Taylor Yeager

Cultural Reflection 2

Since the school system in Germany is different with grade levels compared to how we divide grades in America, I think the German school system is much more efficient than our own. They start specializing what they want to study by the time they are in fifth grade. Whether it be a path to trade, business, health, or higher education, they have an opportunity to choose what they want to get out of school. In America, we are confined to a structured system of what you absolutely have to learn until finally you are eighteen and can pick what career you wish to pursue. If I could have spent the last three years working towards being an athletic trainer instead of taking meaningless high school classes, I would have been much happier. Also, they only go to school for half a day! Although in college I do not have to worry about it anymore, I find this much more useful for high schoolers to keep students attentive rather than dragging out the day to seven hours of nonstop learning. German universities, however, are quite similar to the structure of American ones. They have credits needed to complete bachelor’s and master’s programs, and they have Vorlesung, Klausur, und Seminar that are very similar to our class structures. Something that we do not have the pleasure of experiencing in America that they do in Germany is free tuition. Public universities are free unless you stay past the time it was supposed to take you to graduate. If that was implemented in America as well, there would be a lot of happy citizens and a lot less debt. Overall, from reading about the German school system, I think they know more about what they are doing than we do in America.