

Margaret's letter

Dear Sir,

I was surprised to read your recent editorial on the question of student's part-time jobs. You appear to be making a lot of generalisations on the basis of just one unfortunate incident (I assure you that not all young people who deliver newspapers are as foolish and dishonest as the two youths mentioned in your article).

The first point I would like to make is that there are many jobs teenagers can do which gave them useful experience of the working world. They are brought into contact with a variety of people, often older, and are given experience of expressing themselves clearly and coherently. I am thinking here of jobs such as travel guides and shop assistants.

Another argument for schoolchildren and college students having holiday or weekend jobs is that many parents need the financial assistance. If we take, for example, a family in which the father is unemployed or perhaps a single-parent family on a low income, it seems logical and fair that a son or daughter should try to bring money into the household.

One further thing I want to say is that a lot of jobs for the young can be fun for the people who do them and also useful to the community. Youngsters who help in schools, hospitals and with the elderly often derive a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction as well as contributing something valuable to local society.

In conclusion, I would add that when I was a girl, my father said my teens were a time for books, hobbies and academic studies. Thinking back, I feel I would have learnt much more -about myself, other people and life in general- if he had allowed me to do a limited amount of real work. Certainly, when she is old enough, I shall encourage my own daughter to do so, rather than waste her time with soap operas, computer games and discotheques, like so many people today.

Yours faithfully,

Margaret Williams (Mrs)

QUESTIONS

1. Answer according to the text:
 - a) Give two the advantages of working while still at school.
 - b) Give two cases in which financial assistance would be helpful.
2. Are the statements True or False. Write the evidence from the text.
 - a) This letter was written to a newspaper.
 - b) All young people that work are intelligent and honest.
 - c) Children in one-parent families should not work.
 - d) The authoress worked when she was at school.
3. Insert the right word(s) in the blanks. Use the right form of the word(s) in brackets.
 - a) A son or daughter (ought) _____ work to bring money into the household.
 - b) A lot of generalizations (make) _____ in your article.
 - c) If he had let me (do) _____ a limited amount of real work I would have learnt a lot.
 - d) She enjoys (waste) _____ her time with soap operas, computers, games.
4. Fill the blanks with the best words from the list below: fair, teens, job, work.
 - a) I had a good _____ at the Ford factory.
 - b) Boys should also do housework. If only girls do things in the house, it isn't _____.

Match the following words with the correct meaning on the right.

Financial Assistance

a) money we spend.

Income

b) lack of money.

c) money we earn.