EEP 260: PEACE CORPS ESSAY: Is the Peace Corps for You?

Activity: In early December, MSU’s Peace Corps Recruiter will be shown a video, make a presentation, and answer your questions about the Peace Corps. After the presentation, you will write an essay answering the six questions noted below. For more information about the Peace Corps, including a listing of the countries to which it sends volunteers, view the Peace Corps’ web site at: http://www.peacecorps.gov/. Also, you can view a video about the Peace Corps at: http://streaming.msu.edu/storemedia/download/bernsten/peacecorps.wmv

Grade Weight: 5% of final grade.

Grading: To receive full credit, you must thoughtfully cover all points noted in the outline. Points will be deducted for poor grammar, spelling errors, and late papers.

Assignment Details
The Peace Corps is looking for mature, highly-motivated individuals to fill many challenging job openings in developing countries. Assume that you are considering joining the Peace Corps and are being interviewed by a recruiter. Submit a 3-page (minimum), double-spaced, typewritten essay answering all of the following questions. Be sure to type the section title and question under each section at the beginning of each of the paper’s 4 sections. Note: International students should complete this assignment, assuming that you are eligible to join the Peace Corps.

I. What Job?
During the semester, course readings and videos identified many different needs in developing countries.

   o What specific type of job would you like to do as a Peace Corps Volunteer? Why this job?

II. What Country?
During the semester, you have learned about many different developing countries.

   o In which developing country would you most like to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer? Why this country?

III. What Are Your Qualifications?
Peace Corps jobs are similar to jobs for which you might apply in the US, only you work in a developing country. As when applying for a job in the US, you must describe to your potential employer what skills you have to offer.

   o What specific skills, knowledge, and characteristics would make you a promising Peace Corps Volunteer? Include relevant skills/knowledge you have acquired through: a) courses you have taken at MSU, b) work experience, and c) personal characteristics.

IV. Benefits to Serving as a Volunteer?
Upon returning to the US, you will enter the job market or apply to graduate school.

   o What would you gain from your Peace Corps experience that you might include on your resume, and thereby making you more competitive in the U.S. job market or as an applicant for graduate school?

V. What Concerns?
Because you will be working in a developing country, you may have some special concerns.

   o What apprehensions/concerns do you have about joining the Peace Corps?

VI. Your Decision?
Assume that after completing your degree at MSU, the Peace Corps offered you the job/assignment that you wanted to do as a Peace Corps volunteer.

   o Would you accept or reject the offer? Why?
Attach a printout of the Peace Corps www page that describes the assignment in the country where you might like to serve.