

The Passy Press

Letter to the Editor

From: Francesca.Sugrue@undisclosed.com
To: Nick Gardiner enpg@thepassypress.com
Date: September 10, 2014 2:45pm EST
Subject: Comments on John MacMurray's Essay on US Education

Dear Sir,

MacMurray has executed the structure of his piece in a concise and sophisticated style. He is tremendously successful in being expansive in both the root of the stagnation of American education, as well as the depth of the solutions both explored and those that remain potential.

The two years of compulsory service is extremely problematic in my opinion at a few different levels:

The requirement of service evokes a bitter debate and is evocative of a tumultuous time in the United States (Vietnam). Realistically, this would be military service for the vast majority. Credibility is undermined by introducing anything that resembles the draft. If brought to the domestic level of dialog, the likely raging response would most likely be terribly hotheaded. At a practical level, an individual or institution that would be willing to put their name on a suggestion would be incredibly difficult to come by.

It would almost certainly be seen as shooting oneself in the foot and I believe would end the political career of anyone who tried to lay it out on the domestic agenda *within the United States*. There is little confidence in the American voter for the most part, and the wider net, those who participate in politics at the arbitrary level (reactionary blogs, protests, etc.). Americans are responsive in their involvement, as opposed to advocates for change. They are critical, as opposed to those who create initiatives. If this played out, is the American public is sophisticated enough to digest it reasonably and give it a reasonable consideration?

In his proposal and summation of the stagnation of the American education system, he remains extremely informative and succinct, while successfully capturing the urgency of the current situation.

Sincerely,

Francesca Sugrue

Francesca Sugrue graduated cum laude from Hamilton College, with a major in International Relations and a minor in Economics. She started her career in Public Affairs in the George W. Bush Administration and the re-election campaign, before shifting to alternative money management in New York. She currently resides with her husband and daughter in Boca Raton, FL.