



Gap
Year

Exploration
Month

TOOLKIT FOR GUIDANCE COUNSELORS & EDUCATORS

#EXPLORETHEGAPYEAR

ISRAELGAPYEAR.ORG

WHAT IS GAP YEAR EXPLORATION MONTH?

Gap Year Exploration Month, celebrated bi-annually in the months of February and November, is a shared initiative of educators, experiential education experts, program providers, industry groups and others who want to promote the benefits of a gap year.

Gap Year Exploration Month exists to:

- Provide information about gap year opportunities.
- Celebrate gap year students and alums.
- Recognize the significant power and benefits of deliberate gap year time.
- Increase community, business, and governmental support for the gap year option.
- Educate schools, colleges & universities, students, and parents about the gap year option.

Gap Year Exploration Month is entering its inaugural year in 2019, having evolved from the gap Year Decision Day movement which began in 2017.



WHY PROMOTE A GAP YEAR?

We want to see more young Americans launching successfully into adulthood. Gap year proponents believe that taking intentional time away from the “classroom” before accruing college debt, starting careers, and choosing a life-path helps to facilitate perspective, purpose, and maturation. The life-experience gained from a gap year sets students up for success in the real world. Recent data echoes the sentiment that purposeful gap time is beneficial to students.

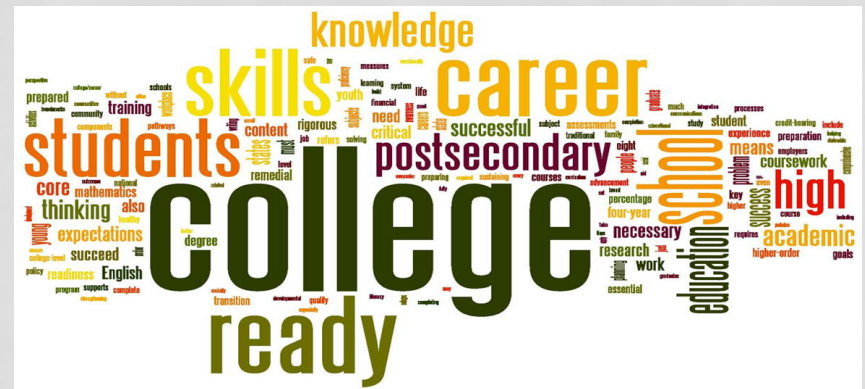


“Taking a gap year is a great opportunity for young people to broaden their horizons, making them more mature and responsible citizens.” - former U.K. Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw

GAP YEAR STATISTICS

Useful gap year statistics include:

- According to recent studies, gap year students perform better academically than traditional students once they arrive at college¹
- 90% of gap year students begin college within a year of starting their gap time²
- 88% of gap year graduates report that their gap year had significantly added to their employability³
- 98% of gap year graduates report their gap year helped them develop as a person and allowed valuable time for personal reflection⁴



1. Research conducted by Bob Clagett 2. <http://online.wsj.com> 3. Milkround graduate recruitment Gap Year survey, <http://www.milkroundonline.com> 4 2015 National Alumni Survey conducted by Nina Hoe, PhD, in collaboration with the Institute for Survey Research, Temple University, and the GYA Research Committee

REASONS FOR A GAP YEAR IN ISRAEL

- Develop deeper Jewish Identity
- Israel gap year participants develop deep and lasting bonds
- Engage in Jewish life on campus through advocacy, socially, and/or religious observance
- Israel is a leader in medicine, energy, technology, fashion, arts, and agriculture
- Traveling to Israel will make you better global citizens



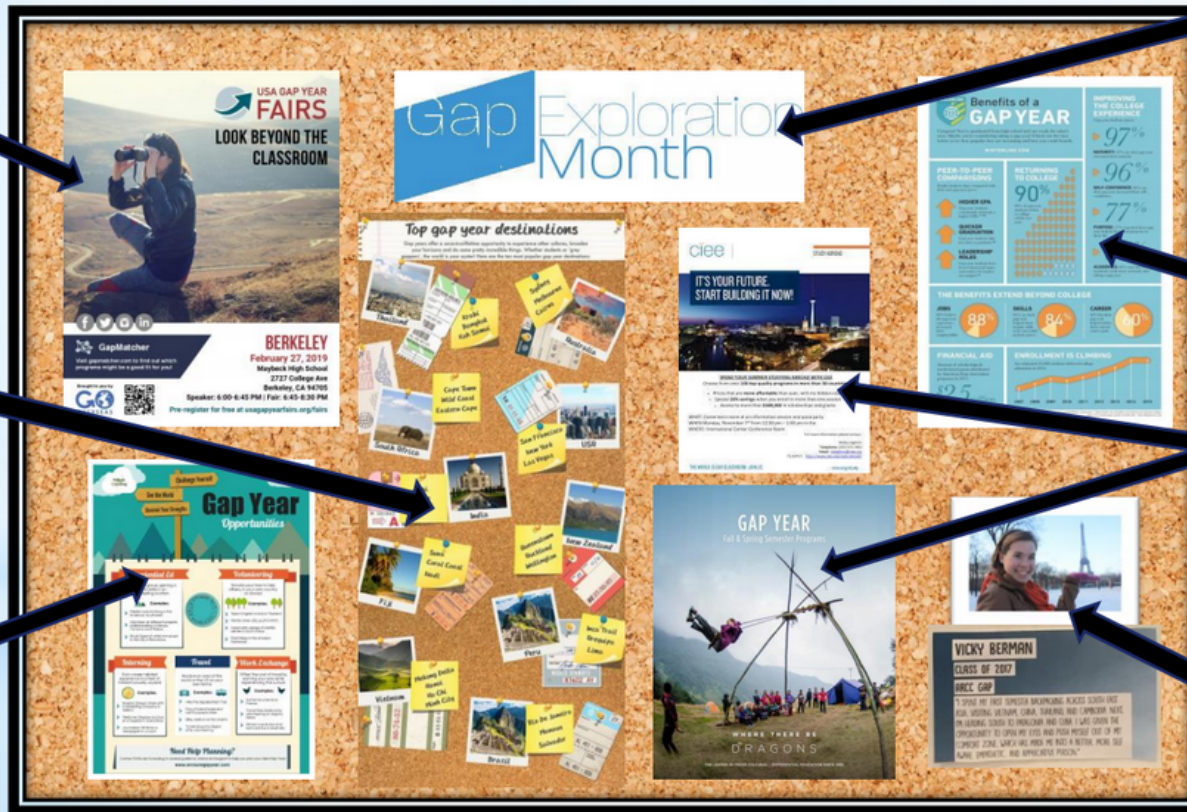
2019 EDUCATOR CHALLENGE: GAP YEAR BULLETIN BOARD

2019 Educator Challenge: Gap Year Bulletin Board

Promote your nearest Gap Year Fair

Crowd source or list top gap year destinations

Print and post infographics about planning and opportunities



Print and post the official Gap Year Exploration Month logo to display

Display stats about gap years

Display posters and brochures from gap year programs

Profile gap year alumni from your school

2019 EDUCATOR CHALLENGE: BULLETIN BOARD

We are encouraging guidance counselors and educators across the US in February and November to use their bulletin board space to educate students about the gap year option.

Suggested Bulletin Board Components:

- Gap Year Exploration Month Poster
- Profiles of your school's gap year alumni (what year they graduated, what they did with their gap year and/or a quote about their experience)
- Posters from gap year programs
- General gap year information and data
- Poster for your local AIGYA or USA Gap Year Fair, if applicable
- FAQs about gap years or interactive question and response from students (blank sheet or box where their questions can be answered)

Share your work with us!

Use #explorethegapyear and #aigya on social media and/or email a picture of your bulletin board to:

assistant@aigya.org or pfolb@aigya.org

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

Post

- Talk up your support of gap years on social media using #explorethegapyear and #aigya
- Share your gap year experiences from an educator perspective in video form. Share it with us via email and we'll spread the word!

Boast

- Contact your gap year alumni and ask them to give a presentation at your school.
- Do you have alumni currently on a gap year? Ask them what they are up to and add it to your school or counseling newsletter.

Host

- Get in touch with AIGYA & USA Gap Year Fairs to inquire about fair locations.
- Offer to host an information session or schedule a panel discussion for students and parents. AIGYA can help!

GAP YEAR RESOURCES

- **American Israel Gap Year Association (AIGYA)** [israelgapyear.org]: Gap Year Fair annually in November, workshops, educational resources, and scholarship.
- **Gap Year Association** [gapyearassociation.org]: Resource for data, accredited program listing and more information about gap years
- **USA Gap Year Fairs** [usagapyearfairs.org]: Fairs in the US in January, February, and March
- **Go Overseas** [gooverseas.com]: Program Reviews & Articles
- **Teen Life** [teenlife.com]: Program Reviews & Magazines
- **Go Abroad** [goabroad.com]: Program Reviews & Articles
- **Travel Access Project** [travelaccessproject.org]: Scholarship & Country Resources

Gap Year Exploration Month

February 2019

israelgapyear.org
#explorethegapyear
#aigya

Questions? Email us at:
pfolb@aigya.org or
assistant@aigya.org

