

Step 1

- you have decided that you'd like to spend a year abroad after your *Abitur*.
 - you would feel more comfortable if you could do that with one or two friends.
 - discuss whether you would prefer to:
 - work as an au-pair
 - work as a volunteer with children
 - work as a volunteer in a community project
 - work as a volunteer in an environmental project
- ➔ take notes on the relevant arguments that you needed to decide on an option

Step 2

- you have decided on the way you would like to spend your gap year
- discuss with your partner(s) what kind of information you need
 - ➔ take notes on the information that you think you need

Step 3

- search the net for non-commercial organizations that offer gap year stays
 - take notes on
 - how you searched for an organization
 - the organizations
 - their conditions for accepting people
 - the countries you can go to

Links you can use:

<https://internationalvolunteering.com> accessed 19.04.2017 15.49

<http://afs.org/> 19.04.2017 15.50

<http://collegelists.pbworks.com/w/page/16119457/Gap%20or%20Service%20Year%20Programs> (Portal) accessed 19.04.2017 15.52

<https://ulladulla-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/supporting-our-students/careers/gap-year.html>
accessed 19.04.2019

<http://collegecounselling.com/College-Counseling-College-Gap-Year-Options.html> (Liste)
accessed 19.04.2017 15.57

If you use more/different addresses consult the page How to search the net

Organization	Countries	Jobs/activities	Conditions

Step 4

- to be accepted you will have to prove that you have to be open-minded towards a different culture and that you are prepared to learn how to behave in a culturally acceptable way
- watch the following two links to get an idea of what it means to live in a different culture:
 - <https://www.skillsyouneed.com/ips/intercultural-communication.html> accessed 19.04.2017 15.25
 - <http://www.englishandculture.com/blog/bid/71208/Your-Intercultural-Communication-Skills-5-Ways-to-Improve> accessed 19.04.2017 15.27
- Take notes
- Consider what you have learned about meeting people from other cultures (this year and last year)
- Collect ideas which aspects of living together might be different in the country of your choice (e.g. is small talk important, how should you dress....)
- Take notes

Aspect	What is important

Step 5a

Mediation:

Read blogs of German volunteers who are in or went to the country you have chosen. You write an e-mail to your American friend who is also planning a gap year and tell him or her about what you have learned from the blogs (dos and don'ts, things that can go wrong)

Step 6

You want to present the information on “your” country to the others.

You have three options to do this:

- You give a presentation (take turns in your team) and film it on your mobile
- You make a clip on your mobile
- You make a clip on a tablet (use the app explain everything)

You prepare the presentation as a group.

Each of you has to present (i.e. speak) a part.

Decide who is presenting which part.

Content:

- country
- political (and possibly religious) situation
- ethnic groups - potential bias
- social situation
- gender situation
- rules for communication (verbal and non-verbal)
- dress code
- rules for living in a family
- most important: what are your ideas and plans for a successful stay