

chances of actually doing well in this tournament, it was tough to determine whether Sarah and I had a fighting chance because of how small our squad was and the fact that we only found out we were attending this tournament a week in advance. Little did our opponents know that whenever they debated us or any other team from Kansas, that they were taking on an entire state. Little did our opponents know that Kansas had set up a war room in which arguments and intelligence were being shared by everyone. Little did our opponents know that Sarah and I were literally flooded with support at all times in this tournament. This unity is something that I have never seen before in the debate community and something that I believe everyone should strive for. Kansas is the reason why we are debating here today. Between the years of competition it has provided for us and the support we've needed when the time was right, Kansas debate has been there.

(Applause). They are apparently still here as well.

I would also like to thank the University of Texas at Dallas, the school I will be attending next year to debate for. They've given us continuous support throughout the entirety of the tournament, and before it even started, really.

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive Committee of the NFL as well as the local host committee for putting the tournament on. It has been extremely well run from our perspective; they deserve our gratitude for doing that. Additionally the sponsors, also the ones behind this debate; we should really be thankful that they can put this tournament on for us. Let's get to the debate now, without further ado.

Observation One is Inherency. America faces a crisis. Specifically, at-risk youth who are the most in need of summer opportunities currently lack access to support. From Shirley Sagawa, visiting fellow at the Center for American Progress and a national expert on child and youth policy, from two days ago, titled, "Summer of Service: A New Rite of Passage for Young Teens," Center for American Progress, accessed online: "In the 15 years since its enactment, national service has grown from a demonstration program to a large-scale system engaging more than 75,000 Americans. Unfortunately, research shows that the young people who need this sort of experience most are the least likely to be engaged. Disadvantaged teens are far less likely to volunteer than their peers from more advantaged backgrounds, by a 43-to-59 percent margin. However, those disadvantaged youth who serve hold more positive civic attitudes, discussing politics, believing that they can make a difference, and planning to go to college at higher rates than their low-income peers who do not volunteer."

Unfortunately, the Summer Service Act of 2007 is stalled in committee—it has laid dormant for two months and counting. From the Library of Congress, Online accessed 6-21-2007, Title: A bill to Amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to Establish a Summer of Service State Grant Program. Latest Major Action: 4/17/2007, and was referred to the Senate committee.