

Persuasive Passage

Student's Name

Institutional Affiliation

Week 9 Discussion: Persuasive Passage

In many democracies, low voter turnout during elections is a troubling trend that undermines the principle of representative democracy and distorts political representation. Implementing mandatory voting laws could be a vital step in ensuring that governments reflect the valid will of the entire populace. Countries like Australia, where mandatory voting has led to turnouts of over 90%, serve as successful models of this approach (Dassonneville et al., 2023).

Mandatory voting boosts participation rates, ensuring election results mirror the collective preferences of the society more accurately (Yang et al., 2023). With higher turnout, the elected officials represent a more comprehensive array of the public, promoting more balanced and inclusive policies. This prevents a scenario where the governance is skewed towards a vocal minority while the silent majority remains underrepresented.

Some argue that mandatory voting infringes on personal freedom—the freedom not to vote. However, considering voting as not only a right but a civic duty, akin to jury duty or tax obligations, emphasizes each citizen's responsibility in shaping their community's future. It ensures active participation in decision-making processes that profoundly impact everyday life.

Furthermore, mandatory voting could foster a more informed electorate. Obligated to vote, people might be more inclined to educate themselves on political issues and candidates, which could diminish the effectiveness of misleading campaigns that exploit voter ignorance.

Significantly, mandatory voting can help mitigate socioeconomic disparities in voter turnout (Tuorto, 2022). Lower participation is often noted among minorities and economically disadvantaged groups. A mandatory system could level the playing field, promoting equal representation and bolstering democratic fairness and equality.

In conclusion, while some view mandatory voting as a constraint on personal freedom, its potential to enhance democratic engagement and ensure fair representation is significant. It could transform political participation into a more inclusive and educated exercise, reflecting a truer 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 responses to your peers, give constructive feedback that will help them improve their writing, as next week, they will re-write their passages based on your feedback from this week.

Response 01

Hey Sam, nice post! You have made a compelling case for mandatory voting with clear arguments and good use of examples. The thesis is concise and impactful. For improvement, consider exploring counterarguments in greater depth to strengthen your position and address potential criticisms more fully. This would enhance the overall persuasiveness of your argument.

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 9 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.
- Yang, J. C., Hausladen, C. I., Peters, D., Pournaras, E., Fricker, R. H., & Helbing, D. (2023). Designing Digital Voting Systems for Citizens: Achieving Fairness and Legitimacy in Digital Participatory Budgeting. *arXiv Preprint arXiv:2310.03501*.