Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages

English 8

Passport Project

Theme 2

Topic: Write a report about whether students should take a gap year

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Most people would like to take a gap year after graduation from high school. Some people think that when they take a gap year, they can become independent persons and have more social experiences than other people. However, taking a gap year leads to not only advantages but also disadvantages. These disadvantages may cause a big negative impact on people. Therefore, it is not necessary for people to take a gap year.

First of all, taking a gap year can be a waste of time. While other people are studying in school, you have to plan your own schedule for a gap year and make sure that you are not behind them. You should be more self- disciplined. However, sometimes you want to try everything or have fun by traveling. It may lead to lose yourself in without goals. Martin Sorrell, a British Businessman, shared his view: "Gap years tend to be ill-organized and ill-directed and more a serendipity"(Haynes, 2016). If you do not arrange the complete plan in advance, eventually your gap year becomes slack year.

Secondly, taking a gap year can be expensive. According to the Association of British Travel Agents (2017, September), 5000 US dollars are the average cost of going to the gap year. Nick White, from the association, says: "most of the student spent three months to earn the money for their gap year" (Shaw, 2017). There are a lot of budget considerations to take into account during a gap year. For example, students

may need to pay for their airline ticket, VISA, accommodation, food, transportation, and other activities. Though taking a gap year can be worthwhile, financial issue is always the key point to the quality of gap-year-life. It seems to be too stressful for us because we need to concern about our budge all the time instead of really enjoy the moment.

Furthermore, people may fail to adjust their life in college when they are back to school. After a gap year, people usually choose to continue their study. However, they may be unfamiliar with courses or students in campus. It makes them lose motivation on studying and eventually cause them to drop out of school or take a longer time to finish study. There is an article notes that" engaging in a gap year may result in the student missing a slot in the university especially in courses that are competitive" (William, 2000). As a result, people who back to school after a gap year may be out of place in courses or campus. It would make them need to spend more time to adjust the reality.

In conclusion, taking a gap year will cause people waste time, spend extra money, and not adjust school life. Although a gap year can let people find their own future path, it also makes people degenerate. If the gap year is not well-planned, it is just a journey without self-improvement. Gap year becomes worthless because of these disadvantages, so people should not take a gap year.

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