**Advantages and disadvantages essay**

**Rubric: 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.**

This rubric simply asks us to discuss the advantages and disadvantages. It does not ask for our opinion or says which side is better or worse, so we should not include this information in our answer.

This requires a simple structure in which you will look at the advantages in one paragraph and the disadvantages in the other.

**Structure**

**Introduction**

Sentence 1- Paraphrase question

Sentence 2- Outline statement (an outline statement can be described as a sentence at the end of your introduction. Its purpose is to provide readers with a glimpse of what lies ahead.

**Supporting Paragraph 1 (Advantages)**

Sentence 3- Topic sentence (2 Advantages) The ‘topic sentence’ is generally the first sentence of your paragraph, and is used to define what the rest of the paragraph will be discussing.

Sentence 4- Explain first advantage

Sentence 5- Explain second advantage

Sentence 6- Example of second advantage

**Supporting Paragraph 2 (Disadvantages)**

Sentence 6- Topic sentence (2 Disadvantages)

Sentence 7- Explain first disadvantage

Sentence 8- Explain second disadvantage

Sentence 9- Example of second disadvantage

**Conclusion\***

Sentence 9- Summary of main points

**\* Quick Conclusion Tips**

1. **Never write any new ideas in your conclusion.**A conclusion should always restate your ideas in the rest of the essay. New ideas should be in the main body and not in the conclusion.
2. **Make sure you answer the question in the conclusion.** The conclusion should state your thoughts about the question and clarify your feelings about the issue.
3. **Vary your language.** Just because you are restating your ideas in the rest of your essay doesn’t mean you use the same language. Instead, you show the examiner you have a wide vocabulary by paraphrasing.
4. **Don’t try to include everything**. You are not required to go into detail; you have already done that in your main body paragraphs. Instead, you will summarise your main points.
5. **Always write one.** It isn’t easy to get a good score if you haven’t finished your essay with a conclusion. Even if you are running out of time, make sure you write one.