Presenting an argument

Look at this typical IELTS Writing Test Part 2 question and the sample answer which follows it. Underline the most appropriate words and phrases in bold in the answer. In several cases, both options are possible.

> Write about the following topic:
>
> *Some say that young people should take a break between school and university to go travelling and learn more about the world. Others say that it is better for them to go straight to university from school, and then go travelling when they have finished their studies.*
>
> Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
>
> Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge and experience.
>
> Write at least 250 words.

These days, it is very common for young people to take time off studying between school and university. Many of them go travelling, and spend a year or longer visiting interesting and exotic places. (1) **But / However**, is it better to do this, or to continue studying without a break?

(2) **First of all / Firstly**, there are several benefits to taking time off to travel.
(3) **As well as / In addition to** meeting lots of interesting people, you can also experience cultures that are very different from your own. (4) **I believe / I think** that first-hand knowledge and experience of the world around you early in life are useful things to have.
(5) **Moreover / Furthermore**, you learn to look after yourself in different and often difficult situations. (6) **Although / While** few people have serious problems when they travel, you will occasionally encounter situations where you need to think and act quickly without having friends or family to turn to. Unfortunately, travelling has its disadvantages (7) **also / as well**, such as homesickness and culture shock. (8) **Despite / Nevertheless**, these inconveniences are an inevitable part of travelling and are greatly outweighed by the advantages.

(9) **The most important reason / The main reason** for going straight to university after school is the fact that the sooner you get qualifications, the quicker you can get a job and start earning.
(10) **As far as I am concerned / For me**, starting work and making money is one of the most important things in life. I am not alone in this opinion. (11) **Many consider / Many say** a sound career and a good salary to be one of life's most important goals. (12) **Second / Secondly**, if you go straight to university, you learn so many things that will help you in your future life.
(13) **Eventually / Finally**, going straight to university from school means that you maintain a momentum that you might lose if you go travelling. (14) **I mean / In other words**, you remain focused on studying.

(15) **In conclusion / To summarise**, I would say that spending a year travelling between school and university has its advantages and disadvantages. (16) **On the one hand / To begin**, you are seeing something of the world. (17) **After that / On the other hand**, you are delaying your education and career. (18) **In my opinion / I opinion that**, it is better to carry on with your studies, and leave the travelling until later.

LIVEWORKSHEETS