
ELI STUDENT VOICES

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My Love Story

(1st Place)

Luciana Trujillo

R/W 31

I'm sitting on a beach at Sicily, waiting for my husband; he is buying some food to eat at the beach. Today is our anniversary; we got married 5 years ago on this romantic and fulfilling beach. My story is one of the most sentimental stories ever to be written. It begins when I saw him at a restaurant in my hometown. It never came to my mind that he will end up being the person whom I would spend the rest of my life with. When I saw him, I felt something strange; however, I never thought that my feelings were real. He wasn't an outspoken guy. Still after we started to establish a friendship and everything began to get so much funnier and enjoyable, the biggest nightmare of my life appeared with no sense of kindness whatsoever. As you may know, nothing in life is perfect. The boy whom I started to like, had a different life, far away from where my dreams are able to reach. He lived in the United States. A different country, city and even weather. When we acknowledged that our lives were completely opposite, it was too late to go back. We were so in love that we decided to continue our immense love distance-relationship. It was very hard, but apparently it got harder for him. Heartbreakingly, he broke up with me one month after he left Colombia. For me it was a moment that I will never forget. My life, dreams, hopes and everything that made my life happier came to an end. I was only 15 years old, and he was my first and last love.

A year after he came back to Colombia, we hadn't talked for 6 months and that day he arrived, my life changed completely. My love, and ex boyfriend was in town. He tried to talk to me about how regretful he was for ending our relationship. I suffered extremely hard when he wasn't with me, and I didn't feel ready to go back with him knowing that no matter what, he had to go back to his country. The moment I saw him, my inside was dying, but I had to be strong and follow whatever was best for him. After many fights and talks that went on for hours about excuses and events that damaged our relationship, we decided that our love made the world smaller and that there were no excuses that justified not being together and living a life that most people would consider impossible, but for us, it was a life full of happiness and love waiting to be taken and used at its maximum. When he returned home, the relationship continued with the same difficulties, but my feelings will never change. He came for Christmas, and we went to my family's house. He met my family and our love got so much stronger every time he came to visit me. When I graduated, I moved to the USA to start a life with him and to become a very successful psychologist.

We experienced many things together, such as fights, worries, and mostly happiness. We achieved our dreams together, and we lived the life that we always wanted, together forever and ever.

On May 5, we got married in Sicily exactly where I'm sitting now, writing my love story. Currently, I'm expecting a baby and honestly, I'm the happiest woman in the whole universe. Everything is perfect because I have the only thing that matters to me, my loving husband.

Pick up the Phone

(1st Place)

Sein Jang

R/W 60

It was the day that I came home from spring break. I had enjoyed the fantastic weather of the west coast in San Diego and the tremendous view of the Grand Canyon. I had even won \$100 on the slot machines in Las Vegas. When I came back home, I was still saturated in happiness from my spring break. Moreover, when I found an e-mail from my friend, I couldn't be happier because we usually do not send e-mail even though we are very close friends. However, my happiness suddenly disappeared with the click on the e-mail.

It was such a long e-mail which just started with a normal greeting. But, when I saw the sentence "I regret to inform you..." I couldn't read it anymore because my eyes were filled with tears. It informed me that one of my best friends, Suk-Hyun Lee, passed away on March 14th which was the day that I was enjoying the sunshine on the Beach in Santa Barbara. I couldn't believe it since he was a man of sturdy build and as strong as an ox. So, I dialed another friend hoping it was a lie. However, I just heard "I am so sorry" repeatedly. I felt dizzy as if the room were spinning around and around. My knees were knocking and my hands were trembling and there was nothing I could do to stop them. Tears started falling down my cheeks, and there was nothing I could do to stop them. I lied on the bed and kept crying with regret.

We had been very good friends since elementary school. We played soccer after school, studied together during the exams, and teased each other about girls. We were always together no matter if we were happy or sad. He was happier than me when I entered the university; he was sadder than me when I broke up with my first love. Nevertheless, I never said to him, "thank you" or "I love you." Even worse, I rarely kept in touch with him after entering the university. I told myself that I was too busy to be in contact with him. Moreover, before I came to the U.S., I only called him and said "I will see you when I get back" instead of meeting him. I did this even though I knew that I would not see him for almost one year. At that

time, I thought that we would have plenty of time to be together in the future. However, he did not wait for me any longer.

Now, I wish I could spend just one more day with him; I eagerly wish to meet him and say, "Thank you, I love you." Nonetheless, he cannot listen no matter how I cry out. So, I am regretting not saying these words to him, and I will carry this regret through my life because of what I didn't say when he was alive. However, he has given me a precious lesson with this sorrow. Thanks to him, I recognize how important relationships are in my life. I also realize that I should express my love and appreciation to others. As a result, I called my parents and said "I love you" for the first time in my life.

Sometimes it is already too late when you realize something valuable in your life. I did. So, I have a lot of regret. However, I hope that this regret will not be part of your life. Please pick up the phone and call your family or friend right now. And say, "Thank you" or "I love you." They may not wait for you.

The Human Face

Mert Gumusbasoglu
Grammar for Writing

In the technology era, every single thing has started to become robotic. Technology, which has invaded all aspects of our lives, creates a new kind of communication among people. Although high-tech devices such as computer, internet, TV, make everything easier and faster, they create a new society in which people do not need to use their human characteristics. While most people give up unconsciously using their human behaviors, the ones who have not forgotten that human behaviors can show the things inside us live an aware life; also, they take the advantages of showing their expressions by being cured by their own body. In our mechanical world, how many people know that a small smile could show the future, or a micro eyebrow movement is a clue to catch a liar, or a laugh could be much more useful than a commercialized medicine. I have watched a documentary named *The Human Face* which forced me to being aware of the miracles of the facial expressions.

First, smiling which is a facial expression that you do maybe more than hundred times a day. It is a usual thing for everyone, but it has a great power, the power of psychics. In the first part of *The Human Face*, the scientist conducted a experiment which provided a perfect proof for showing that a smile could show the future. The scientists took three women, and analyzed their high school alumni pictures to guess who would have a happy life by detecting their smiling styles. After 30 years, they interviewed these women, and they saw that the women who had a true enjoyment smile, which includes lifting the corners of the lips and wrinkles around the eyes, had a happy life. On the other hand, the other two women who had a fake smile, which has the same movements on lips but has not any movements around the eyes, did not have a happy life. While this experiment proves that a little smile could show the future, another research showed that the person who has a true enjoyment smile can easily be the focusing point of a group. A

study was conducted with 24 college students in Turkey about the social benefits of smiling. In advance, their photos were taken, and then they were put in three different groups, and were asked to introduce themselves to each others, and after 3 hours they were asked to write all information that they had about the other students. Results showed that students remember more information about the students who have a true enjoyment smile. While these two experiments prove that the facial expressions can be the magic globe, there are other studies which show that these small movements can be our lie detector.

Lying is the one of the most dangerous human behaviors, and it is too hard to know when someone lies. Furthermore, we do not have any alternatives other than trusting a coin. However, the facial expressions give a great chance to stay away from a liar, or catch a liar. Lying has many different effects on our body. The lie detectors have ability to catch liars with 80% percent of success. Despite its great success, this system has a tremendous failing that if people who used to be accused by their parents in the childhood are connected to the lie detector, the device will blame them with being a liar even though they are not. On the other hand, lies can be detected by detecting some micro facial expressions as the same high success ratio with the device that has a dangerous disability. Dr. Ekman, psychology professor at the University of Chicago, said that there were specific micro movements when we lied, and detecting these clues could be learnt in a 30-minute special course. He added as an example that the middle corners of the eyebrows go up to the forehead when we lied, and provided a video that Clinton lies in which the micro movements can easily be seen at the eyebrows. It is explicit that detecting facial expressions is a better way to detect liars. Not only do human behaviors have a great power to manage our society, but they also have power to cure our diseases.

Finally, Laughter is a mystery that have not solved for thousands of years, and this human behavior provides us free health care. In the last section of *The Human Face* documentary, producers went to India to see the laughter clubs which are more than 600 in India. They interviewed a professor who has established a great number of laughter clubs, and helped people to be healthier by getting benefits of the laughter. He said that while people are laughing, they inhale more oxygen, and their body provides more happy hormones. On account of these effects, their immune system becomes stronger. In addition, laughter is an effective medicine against depression and stress. After giving a little theoretical information, the documentary visited the Bombay Prison in which the prisoners participated in laughter sessions that took 15-20 minutes. The professor said that these laughter sessions helped them to eliminate the high stress and depression they had. It is easy to say that the laughter can forestall mental and physical disease.

In conclusion, our human behaviors protect us from disease, show us the future, give us a chance for an honest world. However, in the new world, few people are aware of the importance of the facial expressions. On account of this unconsciousness, our society will be in danger in the near future. People are forgetting how to smile, laugh; also, they

have a chance to understand whether someone lies to them or not. Even though the quality of the health care increases significantly, new generations will suffer from disease without the benefits of being human. The future needs to be fixed by the people who knows how to smile for enjoyment, how to laugh happily.

Keep the Tongue Uncut

Jin Chun

R/W60

A little child is on an operating table. His doctor tells him to open his mouth. The boy opens his mouth slowly, trembling with fear. Soon, the doctor cuts the root of the boy's tongue. Now it is over. What happened to this little boy? It was not cancer, nor one of any serious physical disorders. It was his mother's will. She believed it would help her little child pronounce the English language more clearly. Sadly, this turned out to have no scientific evidence at all. This is a story that happened ten years ago in Korea. The blind pursuit of English has made Koreans slaves of English. Parents and their children merely think English is a virtue, without having certain reasons or purposes for learning the language. In this crazy vogue, Koreans should put the brake on themselves and think about their attitude toward English on three aspects: individual, social, and substantial.

First, Koreans need to know the meaning of learning English in their lives. Some may find that they need English because of their specific career. Others may learn English for they are interested in languages. Most study English because they think they should. As a Korean, I want to ask them a question, "For what reason are you learning English so hard?" The answer should not be, "Everybody does it," "My parents told me to," or "English is the competitiveness." The two previous answers mean that the respondents do not have their own opinion at all, though they should be the one responsible for their life. The last answer is half-correct. It is true when one is willing to apply for international jobs, or to teach English itself as a job. For domestic jobs, however, English is optional. Even if they do not know a single word of English, there is no problem for the people doing their work,

Second, people should be able to differentiate their expectations from a social urge. Indeed, one's expectation reflects social requirements. In Korea, companies demand applicants to have a high level of English regardless of what they are applying for, or what they learned in universities. This is why a great number of Koreans are striving to learn English. Still, having a specific goal is apart from just following a societal trend. Korea is a capitalist society. In the name of capitalism, people try to make themselves buyable goods. As a junior, I knew a lot of university students who tried to get a formidable list of qualifications that most of them will probably not use in their work. One becomes anxious when others get certificates because it makes them feel inferior; so, one begins to do likewise. Paradoxically, people become goods of a kind, which makes them far from being competent. It is obvious that just learning English does not make people almighty. To be

competent, one needs to have something that others do not have.

Third, people ought to realize that language is a tool. It seems that people nowadays regard it as an end. In other words, it, the goal, should be something that people can do with English, not just knowing the language itself. Language itself is just an implement. What distinguishes one from others is an intension supported by language. For example, if a Korean docent can speak fluent English, he or she will be fairly competent because introducing Korean culture is important to foreigners as well as to their own citizens. In other words, learning English for their specific career will make one special in this 'global village'.

What can possibly be more important than preventing the cutting of a little boy's tongue for nothing? It is understandable for Koreans to meet their society's demand. However, there seems to be something missing. People should have clear goals before they make so much effort. If you want to be successful, chasing others will not work. Think about what you really want to do. Find what you need to do for what you want to do. Make you special. This is how to be competent in a capitalistic society. Let's keep the tongue uncut.

Our Life is a Continuous Transition

Marco Pazmino

R/W 30

When I was a child, my dad told me a lot of anecdotes. However, most of the time I did not believe him or pay much attention to those stories. At that time, games were more important and besides there were easier and funnier things to think about than my father's words.

When I turned 11 and celebrated my birthday, my father gave me as a birthday gift a small, thin and interesting book called *La culpa es de la Vaca*. My father's words were, "read this story, son. It's about the eagle and its transition in life." To be honest, at that time I didn't have any idea about the importance of these stories in my near, future life. I will share this story with you from a book.

The eagle is known for its longevity. It can live to be 70 years old. But to reach this age it needs to change. When it reaches forty years, the eagle decides its future. It has just two choices - life or death. At this critical time, the eagle can no longer grab animals properly. Its beak has changed. Now it is curved and pointed toward its breast and its feathers are old and heavy which makes it difficult to fly.

The eagle with its last strength begins the transition; it flies to the highest mountains to isolate itself for 5 months. Once there, the eagle begins to hit a rock with its beak until it tears off. Next, when its beak grows out again, the eagle uses it to tear off its nails one by one. Finally, when its nails grow out, it starts to change its feathers by pulling them out. After this painful transition, a new life starts for the eagle (Gutierrez and Trujillo).

During their lives humans have to face periods of transition, sometimes as painful as the eagle does. Here people need to decide between accepting death or struggling for their

dreams. For many nights before I decided to come to Gainesville, I thought about how difficult and painful it would be to leave my family, my friends, my girlfriend, my customs, my food, and my language behind to learn a new language, understand new customs, and meet new friends. Because of all these things, I had a lot of unanswered questions in my mind, such as should I make a lifelong decision now? Will it be better to just stay at home and keep things the way they are in this moment? Then, I remembered the story in the book, so I took the book and read this story again. I thought about how people need to transform their lives to achieve their dreams. I reshaped myself to be able to compete and be happy in this world, a new world.

When I arrived in Gainesville, a lot of questions and fears were in and around my mind. Before classes started, I couldn't sleep, but when I started my classes at the ELI little by little my fears began to disappear. Suddenly, I started to meet a lot of people with the same fears, questions, dreams and desires. I introduced myself to a new culture and to new traditions. I've also learned about new customs, religions, and creeds. I've learned that we may look very different on the outside, but we are the same on the inside. Also, I understand every one of us speaks a different language, which always causes a struggle for me to make another person understand, but I try to do it by using English or mime.

Finally, sometimes along life we need to renounce our customs, traditions, and memories to reach and undertake the flight of achievement and success. Our gratitude to the ELI comes from making our dreams to learn easier and happier.

Literature

Murat Ongudu

R/W 41

A Turkish writer says "History is read for learning where you have come from and where you are going, Literature is read for knowing yourself." The word of Literature in Turkish is "Edebiyat." The first part of "Edebiyat" comes from the word of "Edep." "Edep" in Turkish means good manners of a person. As it seems clearly, literature is directly connected to humanity in this Turkish word. I am going to give some examples why literature is so important in our lives.

As you know, there are several philosophical definitions of humankind; "a human being is the one who talks", "a human being is the one who can walk on his/her own two feet", "a human being is the one who laughs." In addition to the above, I would like to mention about another definition; "a human being is the one who writes." Interestingly, when we say "the history of mankind"; we are talking about the time after the first writing. So we define our history and more then history, ourselves as writers. This is the very first ontological importance of literature.

Literature is an effort of trying to understand The World and ourselves. A piece of literature is capable to affect us through bad and right manners. Every manner is a potential idea before it happens. When we share an idea with someone, something is triggered inside us. Something begins to affect us

in a good or bad way. It is the power of the words, it is the power of meaning. (Of course, this power and this effort of understanding shouldn't be wasted and polluted by bad and mediocre pieces.) Literature is more than just reading and writing. Sometimes it teaches us some words that we can never forget and some words that can lead our lives.

Literature is a way of trying to put ourselves in others' shoes. In other words, it is an empathy experience. Like dreams and movies, literature makes a sense of reality. By reading, we learn someone's emotions and thoughts and we feel like him/her. New words that we haven't heard before, new emotions that we haven't felt before, new places that we haven't been before, new jobs, new women/new men, all together bring us new thoughts and points of view. It awakens us from our sleep to different worlds outside of us. Of course, I would like to say understanding might be a negative thing sometimes :)

In the end, Literature is capable of affecting many things inside us. It can ignite the fire inside us. As a last word, literature is like a small light for us who are seeking their humanity.

My Episodes in U.S.

Jeasum Lee

R/W 31

I had been to Gainesville two years ago with my husband and my two children. My sister has lived here since 2006. It was so hard to make a vacation plan. So, our heart swelled with dreams.

Those days were in the middle of August. The weather looked like the inside of an oven. My family and my sister's family started our trip to Panama City. We arrived at the Marriot hotel. And then, we ran toward the beach. My husband was wearing a Gator T-shirt received from my sister's husband as a present. It looked good. When we went to rent a parasol, the guy said to my husband, "I can't give it because you're a Gator." My husband was surprised and also couldn't understand. He said again, "I just told a joke, but I hate Gators." Later, we understood about football games in the U.S. In my country, football games are not famous. My sister's husband is also a Gator fan. We were all laughing.

After our Panama-city trip, the weather was horrible. Finally, heavy rain began to fall. But my husband and I decided to visit Orlando's Disney World. During a temporary lull in the rain, we started to drive without my sister's family. We felt helpless on this first trip. We were nervous. However, we safely arrived in Orlando. Suddenly, there was a heavy rain. I had never seen this before. Although we bought rain coats, they tore. It seemed like someone poured water from the sky. Fortunately, our Disney trip ended, and we went to parking garage, but our car was not working. My husband asked a man, "My car ... battery ... died...help." We couldn't speak English. My husband was dripping with rain.

Besides of these episodes, we have some fun happenings coming from different language and culture. While

these experiences are accumulated, I feel as the United States that was unfamiliar is intimate gradually.

Effects of Stereotypes and Prejudice on International News Reporting

Edgardo Dangond
R/W 60

Effects of Stereotypes and Prejudice on International News Reporting

Most of what people learn about countries and cultures different from their own comes from the media. They can receive information through printed, electronic, online or any other type of media, but the question is whether the source they choose is credible or not. Being that credibility is such an important element of the news communication process, and being that objectivity is one of the most basic aspects needed to build credibility, we have to consider the fact that a reporter's objectivity can be affected by prejudice and stereotypes. A reporter that assumes that "all Muslims are terrorists" or that "all Colombians are drug dealers" is a reporter whose objectivity is questionable. While these examples may be extreme, there are situations in which a reporter is biased by prejudice and/or stereotypes; news stories produced under such conditions might not be as credible and truthful as those developed by a reporter who is willing to go beyond his/her own preconceptions and appropriately researches about the people he/she is reporting on. This is why prejudice and stereotypes can have a significant effect on international news reporting.

Defining Stereotypes / Cultural Stereotypes

The Media Awareness Network defines stereotypes as being "a fixed, commonly held notion or image of a person or group, based on an oversimplification of some observed or imagined trait of behavior or appearance" (2010). Being that this is a very general definition of stereotype, it is important to specify what will be considered a cultural stereotype in this paper. Cultural stereotypes are those that are based on differences that have to do with people's race or geographical origin. "All Europeans do this", "all Latin Americans are like that" and any generalization that has to do with ethnicity and/or culture will be considered a cultural stereotype in this paper.

Defining Prejudice / Cultural Prejudice

The Macmillan dictionary's definition of prejudice is "to make someone form an opinion about someone or something before they have enough information" (2010). This is the general definition of prejudice. We should also consider a more specific definition of prejudice like the one included by Milton Kleg (1993) in his book Hate, Prejudice and Racism: "ethnic or racial prejudice is a readiness to act, stemming from a negative feeling, often predicated upon a fixed overgeneralization or totally false belief and directed toward a group or individual members of that group" (p. 114). As Kleg also notes in his book, even though prejudice is generally

negative, it can also be positive (p. 114). One person can make a positive assumption about someone without having enough information to support that assumption. In either case, prejudice has a negative impact because it leads to assumptions that may or may not be wrong. In other words, prejudging leads to uncertainty, which also has a negative impact in the communication process.

Defining International News

There are many ways in which we can determine what news stories can be categorized as international news. For this paper, we will use the definition given by James F. Larson (1988) in his book Global Television and Foreign Policy, where he defines international news as "any news story that involves a country other than the United States, regardless of its theme or place of origin" (p. 30). What is really important about this specific definition is the fact that it classifies stories as international news because of the people and countries they affect, not only because of the place where they originated. For example, even if a story about military aid from the United States to Colombia originated in Washington, it would be considered international news.

As Tony Silvia (2001) points out, Ted Turner's vision of CNN always included an inclusive approach to international news. Here's the staff memo from Ted Turner that Silvia included in his book:

It is the policy [CNN's policy] that any person, event, etc. which is not a part of the United States be referred to as international rather than foreign ... the word foreign implies something unfamiliar and creates a perception of misunderstanding. In contrast international means "among nations" and promotes a sense of unity (as cited in Silvia, 2001, p 5).

We can see that, from the beginning, CNN gave a great deal of importance to the perception that people have of the news the network considered to be international. This is the kind of respectful treatment that leads to credibility.

The Effect of Cultural Stereotypes and Prejudice on International News Reporting

Since the people involved in the process of communicating international news come from different cultural backgrounds, international news can be noticeably affected by cultural stereotypes and prejudice. When the information about the people that are part of the story is not objective and thoroughly researched, the resulting news story can have unpredictable results on the audiences receiving it. The effects of cultural stereotypes on international news reporting can be classified in two categories. The first one deals with the way in which they affect the source that generates the story, the reporter. The second category deals with the way cultural stereotypes and prejudice affect the receivers of the story, the audience.

From the reporter's point of view

When reporters are influenced by stereotypes or prejudice, the most important effect this influence has on news stories has to do with the quality of the research and the

verification of facts. A reporter who assumes that a person or group can be stereotyped because of their cultural background, or a reporter who prejudices a person or group involved in a story is likely to do a poor research because he/she is assuming as true information that should be confirmed. As Lynn de Iriarte (2003) indicates, in 1982 President Ronald Reagan authorized an extensive raid and deportation project called Operation Jobs. In the next four months, the media covered extensively this operation providing little context about cheap labor in this country. Reporters did not include information about the types of jobs held, working conditions or how many of those workers were paid less than the minimum wage. Also, even though there was a great amount of research on the subject, reporters failed to quote a significant amount of experts (p. 43). It seems like the reporters assumed that the operation was justified just because the people that were being pursued were immigrants, Latino immigrants mostly. The situation might have been covered more thoroughly if the people involved had not been identified as mostly Latino immigrants.

From the audience's point of view

In the case of stereotypes and prejudice influencing audiences, the result might be that the people receiving the story interpret it in a way that is different from what the situation being reported was really about. They might be biased and interpret the facts according to the stereotypes or prejudices they have in their minds, thus changing the meaning of the story. In this case, even if the reporter produces a news story free of stereotypes and prejudice on his part, the result in the mind of the individual viewer/reader might be very different from what the facts show. As Janet Rusher (2001) indicates, audiences easily make generalizations when persons belonging to a disliked group are involved (p. 167). She cites an excellent example of this situation given by Winkel (1990), "Dutch residents who read a news article in which a Turk raped a woman would tend to presume that another Turk might well do likewise, but would not make such a generalizing inference when the perpetrator is Dutch" (as cited in Rusher, 2001, p. 167). This is negative not only because this particular person gets the wrong message, but also because he/she might pass to others a version of the story that includes such generalization.

The Resulting News Story can be Changed by the Effects of Stereotypes and Prejudice

Bias from stereotype and prejudice, either coming from the reporter or the receiver, can change the effect that a story can have on an audience. A biased reporter can, either intentionally or unintentionally, affect people through news stories; he/she can create confusion or misunderstanding among audiences. The lives of people receiving biased stories can be affected in many ways. In some cases, the consequences might be harmless, but there are cases in which the consequences can be serious. Stories misinterpreted by biased audiences could lead to confusion and misunderstanding. Under these circumstances, people receiving the information might decide to take wrong or unnecessary actions based on the misinterpreted information.

Possible Solutions

First of all, media producers should try to make sure that reporters aren't ill intentioned; people rely on the ability of media to control their reporters' objectivity and honesty. Also, media should make sure that reporters thoroughly research the stories and present all the relevant information. This way, it would be more difficult for audiences to be affected by cultural stereotypes or prejudice; audiences would be able to construct a more accurate version of the story in their minds. In other words, in cases where the people involved in a story might be easily stereotyped or prejudged, reporters should gather and include in the story as much information as possible about these people. By doing this, audiences might have the chance of avoiding bias because of their stereotypes and prejudices.

The objective of any reporter should be writing and delivering news stories in the most clear, direct and objective way; international news reporters face the additional challenge of not only having to avoid their own cultural stereotypes and prejudice, but also the challenge of producing a story that leaves as little room as possible for audiences to be biased by their own cultural stereotypes and prejudice. So, even though the effect of cultural stereotypes and prejudice on international news reporting can have very serious consequences, these can be avoided through the rigorous application of journalism methodology and ethics.

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Istanbul and Gainesville

Ilhan Gulgonul

R/W 41

I personally know Istanbul well but not Gainesville. As soon as I heard Gainesville's name at the first time from my supervisor in Istanbul, I immediately looked at a map to see where it is located. I learned a lot of information about Gainesville in a short time through the Internet. Because I got a

scholarship from the Turkish Government, I am now living in Gainesville for a year as a researcher at the University of Florida. Now I realized that there are a lot of differences between Istanbul and Gainesville.

First, there is big a difference in population. While Istanbul's population is nearly 15 million, Gainesville is only one hundred and ten thousand. Istanbul is a metropolitan city but Gainesville is a university city. Istanbul has a lot of high buildings, but in Gainesville, most of the buildings are only one floor. Istanbul has very heavy traffic and is a noisy, complicated, and stressful city. On the contrary, there is no traffic in Gainesville and it is a quiet and organized city. Moreover, there is only the RTS bus system. This bus system is a free for students and people of UF. But in Istanbul there are many buses, railway, subway, metro, and marine transportations.

Secondly, Istanbul is a very old city, but Gainesville is not. Istanbul has three different kinds of cultures that stem from the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman Empires, respectively. Istanbul was the capital city of all these empires. So, Istanbul has a lot of historical monuments such as palaces, mosques, churches, water belts, fountains, and tombs. There are four kinds of museums in Istanbul. Istanbul is a European city of culture 2010 (1 and 2). Gainesville is a very new city. It became part of Spanish colony in December, 1817 (3 and 4). Its old name is Hogtown (5).

Another big difference is in the weather. Gainesville's weather is warmer than Istanbul's. While Gainesville's weather is tropical, Istanbul has a continental climate. Istanbul has very cold weather and it snows several times a year; however, Gainesville is rather mild and it never snows. This winter in Gainesville was slightly colder than normal. This year Gainesville experienced the coldest year of one hundred twenty five years. Otherwise Gainesville's weather bothers people during the summer. There are high temperatures and also high humidities in Gainesville. Istanbul's summer weather is better than Gainesville's. I prefer to live in Gainesville during the winter and Istanbul during the summer.

Finally, Istanbul is a commercial city, which has two airports and seaports, a lot of malls, and the Covered Bazaar (6). Especially the Covered Bazaar, which was built during the Ottoman Empire, is a very important and famous shopping center for tourists. Gainesville is only a university city. Gainesville is home to University of Florida and Santa Fe College. I think if the University of Florida and Santa Fe College were not located in here, Gainesville would be a dead city or big village.

In conclusion there are a lot of differences between Istanbul and Gainesville. Both cities have different cultures, histories, transportations, and weathers. But, Istanbul and also Gainesville have different advantages and benefits that the other lacks. I like both of them, but I prefer Istanbul because it is my country.

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What the '88 Summer Olympics in South Korea Left

Sun Young Yun

R/W 42

“Red roses bloomed beautifully in the garbage can!”(Rowan). Do you think roses can bloom in garbage area? If you ask people around you, they will probably say ‘It’s impossible’. Many people may expect it never to turn into a beautiful place because it is a barren place where there is no hope for change nor hope to get people’s attention. But, as someone said earlier, impossible is nothing at least to South Korea. Nobody expected that weak small Northeastern Asian country to succeed. Due to the 1950 Korean War, both sides of Korea lost everything. Almost all buildings were destroyed, political construction and economical foundation also were done. At the time, South Korea was very poor and helpless. It seemed there was no hope to revive and get in developing process all over again. In spite of desperate situation, people didn't give up their dream that we would live well again. Thank to this attitude that most of South Koreans had, South Korea achieve their goals in two field; economics and politics. Since the mid to late 1980s, South Korea achieved \$ 32 billion in GDP, maintained stable export situation and also set stable and democratic political atmosphere. Beautiful red rose really bloomed again in the helpless garbage place! These successes made South Korea more powerful in the world so that South Korea could host big global events like the '86 Asian game and the '88 Summer Olympics in Seoul. The '88 Summer Olympic influenced many aspects of South Korea. Thanks to hosting the Olympics, South Korea could change rapidly in positive way. It influenced the reputation of South Korea outwardly; it also changed business concepts, cultural attitude and individual hobby inwardly.

One of the biggest differences before South Korea hosted the '88 Summer Olympics in Seoul and after South Korea did is nation's reputation. Before South Korea held the big global event, we were considered as one of the dangerous countries to travel or visit. Because Korea has been divided into North and South, there was a war between North and South in 1950 and North Korea still are not willing to give up their Communism and sent spies to South Korea to cause a trouble. For those reasons, many foreigners were reluctant to visit South Korea. Although the political situation had become stable and there is no attack from North Korea since around 1982, people regarded Korea as dangerous country. They thought that they

might be exposed to a great risk if they traveled to South Korea. But after 1988, when South Korea held the Olympics, foreign tourists increased, because the '88 Olympic changed the reputation of South Korea. Since people usually think that big global events aren't held by dangerous country, many people thought that South Korea is not that dangerous country and is safe enough to visit or travel. This common idea has greatly contributed in shifting the reputation of Korea.

The summer Olympics changed not only reputation of South Korea but also marketing style. Before Olympics, many merchandisers sold their inventory in a high-handed manner that only think about company's profits, not customer's benefits. If there were any troubles within the firm on their merchandise, they didn't care about that. At the time, there was no concept related to guarantee or customer service in South Korea. Companies and people who did their own business thought that their aim was to sell as many inventories as possible, not care about customer's problem with their merchandise. But these behaviors changed after South Korea was selected as hosting nation of the '88 Olympics. After hosting the Olympics, Korean companies and markets considered their service in customer's perspective. If South Korea hosts the Olympics, many foreigners come to South Korea and may consume lots of stuff and food that made in South Korea. If they don't guarantee their production in any way, many tourists will think that products made in South Korea are not good enough to buy and consume. Due to those kinds of worries, companies and market places fixed the problems.

Hosting the 88' Olympics also influenced restoration of cultural heritage. Before the Olympics, many Koreans actually weren't interested in caring about their cultural heritage. Since almost of people focused on economic development more at the time, people thought that it is not right time to care or talk about restoration of cultural heritage. People just agreed with opinion that preservation is enough at that time. So a number of destroyed traditional treasures were in a state of total neglect. One of them was Palace Chang-Gyung where the old king's family lived in, then was destroyed during Il-Jae Gan-Jum-Gi which was the period of Japanese attack. However, people have changed their attitude positively. While South Korea was holding the big event, they could see many foreigners who had different cultures and background. At the same time, many Koreans asked themselves 'what are we going to do to know who we are and to show how we have lived as Koreans'. Finally, they found the answer to solve their question. That was restoration of their own cultural heritage which was reflected in ancestors' wisdom and the way Koreans have lived. For those reasons, Korean became more eager to repair and rebuild a number of traditional treasures including Palace Chang-Gyung after the '88 Seoul Olympics. There are many places, treasures and constructions which tell us that here is Korea and what are Korean traditions in good state so far.

The '88 Olympics led to a sports boom in South Korea. To be specific, before 1986 when South Korea held the Asian Game, there were few people who were interested in sports especially watching or doing them as hobbies. But hosting two big sports events encouraged people to enjoy sports

as hobbies. Through new sports being introduced in Olympic Games, Korean people started to be interested in unfamiliar sports. Moreover, this became an opportunity for people to get in contact with leisure culture seeing various leisure sports that Olympic participants enjoy back in their country such as water skiing and board sailing on the media. As the result, many people spent their time and money to do or enjoy their sports. Due to this movement, sports industry developed rapidly in South Korea. Nowadays, many sorts of sports have been introduced to people.

Thanks to hosting the '88 Olympics, South Korea achieved significant changes. These are related with reputation of South Korea outwardly and business concept, cultural attitude and individual interesting and hobby inwardly. It led South Korea and its people could change positively. Thanks to holding big events, many people got confidence. It makes people think positively that we can do everything if we want and try hard. I think this story can encourage people who live in hard situations or developing countries not to give up their glowing dreams. I'm sure that even though there is a barren garbage place, they have the potential to turn it into a place where roses bloom as South Korea is.

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Two Countries, One Institution, Two Worlds

Daniela Benaim
R/W 50

A schoolyard, a classroom, the sound of the bell, some desks, a chalkboard, and the teacher in front of his students. That is the image that comes to us when we remember our high school; the picture that is constant in most of the world. But is high school just that? When we think a little deeper we realize that a school is integrated with more than a math lesson after a soccer game in the break, and those things are the ones that don't cross borders. Therefore, American and Venezuelan high schools are similar in the skin but widely different in the core. First of all, in Venezuela there is the same curriculum for the whole country while in the United States it varies with the state. In both countries high schools are diverse in aspects like the subjects, the way that the grades are given, and the evaluation,

In most high schools in the United States there is a minimum hours of each main subject (science, mathematics, English, social sciences and physical education) that are obligatory, but there is also a broad variety of elective classes such as foreign languages, athletics, performing arts, visual arts, among others. Consequently, the student doesn't have the same schedule that his/her other classmates and also he/she is not with the same students in every class. On the other hand, in Venezuela, in the first three years of high school, all the students have to take required hours of the main subjects, but then, in the fourth year, each student has to choose between

Science and Humanities. Because of that, all the students in the same classroom are together in all the classes and have the same schedule. Although both options share subjects such as Mathematics, Literature and Social Sciences; depending on the year, Science includes physics, chemistry, biology, geology, among others, and Humanities includes subjects like French, Latin, philosophy, sociology, art, and others. While Science is accepted in all careers in Venezuela, Humanities is not allowed for the scientific careers and for all the engineers. Therefore, this decision is a controversial topic that always turns into discussions with the students, parents and teachers.

In American high schools, the grades are given in letters that go from "A" to "F". Nevertheless, the real scale where the grades come from starts at 0 and ends at 100. In some states, "D" is considered passing and in others it is considered a failure. Unlike the United States, in Venezuela the grades consist of a 1-20 scale. In consequence, in Venezuelan high schools to pass a subject it is required to get a 10.

In most high schools in America, frequently in public schools, a big part of the evaluation is practical and standardized. The exams have a great part of multiple choices, short answers, true or false, fill in the blanks and matching exercises. In this way, it is more probable that the assessment used by the teachers is based on a common criterion. Besides exams, there are other kinds of activities such as projects, presentations, essays, investigation papers, and others. In contrast, in Venezuela, the evaluation is less controlled and more up to the teacher. A little part of the exams consists of short answers and the rest consists of large analysis and developed writing. Although there are other kinds of activities, in Venezuelan high schools there is an excessive use of the exams.

In conclusion, both American and Venezuelan high schools deliver students prepared and with the tools for the world and college. Otherwise, the ways that they use are similar in some aspects but really different in others. The institutions in the two countries vary from small things like the uniforms, required in Venezuela but not in the United States, to really critical things like the assessment, the subjects and the grades. Still, in the two countries it is necessary to improve the system and to fight with problems like the mediocrity, the violence, vices, and stereotypes.

My Story

Abdulmajeed Albati

R/W 10

My name is Abdulmajeed. I want to write about myself. I was born in 1987. I started school in 1994. I got my first job in 2007 while I was a student at the university. I got married in 2009. I graduated from the university in 2009. I came to America at the end of 2009. The year 2009 was a good, busy year for me. I study English now in 2010. In conclusion, I have had a happy life so far.

The Jungle or the Zoo

Ehab Musharbash

R/W 43

Is it hard to be connected with the animals? I believe that it is hard to know the differences between wild animals' lives and zoo animals' lives because both have to eat to survive, they are both really animals, and both have the same behaviors, but they also have some differences.

Wild animals like to eat meat as well as animals that live in a zoo like to eat meat. Both of them eat huge portions of meat, for example, they both eat at least 20-30 pounds of meat every day. However, wild animals that live in the jungle eat fresh meat, it is different for animals in the zoo, because they eat any kind of meat that has been brought to them by their keepers which is or is not fresh. On the other hand, wild animals are bigger sized than animals in the zoo because they have to hunt to catch their food. Also they have more places to run and even to train their muscles, and that's why wild animals are bigger sized.

However, animals are still animals. They have the same teeth and hair and bodies. Also they can see at night, because they have a different vision system from us. On the other hand, wild animals have sharper teeth than animals in the zoo, because they have even more practice at hunting other animals than animals that live in the zoo.

In addition, wild animals and zoo animals have the same behaviors; for example, they know that they have to eat to survive and know how protect themselves from enemies. On the other hand, wild animals know that they have to kill others to survive, but animals in the zoo they wait for somebody to bring their food to them. Also wild animals know how to protect themselves more than animals in the zoo. You cannot keep any wild animals inside the house because they might kill you. On the other hand, some animals from the zoo can be kept them in your house and you will be safe, because they have been trained by the trainers at the zoo.

Finally, wild animals and animals in the zoo have similarities and differences in the way they eat, survive, and behave. In reality, I think not just animals have similarities and differences, but also people are not all the same in these ways of eating, surviving and behaving.

Saudis Like Rice

Ebthal Aboabah

R/W 10

The people in Saudi Arabia like to eat rice. Rice is cooked in many ways, and it's called by many names. It's a custom in Saudi Arabia to put rice with lamb meat for the guests. We have the rice cooked with meat or chicken soup. The rice is put in a big dish. Some people eat with their hands, and some people eat with spoons. Sometimes, the rice is served with salad and butter milk. Finally, I hope you try it someday because you will like it.

My Story

Mohammed Alfaraj

R/W10

My name is Mohammed. I'm 26 years old. I'm from Saudi Arabia and I want to write about my life. I was born in 1984 in Dammam. I finished my elementary school in 1995. I finished middle school in 1998. I finished secondary school in 2001. I finished my bachelor's degree 2 years ago. My university was King Faisal University and my major was Veterinary Medicine. After I finished my bachelor's degree, I worked for 2 years at Alsafi Danone. It's a big farm. I worked with a herd of 40,000 cows. After that, I quit my job because I want to continue my studies in the U.S.A. I now live in Gainesville, Florida with my brother and his wife and his daughter. I study English at the UF ELI. I'm happy and hope to make a new future.

16 Years Imprison

Mahmoud K. Agha

R/W 42

In 1980, there was a war between Iraq and Iran. There is a big family who lived in the north of Iraq in the city called Mosel. This family had a compassionate father, a merciful mother, five sons and five sisters, and they lived in a big house together in peace. The four sisters were married and lived in different places near the family house. The oldest two brothers were also married and lived in the same house. The big brother graduated from Economy and Management College. After he finished the army he worked with his father. The second brother graduated from high school and then the government took him to the army because the war started.

The third brother, Abu Hmza, couldn't finish the higher school to that he had token to serve in the army after he turned eighteen. In the beginning, he training in the cantonment when he entered the army for three months, then he took to the bivouac in front of the Iranian troops he didn't like this place, he was afraid. Also he was waiting any free time to make a call to his family. In the night the stillness dominated, at that moment, he phoned his family and said "I want to relocate from this laager ". When his mother heard from him, she felt very scared, and she told her husband "you must do something to transfer our son from the fire". His father communicated with his friends; he finally found someone who could transfer his son to another unit. The son transferred to the new unit. In the new unit the son stayed in it a few weeks. Suddenly, on the midnight the Iranian army sortie to this unit which the son on it.

After that, the Iranian army took all the remains from the unit. In that time, he blamed himself because he wanted to relocate from the past location, but the captor happened. The Iranian army took him with a lot of his teammates to the prison camp. In this camp the Iranian army didn't give the captor enough food and water so they suffered from that a lot. Abu Hmza stay in each camp one to three years then the Iranian army relocates him to another camp. Sometimes, they relocated him in cold place or in hot place. He always sends letters to his

family to assure them about himself, but his family didn't receive all the letters that he sent to them. He suffered for sixteen years; meanwhile, his family missed him a lot especially his mother always prays and cries to see her son again, and his father wished to see his son before he die but his wish didn't happened at all because he died .

In 1996, his family heard that a lot of captors would come back. They felt happy to hear that; they went to meet him but he didn't come back with this lot. They felt very sad about that. Two years later, they heard again that a lot of captors would come back. The whole family went to meet him; at that moment, they didn't recognize him. Suddenly, his youngest brother recognized him and yelled "my brother is here". The whole family felt joy to see Abu Hmza, and he also felt very happy to see his family and his country. He didn't believe he was home again. He felt sad when he didn't see his father. At that night, his family sat around him in the family house and he began to narrate his long story and he was asking them about all the things that happened when he wasn't there. When he was looking at his nephews and nieces, he felt very happy. He missed this moment for a long time; he enjoyed to play with them. After that he couldn't stay a long time without traveling in his country. Sometimes, he went to Baghdad to visit his kinship. He began to love traveling, so he bought a taxi car to work without staying in one place. Finally, he got marriage after a long time in prison.

Now, he has four children and he lives in the same city with his wife, his children and his mother in peace. Imagine, if a person spends sixteen years in prison in a different country without doing any crime or anything; why would this happen to him? It's the predestination.

A Visit to Orlando

Mohammad Al Harbi (Momo)

R/W 10

Last weekend, my friend and I went to Orlando. First, we rented a car in Gainesville and then we drove over to Orlando in the morning. We visited Disney World. We stayed at a nice hotel. They gave us nice service. Next, we ate at a nice Moroccan restaurant and then we rode a lot of rides in general. This place is beautiful and we had a good vacation.

My Family

Mohammed Alfaraj

R/W 10

I want to write about my family. My family lives in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. My parents have 9 children. I am the second child. I have 3 brothers. Their names are Ali, Hadi and Mujtaba. I have 5 sisters. Their names are Fatima, Roky, Takia, Batool, and Halima. My older brother studies with me in Gainesville. My second and third brothers study in elementary school in my city. The oldest sister finished high school. She married 4 years ago and she has 2 sons. My nephews' names

are Ahmed and Hassan. My second sister studies in the U.S.A with her husband and her son, Saud. My third, fourth and fifth sisters study in elementary and middle school in Saudi Arabia. I wish to visit my family on summer vacation because I like my family.

Afraid to Change

Luccia Dasburg

R/W 31

Often the people are afraid of change because they believe it is impossible to adapt to new situations. Since human beings are in the womb of the mother, they are forced to confront change without being aware. Although many people do not remember our first day in kindergarten, it is the most tragic day for a child of 5 years. Many children need a week to adjust and stop mourning while another child needs only three days.

After kindergarten comes more changes about school until the university. The university is another big change in our lives. We need to make new friends because our friends of school going to other schools maybe in another city or in another country. Some people can make new friends very quickly in the university. Other people need to wait for months, maybe years. In my situation, it was very fun because I thought these people in the university never will be like my friends of school, I don't want new friends, but with time, I think it is good to make more friends. I can have friends of school and friends of university. Now I think I was afraid to change, and I reflect on my emotions of that form closing my possibilities of having new friends.

Another difficult change in our lives that give us a lot of fear is the commitment and the marriage. You never say to a young person of 18 years old this is your time to marry because it can give you a serious attack so difficult to think of. Then, to have children, to pay accounts, and to live 12 hours each day with your partner in the same house is so hard to get used to. However, it arrives when we are adults; in this moment, we know that it is wonderful to have a person to share time. I think 90% of people will still be happy when day get married. The other 10% never can change because they are afraid and prefer to stay single.

Many people will have the same work all their life although they have an offer of better jobs, it is difficult for them to imagine creating a new routine of work. I always advise my friends to not be afraid to change and work hard for your goals.

To conclude, I think it is difficult not to be scared to change, but it is possible get over your fears and find new horizons in your life; for example, now I am in the ELI in the USA, and this has not been easy for me to adapt to - living in a new country with a new culture, but I am taking advantage of all these changes to grow like a good person and to make new friends. Don't be afraid to change for the better.

The First Trip to the Moon

Abdullah Hammad

R/W 42

I had never felt excited like this before. It was a great feeling to feel like your dream is coming true. The time was passing quickly. I couldn't believe that I was in a space rocket. It was the first time that the United States sent a space rocket to the moon. I was worried in the beginning and I was thinking about my family. I was really under pressure when they started to countdown.

Seconds were passing like hours till we flew in the air. I was asking myself what's next? What will happen? I was sweating and praying not to get hurt. After a while I got used to that situation and I felt comfortable. We spent hours to get out of the atmosphere.

Flying out of the atmosphere was really exciting. I really enjoyed the views. The earth looked great and wonderful. It was blue and it looked beautiful. Then I started to get commands from the base on earth. I had trained for that moment for a long time, but now I felt like I forgot everything and couldn't do anything. Then I started to remember what I have learned and I started to do what I have to. We were heading to the moon and we were approaching it.

After the space ship had almost collided with the moon, we landed safely. We wore the uncomfortable spacesuits and we got out of the spaceship one by one. It was very cold on the moon and the suits were too heavy. I wasn't comfortable with my suit; I couldn't even scratch my head because of the helmet. But on the other hand the suit provided me with oxygen and protected me from the cold. It was dark on the moon but we were carrying big lights so we could see our steps. After that we started to do our hard mission.

Our mission was to collect rocks and samples of the moon soil. We worked in pairs to help each other. My partner was Neil Armstrong, he was a good partner and he worked hard with me. We faced unexpected problems on the moon surface. The moon's gravity was different from the earth's gravity. It was not strong, so the weight of everything is lighter on the moon. Although the spacesuit was heavy I felt like I was so light. Walking on the moon was difficult. I didn't walk normally; it was like jumping. Also our food was only pills which provided us with energy and vitamins. After we did our stressful job on the moon, we went back to the spaceship and took off and came back to our planet.

We submitted the samples from the moon to NASA to do research on them. I hope that I helped humans in space field. I think technologies will be better in the future and they will make life easier to humans. I will never forget that wonderful journey to the moon and I wish I can do it again.

Easter Day

Albani Carolina Da Silva González
R/W 41

Easter Day is the last day of Lent, which is the most important celebration for Catholic people because it is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is common around the world that Catholics go to Mass or service to celebrate and pray. Actually a lot of churches open Saturday night and invite all the Christians to join them to wait until the midnight and celebrate all together. After that, people usually meet each other in their houses and celebrate, especially with their families and best friends. Around the world people do certain things for Easter which are common sometimes.

Americans and people from Central Europe usually have similar ways to celebrate this season. Frequently the Saturday before Easter or the same Sunday kids decorate Easter eggs in different ways, painting them with beautiful and bright colors. These eggs symbolize new life by the resurrection of God. This tradition comes from centuries ago when Catholics couldn't eat eggs during Lent so people collected the eggs during this period of time and gave them to their closer friends and family in Easter Sunday to celebrate this important festivity. Time has been changing in the past years where the Catholic Church approved people to eat eggs during Lent. That's the reason these days in Easter Sunday families celebrate all together. The adults hide the eggs for the little kids to find them. All the kids have a basket and search and have fun looking for the eggs. In the past, the eggs most of the people usually used were real eggs but these days people can find different kinds like chocolates, candies or plastic eggs where the people can put chocolates or anything they like inside. Another modern symbol of this celebration is the Easter Bunny which is a rabbit who brings the baskets for kids and is the one who takes and hides the eggs for the kids.

In Spain families celebrate like Americans do. Spanish people use very colorful eggs and hide them for the kids and the kid who find more eggs win a special gift. They also have a tradition which is the God mothers go to visit their God sons or daughters. They give them eggs and also make them a special cake which they call "bollo". This important season remind all the Catholics around the world. No matter how they celebrate or where they are. There's a common celebration and is that God died and was resurrected for us. It means God forgives us from our sins and offers us to have eternal life.

Daydreams the Week Before School

Eid Al-Ghatani
R/W 10

It is the week before school starts. I like shopping but I don't know what's good for school and most people I know don't seem interested in clothes. Now in Gainesville the weather is wintry and all the people are wearing winter clothes. Mohammed, my cousin, and I will buy winter clothes soon. I prefer dark colors for winter because that color is fashionable.

Now I am thinking about school. Maybe I will finish this school semester first and then I can get a job in the summer. Maybe I'll stay here and complete study in the summer if there is a summer semester. We are at the beginning of our study of English at the ELI. I wish we were at the end! I want to begin another life. I want to work in a large computer company with a large outside area This is the beginning of happy days studying to make my future dream something I hope to achieve.

A Mother's Love

Abdulrahman Alnasser
R/W10

I think everyone remembers his mother's love. Everyone will know what I say. I remember my mother's warm embrace. I feel with my mother's warmth that I am a stronger person in the world. I feel as if I own the world. My mother described her delight when I was born. I feel the same delight when I think of her. I think if love could speak, it says that the most beautiful love is a mother's love.

Can I Get A Beer With That Happy Meal?

Nannette Robles
R/W 60

Regardless of culture, religion or age, everybody knows there are two things that should never go together: drinking and driving. Sadly, when it comes to doing business, this common sense is simply forgotten. The most recent item menu at Burger King, a fast food chain for children, is beer. Do we really need that?

All bars and restaurants state that most of their profits come from liquor sales, and even though getting an alcohol license is not easy, to them, it's totally worth it. People go to those places for hundreds of different reasons: to do business, watch sports, dating or just to hang with friends. At the end of the day, they're all aware of the fact that it is an adult environment and they know what to expect, which for sure won't be a 5 year old celebrating her birthday in a Cinderella dress with a cake and piñatas. You will find grown up people, drinking and having fun, sometimes with measure, sometimes irresponsibly. But what happens then when it's the other way around?

I remember when I was a child. One of the best rewards my parents gave me, if I got high grades, was taking me to a fast food place for burgers and ice-cream. I would eat really slowly to taste every bite. Afterwards, I had time to play with my new toy from the happy meal with other kids. It was a safe place to enjoy with my family. Unfortunately, those places are starting to disappear faster than they deliver their food.

Around the world, many fast food places have tried to raise their revenues by adding new things to their menus. Sometimes healthy food, sometimes breakfast, sometimes just coffee areas, like McDonalds did last year when introducing

“McCafe”. Even so, for Burger King those concepts don’t seem to be enough. They have decided that having a “Whopper Bar” could lead them to be the number one fast food place, because customers would get two things they like at one time: burgers and beers. Burger King’s new Beer Combo for only \$7.99, which is cheaper than other regular restaurants, is however no innovation. For years in Europe, people have been able to buy those combos at any fast food place both inside and at the drive-through. Cities like Amsterdam even have vending machines to buy different kinds of beer. The question is: do we really need to have alcohol in every place we go? Where are the boundaries?

Since we are born, our parents, our teachers, our bosses, the government... everybody tells you what is right and what is wrong. We grow up knowing there is a time and a place for everything. You don’t wear pajamas to work, you don’t play violin in the bank, you don’t drink and drive. Did somebody forget to mention you do not sell beer in a children’s restaurant? What’s next? Strippers at Disney World?

I believe we should be smart enough to teach our kids to enjoy their childhood, without being surrounded by things that adults do. So next time they offer you a \$7.99 Beer Combo when driving with your kids in the back seat, ask yourself: Is it really worth it? ‘Cause a life is not refundable.

How to Spend a Fun Day in New York

Bernardo Pinzon

R/W 31

This is how to spend a fun day in New York. To spend a perfect day in New York, follow these steps. You should get up at 6 a.m. take a shower, and put on fresh clothes and shoes. Before leaving, check your cash, credit cards, camera, and map of the city. Eat a nutritious breakfast, and now you are ready to start the fun.

In the morning, visit the Empire State Building. Go up to the 120th floor and take some nice photos of the entire city. Also, you can visit the Statue of Liberty. In this beautiful place, you can take photos and buy nice souvenirs.

In the afternoon, visit the most famous department store in the world, Macy’s. There are beautiful stores for shopping like Nike, Lacoste, Tommy, Jean Pascal, Armi. In these stores, you can buy clothes, shoes, and jackets. Also, you will see the latest technology such as computers and electronic games. You will find these gifts for family and friends.

In the evening, visit and enjoy a delicious dinner at the famous restaurant Starfish. This is situated on the banks of the Hudson River. This is a great variety of sea food, delicious wine, and spectacular desserts.

In conclusion, you can have a nice day, visit spectacular buildings, take nice photos, buy beautiful gifts, and remember this forever.

My Love

Nadeeka Salaman Arachchige

R/W 31

Dear my love
 Do you know how much you
 mean to me
 I will tell you that,
 You mean the world to me
 In my world, I can't live without you
 You are so important to me
 That every certain space
 where our lives
 Bring me more understanding
 about you
 That softly brings more love
 for you
 You will always be my love
 The secrets of my happiness
 that I have my special person
 That's you my love
 You contribute to making my life
 nicer than it's ever been
 I don't know what magic it is
 You make inside of me
 a wonderful feeling
 Thanks, my love :)

Why a Cross on the Forehead?

Albani Carolina Da Silva González

R/W 41

Most people who aren’t Catholics ask why we have a Cross on our forehead. The reason is because it is Ash Wednesday. It symbolizes the beginning of Lent. This is the time for the Catholic people to convert their souls and to prepare for Easter. It is time to feel contrite about our sins, to change the bad things we are used to doing and try to be better citizens. Lent spans 40 days because of some biblical events for example: the 40 days of the deluge, the 40 days Elias was in the mountain and the 40 days Jesus Christ fasted in the desert. In order to understand better the time of Lent there are some important topics to know such as Ash Wednesday, the purple color in this period, and fasting abstinence.

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. This is a period of penance, reflection and fasting. This season prepares the Catholic people to the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. Every Ash Wednesday all the Churches celebrate a special mass and after the mass the Priest makes a Cross with ashes on the foreheads of the people. These ashes are made from the palms of the previous year, and the Bishop blesses them. While the priest is making the Cross, he says "Remember, man is dust, and unto dust you shall return." This action and words remind the people that life passes in the Earth.

On this season the Church is decorated with purple colors, and the priest's clothes are purple. This color represents mourning and penance. It is time for reflections and reparation. On Ash Wednesday every church covers the images of Christ with cloth which have black, white, grey, or purple colors. It represents the 40 days Jesus was in the desert alone and fasting, his passion, and death. The images from Christ have to be covered until the Resurrection Sunday, the day in which God renew to live again. The day before the Resurrection ends Lent.

The Catholic people should make some penances or sacrifices like stop or reduce eating the food they like, doing the work people don't like to do, and others. But the more important because it is a law for all the Catholic people is fasting and abstinence during Lent. The Abstinence consists of eating fish or different foods than meat. It is obligatory to people who are more than fourteen and less than sixty years old. Fasting is the fact of eating only one complete meal and two smaller meals during one day. The fasting is broken if someone eats during the meals and also if they drink something that can't be considered food, like milkshakes. The people should abstain from eating meat and fast on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays during the Lent.

In Lent, Christ calls us to change our lives. The church invites us to take the way of Christ, by listening to the word of God, praying, helping the people who needs help and to be good person in our family and societies. All these actions take us away from the sin and make us try to be more similar to Jesus. Lent is time to pardon and reconcile with our friends and family. Every day we should take away all the bad things like the hatred, the rancor, the envy, and the jealousies that are opposed to our love to God and to our brothers. Lent lets us understand how to take our Cross and try to walk the way to the resurrection.

High School Versus College

Cesar Pena

R/W 43

Every generation challenges the educational system. Nobody is happy with its education, but every year large numbers of students fail in standardized tests. Why do they fail every year, and why do they not like the system at the same time? One of the reasons for this phenomenon could be the differences between college and high school about the quality of the teachers, the type of education received, and the level of maturity of the students.

Colleges and high schools have in common a similar quality for teachers. There are really good teachers in colleges, but there are great teachers in high school also. Sometimes teachers who start their careers teaching in high school decide to teach in colleges too or in a later stage of their careers. Sometimes, it could be the opposite. The quality of teachers experience and education is very similar. On the other hand, you can find regular teachers in high schools and in colleges. Some of these teachers, who work in colleges and high school, have very concentrated

knowledge or research in their own fields, and they do not have time to prepare their lectures appropriately.

In contrast to these similarities, there are some important differences that define the ways to teach and to learn. While the education in high schools is about general knowledge and information, education in colleges is about specific topics. In my country, you can't decide what classes to take. You can decide your general orientation; for example, humanities, science or business, but you can't choose your classes at all. You receive a lot of information about hundreds of topics, but without exploring to their content. It is just a very superficial way to understand something. On the other hand, when you are in college, you can choose your classes and receive just the information that you need in order to understand deeply your field of study. This way to learn is more specific and maybe more effective than a general education.

Another thing that is different in high schools versus colleges is the level of maturity of the students. Despite some interesting exceptions, people in college are more mature than people in high school, obviously because of their age, but mainly because they are more focused on their careers and understand their new responsibilities without their parents controlling them. This issue is very important for teachers because it is easier to have motivated and mature people in classrooms to improve the level of lectures and to talk about more complex topics without distractions.

As we have seen, high schools and colleges have some similarities, but a lot of differences that cause ineffective results when students are tested. Understanding these differences is very important to improve the educational system. The way to do this is through the teachers who are leading students with different maturity levels and leading them into an improved future.

My Family

Hamidou Maiga

R/W 10

I was born in a country in the heart of Africa. I lived in Burkina Faso with my family. I have two older sisters and one older brother. I am the last boy of my mother. My brothers and my sisters went to study in universities in different countries. My two sisters went to Belgium to study and my brother went to France to study. Now my sisters and brothers work. My sisters have two sons and my brother has two daughters. My father died and my mother is going to retire. After my studies, I will go to my country to search for a job, like my family did before me.

The Kitchen

Manal ALShebeili

R/W 10

The kitchens are important part of our houses. Many people are interested in cooking, and they cannot do what they like without the kitchen. There you can find different kinds of electrical devices, for example, an oven, a refrigerator and a microwave. In addition, every kitchen has its own utensils which are all used for cooking. I feel happy when I enter my kitchen because I like to cook for my small family. Finally, I cannot imagine any house without a kitchen because it has important things all of our homes should have.

My Story

Rosario Del Aguila Chavez

R/W10

My name is Rosario. I want to write about the story of my life. I was born in Peru in 1967. I graduated from elementary school in 1979. I graduated from high school in 1985. Then I got my Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of the Peruvian Amazon in 1992. In the same year, I got my first job. Four years later, in 1996, I got married. In 2002, my daughter Mariana was born. In October 2009, I moved to the United States to learn English and to do research on "Women and Fisheries" at the University of Florida. So far, I have learned many important things in my life.

Spring Arrives—Yeah!

Rosario

The winter is over. Now in April 2010 begins the spring. Life has many colors now. This season is beautiful. The people are happy and free with clothing of light colors. The streets are adorned with flowers of colors like pink, yellow, violet, red and many other colors. I smile because I feel happy looking at the colors of spring. So, I'm going to enjoy ice cream of different flavors and colors. I like the happy, colorful spring!

Coming and Going

Rosario

In October, 2010, I moved to the United States to stay for six months. On April 30, I will return to my country, Peru. I liked to be here and to learn English at the ELI. On May 1, 2010 I will travel to Iquitos, my city in the Peruvian Amazon. This is the place where I live with my family. It is the place of the largest river in the world. I leave Gainesville with joy having learned many good things here.

Our Daily Life with Cell Phones

Muna Abbas

R/W 42

The lives become easier since cell phones were invented. I cannot imagine our life without cell phones. They are useful and important. By the 1980, we had only home-line phone in Iraq. Almost all communications were dependant on

this type of communication. Some of the people had this technology so it was difficult to contact with other people or with the family. It was difficult to complete business by this technology. Unlike nowadays, when the cell phones appeared in 2003, many obstacles disappeared. So we can do our business by cell phone or to a contact the family. There are many features that cell phones have. In spite of the unlimited advantages that cell phones have, also it has a lot of disadvantages.

Cell phones technology plays a significant role in our daily life. I have had one for seven years, and now the life would be hard without it because whenever I want to contact my family I can. The lives now with cell phones are easier because it makes our life simpler than the past. It can with cell phones know what happen in house during we are outside. For example I have a baby and I am a student at the same time. When I am outside the house, I can call my husband to know that everything is all right. If we need to buy any item we can do it by cell phones, so you do not have to go to the store to buy it. On the other hand, cell phones can save our life; if I have an emergency situation I can call and get help. For example last week my baby was very sick, it was after midnight, I called my doctor and explained to her, and she gave me the advice and how to get my baby the treatment. Cell phones can make you feel like your family is very close to you especially when your family in another country. For example I am now a student in the U.S.A. and I always miss my family in Iraq ,and I am always call them by cell phones; when I talk with my family in Iraq I feel better and like they are with me and very close. Cell phones become part of our daily life. We cannot dispense cell phones.

The life before cell phones technology was very hard. It was hard when we need to make a contact and we do not know how, because there is only home line. So if I want to be in contact with my family I should look for about another home line in order to make call. It is not easy because I could not always find one to call my family. I remembered our life before cell phone invention, it was more difficult. I can remember when I was a student in high school and if I had final exam and I want to study with my friend, my friend had to come to our house because she had not a home line, in order to explain what I missed in my class. So we wasted much time. The life was very difficult especially when you have someone outside the country, for example my brother when he travelled in 1989 to Japan he always sent us letters by mail, the mail did not cost him in spite it take time to receive it. Despite unlimited advantages for this technology and how affect on our life. I noticed that our life before cell phones invention had no problems. These problems have been developed since the invention of cell phones. Because there are many accidents that happened every day because of the people who are careless when they are talking on their cell phones and driving. But does this mean that we should make law to ban the use of cell phones while driving? No we cannot, it will be difficult life. In fact the life before cell phone is more health than now. The researchers found that the cell phones can be actually dangerous, and the studies showed that radiation that comes from cell phone is absorbed by head people, as a result with the time we will

damage our brain if we use the cell phones more than the normal limitation.

In conclusion if we compare our life before and after the invention of cell phones, we will find that there are many features that added to our life since we started using the cell phones. I cannot imagine our life without cell phones; I think the life will stop if we stop using the cell phones. Cell phones make our life easier and let us to be a contact with our family; also cell phones save our time and our life. Despite of all the advantages of using cell phones, but we should be careful when we use it for a long time. The cell phones can be dangerous and can damage the brain if we use it than the normal limitation unlike the home-line phone. In spite of limitation in the home-line phone features, but it is safe and has not any effect on human health.

Toto

Fahad Alshakarah

R/W 10

My cousin gave me the cat two years ago. Her name is Toto. She has white fur. She is beautiful. In the morning, the cat leaves the house to play outside. My brother takes care of the cat and tells me she is okay. Toto lives in my country, in my house. But I am not there. I miss my cat a lot.

Don't Spank Your Children!*

Ilane Silva

R/W 50

**Editor's note: This is a timed essay.*

Violence around the world is one of the most important issues that is discussed currently. Violence against women always was a big problem, but over the years women have been fighting for their rights, and it resulted in a reduction of injured women. Animal right groups have brought to the surface the mistreatment of animals. Aiming to relieve this fact, they try to make people aware by showing videos of animals in suffering. Even though these are really bad examples of violence, the worst case in my opinion is when a child is spanked. Children should not be spanked because they can't defend themselves and the psychological injury could be one of the consequences of that.

First, a little child doesn't have power to protect her/himself if the parents cross the line between spanking and violence. This line is too narrow, and a little bit more of anger can be enough to stimulate parents to be more severe with their children. In addition, the stress of the daily life may cause parents to lose patience, which makes easier the losing of control. Following this further, the degree of the injuries can compromise the development of the children.

Not only physical effects, but also psychological effects can harm children that live together with violence. The relationship between family members will be the first thing affected by this bad behavior. Children might be scared of the

parents, so they start to hide things from them, and the loyalty between them starts getting worse until the point that parents don't have control of their own children. Moreover, the behavior and personality of a child could change if he/she grows up in a house where spanking is something normal. In general, children absorb a lot of personality of their parents, so they can go to school and push a friend because it seems correct to them. In result, these children will reveal difficulty to make and to relate to friends during their lifetime.

Opponents believe that spanking is a parent right considering that the society can't judge the way parents chose to educate their children. However, where is the child's right? Parents already have a strong personality due to their lifetime. They already know the difficulties and danger that life offers to you. Why not just try to make their children aware by showing examples from real life? In fact, a real conversation between parents and children will link them by loyalty, and children will recognize that parents are the trustworthiest people in the world.

A little innocent creature doesn't deserve to be spanked. If parents don't protect their own children, who will protect them? They need to be taught how to defend themselves outside home, not inside. The relationship between the family members will be much more confident if violence doesn't exist in their routine. If all the parents around the world taught their children that violence is something unacceptable, the world will be safer today. Violence is so intrinsic in our society that we are growing up thinking that to spank a living being is normal, which has resulted in a disrespectful population. In conclusion, the best way to teach is not spanking; showing the reality and the consequences of a bad action could be much more effective to a child. Children don't know everything, but they have a gorgeous capacity of learning, and we need to take advantage of that.

Desert Storm

Abdullatif Alasfour

R/W 31

In 1990, there was a war between Iraq and Kuwait. My grandfather lived through this war. His memory is still vivid.

First of all, before the war, the dictator Saddam Hussen claimed that Kuwait was part of Iraq, and its name is Kazmah, and this claim was because Kuwait had more oil resources than Iraq. He said this would cause them economic crisis because they just had backed off the war with Iran, but Kuwait refused this prosecution, and gave the world many reasons to carry out this refusal. One of the reasons was that Kuwait had got its independence before Iraq, so, how was it part of Iraq. Since then, political problems between Iraq and Kuwait have grown more and more.

At 11 p.m. on Thursday, 2 August 1990, the war started, and there was treachery between neighbors. There were about 88,000 soldiers and the Kuwait army has about 16,000 soldiers. They invaded Kuwait and killed nearly 4,000 citizens. They also burnt 1073 oil wells, and stole everything they could find. Also, they captured a lot of prisoners, and two of them were my grandfather's children. This situation broke his heart,

and they made my grandmother die of heartache and grief because none of the prisoners survived.

Then, Prince Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sobah gave a speech about what happened in Kuwait to the United Nations, and after that speech, on January 16, 1991, Desert Storm began, and coalition forces started fighting with the enemy to liberate Kuwait, and two of the coalition forces were America and Saudi Arabia.

Finally, on February 25, 199, Kuwait was liberated from the Iraqi invasion, and the people of Kuwait went out to streets to celebrate the victory, and from that time, the people of Kuwait celebrate every year, and live their life in peace.

A Little Poem with Lot of Love for the ELI

Nadeeka Salaman Arachchige

R/W 31

Your names will always
 remain in my heart
It will be spoken and shared
 in my prayers
And my ELI teachers and staff
 will be with me forever
Always I remember in my life
 how much the ELI meant to me
I want you to tell only one
 Sri Lankan student
In her heart each and every day
 I'm so grateful for the ELI
And so Thankful for the Years
 that were given to me
So much to be Thankful for
 lots of love for the ELI
"MY PLEASURE" :)

Education in Poor and Rich Countries

Ramon Padilla

R /W 43

Education is the only way to get a better life. Everyone has the right to go to the school, but sometimes this is not the reality that some people live, especially in the rural areas of poor countries. The reasons can be diverse, but we are going to focus on the differences and similarities between education in poor and rich countries.

There are many differences in education in poor and rich countries. Money is probably the most important. Poor countries have a lot of limitations and when they budget, education is no necessarily the priority. In addition the private sector normally does not contribute meaningfully in this area. On the contrary, rich countries have enough money to offer a good education. Also, students can get a lot of economic help from nongovernmental institutions.

Another difference is how people perceive the necessity to get a good education. It is a little difficult to convince someone about the necessity of getting a good

education if his or her parents don't have one. This situation is very common in poor countries. Uneducated parents don't feel the obligation to send children to the school or children don't see the necessity because their parent didn't have to do. The situation is different in rich countries because educated parents not only want that their children get the same level of education, but because the government requires that people get at least a high school education.

Even though the differences between education in poor and rich countries are most common, there are some similarities too. For example, the amount of years to get a high school and a university degree are the same. Students in both conditions spend 12 years to graduate from high school and four or five years to get a B.S. degree. Every university year has three semesters, and one of them is shorter.

Bringing education to poor people is the only way to get a better life, and governments must focus more in this area especially in poor countries. Rich countries have to help more significantly with those poor countries that have the greater need of education.

Tourist Attractions in Kenting and in Key West

Chia-Ling Tsai (Christy)

R/W 43

I am going to tell you the similarities and differences between tourist attractions in Kenting, Taiwan and in Key West, FL. You may be surprised to know that tourist attractions in Kenting are the same as in Key West. First, the weather in Kenting and in Key West is warm. Although those two places are located far apart from each other, both of those places are in the southernmost area of each country. Kenting is famous for its tropical climate, sunshine, and beaches. Key West, a frost-free zone, has the average low temperature in July of 81°F (27°C). The warm weather in Kenting and Key West is the first tourist attractions.

Kenting and Key West have many tourist attractions which can be found on the land and on the sea. On the land, there is Kenting Ave. which is located at the center of Kenting. One can see souvenir stores, restaurants, and magicians on Kenting Ave. On the sea, one will enjoy diving and looking at colorful coral reefs. In Key West, also, one can shop at Mallory Square with places like souvenir stores and street performers. Diving is a popular outdoor activity in Key West, too. Kenting and Key West provide similar activities for tourists.

There are also some differences in tourist attractions between Kenting and Key West. The Spring Scream Rock-band festival held in Kenting is an important event that people like the most because there will be young girls with bikini, rock music, and beaches. However, Key West is a holy place for those people who admire Ernest Hemingway and cats. People remember the great author because he is an excellent American writer and journalist.

In short, Kenting and Key West have similarities and differences in common tourist attractions; each place owns its unique culture. Those two places provide similar activities on

the land and on the sea. Besides, Kenting and Key West attract tourists with warm weather. Each place has some special scenery to enjoy.

Gaining Weight

Moonjeong Choi

R/W 42

What is different than in the past, people are gaining a lot of weight? The fat people's appearances matter, but health problems are more serious. In the past, these kinds of disease were not common such as adult disease, diabetes mellitus, and hypertension. However, recently they have become one of serious social problems. Now almost all doctors say that these diseases are closely linked to obesity. The fact is that people get weight many reasons.

First of all, people are busy without much time to move. Recent companies start to work very earlier time and closed very late time. For that reason, people don't have time to move or to exercise. During they are working, they just sit their seats. Besides, some of workers eat lunch on their seat. Even they can do something to move on holiday, they prefer to get some sleep. They don't want to use their power by exercise.

Second, people eat high fat foods in their daily life. Because people are always busy, they don't want to spend time to eat. They find foods to eat easier and faster, but unfortunately almost all these foods are fast-food. Fast-food is not good for health and they have a lot of high calories. Even though people know about that, they can't change other foods instead of fast-foods.

Last, our life is more comfortable than past by technology developing. The technology developing gives people to change their life. For example, we didn't use elevators, cars, and other things in the past. However, now these things are that we can see about it more easily in our daily life. People prefer to use elevators than stairs and to ride a car than walk. The people are always looking for more comfortable things and they don't need to move themselves anymore.

Resultantly, getting fat people are growing up from changed lifestyle. We are totally changed our living from past. Some of people who don't know about changing our lifestyle has some curious about even we eat the same amount with past, why we are getting weight. In the past, we ate a lot of amount foods, but as much we moved ourselves. On the other hand even though we eat same amount foods, we don't move anymore like in the past. We should aware of changing of our life style. As we know about it, we are able to prevent getting weight.

Deodorants

Butti Al Mehairbi

R/W 43

Can you imagine life without deodorant? What would it smell like? It would smell like stinky, raw meat. I can imagine living without a computer, a car, open heart surgery,

but I think the world would be bad place to live without deodorant. I have chosen this invention as a very important one because it saves time, money and keeps the world smelling better.

First, deodorant helps people to stay smelling good for long time more than when this invention first appeared. For example, now one can take only one shower once a day and it will be more than enough for the whole day. People these days don't have to take more than one shower a day in order to smell good and clean.

Furthermore, deodorant saves a great deal of money. Imagine that deodorant hadn't been invented yet, people would have to consume a lot of water in order to keep themselves clean. They would to have at least three showers a day instead of one, if there were no deodorant; so you can see how the deodorant saves tons of money.

Thirdly, it saves a lot of time because people don't have to take more than one shower to be clean and clean smelling with using deodorant. These days people can stay far away from their houses for more than 12 hours and they don't have to go back to change their clothes or take a shower because they smell bad. It is not easy to exist anymore with using deodorant or at least exist while smelling good.

In conclusion, deodorant is one of the most important inventions that humans have invented so far because it make our lives easier than before and it helps us to smell good. Furthermore, it saves a lot of time and money.

Recycling

Nasser Aljasser

R/W 42

Many people think that the term garbage is a negative term, but the opposite is true. We can recycle used plastic bottles, newspapers, and glass to reuse them and help the environment to reduce using the natural source. Recycling is the best way to reuse things rather than take a huge space in landfills. Everyday people recycle the garbage they help the environment to stay pure, reduce the pollution, and save energy.

Air pollution and water pollution are the worst things could affect the human. As we know the garbage and the manufacturing processes are the first causes of hazardous substances which makes air and water pollution, each year people generate millions of tons of garbage which is a reason to global warming and cause many diseases. However, we can reduce the risks of air and water pollution by recycling garbage and reuse the items to stop the manufacturing processes.

Oxygen is one of the most significant keys for life; trees give us oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide. However, people are still cutting trees and destroying forests to manufacture items we use in daily life. Recycling the things we use in daily life will help the environment to save the trees, and the natural sources. For example, instead of throwing paper cups from McDonalds away, where it will decompose in the earth, we can recycle it to save the trees.

Creating new items cost a lot of money and energy. Recycling garbage saves landfills, but it also can save energy.

So, creating a recycled can of aluminum needs just a 5% of creating a new one from the scratch. Imagine how much energy we can save from billions of aluminum cans, and it's the same situation with a lot of materials.

Finally recycling has many positive effects can help the environment to stay pure. In addition, reducing the hazardous substances risks, and save energy. Recycling works best if everyone contributes his or her share in the recycling effort. Also it's a very environmental green activity, so we should keep it strong and start recycling everything to protect our environment.

Entertainment Options at the University of Florida and the University of Benin

Carolle Yehouenou

R/W 50

Many researchers have proved that entrainment and recreational activities develop not only the student mind but also their healthy and light up. Worldwide, all universities or education centers have entertainment and recreational centers. Even though they recreate or enjoy the student, they are different from one country or state to another because of lifestyle and culture of each country and state.

To university of Abomey-Calavi (Benin), the students care less about sports and entertainment activities because many of them think that doing or taking part of these activities is time wasting. However, there are some students who get involves in entertainment activities and even struggle to drive other students to join them. The University of Abomey-Calavi is not that big so it doesn't have big centers of recreation, and also sports are not the student's favorite activity. Also, the university has only some soccer fields and basketball fields that are almost not used by the students. The principal students' source of entertainment is music, dance, theatre and pageant. The university has several kinds of band group, singers, performer... They also promote a lot of the traditional dances. But apart from some picnic areas, University of Abomey-Calavi's students don't have outdoor activities. Every Friday afternoon, students enjoy practicing their difference activities which they present at reception when the university has some special visit or for the holidays. For example, at the university of Abomey-Calavi, at the end of each academic year, students have three days that they call cultural week end. The cultural week end starts on Friday and ends on Sunday. During these 3 days students present different activities that they have had practiced for the whole academic year. They do the pageant to elect the university's miss. Sometime they also play soccer, students vs. professors. On last day, all together with their friends, family and professors, even the administration staff, have lunch and dance to say goodbye and wish great vacation to each other.

But in the University of Florida, things are quite different in regard to entertainment activities on campus. It's one of the biggest universities of the USA. It's also a very rich university in attraction. It has many entertainment and

many recreational centers such as outdoor playing field, the O'Connell Center, Florida gym for indoor sports, two large different recreation centers. All of this encourage students to participate in every form of recreation activity, promote sport on campus and even take career in any for them. For example, there are several students who became famous because of sport on campus. Also, near the university there is a recreational lake and river that are great places for parties and picnics. For example, Lake Wauburg is a place where students can have the parties or picnic and meet with each other and have fun in the sun. Moreover there are plenty of outdoor activities at the University of Florida, there are also inside activities. The University of Florida has a big entertainment center named the Reitz union that gives many kinds of attractions. There are also at this same place student's court food as well. There, students play in the game room, watch cinema, and enjoy the Gator night etc. Students don't have time to feel bored or get crazy with courses. The university has a big famous football team that plays in fall and makes the game season a great fun time for students. By the way, the University of Florida is also called the Gator Nation because of this football team that students love and refer themselves to. But other activities such as music, dance etc, are almost unknown. The sport is so developed at the University of Florida that the students don't know much about dance whereas it is also another kind of sport. For example, during parties or picnics there are some sports activities but almost never music and dance.

To sum up, the University of Florida is a big university that has a lot of students and all different majors like the University of Abomey-Calavi. Both of them have entertainment activities to put students in good studying condition. Although there is a big difference in the universities' entertainment, they are both the University of Abomey-Calavi and University of Florida a center of education. Nevertheless, both of them have to improve entertainment a little bit. The University of Abomey-Calavi has to develop sport activities more and the University of Florida has to promote music and dance a little bit more.

Parents Should Not Spank Their Children*

Mariana Ruiz

R/W 50

**Editor's note: This is a timed essay.*

Is violence, really, the solution for all of our problems? Is it true that if we want to stop violence, we should use more of it? I think not. Actually, I think people should be thinking about how to improve all of our lives in the planet, not only theirs; how to stop violence. And, who can be actually happy when violence is the answer to solve any issue that we have? What are we teaching to the next generation? How can someone enjoy seeing their children crying? There are many reasons why I disagree so much with spanking. It cannot be the only way to solve things with kids.

First, I believe there are many other ways to explain things to children. I am not saying we should let them do what they want. Still, there can always be a peaceful choice. Kids are not mature; sometimes they cannot note the difference between "the good things" and "the bad things." So, parents should be able to explain it in a calm way. Doubtless, they would get the message faster and better. Also, they would not be afraid of their own parents, who are supposed to teach them the important things school does never demonstrate. If the relationship of the parents and the children is one of peace and trust, kids will always be less nervous and worried about telling their parents they did something wrong. And let us get things straight: no one would ever tell something bad they did to their parents, when they know the punishment is something strong.

Another important point, is the anger in which parents are when they spank the children. It is something people should be aware of, that there is a very thin line between spanking, which is considered two swats in the bottom of the kid, and child abuse. That line is easy to cross when parents are really angry for what the children did. It is also said that spanking the child, or being aggressive in any way, can affect them in a psychological manner. And there are always other punishments that would definitely make them wish they would not have done what they did wrong. "You cannot watch TV this week," "You cannot go out this weekend," "You have to do the dishes until Monday," "You cannot use your computer or cell phone this month"; all of them are better ways to say, "What you did is not okay, I will not accept it." No violence is required in any of these punishments; and, in that way, you are not teaching your children to be aggressive and solve their problems physically.

Even though there are many people against any physical punishment with children or others, there are also people who are very "PRO" this issue. They always argue that it is legal in the US; therefore, it is parents' right to choose whether to spank their children or not. They also believe it can make kids get the message when nothing else does, although there is always a better answer for this. Some of them say it is okay if you are not beating them, but only spanking them. Though there is another group that answers that, since it is parents' right, it is not bad if they beat the children and it causes contusions or welts.

Opponents probably were taught to be always attacking and that is the reason why they believe spanking is the right choice to teach your children when something is not acceptable. The thing is, even though parents are free to choose if they want to do it or not, if they cross that line, they could have problems with the law. They could be fined, taken to jail, or, even worse, the government could take their children away. That is why, if parents do not know how to be peaceful, they have to be careful with spanking. They should probably just relax and try not to take everything so serious. Kids do not know how things are supposed to be yet; they have to learn in a gentle environment. Parents should count to ten, stay in calm, and explain how to do things. Then, if it does not work, they could start looking for other ways to teach them; they could punish them without touching them.

House and Apartment

Heejin Kim

R/W 43

A long time ago, basically, people built places to live for protecting themselves from the environment. However, nowadays, when people chose places to live, they can consider various options that they are provided. Simply, we classify the places to live as 'houses' and 'apartments'. These two kinds of places fundamentally have similarities and have several different functions as well.

First, houses and apartments have basic similarities. They have the same floor plan such as bedrooms, kitchens, bathrooms, and balconies. Also, people who live in either houses or apartments have charges for utilities. They need to pay the cost of using water and electricity. However, except for these basic similarities, there are several differences between houses and apartments.

Second, features are the most obvious difference between houses and apartments. Most houses are usually only one or two floors. The houses which are independent structures are large sized. On the other hand, apartments are mostly taller buildings. Because the apartment's purpose is to accommodate people as much as possible in a small place, its inside tends to be small. We can find another difference in the way each place is managed.

Third, there are different ways to manage each place. The people who live in the houses need to manage the house by themselves. They secure their safety, and take care of their own yards. In contrast, the people who live in the apartments are not concerned about security and maintenance. Mostly they pay association fees to apartment managers, so the apartment managers are charged with the tasks that maintain dweller's house to be clean and safe.

In conclusion, the house and apartment have several similarities and differences. These two places to live have same basic floor plan, but have different features and size. Also, the charge to manage each house is different. For these reasons, nowadays, people can think about more detailed things according to their tastes for purchasing place to live.

Soccer and Basketball

Jesmire Diaz

R/W 43

There are a lot of sports that people start playing since they are little kids and continue playing for years, each people have their most important sport, the one that they like playing more or the one that they also enjoy watching the most. Two of the most famous sports, in some countries, are soccer and basketball. Even though both sports are played with balls, they have a lot of differences between them, and a few similarities.

One of the most obvious differences between these two sports is that in soccer you get more points by shooting the

ball into a thing called a goal that is located on the ground. In contrast, the players in basketball, they have to put the ball into a net called a basket to get points, and this one is like 10 feet high. Even though both sports have the same characteristic to put the ball into a net, the one called soccer goal has a bigger net than the one called a basketball goal.

As a second difference that is obvious too, is that soccer players use their feet to kick or pass the ball to the other player of the team. On the other hand, basketball players use their hands to pass the ball to the other players or to throw the ball into the basket. This is a big difference, because soccer player cannot touch the ball while playing, and basketball player cannot kick the ball or touch it with their feet while playing.

However, these sports also have more than one similar characteristic. One of those is that the amount of players that can play in one game are five for each basketball team, no more and no less than five players can play for each soccer team also. They can change players in the middle of the game if they are tired. Both of these sports have different types of ways to score. In soccer if they kick the ball into the goal 3 times, they get 3 points; and in basketball if they put throw the ball into the basket from the middle of the field once, they can get more than 2 points. In both sports, the team that ends with more points wins the game.

In conclusion, these are two sports that a lot of people like to play. Even if both sports have differences in between like, soccer is played with the feet of the players and basketball is played with the hands of the players; they also have similarities like, there are five players that can play in each team per game, and also both can be enjoyed a lot by playing them or by watching them.

Childhood Stage

Mubarak Faraj

R/W 42

Childhood is the greatest age in the life. Many people were rebel in their childhood, but when they being older they changed and being different, many of them change to the better, but some of them don't change their habit. That may be kind of social problems because each person should change his self to the better.

Everybody has some problems in the childhood. Some people learn from their mistakes, so they don't repeat their mistakes. When I was child, I always tried to learn from my mistakes, but that didn't make difference, because I was always reality in the same mistakes.

When I was nine years old, I liked to play football everyday, my father always told me to be careful and to play outside the house. One day I was playing with my older brother, and he was better than me, so I get angry and kicked the ball with all my strength, it was a solid ball, but actually I missed the goal and I shoot our neighbor windows, and the ball destroyed it. At that time I was scared, I didn't know what should I do, or how can I fix my mistake. My brother went quickly to tell my mother, she came and saw the window and

she called my father, he came from his office, and he was very angry, he took all my balls and he hid them, and put them away from me.

After that, he took me to our neighbor to apologize to him, he was really good man, he accept my apology, but he told me to be more careful next time. My father told me if I play football next time, he will deprive me from my pocket money.

However, childhood is the most cheerful and funny stage in the life, we can learn many lessons in the childhood stage, whatever we do, it will be just memories, everybody lives one life, so we have to enjoy our life.

The Human Face

Ilane Silva

Grammar for Writing

Communication can be established by different forms. One of the most interesting ways is body language, which doesn't use words but gestures. Facial expressions can be a good example of that, and they are strongly related to the speaker's thought or feelings. Moreover they are hard to control, even if you are making an effort to make them imperceptible. Studies about facial expression demonstrate that the listener can get some information that is implicit in the conversation just observing the facial movement; in addition, the body can respond positively to forced expressions.

A smile is one of the most intriguing facial expressions because it can be used to express happiness, politeness and even a bad felling. As can be seen, there are different kinds of smiling. The true smile is the enjoyment smile, which encourages the speaker because it is spontaneous. In addition, there is the polite smile that is used to thank somebody. On the other hand, there is the miserable smile that indicates you are not happy with the situation, but you need to smile to be polite. According to scientists, the real smile causes a contraction in the muscles of the mouth and eyes, and by analyzing these muscles it can be inferred if it is or not a true smile. Using this theory, a scientist from San Francisco tried to predict the happiness of the whole life of three women by examining their pictures from college. Among the three women, just one had the muscles next to the eyes contracted in her college photograph, which means pleasure and satisfaction. As was expected, she was the only woman that built a huge and happy family. The other women who presented a forced smile were single, and not as happy as the first one.

While smiling can provide some clues about true feelings, micro expressions can reveal when an individual is lying. Pursuing this further, a scientist made some conclusions after he had studied micro expressions produced by nursing students, who were asked to lie about movies that they watched. One of those conclusions is that scratching or wrinkling the forehead could be a good indicator that a person might be nervous, and he/she is not telling the truth. In conclusion, policemen, judges, and forensic psychologists, professionals who have special experiences with liars, should use this tool to help them at work. Furthermore, it takes just thirty minutes to

teach someone how to identify classic micro expressions of lying.

Different from smiling and lying, not only the person that you are talking to, but also your body can interpret the messages of laughing. In India, a doctor who believes that “laughter is the best medicine” created 600 laughter clubs where people meet just to laugh. Sections of fifteen minutes daily have been presented a lot of benefits, for example, a fresh body, reduced stress and a stronger immune system. As a consequence, the number of colds and other infections decrease too. The most interesting thing is that the body is not able to differ between the true and fake laughter, so the groups practice the laughter exercises based on the slogan “Fake it! Fake it! Until you make it!” In addition to this huge number of clubs, this theory was used in unusual places like prisons, relieving feelings like depression, anger and stress.

Smiling, lying and laughing can result in different facial expressions that correspond to real emotions. These faces movements are as important as words in conversations, mainly when the listener has the sensibility to perceive them. In conclusion, facial expressions and communication are intrinsically linked because they can provide information like words can, even if the listener is your body.

A New Life

Mohhamad AlGhatani

R/W10

I have changed my life at this time. I came to the United States in January, 2010 to know about life in America. Now I live in Florida in Gainesville in Cabana Beach apartments. At first, I did not know how to clean my clothes. I did not know how to cook for myself. I relied on others to do with this before I came to the United States. Non-parent life is difficult. But I now have the ingredients to live life without them. In my apartment, I have a living room and two bedrooms for me and my cousin. We are here to study and learn English. We learned many things in the months that have elapsed. Now I learned how to rely on myself.

Cases of Natural Disaster

Karina Kunbuz

R/W 31

Natural disasters have increasingly become one of the most serious problems facing humanity. The average number of natural disasters throughout the world has increased in thirty years. The cause of natural disasters is due to global warming every day over the planet.

The main cause of global warming is the unconsciousness of the people who produce more garbage each day, waste water, spend more electricity, burn of forests, and use gas industries wearing out the ozone layer. All these things have occurred over the years causing a great damage to the planet's ozone layer overheating planet earth, causing the earth

to react as a result producing all the natural disasters we have seen in the past year.

The result of this great problem has been reflected in the following countries: Haiti, Chile, Indonesia, Brazil, Spain, and Portugal. If we do not take precautions in this situation we will continue to see more natural disasters.

The solution to this situation is that we cannot destroy the forests. Also we can encourage the planting of forest topsoil to rejuvenate the planet. We can conserve the consumption of energy. Our nations can start a global plan, prohibiting companies from using wood for their processes and replacing these woods with other materials.

In conclusion, while avoiding the felling of forests, we can control, ourselves, our children, grandchildren and prepare for them.

My Story

Mubarak Alkatheeri

R/W10

My name is Mubarak. I am from the United Arab Emirates. I live in AbuDabi . I will write about myself. I was born in 1988. I started school in 1994. I finished high school in 2007. I moved to the U.S. in 2010. I study now in the ELI. The story of my life is beautiful and full of events.

Venezuelan Immigrants in the U.S.A.

Albani Carolina Da Silva González

R/W 41

Venezuelans have been one of the fastest growing Latino sub-populations in South Florida. One of the reasons is because Venezuelans have been afraid of the situation in their country since 1998, the year in which the current President of Venezuela Hugo Chávez Frías took the power winning the elections that year, and after that event everything has been changing for the worse. There are thousands of reasons why Venezuelans choose to move to another country and especially to the U.S.A. There are strong differences between the safety, the liberty of the citizens to express themselves and the basic services.

One of the most important reasons Venezuelans want to leave their country is because there you can't find good police who can protect them from bad people. The police are corrupt and sometimes they are the first people suspected in a kidnapping, theft or murder. Most of the time, they do this because they want money. It is just incredible to believe for a lot of people but sadly that's the reality in Venezuela. On the other hand, in the United States of America the citizens can feel safe because the police are very strict. They apply the law whenever they have to and if someone tries to corrupt them giving money it'll be worse and the citizen will have to pay more to the government. In Venezuela it's almost impossible to go out or stay in your own house without worrying about the bad people who can do something bad and sometimes kill just

because they want to. In contrast, the person who lives in the U.S.A. lives with tranquility. One can see people walking outside at night and some can leave the doors of their houses unlocked and everything is ok most of the time. And if someone does something, we know the police will help and protect us.

Another aspect is that in Venezuela since the current president is in the government a lot of people have lost their jobs just because they express that they don't agree with the president. The more the years go on, the more one can see people dying just because they go out protesting. A lot of companies are closing just because they don't use red clothes like the president or don't have pictures of him or Simón Bolívar in their work place. In other words, they're not "Chavistas" or agreeing with the government. A lot of people are scared about expressing themselves and just for saving their properties they must have these symbols around or talk good about the government. No matter what if they don't like it. A lot of people who work for the State have to go to all the events the President gives. They must wear red clothing and attend there because if they don't do it, they can lose their jobs. On the contrary in the U.S.A. one can feel the freedom. People can wear the clothing they want, go out and protest about what they don't like in a pacifist way and no one is going to do anything bad to them. In this country the people are free to be the way they are and to express and believe what they want. People can work wherever they want it doesn't matter if you are African-American, white, Latin, Democrat or not. The students can go out and express themselves and everyone is going to respect them. The opposite happens in Venezuela where every year students die because they're expressing themselves trying to demand their rights.

Another important reason is that the basic services in Venezuela like the water and electricity are getting worse every year. At the beginning it was just a few days in one month without water or electricity, but now it's a mandate of the President to ration these services. He says it is because of the phenomenon "El Niño" that rivers in Venezuela are drying very fast. But the real reasons are bad politics about maintenance and improving with technology in these factories which produce electricity and water. The owner of these industries is the government, but instead of find a solution like investing in this situation, they decided to ration these services twice a week in all the country. Sometimes poor people have weeks without these services which is inhuman because we all know the water and electricity is necessary to live for everyone. On the other hand, in the U.S.A. there's always electricity everywhere and water all the time because the Government has good policies about maintenance and improving these services with innovative solutions. People also can drink the water they receive in their houses. Only using a filter to purify the water, which is impossible in Venezuela because most of the time this water is contaminated, this action could produce you since diarrhea to dysentery in the worse cases.

These are just a few reasons because most of the Venezuelans are deciding to leave their country. They're looking for a better life where they can live with quality of life, in peace and with freedom. It doesn't mean it's easy to do but the tranquility of having a good life has no price. The U.S.A.

offers all the things they can't find in Venezuela and most of the Venezuelans prefer to go to south Florida because the weather and the people is more similar from their country and it is easier for them to establish there and the home sick will be less.

The Last President

Hye-Lin Lee

R/W42

One day on the morning of May, 23, 2009, I suddenly heard the news that the last president killed himself while he was being investigated. I was really shocked and didn't believe it. However, it was true, and all media broadcasted this huge news which came from Bongha, a city in South Korea, and I had to believe it. It was a huge issue which could make confused me. Many documentary programs which dealt with the last president's life were broadcasted, and some people made some videos using his pictures and his speeches. When I saw those programs and videos, I started crying, but I couldn't talk about my sense of loss.

I couldn't say I like and support him from the inauguration of presidency to his death. The economy fell down during his term, so people blamed him and laughed at him. Also, people didn't believe nor follow him, and many newspapers wrote negative sides of his plans. Therefore, it was too difficult to say I supported him. People gave his supporters the nickname Rohbba to his supporters, and made fun of them. Rohbba meant people just followed him without thinking. I didn't want people to call me Rohbba. So even though I was sad about his death, I couldn't express my support of him because I was afraid of becoming an object of ridicule.

A few days later, there was a state funeral for him, and people made many group memorial altars. Also, many people regardless of age visited the group memorial altars and remembered him. There was a group memorial altar in my university, but I didn't visit it. My friends suggested the remembrance, but I didn't go there. I was worried about the attention people would give me if I remembered him. I didn't want to get the other's attentions, too. I had considered those suggestions for a few days, but I didn't go there. After that, I said that I didn't care about his death, and it wasn't my business. Then I felt I was so mean.

When the state funeral finished, I lost the chance to express my support of him and my opinion because of the other's attentions. I regretted that I didn't see his last figure and support until the end. While some people were removing the group memorial altar in my university, I was watching. A strange feeling was around me, and I couldn't move my eyes. When I watched that situation, I resolved to change one thing in my life

After his funeral, I learned that expressing my opinion without the attentions from other people was important for a life without regret. The other's views can be changed such as this event. Many people who hate the last president miss and remember him. Sometimes following other people's opinions without my belief gives wrong ways and a lot of regrets. Actually, many people want to make the other's views same

because lots of Koreans dislike differences from other people. However, I have to choose my opinions without the other's attentions, and I must not blame them to live my own life. The last president's death taught me an important thing to live my life satisfactory.

Obesity

Marwa Bawareth

R/W 42

Do you know that obesity is one of the most dangerous diseases of this century? This disease has killed a lot of people or causes chronic illnesses such as diabetes, blood pressure, and heart diseases. A person becomes obese in any age. Many children and adults are suffering from obesity. Before the obese patients find treatment they need to know the causes that made them gain weight. There are several causes why people gain too much weight.

Junk food, chocolate, soft drink, chips ...etc are some of the reasons for people to gain weight. Most people work, study or have different responsibilities and because of that they don't have time to cook healthy food. They prefer eating something that doesn't take much time such as fast food. One meal in fast food place is a burger or sandwich contains chicken or beef, French-fries, and soft drink. This meal contains more calories and leads to gained weight. Many people like chocolate whether they are adults or children. It has sour or sweet taste and it contains calories that make people gain weight if they eat it by large quantities. There are people who are addicted to soft drink although their despite that it makes them over weight. Drink soft drink a lot also make people gain weight.

Hormones and genetics are other causes for weight gain. Some people hormones change in their body for several reasons; it could be diseases affects the producing of thyroid hormone or it could be the pregnancy. For other people the genetics could be the reason for weight gain. For example we find some families have all their members suffering from overweight. For all these situations these people need to consult a doctor before they became out of control.

The third cause is psychology and the daily habits. A person's mood can sometimes affect his appetite. It could make him or her eat a lot. Happiness and anger make some people eat too much. People who like watching TV for long hours a day eat a lot of food like snacks, pop corn, soda, chips, ice cream... etc. Gathering with friends and spending time with them and watching movies can sometimes let these people eat more.

All these causes and many are more are some of the reasons for people to gain weight. People should start considering more healthy food, look after eating habits, follow diet system, periodic diagnosis and sport to stay in shape.

Teachers Versus Teachers

Cesar Pena

R/W 43

"The mediocre teacher tells; the good teacher explains; the superior teacher demonstrates; the great teacher inspires." I

read this quote from William Arthur Ward some years ago, and immediately it became one of my favorite phrases because it has the power of summarizing how important the profession of teaching is. Teachers have the enormous responsibility to help students, to lead students, and to inspire them with passion.

Most of us remember vaguely teachers that repetitively gave us lectures or work to do, but without a full explanation or interesting examples; without transmitting their experience or their passion for their job. This kind of teachers maybe do not understand the sense of a profession that requires to inspire people deeply through hard work and dedication.

Other kinds of teachers were maybe able to transmit their knowledge and technical skills in their field of specialization, but without understanding that as human beings, people need to be taught with patience and effort. Hence, these teachers did only half their jobs as educators; their work is not completed if they do not demonstrate special care for their students.

However, there is a special category of teachers that understand that their job is one of the most important in the world. Being a teacher represents in itself, a noble way to help people during their first years of education, in the early stages of their careers and maybe even throughout their lives. Being a teacher is not only about leading skill acquisition and technical knowledge; it is also about showing and sharing passion for its work.

Thus, a combination of passion and hard work with people is the only thing that everybody respects and follows, and people recognize these qualities in a teacher immediately. When people see these qualities, they feel motivated and inspired by a leader. Now, years after I have finished high school and my bachelor's degree, I still remember with affection and respect some of the teachers that inspired me during my student life. Similarly, I am sure that I will also remember this semester at the ELI as a very special one in which I met passionate and great teachers.

When I Saw You . . .

Miguel Dempere

R/W 43

When I saw your eyes
I felt how my heart
Was ripped out of my body
When I saw your red, hot lips
I felt how my mind
Was flying around towards the Sun
When I saw your hair
I felt how my body
Was fulfilled with warm blood
When I heard your voice
I felt how my thoughts
Were guided to an endless ocean
When I met you
I felt how my life
Was taken away from me
When I finally knew you

I felt how all the things I said
 Turned different as I thought
 When I see your eyes
 I feel how my heart
 Burns like I were in hell
 When I see you red, hot lips
 I feel how my mind
 Is being tortured by one thousand nightmares
 When I see your hair
 I feel how my body
 Is rolled up with rusty spines
 When I hear your voice
 I feel how my thoughts
 Start to melt down in an eternal darkness
 I know that you don't feel the same as me
 I know that you are forbidden for me
 But I love you
 And nothing else matters to me

A Woman

Abdulwahab AlGhamdi

R/W10

In this paragraph I will describe a woman in a Kohl's advertisement. The woman is wearing a purple blouse. She has a blue belt above her hips and black shoes. This young woman is wearing dark jeans. She is wearing a blue necklace and a green bracelet as jewelry. I think this woman is a good model.

University Life

Juseok Lim

R/W 50

Today, attending university is more popular than in the past. Many students are studying in university and getting the bachelor's degree. Moreover, they are going to graduate school and some get the Ph. D. Especially, women try to study harder than the foretime when many parents didn't like for their daughters to study in university even if they had enough money. Likewise, women play an important role in education. Recently, a survey which was performed in 2005 shows that 55% of the enrolled freshmen are women. There are several differences between past and present in university life focusing the academics, finances, values, based on the freshmen survey from Beloit College in 2005.

First, college applicants try to apply to more universities to in the present than in the past. The statistics says that the students who apply to the 4 or more universities are portioned at 50% in 2004; in contrast in 1969 when the applicants are positioned 20%. Moreover, the students applying to 7 or more universities indicate over 10% in 2004 compared with 1~2% in 1967. This fact means that today, students have more information and instruments which make the process more convenient to access the school and to enjoy their

academic life. On the contrary, sometimes this means more intensive competition among students. For example, if we are focusing on the grades in high school, we can find more competition. In 2004, the number of students received A- or higher of high school grades increased by 2.5 times from 1968. On the other hand, the number of students received C+ or lower of high school grades decreased by 10 times in the same period.

Second, regarding finances in the university, these days, many students are supported by their parents financially. They still have little money and can't afford to pay their tuition by themselves. Sometimes, they work in college to earn money. If their family income is \$100,000 or more, only 28% of the men want to work in college. When family income is less than \$30,000, 48% want to work in college. On the other hand, there are few differences in finances among races and ethnicity. For example, the percentage of students thinking that working while in college is very good chance occupies to 47% in the entire sample: 43% in Asian/Asian American, 47% in white/Caucasian, 48% in African American. So there are similarities in finances. Also, the thought that they are mainly concerned about paying for college is representative to 13% in the entire sample: 16% in Asian/Asian American, 11% in white/Caucasian, 23% in African American. However, there are differences between men and women. Whereas approximately 55% of women expect to get a job to pay for college expense, under 40% of the men expect to get a job to pay for college

Last, values of students have been changed from time to time. Today, they are more practical, concerned about money, and think about their family more than in the past. Interest about the goal of keeping up to date with political affairs and helping to promote racial understanding has decreased for a long time. Similarly, interest about religious preference has also declined for the same period. The survey indicates that being very well off financially is very important or essential to students. Almost 80% of them think this way, compared with thinking that developing a meaningful philosophy of life is very important, which occupies 40%. This situation has diverged, that is, 80% of the students thought that developing a meaningful philosophy of life are very important in 1967. Furthermore, while the percentage of students who think that the goal of cleaning up the environment is very important has decreased from 45% to under 20%, the percentage of students who goal of raising a family is very important have increased from under 60% to over 75%, which mirrors their individual tendency.

Everything is changed and will be changed in the world, so this survey reflects on that phenomenon. This is not a matter about the good and the bad but only the current status. We only know the present position of university life from the survey. University life has been changed for many years as our society and our technology have been changed. The survey shows that more women participate in university life and broaden their role in education, and they work hard to earn the money for their tuition, working part time jobs in 2004. Students consider the goal of raising a family and being very well off financially as important. They are more realistic and personal than in the past, concerning their own life. What will happen in the university life in 2014 ?

Education Systems: Turkey and the US

Mert Gumusbasoglu

R/W 50

How has the US become the most powerful country? Why is per capita income only \$10745 in Turkey, while it is \$40,208 in the US? The differences in the quality of education engender these remarkable discrepancies. In the globalized world, academic level educated people are the greatest force for countries, and the way that countries try to get this army can be different although the high school education system almost has the same system all over the world. Turkish students who start to study in the US after having a college education back home can easily realize significant distinctions in the value of education, entering a university, and covering the life expenses.

First, not many points can be found to compare the value of education in Turkey and the U.S. On account of Turkey's high youth population, Turkish students can save their future by having a great education, or having rich parents. Finding a job without a college education has become almost impossible in Turkey. Although uneducated people can sometimes find jobs, they cannot get more than \$400 as salary. Because of this problem, everyone wants to get a college education, which gives you a little opportunity finding a job that you want to work in. Due to this high demand, there are millions of educated people, who cause a big unemployment issue, so that it is normal to see a bus driver or a manager who has master's degree in Turkey, but it is not possible to see a person who makes money without college education. On the other hand, in the US, it is not an essential that having a college education to make an adequate amount of money in order to guarantee the future of your family. Although academic level education helps you to have a high income, there are a great number of people who make money without this education. Having this opportunity makes more and more people not to continue their education after high school, and start to work as technicians, or other jobs for which they do not need to be educated.

In a view of this contrast between Turkey and the U.S. it can be assumed that there is a big difference in entering university. In Turkey, being a bright high school student does not help with entering a college; all students have to take the nation-wide college entrance test in order to enter a university. A little information about this test will probably be enough to terrify an American. For example, 2 million people take this 3-hour test, and only 7% of the takers can enter a college. Moreover, because of the torture that they have while they are studying, a lot of people choose a major that they do not want to study; otherwise, they have to prepare for the test one more year, and take it again. This acute problem puts millions of

Turks in a hard situation that nobody ever wants to be in such as working in a job that you have never wanted to work. In contrast, American students can individually apply to more than 3000 colleges, and every single department that colleges have, so they do not have to study in a major which they have not thought about studying. In addition, the college application in the US is based on the student's high school success, which makes the 4-year high school education the key for entering a college, so their future is not depended on only one test. This distinction gives the US a tremendous power of having educated people who have alacrity to work in the fields needing their knowledge.

The last difference between these countries is the financial sources of college students. Because of two important reasons, only %2 of college students have a job in Turkey. The first reason is the unemployment issue. As I mentioned before, there is a tremendous unemployment problem in Turkey, and it prevents students from getting jobs while they are studying. Another, and more important, reason depends on traditional values of Turks. Studying in a college has had a great importance for the Turkish families; furthermore, having children studying in a college is a source of pride for all Turkish parents. On account of this, a great number of Turkish parents say that only the business of a college student is studying for their classes. Therefore, Turkish parents have to cover all their children's educational expenses. Unlike Turkish students, around %40 of American students expect to get a job to cover their expenses. First of all, it is normal to leave their home when they become 18-year old, so parents encourage their children to find a job although they may help them with covering their tuition. In addition to this traditional reason, an American student can find a job easier than its Turkish equal. American students find jobs in restaurants, coffees, bars, or even in campus facilities. Having this opportunity engenders an ambition of earning their own money that makes them feel independent.

In conclusion, the US has millions of people who know what they are supposed to do in life because Americans have a chance to study a major that they want to, and they are getting precious work experiences while they are making their own money or even they do not have to go the college. In contrast, the Turkish education system does not give these opportunities, so companies complain about the system that causes shortage of technicians, and economists add that this system must be changed as soon as possible in order to save our future. It is clear that Turkey will never achieve its goal that was determined by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, who was the founder of modern Turkey, and said, "Our great ideal is to raise our nation to the highest standard of civilization and prosperity," unless it changes this inadequate education system. Since the US has all the characteristics that Turkey wants to have, its education system must be used as a model while the Turkish government tries to improve the quality of the education. I believe that by the time we cannot find any differences in the education systems of Turkey and the US, we also will not be able to find any differences in per capita income of these countries.

My Story

Saud Abu Onq

R/W10

I am Saud. I am 20 years old. I was born on July 6, 1990 in Saudi Arabia. I live now in Gainesville and study English. After English, I want to study computers. When I finish my studies, I want to go to my country and find a job. After that, I want to get married. This is my life story.

Cool*

Mariandreina Duran

R/W 42

**Editor's note: For this assignment, students were asked to write an original story based on a song. This story is based on Gwen Stefani's song, "Cool."*

Do you remember the first time that you fell in love, your first kiss, your first disappointment with love...? A lot of people never forget it. It is really amazing how a song can represent all of those things, make us remember these times, a special person, or a special occasion. Every song tells us a story. This is their song, this is their story.

Gwen and Sergey met each other in Paris in 1987. She was born in England and he was born in Russia. He moved to France when he was still a child. She was studying French and she was in France for just one year. He was a painter. He used to go to the Eiffel tower looking for inspiration to paint; she went to the Eiffel tower at the same time as him, because she wanted to see it. The fate was playing with them. Gwen lost her wallet with all of her information in that place and Sergey took it. Some time passed after these events.

One day, Sergey called Gwen and fortunately, she answered his call. They arranged to rendezvous in a restaurant in the Eiffel tower called Altitude 95. The day came; while they were meeting each other, they also were falling in love. He said that he was having trouble with his work, that he couldn't make money, his paintings weren't selling, and he didn't have money to pay a model. She offered to be his model as a reward for what he did, and Sergey accepted. After this meeting she went to his house and he painted her while she was reading "Edipo" in the window under the stars' brightness. They started their love story.

Sergey changed his source of inspiration because he found it in Gwen. They used to walk around the world always holding hands. He used to pick her up on his motorcycle. While she was in her French classes missing him, he was painting thinking of her. They always had fun and romance among each other. It was their first love. He proposed marriage to her; he gave her a diamond ring bought with his savings, but they were still too young. The time was going so fast. Her year in Paris was almost finishing.

The time to leave came. They promised never to forget each other and they both cried. Both of them felt that it was the

saddest day in their lives. After she was gone, they lost contact. Sergey missed Gwen like the sun misses shining in the sky on raining days. She always remembered him every time that she saw the ring that Sergey gave her in symbol of their engagement. She didn't want to leave France but their parents wanted her living with them. The time was going so fast and everything changed.

Gwen started her literature studies at the University of Cambridge, she met a man named William and they fell in love. After they both graduated he proposed marriage to her and she accepted. It was the most important wedding of the century, because they were the richest couple in England. Sergey became wealthy selling the paintings inspired by Gwen. He was also falling in love with a French supermodel called Isabella with whom he started a relationship. Even after all of that, Gwen and Sergey still were thinking of the other. Their fate was changing.

One day, Sergey found Gwen when he was on Facebook because he saw a picture of her with her husband and he was really surprised. A lot of time had passed before this. He contacted her and he told her that he would visit England for work; he had to show his painting in The British Museum. She told him to visit her and he said yes, but he went with Isabella. Gwen was really surprised of this. He saw her more beautiful than ever. Their lives were really different.

Gwen and Sergey decided to be friends, who could imagine that? It was the biggest love in their lives and they maintained a friendship. He was always inspired by her when he did his paintings. Their feelings never changed, it was the same romantic love as before, but they didn't want to be unfaithful with their partners. They weren't happy but they were cool.

My Two Fathers

Carlos Guiland

R/W10

My name is Carlos. I was born on 03 October 1978 in the city of Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela. In my childhood, I lost my mother Irene just when I was three years old. My father, Eliceo, had to support my sister and me and look forward. My father was a professional carpenter and an excellent fisherman. However, my father died when I was 12 years old. I eventually finished my studies in 1993 with the help of my adoptive father, Gonzalo Julio, an engineer. Thanks to him I could study vocational school. By 1995, I started working at the company of my adoptive father (Nord International, CA). At the beginning, I worked as an administrative assistant. After a few years, I now have the position of Manager of Marketing and Sales. In 2010, it was suggested by my foster father that I come to the United States of America to study English and that's what I'm doing right now. This is not easy but I thank God for my second father and my ELI teachers for this opportunity to be here at the ELI in this wonderful country.

World Before and After the Invention of the Cell Phone

Juan Morales
R/W 42

Could the modern life live without cell phones? The world has changed after the cell phones appeared in 1973. Cell phones have given opportunities to many people and changed their life style. Cell phones bring many opportunities and facilities and a lot of issues with them, but they still are one of the most common things in the world; “9 out of 10 people use their cell phones every day around the world”(wikipedia). Cell phones are making the life easier with all their facilities even Haiti that is in of the poorest country in the world has a big demand on them. The world before and after the cell phones is different in many ways.

Long distances in the past were an obstacle to the communication. Before the cell phone was invented, people had to write letters to communicate with someone that wasn't close to them. That letter took weeks, even months to arrive at the destination. For example, when someone went to study far away from home, this person sent a letter to his parents. This letter took weeks to arrive, and the parents didn't know anything about their son for the time that the letter took to arrive. That can sound desperate now but then it was completely normal. Some people in the past sent messages by telegraph instead of sending a letter, but the problem with this was that it was very expensive and it was available just in the big cities. When people sent a telegraph, they paid for every letter and the message was sent in Morse code, and only a few people knew how to read it. When the house phone appeared, all about of communication change to easier; it didn't bring the communication everywhere, but it was better than the letter and the telegraph. It took long time to arrive to all the towns and cities, especially to the small towns. When the small towns didn't have phones, they had to send a telegraph to a big city and there was when the person who received the telegraph called the destination of the messages. People who spend their time in the street weren't communicate, so they had to make calls from the public phones to their offices or homes. Another example is when someone had a problem in the street and needed help; this person didn't have any way to communicate his situation. For example, if someone's car didn't start after work, this person couldn't call his family or friends to help him, so this person had to look for a public phone or walk to home. In the past, people were more independent of the phone, even had more social life without it. Also, people were limited to make calls just in one position like in the living room or kitchen, all depending where the phone was. All that means that people had less freedom than now.

Cell phones have been a fundamental instrument in each person in the world. They have changed everything related with the communication. Some people see cell phones how a benefits instrument, but other people don't believe on that. These people think that the radio frequency or the vibration of the cell phones bring cancer. However, most of the people don't think that cell phones are a problem, they see cell phones as a

positive instrument that bring facilities to them. Cell phones improve their technology every day. Nowadays, cell phones do more than make calls; they send text messages for short and quickly communication. Also, they have internet access, this benefit help business people because they can check or send emails everywhere. For example, someone who need to send a important email and is far away from a computer, can send it in perfect moment. The communication now is completely different than in the past, now long distances are not obstacles. Cell phones eliminate all the communication problems, for example, when someone takes an airplane to a place far away from home, that person can call home without any interruption or trouble. Some cell phones can make video calls instead from make just voice calls. This is a fact that is happening now, but maybe in the future cell phones can do that a simple call or video call; they can have holograms or any new technology. They have been changing with the pass of the years, the first cell phone was very big to care it everywhere but now cell phones are very small even smaller than your hand. This advance in the technology might do cell phones that a size of a sim card, or maybe just the size of your ear. All these can sound weird but it's happening and the world is progressing. Cell phones are essential in our life, and now many people are depending on them. People are becoming dependent on the cell phone, because of the feeling of not having the opportunity to call or text someone when they need to is very stressing for them. These people say that when they don't have their cell phones with them, they fell empty.

All the life that we know today is very difficult and stressing. Cell phones have been helping us to manage our time making the communication easier. They are improving in technology every day, so in the future they might give more benefits than now. Some people disagree with the idea of cell phones but society has been changing based on them; they will not disappear easily. The world should change and start depending on itself.

Works Cited

“Mobile phone.” wikipedia.org. Wikipedia, 4 March 2010. Web. 25 March 2010.

Thanks from the Editor

Thank you for sharing your writing with everyone. This is the first time we have had a tie for first place. I hope you enjoy reading your fellow students' essays, paragraphs, and poetry. Also thanks to Megan Forbes and the University of Florida Bookstore for arranging the gift certificates, to Todd Allen for publicizing this issue of *Student Voices*, to the Reading/Writing instructors for supporting their students in their writing, and to Jen Ramos, Megan Forbes, Tom Ratican, Todd Allen, Robert Roberg, and the students of R/W 50 for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone!

Steve Flocks



English Language Institute
PO Box 117051
315 Norman Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611-7051, USA
Phone: (352) 392-3354
Fax: (352) 392-3744
Email: StudyEnglish@eli.ufl.edu
Webpage: www.eli.ufl.edu