An essay: A gap year

Your teacher has asked you to write an essay on the idea of a "gap year". In your essay argue for or against a "gap year". You should

- give reasons for taking a gap year
- discuss possible effect of taking a gap year
- evaluate its influence on personal development.

Write around 400 words. Give your essay a title.

TITLE: The only chance to do what you want

The last year at school is for many students a time to make decisions concerning their future life and career. While all of them want to pass their final exam and leave the school, their plans for the near future are not always as clear. For some students, the last school year is all about learning because they want to go to university. For others, the final school year means the end of learning as they are about to take a gap year.

There are many reasons for taking a gap year. It is a fact that more and more students decide to quit learning because they are tired of a school routine and even suffer from a burnout syndrome. They want to change their lifestyle and surroundings. Taking a year off may help them to get a new perspective on life, make new friends, learn new things and find out what they want in life. They often decide to spend more time on things they like and make them feel good to regain the balance and harmony in life.

Travelling is another important reason for taking a gap year. After finishing school and before starting a real adult life and starting a family, a gap year is a perfect time to travel. Whether alone or with a friend, travelling influences personal development. It teaches to cope with difficulties, financial issues, and even personal problems. Outside school, and without a family, a young person becomes more independent and more mature.

There is also a group of students who take a gap year to give themselves some time to find out what they want to do in the future. They use the time not only to work and get some experience but also to develop their hobbies and personal interests. They want to find their true calling. A gap year gives them enough time to explore various possibilities, take part in social events, take up new courses and learn new things.

All in all, it is a good idea to take a gap year. On the one hand, you have plenty of time at your disposal which you can use to explore the world and your psyche. On the other hand, you have no responsibilities yet, as a family or a permanent job, no pressure, no deadlines and can have the time of your life then, whether travelling or relaxing at home.