

## **What Service to Our Country Means to Me**

“How can I be useful, of what service can I be?” Vincent Van Gogh once said. When I hear these words, I know what service means to me. Service to me is someone who works in the FBI or police force, someone who works at a hospital, or even someone who every day thinks of what they can do for someone.

Right now with all of the war and hatred happening throughout our world, I think that military service does such an enormous task. The armed forces leave everything behind, to risk their lives for someone they’ve never met. Risking their mental health they witness pain and death. They see the effects of fear and hunger in children’s eyes, their skin barely clinging to their bones, and I ask myself, “ Could I handle that?” Would I be able to bear the burden of an entire country’s people depending on me? I feel that’s what kept them going, and maybe why they risked their lives.

I’ve been watching the presidential debates, and listening to what both John Kerry and George Bush will do for this country if they are elected. I realize that they fully sacrifice their time and energy, and that being president is a huge service to our country. They have to run our country and make decisions that affect everyone. Our leaders listen to the put downs and hate directed toward them. They accept the possibility of dying, because they love this country, and will do everything to keep it safe. This entire country looks up to the president, and the pressure of doing something wrong is laid thickly upon their shoulders. I realize that being president is much more than living in the White House, there are so many things a president is in charge of. You really have to love your country to be willing to be president.

Finally, I feel that service is being your best self. I believe that if you go around being happy, positive, and doing your best, that good attitude will rub off on other people. Soon we will all act happy, then peace and kindness will replace fighting and hate throughout our country. That's what we need in this changing world.

Writing this essay helped me realize that service doesn't have to be big. It can be little because in the end, everything counts.