

The Case for Mandatory Public Service  
By Amari Luu

Greek philosopher Plato once said, “This city is what it is because our citizens are what they are.” These young citizens which the resolution pertains to are the literal future of our nation.

Stanley McChrystal - an American general **1**, writes that mandatory public service is necessary “to create a new rite of passage into adulthood and forge a renewed sense of citizenship.”

Nowadays, many Americans take their freedom for granted. They don’t realize freedom is not free. It requires sacrifice, dedication, and hard work.

Preparing people for a career that benefits themselves by giving back to the community, the skills gained by national service don’t just go away. **2** Instead they stay with and continue to guide and contribute to the lives of citizens. David Carden of FP writes: This would make education more accessible but also provide assistance to struggling colleges and universities. Although the opposing side might try and argue that national service takes away a year of progress, I’m here to tell you that the education, experience, and personal growth that a young American goes through during their period of national service is truly invaluable. A young adult who has gone through a year of national service will have acquired industry specific skills plus connections to officials in the government. What’s more, National Service is not unpaid. **3** The salary or the income, earned by a young person during national service, might even surpass the national average of a salary or income earned by a young person not in national service. Essentially, this provides young people with a financial head start to their careers. **4**

Mandatory national service is not about taking away our freedom, it's about preserving it. The enemies of democracy both internal and external never **5** sleep. We must remain active in our defense of America through national service. It's about giving back to our country and creating a stronger, more united America.

1.

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) writes
- C) - writes
- D) : writes

2.

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Thus
- C) Therefore
- D) Conclusively

3.

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) The salary earned during national service may exceed the average for young people not in national service.
- C) The salary or the money made during national service may exceed the average for young people not in national service.
- D) The salary possesses an inherent potential and capacity that can, without a doubt, far surpass, by a substantial margin, the comparatively ordinary and average salary typically earned by young individuals who have not had the privilege or opportunity to partake in the honorable and esteemed endeavor that is national service.

4. At this point, the author is considering adding the following sentence:

Mandatory national service has been around in countries such as Switzerland for decades.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, it introduces a real world example of national service.
- B) Yes, it supports the author's examples of benefits of national service
- C) No, it detracts from the paragraph's argument by introducing loosely related information
- D) No, it doesn't include enough other countries as examples

5. Which choice most effectively combines the underlined sentences?

- A) The enemies of democracy both internal and external never sleep, moreover we must remain active in our defense of America through national service.
- B) The enemies of democracy both internal and external never sleep; after that we must remain active in our defense of America through national service.
- C) The enemies of democracy both internal and external never sleep, conversely we must remain active in our defense of America through national service.
- D) The enemies of democracy both internal and external never sleep and we must remain active in our defense of America through national service.