

Topic 4 - 2011

You have just read a text on a forum created by a local Council. The topic was: people spending some of their free time on voluntary work, such as helping elderly people, planting trees, building playgrounds etc. There were several responses, some agreeing with the topic and some disagreeing. You decide to add a passage to the topic of the forum (200 words).

- State and justify your position on the topic
- Refer to what some other contributors wrote on the forum
- Make a suggestion concerning your neighbourhood, town, etc.

(Use the name "**workdoctor3**" to participate in the forum)

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It's really noteworthy to see so many people involved in this forum discussion regarding voluntary work. We may not all agree but this diversity of opinions is more fruitful than any one sided approach.

Personally, I see voluntary work as the ultimate expression of humanistic values. There is nothing praiseworthy in attending your own business but when you decide to go out of your way for the sake of others it means that you transcend to a higher moral level. Sacrificing your narrowly personal interest for the common good is the key to a well-knit society.

I know that many of you disagree with me. MaryC5 attributes purely selfish motives to voluntary work. She thinks that volunteers compare themselves to the people in need and just feel superior. However, I think that's unfair and anyway it doesn't apply to voluntary work in nature. TomDX3 also mentions that we should have better welfare systems rather than seek volunteers but again it seems to me that the one thing doesn't exclude the other.

In my neighbourhood there is this huge open space next to the football field. At the moment it's nothing but a wasteland full of rubbish and abandoned cars. We could organise a clean-up initiative. We may also ask for a pick-up truck from the municipality and transform the area into an area for cycling within a few days.

I hope you like my idea. And don't forget the motto: think globally, act locally!

workdoctor3

Opening §: Make a reference to the forum and the topic of the discussion

It's really noteworthy to see so many people involved in this forum discussion regarding voluntary work. We may not all agree but this diversity of opinions is more fruitful than any one sided approach.

Body §1: Your opinion

Personally, I see voluntary work as the ultimate expression of humanistic values. There is nothing praiseworthy in attending your own business but when you decide to go out of your way for the sake of others it means that you transcend to a higher moral level. Sacrificing your narrowly personal interest for the common good is the key to a well-knit society.

Body §2: The opinion of other forum members

I know that many of you disagree with me. MaryC5 attributes purely selfish motives to voluntary work. She thinks that volunteers compare themselves to the people in need and just feel superior. (Explain why you disagree with MaryC5) However, I think that's unfair and anyway it doesn't apply to voluntary work in nature. TomDX3 also mentions that we should have better welfare systems rather than seek volunteers but again it seems to me that the one thing doesn't exclude the other.

Body §3: Suggestions for your neighbourhood

In my neighbourhood there is this huge open space next to the football field. At the moment it's nothing but a wasteland full of rubbish and abandoned cars. We could organise a clean-up initiative. We may also ask for a pick-up truck from the municipality and transform the area into an area for cycling within a few days.

Closing §: Call for action!

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