

H1 Sample Essay | Debate

‘Young people should travel and see the world before joining the workforce or furthering their education’ (2016)

Ladies and gentlemen, my name is Sean Finnegan and I am here to demonstrate to you why young people should not travel and see the world before joining the workforce or furthering their education. I wish I could tell you to pack your bags and leave on the next jet plane like John Denver, but that would be an erroneous statement to make. You see, this is not a case of being academically inclined or not, this is just a case of common sense that is so commonly misconstrued. Travelling is important, I agree, but to prioritise such over education or working is plainly imprudent and over the course of the next few minutes I will inform you why.

Third level colleges provide an unparalleled security to the young people of today. A bachelor's degree takes four years to obtain and grants unprecedented opportunity to its beholder. Over the course of these four years you will meet new people and learn, otherwise, inconceivable things like the importance of structural integrity in certain positions of a bridge or how to expand your income through effective accounting. On the other end of the spectrum, travelling offers what exactly? Adventure? You see, ladies and gentlemen, travelling is marketed as this adventurous risk which yields abundances of wisdom and understanding of the world. This ideal, although tempting, is fallacious. Take a step back for a moment and ask yourselves what you would gain from these ‘adventures’ besides the Instagram recognition. Memories to reminisce? Maybe. Anything else? Improbable. So, when you boil it down and perceive the two as they are, education and exploration is a tale of security versus insanity.

Thomas Edison once said that ‘opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work’. We are more advanced as a society today than Edison could have ever dreamed. We are more conscious about our actions and this is seen most of all in our youth. The young people of today are aware of their surroundings and question everything, including society itself. My opposition today detest the idea of becoming a cog in the machine. However, the problem lies with the cog not the machine. The opposition is afraid of going to college or joining the workforce as they are afraid of failing. They are afraid of their own potential, or lack thereof. They are fundamentally running away from their problems, albeit in an expensive fashion. Travel is a way to escape from your day to day life and should not be interpreted as a way to turn your day to day life into an escape. So, next time you consider hiking the Hindu Kush ask yourself if this is a genuine decision or if you are fundamentally avoiding someone or something.

Finally, if you think travelling will grant you the secret to moral and spiritual fulfilment you are, unfortunately, just another victim of the age-old pitfall ‘far away the hills are greener’. College, on the other hand, grants you valuable experience and insight into domains that would otherwise be unimaginable. When you contrast this with the extortionate costs of travelling and compare the returns you get on each investment, college is a no-brainer. If you are at this stage in my speech and still unsure, ask yourself this: ‘What would I genuinely achieve in three to four years of naively travelling abroad that I wouldn’t in one year at a third level institute or in the workplace?’. To truly value something or to even benefit from it you must work for it. There is no roundabout solution nor shortcut. Travel should be the reward for hard work, not a substitute. To believe otherwise is simply perverse.

So, ladies and gentlemen, you now understand why young people should not travel and see the world before joining the workforce or furthering their education. It is not a complex logic to comprehend, but common sense. I would like to thank you all for your

attentiveness and evident interest in what I have had to say. I hope this has been of benefit.