The Advantages And Disadvantages Of Taking A Gap Year

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A gap year is where a student gets a year off before entering university to experience life in a strange new place. Why do you choose to take a gap year? Perhaps to gain work experience, or to become more mature. No matter what the purpose is, this is an individual decision, although it has both pros and cons. In my view, this is a good idea.

For supporting the idea of gap year, here I would like to mention some advantages. First of all, travelling around the world for a year can definitely broaden your horizons. The things that you see, the people you meet and the experiences you have during the journey can teach you something that you won’t learn in the lessons. Contributing to this idea is that you may gain working experience in different fields. It is because when you need money to pay rent, buy clothes or visit some special places, you will need to take a stop and find a job. The experiences you have gained will help you to build up your own career in the future. One main benefit we can’t ignore is that you will find some potential that you have never discovered before. You may find that you are talented in cooking when you need to prepare meals everyday. Or you may be surprised that decorating a house as an interior designer is an interesting job.

However, there are also problems you should consider when deciding to have a gap year. One of the major problems is money. Your parents may not support you financially. You have to face the problems such as paying your own travel costs and hotel fee. Another factor is that leaving your study for a year may have a great influence on your life in many different areas. For example, you have to accept the changes in the education system and the foundation you built before.

The most important thing is that having a gap year may be a waste of time and money. It is very arguable that by going out for a year you will learn a lot of new things. A rebellious guy can only play all day when there’s no one to stop him. It is unacceptable to spend a lot of time and money to have fun in the gap year. On the other hand, living in a new, strange country for a certain period of time may make one feel lonely.
Nevertheless, I still support this way of giving yourself a break for a year and trying a different life-style. This is fresh and challenging. Like anyone else, I will worry about my studies in the coming days, but I won’t have any regrets as I think it is worthy to do so. New viewpoints and communication skills are precious. A gap year must not be a frustrated journey and I treasure this opportunity so much. It won’t hinder my studies and it will give me happiest days of my life!

Teacher’s Feedback: An all-round and in-depth analysis given by a Hong Kong student who has no experience of taking a gap year is particularly appreciated. She is able to look into the issue from different angles and then draw sensible conclusions from them. A smooth flow, logical reasonings and a straight-forward opening adds pleasure to our reading. (Miss Yau Ka Lun)

Food For Thought: Taking a gap year is quite a new idea for Hong Kong students. This article shares with us what a gap year is. For most S.5, S.6 or S.7 students, this issue may interest them. And it is really recommendable for Hong Kong educators to think about introducing this system to Hong Kong students. For most senior form Hong Kong students, they are often packed and pressed with overburdening examinations. This is NOT healthy. On top of examinations, they need to take a break and discuss what they have learned by observing and experiencing the real world around them.