

Second is that there is a very long time frame for children getting involved in tangible GDP growth in the economy. There is no immediate impact from the affirmative on the economy.

Additionally, there is a five-year trend of skyrocketing civil engagement in youth now. Lester, writing for the Associated Press in 2007, accessed online:

“People in this country have been volunteering at record levels in the years following Sept. 11. More than a fourth of the population did volunteer work in 2006 and was heavily influenced by a sharp increase—almost doubling—in the volunteer rates of young people ages 16 to 19. From 9/11 and the devastation of hurricanes has come an unmistakable good: a strong interest in volunteering and community involvement. Volunteerism rates also have increased for most age groups.”

And, no one will use the summer. There is no reason why kids in junior high and high school would give up their summers to volunteer in AmeriCorps.

Additionally, civic engagement is high because of Iraq. Ford, contributing writer for *Vibe News*, 2007:

“Students commemorated the largest anti-war demonstration in history yesterday and it marked the anniversary of the largest anti-war demonstration in history. Students at colleges, universities participated in a variety of walk-outs, strikes, teach-ins and protests. Students felt empowered.”

And, there is an internal tradeoff. People that normally do AmeriCorps during the school year will hold off until the summer because of the better benefits of the plan. This will actually cause a net decrease in volunteerism and means they can’t solve.

Additionally, if people join just for monetary benefits, it is no different from a job. This undercuts the idea of altruism in place of misplaced selfishness and turns their advantages of volunteerism and civil engagement because kids will join AmeriCorps instead of getting true jobs.

Additionally, volunteerism in AmeriCorps is already high. *World Magazine*, 3/10/2007, accessed online:

“Boosted by patriotism in the wake of 9/11, volunteers have flocked to government-sponsored service programs in the last five years. Applications for AmeriCorps’ program of placing willing volunteers with established nonprofits have grown by 50 percent since 2004.”

I am open for cross-examination.

**CROSS-EXAMINATION OF STEPHANIE SPIES (GLENBROOK
NORTH HIGH SCHOOL) BY ANDREW BAKER (SHAWNEE
MISSION WEST HIGH SCHOOL)**