

Think in terms of **NOW**, **THEN** and **ACTION**

2. What's wrong with **NOW**?

- Young people think only of their own future, without any sense of the needs of others less fortunate than themselves.
- As a result, society is very fragmented and lacking in solidarity.
- Young people only learn a narrow set of skills.
- Young people have little experience of the lives of people who are not like them.
- Many young people, who do not have places at university / jobs with prospects, lack a sense of direction and purpose.
- Charities and voluntary organisations helping less fortunate people are understaffed.

3. What will **THEN** look like?

- Every 18 year old would spend a year, before beginning study or work, helping people less fortunate than themselves.

4. Why will **THEN** be better?

- Society will be more open minded, as people would grow up with a broader experience of life.
- Society will be more united, as people would have a shared experience at a formative age.
- Society will be more compassionate, as people would have been confronted with people less fortunate than themselves.
- All 19 year olds will be equipped with basic, transferrable skills.
- Charitable / voluntary projects will never be understaffed.

5. How will the **ACTION** get us to **THEN**?

- By making the year of community service universal, with very few exceptions, this law would ensure all the benefits listed above.

Thinking in terms of **NOW**, **THEN** and **ACTION** is a very helpful way to break down, and then build up, a proposition case. It is also, by the way, a very useful skill to have in life, whenever you want to persuade people to embrace a change you think is desirable, whether that's being loaned money to launch a new business; radically changing our way of life to cut carbon emissions; or being allowed to move into your sister's bedroom now she's gone to university.

However, any case is of course open to attack. That's what the opposition is for (and what you need to do if you're the opposition.)

And that's what we'll look at in the next chapter.