

Bowling Alone Cornell Notes

Key Points/Questions	Notes
1. What do paragraphs 1-8 suggest about the role civic engagement plays in communities?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
2. What is social capital and why does it matter within a society?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
3. Why is the author choosing to focus his study on America?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Summarize Putnam’s findings on civic engagement and its effects on communities

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4. Examine the first subtitle, “Whatever Happened to Civic Engagement?” What will the author establish in this section?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
5. What are the forms of civic engagement that Putnam focuses on in this section?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
6. What is the trend with all forms of civic engagement discussed in this section? How does Putnam prove this trend?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
7. What is the purpose of focusing on bowling teams in the last paragraph of this section? How does it contrast the other forms of civic engagement, but also support the author’s purpose of this section?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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<p>8. What is a “tertiary association” and why does it not create the social capital that a “secondary association” creates?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>9. Putnam quotes Wuthnow who states that within small support groups, “the social contract binding members together asserts only the weakest of obligations.” How does this support Putnam’s claim about the importance of traditional forms of civic engagement?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>10. What is social trust and how does it relate to involvement in associations?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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11. What are some possible reasons that civic engagement is in decline?

12. What are areas involving civic engagement that require more research?

13. What is the author's purpose for this essay regarding the issue of civic engagement?

14. Look closely at the structure of this essay, paying attention to the subtitles. How does Putnam's organizational structure help to prove his argument?

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