

## READ AND REPORT TO THE CLASS

### Document A

  
**PROS**

VS

  
**CONS**

**Work experience:** This is an extremely valuable part of TY as it shows young people the reality of the working world. It also can really help a student decide what they want, or do not want to do in college<sup>1</sup> and adult life. (...)

**Get to know new people:** (...) TY really does help you expand your circle of friends through working with them on projects, staying in a room with them on overnight trips and being mixed into new classes with them. (...)

**Project work:** A lot of the work in Transition Year is project-based. Teachers are not hounding<sup>2</sup> you every class to hand up work (...). This is very good preparation for college and the adult working life.

**Extra year in school:** If you are the kind of person who really just hates school and can't wait to get out into the real world, then you won't want to willingly choose to spend another year in the place you're dying to get out of. (...)

**Get lazy:** In TY you receive little to no homework every night and rarely get tests in class. There are no monthly tests, Christmas or summer exams. The opposite can be said for fifth year. Teachers will pile on the homework and a student coming from TY will really be thrown in the deep end<sup>3</sup>. (...)

**Forget things:** You know when you go back to school after the summer holidays and it feels like everything has just slowly leaked out<sup>4</sup> over the course of the three months? Try that after a year of not doing particularly exerting<sup>5</sup> classwork, no homework, no study and exams.

So to conclude, there are many pros and cons of doing Transition Year. Overall I feel it all comes down to each individual person and how they are suited to it, and how the school runs the programme. If you do choose to do TY, the advice I would give is to get involved in everything that comes your way and don't let yourself fall behind on work (it will come back to bite you). In the end it will be what you make of it.

Brian Manning (student), spunout.ie, July 30, 2018

1. college = university 2. hound (v.): harceler

3. be thrown in the deep end (exp.): être jeté(e) dans le grand bain

4. leak out (v.): s'échapper 5. exerting (adj.): tiring

### Document B

Nearly 80 per cent of pupils surveyed by the Irish Second-Level Students' Union (ISSU) found TY to be a worthwhile experience, according to a 2014 report, *Transition Year: Exploring the Student Experience*.

5 But what about parents, who are one step removed from what's going on?

Undoubtedly some find it hard to adjust to the effect a dramatic change in school routine can have on their children.

10 (...)

"I just can't wait for it to be over – a total waste of time," says one mother (...). She wouldn't be the first to think

the year's freedom is a dangerous breeding ground for<sup>1</sup> bad habits and excess socialising.

15 But, of course, the beauty of the TY experience is that freedom – a chance for young people and teachers alike to forget about "learning for the test" and concentrate on learning for life. However, whether this excellent concept works in reality depends on various factors, ranging from the quality of the programmes in schools and success in securing worthwhile work experiences, to the attitudes and personalities of individual children.

Sheila Wayman, *The Irish Times*, March 5, 2018

1. breeding ground for (exp.): terrain propice à

### Document C

To all intents and purposes, this is a year devoted to personal growth, bonding and tasting new skills. (...) But does the year actually deliver anything genuinely worthwhile or meaningful? (...)

There is no good reason why school-going children should require work experience to list on their curriculum vitae (CV)." (...)

There is no doubt that the TY is a major additional cost burden<sup>1</sup> to already hard-pressed parents trying to negotiate their way through the so-called free school system. Contributions range from €300 to well in excess of €1,000, with ongoing additional costs arising throughout the year."

Ita O'Kelly, *Irish Independent*, August 27, 2018

1. burden (n.): poids

