

Sample 4: IELTS Writing Task 2 (Problem and Solution Essay)

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In many cities, young people are becoming less interested in participating in community activities and local organisations. What are the reasons for this trend? What solutions can be implemented to encourage greater participation?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience. Write at least 250 words.

Answer for Score Band 7 Level

In recent years, it has been observed that young people in urban areas are showing declining interest in community activities and local organisations. This essay will explore the reasons behind this trend and suggest practical solutions.

There are several factors contributing to this shift. First, the rise of digital technology has transformed how young people spend their free time. Social media platforms and online entertainment offer instant gratification, making face-to-face community involvement feel less appealing by comparison. Second, modern lifestyles are increasingly demanding. Many young adults are occupied with studies, part-time employment, and personal commitments, leaving little time or energy for local engagement. Finally, young people may feel that community organisations do not reflect their values or address issues that matter to them, resulting in a sense of disconnection.

However, there are effective measures that can be taken to address this problem. Local governments and community groups should modernise their approach by using social media and digital platforms to attract younger members. For example, promoting events through Instagram or creating youth-led online forums can increase visibility and interest. Additionally, schools and universities could incorporate community service into their programmes, helping students develop a habit of civic participation from an early age. It would also help if organisations specifically designed activities that align with youth interests, such as environmental projects or creative arts initiatives.

In conclusion, declining youth participation in community life is driven by technological distractions, time pressures, and a perceived lack of relevance. By embracing digital outreach and creating more youth-centred opportunities, communities can successfully re-engage this important demographic.

Answer for Score Band 8 Level

The diminishing engagement of young people in community activities and local organisations has become a notable concern across many urban societies. This trend can be attributed to several interconnected causes, and addressing it requires thoughtful, multifaceted strategies.

One primary reason for this decline is the pervasive influence of digital technology. Young people today are immersed in online environments that fulfil social needs virtually, reducing the perceived necessity of physical community interaction. Furthermore, the accelerating pace of contemporary life means that young adults frequently juggle academic pressures, career development, and personal responsibilities, leaving minimal time for voluntary civic participation. A further contributing factor is the institutional nature of many local organisations, which can appear outdated or irrelevant to younger generations who prioritise causes such as climate change, mental health awareness, and social justice — issues not always addressed by traditional bodies.

To reverse this trend, communities must adapt their engagement strategies considerably. Leveraging digital platforms to communicate, recruit, and organise would bridge the gap between established organisations and tech-savvy youth. For instance, city councils in countries like Finland have successfully introduced participatory budgeting apps that allow young residents to propose and vote on local projects. Additionally, educational institutions should formalise community engagement by embedding it within curricula, ensuring exposure before disengagement sets in. Most importantly, organisations must genuinely restructure their priorities to incorporate issues meaningful to youth, thereby fostering authentic belonging rather than obligatory attendance.

In conclusion, this issue stems from technological, structural, and cultural factors, and can be effectively countered through digital modernisation, educational integration, and youth-centred programming.

Answer for Score Band 9 Level

Across many cities worldwide, a conspicuous withdrawal of young people from community life has emerged as a defining social challenge. While this phenomenon reflects broader cultural and technological shifts, it is neither inevitable nor irreversible, provided that communities adopt genuinely responsive measures.

The roots of this disengagement are multifaceted. The most compelling explanation lies in the digital revolution, which has fundamentally redefined how social connections are experienced. For many young people, online communities — curated, immediate, and global — render localised, in-person involvement comparatively unglamorous. Compounding this, the intensification of economic pressures on younger generations, including rising educational debt and competitive labour markets, means that discretionary time is a scarce commodity, and voluntary civic participation understandably suffers as a result. Perhaps most critically,

traditional community structures often fail to reflect the values and concerns that animate contemporary youth: environmental activism, identity politics, and mental health advocacy, for example, seldom feature prominently in the agendas of long-established local bodies, producing a fundamental misalignment between institutions and the individuals they ostensibly serve.

Reversing this trajectory demands systemic rather than superficial intervention. Organisations must undertake genuine structural reform — not merely adopting social media aesthetics, but ceding meaningful decision-making power to young participants. Nations such as Estonia have demonstrated how digital civic infrastructure can substantially increase youth electoral and community participation. Schools should cultivate civic identity as foundational, integrating sustained community engagement into curricula rather than treating it as optional enrichment. Crucially, local organisations must exhibit the institutional humility to reshape their priorities around youth-identified concerns if they wish to earn, rather than simply expect, the commitment of younger generations.

In sum, declining youth participation reflects a rational response to misaligned institutions and competing pressures. Meaningful re-engagement requires that communities evolve structurally, digitally, and culturally to meet young people on their own terms