

Not many students actually read during reading week

About five years ago I attended a conference in Daytona Beach in February.

This conference was held at the same time as Canada College week and the city was full of Canadian university students on reading break.

According to a local cab driver, he enjoyed this week because the Canadian students were polite, drank less and were less likely to inflict damage on the city in comparison to American College week, which is usually a few weeks later.

I was also thinking at the time that there was absolutely no way that I could have afforded to go to Daytona Beach in February when I was a student.

The university I went to didn't even have reading break, and if it did I would probably have spent the time working to make extra money and catching up on my homework.

So what is reading break all about if some students can go off and party, some students actually study and others don't even get a break?

Through a little bit of research I found out that most



School's In

traditional (this means older schools) Canadian universities have a reading break, which tends to be a complete week off from classes.

Very few community colleges offer students a full week off, often it's just a couple of days.

The logic behind not offering students a mid-winter break is to give them the opportunity to finish exams earlier in April and enter the summer job market sooner rather than later.

In academic timetabling, reading week is adopted primarily in Canada and the United Kingdom.

It isn't part of the Amer-

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sorts, airlines, restaurants, clothing labels, beer companies, etc.

If you go on YouTube you can find all sorts of spring break videos that you wouldn't want to show your grandmother, let alone your parents if you are a college student interested in seeing what American College Week is all about.

In comparison, there seems to be less marketing to Canadian students on how

they should spend their reading week.

On one student website I did notice some deals on downhill skiing.

One of our deans told me years ago that we need to change what we call reading break because he believed most students didn't really understand why they got that time off.

To him it wasn't about partying, skiing, or holidays in the sun but a time

to catch up on your reading and get ready for all those research papers that were due in March.

So this begs the question: Can you catch up with all that reading and homework while sitting on a beach in Mexico, drinking a Corona, surrounded by 300 other college students?

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