was filled with the harrowing images of people suffering from starvation or diseases? It is most certainly obvious that their young, growing minds are absolutely not ready to see the dark outside world. How would you feel if you were in year 5, and every weekend, you had to see people slowly but painfully passing away? Undoubtedly, we must spare young children from the real world, even if that means ~~less~~ [fewer] people helping out those in need.

#2 In addition, if students become aware that community service was always able to help them, it is so clear that they would take that as an advantage. Students will have the temptation to stop working and studying hard, because either way, there would be many people to help them. When the students grow up, they will ~~have to~~ [have no] thought of getting a job, because those students helping out would aid them for free. It is unquestionable that students will become ~~to~~ [too] reliant on service when they grow up. Even if volunteering is helping them ~~to becoming~~ [to become] better people, they will know that others would have to volunteer later, making it clear that service is available if needed.

#3 Moreover, imagine your time to complete homework was taken away for volunteering. How would you manage to hand in all your assignments on time? Just because community service is taking away time from students to help them be kind people, you are also taking away time to study and become smarter. Especially as students get older, there will be more work in less time, and students will still be required to volunteer in events and services. Would you want the next generation to lose education time so that they could help out the world?

In summation, we must not introduce mandatory volunteering, even if it means students are not learning to help others. No one wants a child's brain to be filled with horrifying images or the thought that they have free care even if they don't work hard. You ~~would~~ ~~also would~~ [would also] strongly dislike a child to lose education so that they could help others, would you? Make sure volunteering stays optional and I guarantee every student will thrive their whole entire life.