



Task 1

Tipp

Beim Operator **“summarize“** ist es wichtig, dass du dich **kurz** fasst und keine langen Erklärungen einbaust. Auch sog. **“Füllwörter“** (wie z.B. actually und basically) solltest du **vermeiden**.

Außerdem ist wichtig, dass du **keine Zitate** verwendest, sondern alles in deinen eigenen Worten beschreibst.

Bevor du mit dem Verfassen der Summary beginnst, solltest du dir den **Text mehrmals durchlesen**. Du kannst dir auch die **wichtigsten Passagen markieren** und Randnotizen machen.

Bei dieser Aufgabe sollst du speziell die Erfahrungen, die Carrie während ihrer Freiwilligenarbeit macht, zusammenfassend formulieren. Außerdem sollst du die Gründe, weswegen sie sich dafür entschieden hat, zusammenfassen.

The given text is an excerpt taken from the short story “The Volunteer“, which was written by Lucinda Nelson Dhavan and published in the anthology of short stories “One World“ in 2010.

The short story deals with a young woman, Carrie, who works as a volunteer in a Shelter Home for rescued children in India. The young, married woman is overstrained with looking after 18 children. The children do not respect her and she does not even seem to like children.

The young woman has decided to work as a volunteer for several reasons: She wants to find herself since she does not have a sense of belonging anywhere. Furthermore, she feels guilty because she thinks that if she lives in the Third World, she has to do something to help the people who are living there.

Working with children, however, does not seem to be the right job for her since she thinks that dedicated people, and not her, should do that job.



Task 2

Tipp

Der Operator **“analyze“** setzt voraus, dass du den **Text mehrmals durchgelesen und gut verstanden** hast.

Während des Lesens kannst du schon speziell auf die Aspekte achten, die in der Aufgabenstellung gefordert sind; in diesem Fall sind es die **sprachlichen Mittel, mit denen der Autor Carrie’s Unbehagen mit der Situation bei der Arbeit zeigt**.

Du kannst hierfür beim letzten Lesedurchgang die entsprechenden Stellen markieren oder mit Randnotizen versehen.

Außerdem ist es wichtig, dass du alles mit deinen eigenen Worten formulierst und **Zitate nur verwendest, um deine eigenen Aussagen zu belegen**.

In the excerpt from the short story “The Volunteer” by Lucinda Nelson Dhavan, it becomes clear to the reader that the protagonist, Carrie, feels uncomfortable about the situation in the Shelter Home.

The author conveys Carrie’s unease by making use of several instruments.

Carrie is annoyed by the noise the children make, which is revealed in line 10: “The children yell in robust dialect and she’s battered by noise“. The fact that Carrie describes the playing children with “yell in robust dialect“ shows that Carrie feels superior to them.

Furthermore, she is unable to cope with 18 children. This becomes explicit when the omniscient narrator gives an insight into her thoughts in line 15: “I can’t do this, Carrie thinks. They need professional help; this is a job for dedicated people, not me“.

The protagonist becomes desperate since the children do not respect her and do not listen to her, which is shown by the word choice in line line 25: ““Did-ji, can you please help me?“ Carrie calls out, in expressively polite distress“.

When she does not know how to deal with the situation anymore, Carrie becomes angry and even shouts at the children: ““Stop it“ Carrie yells, in English, as hands grab for the toy again, “Get away!“ But they go on shouting and straining around her“ (ll. 28 – 29). By using words like “yell“, “grab“ and “shout“, the author emphasizes Carrie losing her temper and Carrie’s anger.

Carrie’s excessive demand¹ is finally centralised by the author in line 31: “What a mess“.

¹ excessive demand: Überforderung



Task 3

Tipp

Auch bei dieser Aufgabe lautet der Operator **“sum up“**; es reicht hier jedoch nicht, wenn du eine reine Summary schreibst.

Da du die **Informationen zusammenfassen sollst, um sie auf einer internationalen Jugendkonferenz vorzutragen**, kannst du nicht nur eine Zusammenfassung des Artikels über Lauras und Kerstins Freiwilligendienst in Indien schreiben.

Du musst bei dieser Aufgabe vor allem auch ein Publikum ansprechen, sie ähnelt also eher dem **Verfassen einer Rede**.

Good morning and welcome to the international youth conference on volunteering!

Those of you who haven't decided yet if they want to work as a volunteer or not, might be interested in the article I am now going to tell you about now.

Laura Deichfuß and Kerstin Fischer, two German volunteers, wrote about their time in India and about their activities after their voluntary service² in Germany.

“Weltwärts schauen. Freiwilligendienst in Indien – Was kommt danach?“ (“Working as a volunteer in India – what happens afterwards?“) was published in *Regierung Online* in August 2009.

Laura and Kerstin worked in a children's home³ in Coimbatore, India. They taught 16 girls in English. During their voluntary service in India, they have already begun to think about the time afterwards, back in Germany.

Laura and Kerstin decided to launch a partnership⁴ to a primary school to enhance cultural exchange.

Having arrived in Germany, the two volunteers inform German pupils about the children's lives in India. Their intention is not to arouse pity⁵, but to show them that everyone is able to support people in need.

Furthermore, the two German girls make the Indian organization NMCT public in Germany. Having worked six months in India as a volunteer, Laura and Kerstin developed a lot and made interesting experiences.

² voluntary service: Freiwilligendienst

³ children's home: Kinderheim

⁴ to launch a partnership: eine Partnerschaft ins Leben rufen

⁵ to arouse pity: Mitleid erzeugen



Task 4

4.1

Tipp

Bei dieser Aufgabe lautet der Operator **“discuss“**. Du sollst hier, ausgehend von einem Zitat aus der Short Story **“The Volunteer“**, die Pro- und Contra-Argumente darlegen. Die Fragestellung lautet, inwiefern Freiwilligendienst in Entwicklungsländern jungen Menschen hilft, ihr Leben zu strukturieren und Orientierung zu finden.

Wichtig hierbei ist vor allem, dass du **bei dem Darlegen der Pro- und der Contra-Argumente strukturiert vorgehst**: Entweder du nennst erst alle Pro-/Contra-Argumente und dann die Contra-/Pro-Argumente oder du lässt auf jedes Pro- ein Contra-Argument folgen (oder andersherum).

“[...] if she’s going to live in the Third World, she should at least be doing something for the common good [...]“, is said in Lucinda Nelson Dhavan’s short story **“The Volunteer“**.

The protagonist of the short story, a young woman named Carrie, works as a volunteer in a Shelter Home for rescued children in India in India. She is completely overstrained with 18 children and thinks that the job is not for her.

Many young people, who have just finished their A levels⁶ and think about their future job, decide to work as volunteer, many of them decide to make this experience abroad.

Nowadays, there is a huge amount of possibilities for A-level students. Though a lot of them do not know what they want to study or which path they should take after having finished school. Working as a volunteer after school is a good choice for them to find out if the profession they would like to take up⁷ is the right one. Having worked as a volunteer in the job they were interested in, they are able to decide for or against the job afterwards.

By getting to know another culture, inhabitants of another country and a new language, volunteers gather experience⁸ they would not have gathered otherwise.

Furthermore, a development of their personality and their personal skills is a consequence of living in a country far away from home.

Another argument which shows that voluntary service in developing countries can help young people find their orientation in life is the fact that volunteers face difficulties they would not have faced if they had started to study right away. Thereby, the volunteers become more self-contained and more self-confident.

But after young people worked as a volunteer in a developing country, they might also not have found orientation in life. If the graduate finds out that he does not like the job he was giving a try – and which was the job of his dreams for years – he might become confused and doubtful. Having spent six months or a year in a country far away from home, he knows that he does not want to work as an educator⁹ – but which job does he want to do? What is he going to study now?

⁶ Abschlussprüfung an britischen Schulen, die bei Bestehen zum Studieren an Hochschulen berechtigt und somit in etwa dem deutschen Abitur entspricht; in diesem Fall synchron zum Abitur verwendet

⁷ to take up a profession: einen Beruf ergreifen

⁸ to gather experience: Erfahrungen sammeln

⁹ educator: Erzieher



4.2

Tipp

Bei dem hier verlangten Operator **“compare“** ist vor allem wichtig, dass du **mit Zitaten arbeitest, die deine eigenen Aussagen belegen**.

Du sollst Carries Weg, mit der schwierigen Situation bei der Arbeit umzugehen, mit dem einer Person aus einem Buch oder einem Film vergleichen.

In dieser Lösung wird der 2010 in den Kinos angelaufene Film **“Life as We Know It“** (zu Deutsch: “So spielt das Leben“) als Vergleich verwendet. Alternativ könnte man auch den Film “Raising Helen“ verwenden.

In the short story “The Volunteer“, Lucinda Nelson Dhavan describes the voluntary service of a young woman at a Shelter Home for rescued children in India. She is completely overstrained by dealing with 18 children almost on her own.

The film “Life as We Know It“ also deals with a young woman, Holly Berenson, who is overstrained with looking after a child.

When Holly Berenson’s best friend and the mother of her godchild¹⁰ Sophie, Alison Novak, is killed in an accident, Holly is extremely desolate. Learning that she has been named Sophie’s guardian, she cannot believe that Alison never told her about it.

But the fact that Eric Messer, Sophie’s godfather, has also been named guardian of the 1-year-old child, seems even more unbelievable to Holly.

The protagonist of the short story, Carrie, made the decision to work with children on her own. She wanted to do something for the common good and thus, she decided to work as a volunteer in a Shelter Home for rescued children.

Holly in “Life as We Know It“, on the other hand, did not make a decision – she had been named Sophie’s guardian without even knowing about it.

Both women, Carrie as well as Holly, are overstrained with their task. And both of them have many self-doubts.

Carrie in “The Volunteer“ thinks: “I can’t do this [...]. They need professional help; this is a job for dedicated people, not me“ (excerpt from “The Volunteer“ by Lucinda Nelson Dhavan in “One World“, p. 137 – 139, l. 15).

Holly is despairing of Sophie since the 1-year-old girl does not eat anything she cooks for her. That is why young woman blames herself.¹¹ The ways both women deal with their situation are completely different.

Carrie is angry with herself and thus, she becomes aggressive. She shouts at the children and treats them unfairly: ““Stop it!“ Carrie yells, in English, as hands grab for the toy again, “Get away!““ (excerpt from “The Volunteer“ by Lucinda Nelson Dhavan in “One World“, p. 137 – 139, l. 28).

Holly on the contrary tries everything to be a good mother for Sophie. Although it is difficult for her to raise the small child since she does not have any experiences with children, she gives her best. She never treats Sophie unfairly or shouts at her. Instead, she takes out her anger on Eric, Sophie’s irresponsible godfather.

¹⁰ godchild: Patenkind

¹¹ to blame oneself: sich selbst Vorwürfe machen



4.3

Tipp

Diese Aufgabe solltest du vor allem dann wählen, wenn du gut im kreativen Schreiben bist. Der Operator **“write an article”** setzt Fantasie und sicheren Umgang mit der englischen Sprache voraus.

Du sollst hier einen Artikel für ein Jugendmagazin schreiben, in dem du beleuchtest, inwiefern Freiwillige auf sinnvolle Weise auf ihren Freiwilligendienst in Indien vorbereitet werden können.

Du musst bei solchen Aufgaben vor allem beachten, nicht zu subjektiv zu schreiben. Natürlich wird jeder Artikel von der eigenen Meinung beeinflusst, diese sollte jedoch nicht

Better prepare yourself!

By Felicitas Müller

If you think about working as a volunteer, you have to prepare yourself thoroughly¹² – if you do not want to make the same experiences as Carrie, the protagonist of the short story “The Volunteer“ by Lucinda Nelson Dhavan.

Carrie is working as a volunteer in a Shelter Home for rescued children in India, but the children do not respect her and do not even listen to her. She is completely overstrained having to deal with 18 children almost on her own, and does not know how to deal with the situation. She treats the children unfairly, for example shouts at them.

If Carrie had prepared herself better for her voluntary service, she might have not been that overstrained.

If you do not want to make such experiences, you should prepare yourself well:

- Before you start working as a volunteer, a **practical course in your future field of application**¹³ is a good possibility to find out if it will be fun for you to work there or not.
By doing such a practical course in your homecountry – or even your hometown – you avoid the risk of travelling a thousand miles for nothing because you find out that this is not the right job for you.
- If you **contact the person who did the same job as you a year ago**, you can talk to him or her about all your worries and ask him or her a lot of questions about the job. Thus, you cannot be unpleasantly surprised by the situations at your voluntary service.
- **Talking to other volunteers**, who might not have worked in the same job, but **in the same country**, is also a good preparation.
You avoid getting a complete cultural shock by doing so.
- **Doing research on the Internet** on
 - the country you are going to live in during your voluntary service
 - the living conditions there
 - your field of application

¹² thoroughly: sorgfältig

¹³ field of application: Einsatzgebiet



is also helpful.

- Furthermore, **contacting the persons who work at your field of application**, for example at the Shelter Home, also gives you a sense of security.

If you have already talked to your colleagues before, getting to know them better does not take so long.