

This essay selected the prompt below. Please note the essential question for this prompt that the essay should answer.

On 9/11, many heroic men and women ran toward the Twin Towers in the hope of saving lives. They were members of the NYC Fire and Police departments, who willingly became public servants knowing that doing so may cost them their lives. **Explain the role of public service and the debt we owe to those who lose their life in service.**

Public service is one of the many great acts that are guaranteeing our people a safe life. There are many different kinds of public service. Whether you are a police officer, firefighter, educator, bus driver, coach, or any other type of public servant, you should be praised for the good you do for your community.

According to Dictionary.com, public servants range from government officials to common people who help their community by pausing or risking their life for the well-being of others. Many people are under the impression that only police officers and firefighters are public servants. However, public servants don't merely include people who risk their lives. For example, teachers, bus drivers, and coaches are just some of the few types of public servants that don't necessarily risk their lives on a day to day basis, according to Chron.com. Some public servants are not paid for the acts of great kindness they commit. For example, volunteers at food pantries and homeless shelters are not paid a single cent. Although police officers and firefighters are putting their life on the line every day, they are not the only public servants we should be respecting.

Public servants help keep our world safe. Not only are they kind, but they are also brave. Public servants help keep our streets clean, our children educated, and our community safe. They help save people and prevent people from becoming victims of house fires, robberies, homelessness, hunger, and considerably more. Teachers and coaches help our children grow and learn so that they can pursue their dreams. They give them a bright future and what they will need to be successful in life. Not only are teachers and coaches important in the community, but also bus drivers and trash pickup volunteers are greatly appreciated as well. Bus drivers are helpful as they let people who can't afford cars or motorcycles get to where they need to be.

They are a useful source of transportation and they aren't being as commonly thanked as they should be. Imagine a world without trash pickup. Garbage lining the sidewalks, streets, and parking lots. Trash pickup is, what some people would call, a gross and disturbing job. However, there are people out there who care about our health and the environment and who are willing to spend their days picking up other people's waste.

On the other hand, firefighters and police officers are two of the most important public servants. They are the ones risking their lives to save and ensure the wellbeing of others. One example of how important they are to the world is what they did on 9/11. The attacks that took place on the Twin Towers on 9/11 were most devastating to the country. 2,996 people died. However, according to StatisticBrain.com, 1,100 people were saved thanks to the help of our firefighters and policemen. Hundreds of firefighters ran towards the Twin Towers knowing that they could lose their life by doing so. The courageous acts sadly caused 343 firefighters, 80 police officers, and 8 paramedics to perish, as stated in StatisticBrain.com. They died knowing that they saved men, women, and children from disaster.

A common question asked by many is, "How are we paying our thanks to these courageous people?" Well, we are saying thanks to them in many different ways. These ways include monuments, public speeches, days of silence, and many more. Most of the first responders, such as policemen, firefighters, and paramedics are being thanked through letters and flowers. Many people and students write letters thanking the people who make their life easier everyday.

Even though we are thanking our public servants, we still owe a large debt to them as well. What most people don't understand is that public servants take the jobs that many of us

don't want to or are afraid to do. Sometimes, our public servants lose their lives making sure that we have a better life. Not only do we owe a debt to the public servant, but also their families. We also don't realize that we are not helping our public servants. For example, many people don't recycle and don't sort their trash. Therefore making our trash pickup and recycling center workers' job much harder and tedious. We do this without even realizing it. When students don't pass in their homework or refuse to do their work, our teachers suffer the consequences. When we yell and scream and throw paper and refuse to stay seated on a bus, we aren't appreciating our bus driver's job.

Instead of having to owe a debt to our public servants, we could do little things every day that help them out. Students doing their homework, citizens sorting their trash, passengers respecting the rules of quiet conversation, and our overall help towards the remarkable public servants in our community can make that debt lessen.

There is a debt, however, that is harder to lessen. The public servants who willingly put their lives on the line for a better tomorrow are the most honorable public servants of all. Sadly, many of those brave individuals lose their life. According to Firehouse.com, between 83 and 101 firefighters die each year helping out in their communities. Instead of appreciating the hard work our police officers take on everyday, we are angry at the officers who shoot the bad people. Granted, there have been grave mistakes that have angered people, but what about the police officers who are shot by the bad guys for doing their job?

Part of our debt is the cluelessness of the brave heroes' risks. It's not an easy act to wake up every morning, realizing that you could die that day. What our officers and firefighters and any public servants need to understand, is that they should wake up and think, "there are so many

people who appreciate me and what I do.” That alone can change the way we look at our public servants. It can help pay the debt.

From reading this, I hope you, dear reader, understand that what we have is taken for granted. That the things we take for granted are there because of our public servants. That thanking your communities’ public servants can make them wake up knowing they are appreciated. Thank you, teachers, bus drivers, firefighters, police officers, family service agents, janitors, custodians, dump pickup, and any other public servant for what you do to make our lives and future bright.

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