**Choose one of the following options**

**Option 1:**

Think about a time when you interacted with a person or people who was/were significantly different from you. Write a thoughtful essay in which you analyze the way(s) this experience affected you. *Hint*: In the essay below, Rick Steves discusses how multicultural experiences can be an advantage to people on the job market. You may want to analyze how your experience benefited you in the long run (not just how it felt in the moment.)

**Reminder**! Don’t forget to include at least one quote and paraphrases/summaries from the source essay.

**Option 2:**

Noted writing professor, Peter Elbow, created something he called the “believing game/doubting game.” He suggests we play both “games” when reading. In the believing game, you pretend that you believe everything in the paper (even if you don’t) and give as many reasons as you can why you agree with it. In the doubting game, you pretend that you doubt everything in the paper (even if you don’t) and give as many reasons as you can why the writer’s ideas are wrong.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Believers**:   * Are sympathetic with the opinion * Appreciate why the idea has force for so many people * Listen carefully to the reasons for the opinion * Open up to the possibility of it being true (or act as if it could be true) * Discover/explore as many reasons for believing it as they can | **Doubters**:   * Are judgmental and critical, finding fault with the opinion * Try their best to falsify the opinion * Find flaws in the opinion’s logic * Discover/explore as many counterexamples and reasons that disprove the opinion as they can |

Write a thoughtful essay in which you take the stance of the “believer” OR the “doubter” for the article “Study Abroad Is a Necessity, Not Luxury.” While you will be primarily representing either the side of the believer or the side of the doubter, make sure you also include the opposing side somewhere in your paper as well (an effective strategy for good arguers).

**Reminder**! Don’t forget to include at least one quote and paraphrases/summaries from the source essay.

**Essay Excerpt**

**Study Abroad Is Necessity, Not Luxury**

**by Rick Steves**

Even in challenging economic times, making sure that study abroad is part of our college students' education is a vital investment. If we want a new generation of leaders and innovators who can be effective in an ever more globalized world, sending our students overseas is not a luxury. It's a necessity.

I believe that our national security rests upon the foundation of a well-educated electorate with a broad and sophisticated worldview. Ninety-six percent of humanity lives outside our borders — and we risk being left in the dust if we don't know how to effectively engage the world. It's critical to deal smartly with the emerging economic and military powers of China and India, and we must better understand the intricacies of Islam. While Germany is increasingly going wind-powered, the Dutch are building up their dikes and Africa is fighting a growing desert, we need policies more insightful than "drill, baby, drill."

There's a lot of fear in our society today. Students who travel learn that fear is for people who don't get out much. And they learn that the flip side of fear is understanding. Travelers learn to celebrate, rather than fear, the diversity on our planet. Learning in a different culture and place allows us to see our own challenges in sharp contrast, and with more clarity, as we observe smart people in other lands dealing with similar issues.

American college students understand the value of study abroad. Four out of every five first-year students aspire to study overseas. But at any given time, only about 2% of students are able to. Educators are particularly concerned that the lack of opportunity for students from poor socioeconomic backgrounds will cause a "global divide" between students who've benefited from a global education … and those who haven't. And students for whom foreign travel is not easily affordable are the ones who benefit most from the experience. As a society, we can help enrich the education of our younger generation, and brighten their futures, by making this experience more accessible. The Paul Simon Study Abroad Act, currently being considered in Congress, would dedicate $80 million annually to incentivize study abroad, with the goal of encouraging a million American students from a wide range of backgrounds to study abroad each year.

Is now the time to be devoting precious public funds to sending college kids overseas? Absolutely. Our world is one big, rapidly evolving marketplace. Employers crave graduates who are flexible, multilingual and comfortable in multicultural settings. Study abroad sharpens these skills and helps keep American workers competitive.

In spite of its financial turmoil, the European Union recently expanded its Erasmus Program, which helps students study abroad. That's because the people of the EU understand that globalization is like the weather: Regardless of what you think about it, you have to live with it. And when it comes to stoking trade, building international partnerships and simply co-existing peacefully, Europe understands that study abroad is a smart investment.

Americans who want our next generation to be hands-on with the world — grappling constructively with international partners against daunting challenges that ignore political borders, working competitively in a globalized economy, and having enthusiasm rather than anxiety about other cultures and approaches to persistent problems — can get on board with the movement to help our students get a globalized education.

Encourage the young people in your lives to get a passport and see the world as a classroom. It's good for America. And it's fun.

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Rick Steves is a travel writer, host and producer of Rick Steves' Europe on public TV and Travel with Rick Steves on public radio.

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