Benefits Gained as a Working Teen

In Etzioni’s “McJobs,” he explains how teenagers are negatively affected by holding part-time paying jobs while attending high school and how this takes the focus away from their education. I strongly disagree with Etzioni. I believe that holding a part-time job as a teenager has many positive effects. Any parent that has a teenager that wants to work should support their teen’s decision. Hold a part-time paying job can teach many valuable lessons that can be carried through life. Teenagers can learn how to manage time, the value of money, and they can start becoming responsible young adults.

One positive impact of holding a part-time job as a teen is learning how to properly manage time. Attending high school and maintaining good grades takes great effort. Adding a job to the mix takes even more hard work and can be quite difficult to balance at first. Teenagers will learn how to balance their work schedule while still making time for schoolwork. They will have to figure out when there will be time to study and complete their assignments without interfering with work. From personal experience, I found it hard to keep up with my high school classes, get enough rest, and have enough energy to work. Since I valued my education, I always planned out when and how long I could study and complete assignments every time I got a new work schedule. I have now learned to manage my time wisely.

Another positive result is that working teens quickly learn the value of money. They will learn this as soon as they start having to pay their own bills. Most parents will only provide their children with basic necessities such as food, a place to sleep, clothes to wear, etc. Other items such as a cell phone, car, or name-brand clothing are considered luxuries. Working teens surely want these luxuries, and this is where they come to appreciate the value of money. I always found myself asking the same question: What’s more important, going out and spending money or saving up for a car? For the most part, I would always save the money I made in hopes that I would one day buy a car of my own, one that I did not have to share.
The last and final positive result of teens holding part-time jobs while in school is that they will blossom into responsible young adults. Having a job for the first time puts teens in situations where they have to grow up. They won’t always like who they’re working with, but it is important that they work well with others. In life, not everyone will like each other but it’s important to set aside differences and cooperate with each other to get the job done. It’s amazing to see how teens can transform from immature adolescents into responsible young adults.

Overall, teenagers that work part-time jobs while still attending high school are positively impacted in many ways. They learn to properly manage time, they learn the value of money, and they become responsible adults. They gain so many benefits and skills that they will be able to retain for the rest of their lives.