

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

New Grads Increasingly Turning to AmeriCorps, Teach for America, 03/17/09

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june09/service_03-17-2.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the unemployment situation in the United States?
2. What has happened to the number of applications for volunteer and service programs in America?
3. What is Teach for America? How many more people have applied to the program this year?
4. What does one study say about the rise in volunteerism in America?
5. What is a possible reason for the increased interest in service?
6. What is the Peace Corps? Who started it?
7. What is the Serve America Act?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Are you and your peers interested in service? Why or why not?

2. What does "service" mean, according to this article?

3. Are service jobs important? Why or why not?

4. What factors are most important when considering a job or career? What about pay, hours, location, working conditions, personal fulfillment?

5. Why do you think applications to service organizations are up?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.