

children of rich parents go to socially exclusive schools and get the best jobs, while children of poorer families do not have the same opportunities. This economic injustice is what needs to be addressed; forcing young people unwillingly into community service is just avoiding the real problem.

9 The solution won't be any better than what we have now.

How is a year resentfully picking up litter and cleaning toilets going to turn everyone into more compassionate, caring, highly skilled and purposeful citizens?

10 There is a better solution to the problem.

A year of community service at age 18 is an excellent thing for young people to do and would bring all the benefits you describe. However, we propose a better way to promote it; instead of making it compulsory, make it voluntary but incentivised. Anyone who did a year of community service before going to university would automatically have their tuition fees paid by the government. Given that young people who go to university tend to be predominantly from more privileged backgrounds, this would be an excellent way to introduce them to people less fortunate than themselves. Also, because it would be a free choice, the resentment that compulsory community service would breed would not be an issue.

11 There is no solution to the problem.

Of course it would be lovely to live in a world where everyone was forced to be caring, compassionate and altruistic, and there were no divisions between people of different backgrounds. People tried to build a world like that in Russia in the twentieth century, and look what happened: economic ruin and millions of people starved, shot and imprisoned. Human nature is not like that, and never will be.

12 The solution has already been tried and has failed.

From 1949 to 1960, all 18 year old men in Britain had to do two years of compulsory military service. It is now widely acknowledged that this was not a success. Training the conscripts, many of whom were not fitted for the military life, put the armed forces under unnecessary strain, while the compulsory nature of the service

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bred resentment, hatred of authority and, in many cases, criminality in impressionable young men. There was also compulsory military service in the United States during the Vietnam War in the 1960s, but it was often evaded by young men from privileged families, with the result that most of the soldiers came from less privileged backgrounds, in which African-Americans were over represented, worsening rather than healing social divisions. There is no reason to suppose that compulsory community service would not face very similar problems.

13 The problem will go away without the solution you propose.

With the development of artificial intelligence taking over many jobs, people will have more leisure time than ever before. They will want to spend this time in meaningful, worthwhile activity, and as a result charities and voluntary organisations will have volunteers flooding through their doors, with all the benefits that this will bring both for those organisations and for the volunteers themselves.

You can see already that some of these arguments are stronger than others. Different motions will lend themselves to different lines of attack, and part of the job of the opposition is selecting the best lines of attack. Also, on a practical note, there simply won't be time in one speech (or two speeches across a team) to use all thirteen lines of attack. However, it is helpful to have them written down somewhere (for example, by bringing this book to debates) to refer to in preparation time. Think of them as a toolkit; you need to select the best tools from it for the job in hand. You can, of course, use some or all of these tools when persuading someone in real life not to do something you do not want them to do, or not to make you do something you do not want to do (see how useful debating is for life?).

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