

Section 1:

#1 "Firstly, you can create friends with other people including a diverse range of age, thought and culture. School encourages you to interact with the same year group as you. Bonding friendship can have many benefits. They will support and help you when you need it."

Strengths: Your persuasive piece effectively highlights the social benefits of volunteering. You've made a good comparison between school friendships and the more diverse connections made through volunteering.

Weak introduction to benefits → Your opening sentence lacks impact and uses imprecise phrasing like "create friends" rather than "make friends" or "form friendships". The transition between ideas is somewhat abrupt, making your argument less cohesive.

***Firstly, volunteering allows you to form meaningful friendships with people from diverse backgrounds, ages and cultures. Unlike school, where you mainly interact with peers your own age, volunteering connects you with a broader community.***

#2 "Secondly, it can create a calm and quiet place. Volunteering can reduce stress while you do a fun activity. It can take worries off your minds making you feel more relaxed. Additionally, it improves mental health by increasing your happiness and making a sense of accomplishment which releases good cells into your body."

Strengths: You've thoughtfully included mental health benefits of volunteering. Your attempt to explain the physiological aspects of well-being shows good awareness of multiple dimensions of health.

Unclear terminology → You've used vague language such as "good cells" and made unsubstantiated claims about how volunteering affects mental health. The connection between "a calm and quiet place" and volunteering isn't clearly established, leaving your reader uncertain about what you mean.

***Secondly, volunteering provides a peaceful environment that helps reduce stress whilst engaging in meaningful activities. It gives your mind a break from everyday worries and improves mental health by creating feelings of accomplishment and happiness, which triggers the release of positive brain chemicals like endorphins.***

#3 "Participating in these activities everyday can take up a lot of time. Many people use their time on earning money, everyday tasks and family factors leaving limited time to take part in community activities."

Strengths: You've shown balanced thinking by acknowledging a potential counterargument about time constraints. This demonstrates maturity in your persuasive writing.

Underdeveloped counterargument → You briefly mention a counterpoint but don't fully explore or address it. This paragraph is significantly shorter than your others and lacks the specific examples you've used elsewhere, making it feel disconnected from your overall argument.

*Whilst participating in these activities regularly requires a time commitment, even volunteering for just a few hours each month can be beneficial. Many people balance work, family responsibilities and everyday tasks, yet still find time for volunteering by choosing opportunities that match their schedule and interests.*

■ Your persuasive piece shows promising elements but needs more development in certain areas. Your overall structure follows a clear pattern with an introduction, body paragraphs focusing on different benefits, a brief counterargument, and a conclusion. However, the depth of your arguments could be strengthened. For example, your second paragraph about mental health benefits uses terms like "good cells" which isn't precise enough to be convincing. Additionally, your counterargument paragraph is significantly shorter than others and doesn't fully address the concern raised. You could improve your piece by using more precise language throughout and developing your counterargument more thoroughly. Also, consider strengthening your introduction with a more compelling hook to grab the reader's attention immediately. Your conclusion could be more impactful by reinforcing the key benefits you've discussed rather than introducing new ideas. Your examples are a strong point in your writing—try to include them consistently in each paragraph.

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**Score: 41/50**

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Section 2:

Did you know that across Australia, around 5 million people volunteered for one organization group in 2020? Volunteering can be a peaceful place where you can interact with a range of people and learn together. I believe volunteering is a great way of experiencing different types of topics and subjects but it does not need to be mandatory. Let me tell you some benefits of volunteering.

#1 Firstly, you can ~~create~~ [make] friends with other people including a diverse range of age, thought and culture. School encourages you to interact with the same year group as you. Bonding ~~friendship~~ [friendships] can have many benefits. They will support and help you when you need it. Also, you can have a sense of belonging to the group or the community. For example, you bond with an old lady. ~~You can explain your experiences at school and support her when she crosses the road. She can tell you about history and help you with your history tests!~~ [You might share your school experiences with her and offer to help her cross the road, whilst she shares historical stories that could even help with your history tests!]

Secondly, it can create a calm and quiet place. Volunteering can reduce stress while you do a fun activity. It can take worries off your ~~minds~~ [mind] making you feel more relaxed. Additionally, it improves ~~mental~~ [mental] health by increasing your happiness and making a sense of accomplishment which releases ~~good cells~~ [positive feelings] into your body. For instance, you volunteer to help research the app that they are working on. In the end, you get to test out the games which makes you excited.

Finally, you can learn skills from volunteering. These can lead to jobs or hobbies for your career. Another option is using these skills in everyday life. For example, if ~~help~~ [you help] with planting vegetables in the local garden, you will know how to plant different foods. At home you can plant food to eat and use your knowledge to help it grow. This can save money and the food can be fresher and healthier.

~~#3 Participating in these activities everyday can take up a lot of time. Many people use their time on earning money, everyday tasks and family factors leaving limited time to take part in community activities.~~ [Participating in these activities every day can take up a lot of time. Many people use their time earning money, completing everyday tasks and attending to family matters, leaving limited time to take part in community activities.]

In conclusion, while volunteering can allow learning to be fun, you can experience amazing techniques. It's worth trying out different ideas and making new friendship bonds. Although volunteering is helpful, I don't think it should be ~~it~~ mandatory at school. I encourage you to try it out and learn some skills!