

Persuasive Passage Re-Write

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

Week 9 Discussion: Persuasive Passage Re-Write

In contemporary democracies, low voter turnout has become a pressing issue, challenging the foundations of representative governance. This trend not only undermines the principles of democracy but also risks distorting the political landscape, where the elected officials may not truly reflect the will of the majority. Implementing mandatory voting laws stands out as a proactive measure to combat this apathy and ensure that governments mirror the collective will of the populace. Observing the success of countries like Australia, where mandatory voting has consistently achieved turnouts exceeding 90%, highlights the effectiveness of such policies (Dassonneville et al., 2023).

Mandatory voting significantly enhances participation rates, ensuring that the election outcomes accurately represent societal preferences. This increased turnout ensures that elected officials represent a broader spectrum of the public, fostering the development of balanced and inclusive policies. Consequently, this reduces the chances of governance being disproportionately influenced by a vocal minority while the silent majority remains marginalized, enhancing the overall equity in political representation.

Opponents of mandatory voting often cite the encroachment on personal freedom—specifically, the freedom to abstain. However, repositioning voting as not merely a right but a civic obligation, akin to jury duty or the responsibility of paying taxes, underscores the importance of each citizen's role in sculpting the future of their community. This perspective advocates for active participation in the democratic processes that have profound implications on daily life, enhancing communal decision-making.

Moreover, mandatory voting could lead to a better-informed electorate. If voting is obligatory, citizens will likely take a more active interest in understanding political issues and

candidates, reducing the impact of deceptive or manipulative campaigns designed to exploit voter ignorance. This informed electorate is crucial for the health and sustainability of a democratic society.

Another significant advantage of mandatory voting is its potential to diminish socioeconomic disparities in voter turnout. Studies have shown that lower participation rates are disproportionately observed among minority and economically disadvantaged groups (Tuorto, 2022). A mandatory voting system could help level the playing field, ensuring that all demographic segments are equally represented, thereby enhancing the fairness and equality of the democratic process.

In summary, while mandatory voting might be perceived as an infringement on personal liberty by some, its benefits in enhancing democratic participation and ensuring more equitable representation are substantial. By transforming political participation into a more inclusive and informed endeavor, mandatory voting could significantly reflect a more genuine democratic ethos.

Peer Responses

In addition to your original post, be sure to provide a meaningful response to at least two of your peers' posts by the end of the week. In your response to your peers, how similar persuasive skills are used in something you read outside of school this week.

Response 01

Hey Alex, nice post! Your discussion on mandatory voting highlights compelling points, similar to an article I read this week advocating for environmental policies. Both employ ethos effectively, emphasizing civic duty and responsibility to persuade readers. The strong use of statistical evidence and ethical appeals in your post reinforces the argument, much like the techniques used in the article to emphasize the urgency of action. Great work connecting these aspects!

Response 02

We are supposed to write two peer responses. I have addressed the given instructions in one response. Following these instructions, you can write your peer responses to the Week 10 Discussion without a hassle.

References

- Dassonneville, R., Barbosa, T., Blais, A., McAllister, I., & Turgeon, M. (2023). *Citizens under Compulsory Voting: A three-country study*. Cambridge University Press.
- Tuorto, D. (2022). The Institutional Determinants of Turnout Inequalities. In *Underprivileged Voters and Electoral Exclusion in Contemporary Europe* (pp. 83–121). Springer.