Why is Work Experience important? What’s the point?

You might think you’ll just sit there doing nothing, or be given a stack of 2,000 envelopes to stuff, stamp and send. Although some work experience does involve doing menial tasks, other placements might give you the opportunity to take on some really interesting and challenging responsibilities.

Top ten reasons why you should do work experience:

1. Young people are more likely to be successful in their job hunt if they have done some good work experience.

2. If you haven’t got a clue what career you want to do, work experience is a perfect way to sample some possible career options. It’s a way of exploring different jobs without actually committing to anything.

3. If you do know what you think you want to do, it’s the best way to get a real sense of your chosen industry. You’ll get to speak to employees and ask them questions.

4. Doing work experience shows passion and interest. Evidence that you have done work experience shows the employer that you are motivated.

5. If you’re not sure and aren’t that bothered about your career or education at the moment, work experience might just be what you need to motivate you. You might find something you are passionate about and get motivated.

6. Work experience gently introduces you to the world of work. You get to learn the dos and don’ts, get to know a work place and learn to cope in a working environment. It’ll give you an idea of the skills you might need to thrive in the workplace.

7. It’ll help you identify your own skills and perhaps even highlight the areas that you might want to work on and definitely give you a good understanding of your strengths and weakness.

8. You might impress them so much that you’ll manage to get yourself a part-time job.

9. It’ll help you build up contacts and, you never know, they might even give you a future job or recommend you to another company.

10. And finally, if nothing else, work experience gives you something to put on your CV.