

### Exhibit 9.9. A Student Essay on Making Community Service a Graduation Requirement

Of all the requirements for graduation, community service is not usually one of them. However, some colleges are considering adding this as a prerequisite to receiving a diploma. This idea has caused disputes between some students, who do not wish to volunteer, and faculty, who feel that volunteering should not be required in order to graduate from an institute of higher learning.

One opinion is that as a graduating college student, you should not only be well educated, but also well rounded in general, and community service is one aspect that will help you to become a more well rounded person in general. This is the opinion of the people who advocate for community service. By requiring students to perform so many mandated hours of community service, they feel that the students will become enriched in ways that a classroom cannot provide.

Another opinion of faculty is that students do not have to volunteer in order to get a good education, which is the primary function of a university, and therefore, required community service should not be necessary in order to receive a diploma. Some students share this opinion also. They feel that community service should be a personal opinion based on personal interests and reasons for wishing to volunteer. They believe that if students are forced to volunteer in order to receive the diploma they have worked so hard for, since the community service work is not coming from their hearts, they will not be giving their all, simply going through the motions to satisfy the requirement.

If students are required to provide a certain number of community service hours, this may also detract from their attention to their school work, causing grades to suffer. Some faculty have taken this into consideration. They are not sure if creating mandatory community service hours is worth the possible decline in students' GPAs because they are so concerned with finding places to conduct community service and finding the time to perform their mandated hours.

Another question that is concerning the faculty of universities is whether or not there are enough locations in which students could perform community service. For some colleges that are not located around a large city, the number of places that needs volunteer work may not be sufficient enough to accommodate all the students that are attending the school. If there are not enough open spaces in volunteer organizations outside of the school, should the university be obligated to create situations in which volunteers are needed in the school so that students can perform their needed hours of community service?

All of these questions and concerns need to be adequately addressed before a decision is made at any university or postsecondary school. They should be addressed not only with faculty and staff of the school, but also students, in order to hear their points of view.

## Recommended Readings

The following readings are recommended along with the references cited in this chapter.

- Andrade, H. G. (2000). Using rubrics to promote thinking and learning. *Educational Leadership*, 57(5), 13-18.
- Arter, J., & McTighe, J. (2001). *Scoring rubrics in the classroom: Using performance criteria for assessing and improving student performance*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.