**SLIDE 1:** **How to take a gap year, while keeping your long-term career on track.**

**SLIDE 2: Odyssey Years? Come again?**

•Time away from traditional school/career; can combine work, travel, volunteerism.

–AKA: Gap Year, Time Out

•Advice? Go employed or with a program, and with a plan. Need to finance your expedition.

•It’s possible to unite your professional and personal goals.

**Right for me?**

**SLIDE 3: PROS: More than just “wanderlust.”**

•Facing fears and fulfilling a dream.

•Gaining a competitive edge in workplace.

•Goal setting: personally, gain professional skills.

•Developing independence and confidence.

•International contacts.

•Break to pursue something “unaffiliated” with career.

**SLIDE 4:**

**CONS: Plan is a verb and a noun.**

•Don’t have a plan, easy to drain funds.

•Don’t do this on (major) debt.

•Not necessarily “directly” benefitting future career.

•Act only like a tourist? That’s all you’ll be.

**SLIDE 5: Choosing your experience; keep long-term goals in mind**

**SLIDE 6:** **Dream and Define**

Goals?

•**Like a good paper, brainstorm, then edit.**

•**List** your dream experiences.

•**Search** for ideas on Gap Year websites.

•**Talk** through your ideas with a trusted friend.

•Don’t be afraid of big dreams.

•“Don’t let anyone, not even me, tell you what you can’t do.”

•“I always shoot for the moon in my work, so that I’m happy when I land on the roof.” – Darren Criss, Glee

**SLIDE 7: Define your goals: Short Vs. Long-Term**

**Short-term: Odyssey experience**

**•**Examine dreams: Select to align/lead to long-term goals.

•Choose one, then the other:

–1) Region/Country

–2) Industry

•Work: Reach dreams, within budget.

•Budget.

•Odyssey experience can help crystallize long-term.

**Long-term: Career / Grad school**

**•**Budget.

•Time tables:

–Grad school within (X) years.

•Who (business, industry, country) do I want to work with?

**SLIDE 8: Teaching English as a Second Language**

•1) **Where?** (Budget, interests, goals)

•2) **Program vs. Self-search**

–Program/Placement: More security, spend more

•Fulbright, CIEE, Footprints, WorldTeach, Google search

–Self-search: More flexibility, requires independence

•CELTA/TESOL/TEFL courses worldwide and nationally

•3) **Get certified**: CELTA/TESOL

•4) **Employment**

–Public schools, English Centers, International schools, tutoring

**SLIDE 9: What to remember while you’re away…**

**•**You are a guest.

•Register with the Embassy.

•Budget:

–Money: Rent, utilities, everyday expenses.

–Time: Balance work, play, spirituality, downtime.

•Milestones for goals

–Apartment, transportation, stretch comfort zone, achieving certification(s).

•Get involved.

–Local community

–Expat community

•Travel.

•Learn basic linguistics.

•Keep a blog!

–Personal account.

–Professional persona.

•Stay connected.

**•Make and keep contacts.**

**SLIDE 10: Alternate Odyssey Options**

**Programs / Volunteering**

•Americorps (NCCC and VISTA)

–City Year, The Red Cross

•PeaceCorps

•The Fulbright Program

•“WWOOF”-ing

•Lattitude.org.uk

**Employment**

•TransitionsAbroad.com

•University websites

•Agricultural work

•Travel Industry

•“Adventure” jobs

•Au Pair

•Internships

•Freelancing

•Job search

**SLIDE 11: Successful Transitions**

•Plan the transition before and while abroad.

•Revisit “Goal Statement”

–Don’t just throw away your flashcard.

•Stay connected with employers and professors.

•Take tests before you graduate (LSAT, GMAT, GRE).

•Craft and update a professional online presence.

•Follow cool career blogs and sites.

–BrazenCareerist.com.

–Industry job boards.

•Get/stay in touch with alumni.

**SLIDE 12: Questions? Feel free to contact me for any additional information!**

**ginnytonkin@gmail.com** **// Twitter: @ginnytonkin**

**SLIDE 13: Sources / Ideas**

-americorps.gov / peacecorps.gov

-ciee.org

-footprintsrecruiting.com

-Fulbright: iie.org/fulbright

-Lattitude.org.uk

-LostGirlsWorld.com

-ilavietnam.com

-TransitionsAbroad.com

-utexas.edu/cola/orgs/lacs/Students/International

**-**worldteach.org

-wwoof.org

-BrazenCareerist.com