

South Dade Senior High School  
9th and 10th Grade ELA Winter Break Packet

# Winter Break



**Directions:**

Complete the guiding questions throughout the document and the essay. Return this packet for a grade to your English teacher or upload the document to the teacher's digital platform by January 7, 2022.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Writing Situation**

Read all three of the following sources to analyze ideas and evidence about the effects of the Peace Corps.

Write an argumentative essay in which you make a claim about either the potential risks or benefits of the Peace Corps. Use the information from the texts in the passage set to support your claim. Cite evidence by title.

\*Answer the guiding questions throughout the document to assist you with the reading and writing process.

#### **Remember to**

- read the passages;
- plan your response;
- write your response; and
- revise and edit your response.

#### **Be sure to**

- Include a claim;
- Address counterclaims;
- Use evidence from multiple sources; and
- Avoid overly relying on one source.

## Source # 1

### The Peace Corps: A Giving Spirit



Some believe that the spirit of caring about and helping others is an *innate* human instinct, as common as any emotion that we may experience. The practice of helping others, however, has not always extended beyond our own neighborhood, so to speak. Certainly, throughout history there have been those who traveled the world to learn about and care for people in other communities. As a country, however, the United States' involvement in helping those outside of its own borders is a more recent phenomenon. One way that the government has formalized a process of helping people in foreign lands is through the development of the Peace Corps.

**Based on the context of the sentence, what does *innate* mean?**

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**What is the point of view about American involvement abroad? Underline or highlight your evidence in the text.**

#### **An Important Change**

Through Executive Order 10924, signed on March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy started the Peace Corps to foster world peace and friendship. More specifically, he viewed the Peace Corps as a way of challenging U.S. citizens to volunteer to help people throughout the developing world. In the fifty years since its creation, more than 210,000 Peace Corps volunteers have served in 139 countries.

As stated on its official website, the Peace Corps has a three-part mission:

1. Helping the people of interested countries in meeting their need for trained men and women.
2. Helping promote a better understanding of Americans on the part of the people served.
3. Helping promote a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

This mission illustrates the shift that has taken place in United States foreign policy since World War II. Prior to the war, the United States avoided collaborations and interactions with foreign countries through a policy known as *isolationism*. However, the start of the Cold War and membership in the United Nations guaranteed that the United States would never again exist as a country isolated from the rest of the world.

President Kennedy hoped his bold new experiment in public service would change society's way of thinking. Kennedy's hopes were realized. Eager young Americans joined the Peace Corps in large numbers.

**Based on the context of the sentence, what does *isolationism* mean?**

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**How does the section "An Important Change" help develop the idea of there being a shift in American assistance abroad?**

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### **The Peace Corps Today**

As of 2012, more than 8,000 Peace Corps volunteers are working in seventy-six countries. These volunteers, whose average age is 28, manage projects on every continent of the world except Antarctica, with the largest number of participants in Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. With a budget of \$375 million provided by Congress, Peace Corps volunteers work on projects supporting a range of global needs, such as education, health, the environment, and business development.

Health programs stress nutritional training and home visits to assess and improve infant care in the neediest of countries. Economic initiatives include strategic planning for community development, such as providing leadership and management training to entrepreneurs who wish to start their own businesses. Training and support is also provided to villagers to ensure that they build proper sanitation systems and have access to clean water. The most common Peace Corps project remains teaching English as a second language.

**What is the author's purpose for including the section "The Peace Corps Today"?**

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## The Spirit of Volunteerism

Peace Corps volunteers receive assistance with college loans along with a little money. The greatest benefit, though, is the human experience of learning about and caring about others. This is the benefit of forging friendships for life, gaining a deep appreciation for the culture of others, and experiencing the satisfaction of helping improve the lives of those beyond one's own neighborhood.

**Viewpoint – According to the author, how is the Peace Corps changing the world?**

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### A Conversation With Claire Lea: Peace Corps Recruiter

Claire Lea is a 34-year-old former Peace Corps volunteer who now recruits new volunteers from the student population of the University of Missouri. She educates interested students about the roles and expectations of Peace Corps volunteers as well as the greatest challenges and rewards of the experience.

#### **Volunteer Expectations:**

According to Lea, ninety percent of Peace Corps assignments require the volunteers to have a bachelor's degree.

All assignments also require a twenty-seven-month commitment, a timeframe that enables volunteers to become established community leaders in their assigned country. Assignments are challenging because you are learning a new job while living in a new country making all new friends, which requires learning the language and the cultural 'dos and don'ts.' The first year you're getting used to everything, and the second year you're able to be an effective volunteer. The Corps provides a three-month intensive training prior to any assignment so that volunteers will know what to expect when they are sent abroad.

**Lea's Volunteer Experience:** From 2002-2004, Lea worked as a middle-school math teacher in Banian, a village in Guinea, West Africa, with a population of around thirty-five thousand. The biggest challenge Lea faced was building new relationships while speaking only in French, the language of Guinea. The biggest reward, she says, was recognizing how much kids in Guinea have in common with kids in the United States, from being fans of the same professional athletes and pop stars to wanting to be goofy in class, Lea explains.

Kids there entertain themselves by seeing movies at the local theater or playing cards and checkers with friends at cafés. Unlike most children in the U.S., however, kids in Guinea attend school from 8am to noon, spend the afternoons working in the family fields, and then complete their homework in the evenings by candlelight. On the weekends, the teenagers join the adults

for dancing and socializing at the village boite de nuit, which translates in English to night box. At this community night club, citizens share snacks and sodas together. It is the town event.

**Climate and Lodging:**

Lea describes the climate of Banian as tropical, hot but pleasant with nice, cool breezes. Temperatures reach a low of 60 degrees in December, the coldest month of the year. During the rainy season, from March to August, rain falls for around three hours a day.

Lea lived in a round, one-person hut that contained a small kitchen area, a desk, and a bed surrounded by a mosquito net. The bathroom was located in a private outhouse behind the hut. Bathing was done in the form of a bucket bath, using water that Lea's students helped her carry from the well. While describing her volunteer experience in Africa, Lea reminds all interested volunteers that every country the Peace Corps serves is different and that each volunteer has a unique experience.

**Why does the author include the section “A Conversation With Claire Lea”?**

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**How does the section “Lea’s Volunteer Experience” illustrate the Peace Corps three-part mission?**

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## Source # 2

Its 'Arrogance of Power' Must End If Peace Corps Hopes to Survive, Ex-Volunteers Contend in Critique

NO WRITER ATTRIBUTED January 17, 1968

We joined the Peace Corps because we thought it would afford us a means of helping developing nations without *imposing* the United States' political and cultural values on them. We assumed that the Peace Corps reflected the belief in a pluralistic world for which John Kennedy stood: that therefore its work would be the antithesis of the American colonialism that the rest of the world both fears and resents.

We were wrong. We now see that the Peace Corps is arrogant and colonialist in the same way as the government of which it is a part.

Based on the context of the sentence, what does *imposing* mean?

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### Attitudes and Acts

It is an arrogance that is hard to escape. Viewing ourselves as teachers, for example, it is tempting to think of others as our students and hence to treat them as children. Volunteers' language often reflects this attitude: it is no rare thing to hear a frustrated worker complain about "those stupid lazy *campesinos*," his neighbors. And Volunteers' style of life is often just as offensive, for in towns and cities the Peace Corps members tend to form small gringo enclaves.

What is the point of view about American involvement abroad through the Peace Corps? Underline your evidence in the text.

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### Still Foreigners

Of course, foreigners always have trouble fitting into an alien culture: they stick together, criticize their hosts. And foreigners whose mission is to help (rather than to learn, to work, or simply enjoy themselves) tend to be particularly *contemptuous* of natives who do not seem eager to use the particular services they have to offer.

In the Peace Corps, North Americans--not local people--possess both administrative control and the authority to devise programs. They are the only people empowered to decide about the allocation of their organization's human and material resources.

Based on the context of the sentence, what does *contemptuous* mean?

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### Blindness

Instead, the fact that North Americans alone possess the power to establish overall Peace Corps policy strengthens their determinations to develop the host country according to the formula which they assume made the United States great. So they often try to impose their own North American structures--the mothers club, the Boy Scout troop--onto communities which have for generations been highly structured according to their own culture. They try to impose the idea of civic loyalty that one finds in stable middleclass American towns onto rapidly growing cities that are both poor and politically complex.

It is a blindness produced by the *arrogance* of a nation that thinks itself capable of solving all the world's problems with its own techniques. We cannot discuss this idea seriously with the people who run the Peace Corps. They say that although we are certainly correct in theory, in practice we have to understand that any such a radical proposal would certainly be rejected by Congress. The *bureaucratic* loyalty of these administrators is to Washington. Therefore, the only way to harness the institution's arrogance is to change the organization substantially; to create bureaucratic situations where administrative power is shared by representatives of various societies: where the interplay of their differing interests produces truly flexible programs that can be transferred from culture to culture, rather than imposed by one culture on another.

That means the Peace Corps must be separated from the US government and turned into an internationally administered agency. It is the only way we can see that the ideals for which the organization once stood can survive.

Based on the context of the sentence, what does *arrogance* mean?

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Based on the context of the sentence, what does *bureaucratic* mean?

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**Viewpoint** –How does the author’s opinion about the Peace Corp from Source Two contrast with the author of Source One? Use evidence to support your answer.

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Source # 3



*(AP Photo/U.S. Postal Service)*

Visual Close Read:

What can you infer from the text about the Peace Corp? Use evidence to support your answer.

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