

Definition Essay: Volunteerism

Read the following quotations and use them to help you write an essay in which you define volunteerism:

“Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love...”

Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. (American Minister and Civil Rights Activist, 1929-1968)

“Never before has man had such a great capacity to control his own environment, to end hunger, poverty and disease, to banish illiteracy and human misery. We have the power to make the best generation of mankind in the history of the world.”

John F. Kennedy (Politician and 35th United States President, 1917-1963)

“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.”

Muhammad Ali (American Boxer and Olympic Gold Medalist, 1942-present)

“A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens - citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization.”

George H. W. Bush (Politician and 41st United States President, 1924-present)

Basic Requirements:

- Introduction paragraph with thesis statement (**HINT:** This thesis statement will propose your definition of the word volunteerism.)
- 2-3 body paragraphs that correlate with your thesis statement and support your definition
- A concluding paragraph that reminds me of your key points and effectively argues your definition

As you write your essay, you must:

- Focus on defining the concept of volunteerism.
- Effectively organize your ideas using the provided graphic organizer. (A five-paragraph essay is not necessary; however, you do need a definite introduction, body and conclusion.)
- Include ideas from any of the following sources:
 - The dictionary and or personal definition
 - Synonyms and antonyms (compare/contrast)
 - An anecdote
 - Any ideas stimulated by the above quotations
 - Other historical evidence
 - Evidence from relevant literary works
- Include ample and appropriate details.
- Edit your essay for standard grammar and language usage.
- **PROOFREAD, PROOFREAD, and PROOFREAD!**

