Research Paper Outline

I. Introduction

A) Hook – You have likely heard by now that Malia Obama will be attending Harvard – that is, she will be attending Harvard in 2017, after she takes a year off from school entirely.

B) General Statements/Explain the Controversy - In the UK, US and some other country there is an increasing trend for young people choose to take the gap year, delay their higher education and instead choose to learn outside the academy. Like going to travelling to seek adventure or take an international volunteering gap year. They are doing this because of numerous reasons, mostly they felt that there is something lacking in their life, want to be more mutual before they go for their higher education. A gap year is a favor for many students but can also be frustrating to others. Opposers stress that postponing college throws the student off from wanting to further his/her education, a really time and money wasting.

C) Thesis Statement and Forecast – Therefore, taking a gap year after graduating from high school is a reasonable alternative for those students who are not yet sure about their goals, dreams, and expectations for the future.

II. Body (Arguments)

A) Transition and Topic Sentence for Reason #1

First of all, the transition from high school is a major developmental milestone in student’s life, a better choice would have certain effect on their further life path.

1) Supporting Detail (A new study of more than 900 first-year students by Sydney University researchers has revealed that not only did taking a year off have a positive effect on students' motivation, it also translated to a real boost in performance in the first semesters at university.)

2) Supporting Detail (Many teenagers in other countries wait a year after high school before heading to college. In Norway, Denmark and Turkey, for instance, more than 50 percent of students take a year off before college, according to the Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education in Oslo, Norway."

3) Supporting Detail (In the article “A Cure for the College-Bound Blues” from the New York Times, a young man named Landon White, who was just accepted into a university, was quoted saying, “I needed to create a person rather than a college student.” (Williams #15)

B) Transition and Topic Sentence for Reason -Secondly, taking the traditional kind of gap year after high school helps students to take full advantage of their time in college.

1) Supporting Detail (For most students, gap experiences have an impact on
their choice of academic major and career – either setting them on a different path than before a Gap Year or confirming their direction (60% said the experience either "set me on my current career path/academic major" or "confirmed my choice of career/academic major"). [Karl Haigler & Rae Nelson, Par #15]

2) Supporting Detail (During college, their gap year experiences enrich their courses, strengthen co-curricular endeavors, and animate undergraduate research and creative projects.)

3) Supporting Detail (Though these gap year students are working in partnership with a community organization and aim to make positive impact, the students typically, at least in the short term, gain more than they are able to give. This empowers them to bring new perspectives to bear in other personal, professional, and civic efforts. Gap years, borrowing a line from the Rhodes Scholarship Trust, can help create leaders for the world’s future.)

C) Transition and Topic Sentence for Reason #3-Thirdly, Gap Year students are perceived to be 'more mature, more self-reliant and independent' than non-Gap Year students. (Birch #66)

1) Supporting Detail (90 percent of students who took a Gap Year returned to college within a year.)

2) Supporting Detail (A recent methodology to track Gap Year students' over/underperformance of GPA was designed by Bob Clagett, former Dean of Admissions at Middlebury College. This methodology tracked the academic rating of an incoming student including everything of an academic nature that is received in the application process)

3) Supporting Detail (The article “How to Become a World Citizen, Before Going to College” by Tanya Mohn in the New York Times contains quotes from parents whose child chose the gap year option and how it “transformed their daughter from a limo liberal to a responsible worldly citizen.” (12) The daughter went on to say how her experience was eye opening and fascinating. She had been in India for a semester, Italy for a month, and New York for a semester serving as an intern at a museum. Another student in the article, Dalit Gulak whom had a gap year in Latin America stated, “It (gap year) makes you grow up. It makes you completely responsible, especially life changing. It makes you want college even more.” (Mohn #33)

D) Transition and Topic Sentence for Reason #4-Students who have taken a Gap Year overwhelmingly report being satisfied with their jobs.

1) Supporting Detail (Haigler found that this was related to a less-selfish approach to working with people and careers. Karl Haigler & Rae Nelson, #5)

2) Supporting Detail (The number of gap takers tends to increase when there are more job opportunities for young people (Lumsden & Stanwick, #17)

3) Supporting Detail (Gappers may work in order to save money, fund a trip, or gain experience and independence. But many are undoubtedly driven by the need to pay for the costs of higher education, which have risen considerably in recent decades (Lumsden & Stanwick, #76)
E) Transition and Topic Sentence for Reason #5 Furthermore, more and more higher education begins to see the potential benefit of gap year and encourage their further students to take the gap year.

1) Supporting Detail (Harvard College encourage admitted student to defer enrollment for one year to travel, pursue a special project or activity, work, or spend time in another meaningful way Devarus Par #2)

2) Supporting Detail (According to AGA survey, in 2015 AGA Members and Provisional Members gave away a combined total of roughly $2,800,000 in scholarships and needs-based grants.)

Part III (Counterarguments)

A) Transition and Topic Sentence for Counterargument

Many parents and students are nervous about the idea of spending an extended period in a developing country

1) Supporting Detail (People are generally very safe and supported. Gap year industry have developed so well, they offer special programs to help student and to ensure the safety)

2) Supporting Detail (Not all students coming out of high school know what they really want to do after high school and some think they want to do something until they find out that the particular career path isn’t something they really don’t want to pursue.)

* Transition to Refutation – Yet/However/In contrast- Of course, there are risks with any travel or change, but the risks are worth taking.

5) Supporting detail (“Students can use this year to refresh skills, gain experience, and learn of career opportunities that may ultimately direct their academic path”, says Rita Toliver-Roberts, Vice President of Academic Advancement at Pierce College.

3) Supporting Detail (The investment in taking a gap year will pay dividends throughout one’s college career and beyond as one’s life and society is enriched)

B) Transition and Topic Sentence for Counterargument

However, one central challenge that remains is how to finance gap years for students from lower-income families.

1) Supporting Detail (Families seeking data on gap years won’t find much. Part of the problem is that federal data on college delay and completion don’t measure all the reasons people started college late. While some people make a deliberate choice to delay college to serve in the military or work or travel, others meander for a few years before deciding to try college after all. (O'Shea Par #15)
2) Supporting Detail (Another negative outlook of the gap year can be expensive for a student and can add to student debt.)

* Transition to Refutation –In contrast, with the help from more and more school organization as they discover it is benefit for students. They would carry out a series of supportive program to help with this situation.)

5) Supporting detail (The University of North Carolina and Princeton University, for instance, have both begun to subsidize gap years for incoming students. Other organizations, such as Omprakash, now offer low-cost volunteer placements as well as scholarships to those with need. (Parker, Par# 18)

3) Supporting Detail (More and more gap year organization have build up recently to help students, and with the help of crowdfunding sites, students are able to fund-raise for these experiences with greater ease.)

III. Conclusion

A) Restate the thesis statement-To sum up, taking a gap year after graduating from high school is benefit for those students who are not yet sure about their goals, dreams, and expectations for the future.

B) Review main points- For some, a gap year can be a time to learn, develop, and plan for the future. For others, a gap year represents wasted time or a distraction from achieving educational and career goals. Much depends on the young person’s background and the type of gap year they are able to experience. Parents, guidance counselors, and policy makers all have a role to play in helping young adults find their most suitable pathway towards future success.

C) Final challenge- Choosing the opportunity to take the gap year or not is really up to the students themselves, as long as they do this in the right way, the benefit would certainly outweigh the cost.
Work Cited


