# PepTalk Topic Analysis -- Kritiks

## Kritiks

This topic deals with a lot of good K issues, both international and domestic.

### Militarism K

This critique argues that the affirmative reinforces forms of state violence. This leads to a normalization of militaristic control, allowing the state to maintain complacency and order through the use of armament and violence. The concept of conscription and using more force not only literally strengthens the military, but it creates a cultural shift towards more violent regulation and control, which shuts out the ability for radical change to be possible.

### Imperialism K

Compulsory national service can lead to more military domination and can foster a mindset of hegemony that justifies imperial presence in other countries. Some impacts to imperialism include structural violence because US state power is enforced on other countries through exerting military control, environmental desctruction, or large-scale conflicts with other countries.

Another take on this argument is that a lot of national service programs involve going to poverty-ridden or underresources places and helping out. This fosters a colonialist mindset and an “us-them” mentality, where participants in national service assume the position of the white savior, invading other places and causing more destruction, or ignoring the larger structural problems that continue to maintain oppressive power dynamics.

### Identity Positions

There is a lot of literature about how conscription is historically racist and that the army has disproportionately been composed of troops of color, or even how undocumented immigrants have been forced to join the war in order to be granted citizenship status. People who go to war and come back with disabilities are seen as heroic and brave, yet disabled citizens who were never able to go to war are condemned and discriminated against. National Service creates certain qualifications for what it means to be an ideal citizen, and identities that fail to meet these standards, like the undocumented, the disabled, or the severely marginalized, are left behind, and legal expectations like compulsory service further exclude those individuals. Different identities have been affected by the forces in different ways, so these kinds of critiques are very diverse but useful on this topic.