

Why is Community Service Important?

CCSSR2—clarify the main/central idea of a passage; analyze a passage to identify relationships; support important ideas with examples.

The following passage is part of a report that the Obama-Biden campaign prepared about service and volunteering.

For Barack Obama, public service has not been just the slogan of a campaign; it has been the cause of his life. Obama began his career by moving to the South Side of Chicago to direct the Developing Communities Project. Together with a coalition of ministers, Obama set out to improve living conditions in poor neighborhoods plagued by crime and high unemployment. After graduating from law school, Obama passed up lucrative law firm jobs to head Project Vote, which helped register 150,000 new African American voters in Chicago, the highest number ever registered in a single local effort. Michelle Obama was founding executive director of Public Allies Chicago, a leadership development program that identifies and prepares talented young adults for careers serving the public good. Barack Obama and Joe Biden believe public service is transformative, helping both the individuals that serve and the communities that benefit. . . .

Barack Obama calls his years working as a community organizer in Chicago's South Side the best education he ever had. He believes that all students should serve their communities. Studies show that students who participate in service-learning programs do better in school, are more likely to graduate high school and go to college, and are more likely to become active, engaged citizens. Schools that require service as part of the educational experience create improved learning environments and serve as resources for their communities.

What is the main idea of this passage?

Underline three statements in the passage that support that idea.

Decide if you believe this is a good plan. List three reasons for your position.

My Position: _____

My Reasons:

Extended Response:

Based on what you have read, what do you think the value is of volunteering?

Use information from the reading and examples from your own experience in your response.

INTERNET LEARNING LINK: Read the whole report at
<http://www.barackobama.com/pdf/NationalServicePlanFactSheet.pdf>