**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](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](http://collegelists.pbworks.com/w/page/16119457/Gap or Service Year Programs) (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