

TASK 2: ADVANTAGE/ DISADVANTAGE FORMAT - GAP YEAR
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In some countries young people are encouraged to work or travel for a year between finishing high school and starting university studies.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for young people who decide to do this.

Situation: Young people might take a gap year before starting university in order to work or travel.

Task: Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a gap year.

Introduction:

- Describe situation
- Say there are two sides to this situation
- Introduce what you will do in this essay

Advantages

- Earn some money
- Experience in the field of work
- Experience the world and see new places

Disadvantages

- Difficult to return after studying
- May have a job opportunity
- Travel can be expensive

Conclusion

- Summary
- Opinion

Describe the situation. Say there are two sides to this situation. Introduce what you will do in this essay.

Linker word, topic sentence – to say there can be advantages. Linker word, point one. Explanation/ example. Linker word, point two. Explanation/ example. Linker word, point three. Explanation/ example.

Linker word, topic sentence – to say there can be disadvantages. Linker word, point one. Explanation/ example. Linker word, point two. Explanation/ example. Linker word, point three. Explanation/ example.

Linker word, summary to say there are two sides. Opinion.

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It is common for Europeans to take a gap year between finishing school and going to university. In this year they may decide to work or travel abroad. **Undoubtedly, there are both benefits and drawbacks for such a decision, some of which will be discussed in this essay.**

On the one hand, a gap year can be very beneficial for an individual. Firstly, if they spend the year working they may earn some money, **which could then help to finance their studies later.** Secondly, having a job may help them to gain some valuable experience in the world of work or even in their field, **which could strengthen their CV.** Thirdly, if someone travels, they may learn a great deal about the world, other people and cultures and perhaps even a new language. **All these skills will be useful later on in life.**

Alternatively, a year out could lead to difficulties. For instance, if an individual spends a year away from studying, they might find it difficult later to return, **as they may have enjoyed the freedom or the salary they earned.** Moreover, if they begin working in a job they may become used to the working life and **not be able to go back to a student life.** They may even be offered a permanent job. **Finally, if a year out is spent travelling, this can often be very expensive, perhaps leaving little left for university studies.**

In conclusion, it is clear that there are both advantages and disadvantages of taking a year out between finishing and starting studies. However, it will depend greatly on the individual and how they decide to spend that year. If managed correctly, that gap year might aid in the growth of the person and help them to be better prepared for their university degree.

(301 words)