
ELI STUDENT VOICES

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Peace (1st place)

Yolianys Villalobos

R/W 41

Peace is a balance state which has been found throughout life's humanity. However, the world has faced conflicts, such as when countries have competed for limited resources and land. This has had a devastating effect on the global environment. World peace is the biggest goal wish for humans who want to advance toward world harmony, where every individual and nation can freely express their individual qualities. To find this goal, it is necessary to follow three ways which are reverence for life, respect for all differences and gratitude with nature.

Reverence for life has a focus on all the rights that people possess from conception to death. This includes human rights like safety outside and inside their houses, as well as freedom to express and select whatever people want without disrespecting one's rights. Also, all people deserve to receive nourishment, a house to protect them against cold, rain and space to sleep.

Respect for all differences means to create a world in which all different races, ethnic groups, religions, cultures, traditions and customs are respected. The world should be free of discrimination or confrontation. It must be an area where diversity is appropriate and enjoyed.

Gratitude with nature addresses living in harmony with animals, plants and other forms of life. This includes caring for animals in risk of extinction. Another measure is to avoid activities if they can provoke pollution in the environment, water and ground. In general, people must be aware that is impossible to have life without nature.

These three possible solutions show that all humans are members of a global community of life and that all share a common mission and responsibility for the future of our planet because each one should fulfill one's obligations and responsibilities. Consequently, world peace will be found first by all when humanity members become aware of this common mission, and then people will work together giving love and harmony to obtain this goal.

The 500-year-old Chinese Juniper (2nd place)

Man Ik Jeon

R/W 400

There are many old things in Korea. They have some legends and special meanings in countryside towns. Countryside towns have at least one old thing. In my grandfather's town, there's one special tree in the middle of the village. It has a special shape, interesting legend, and dark future.

That tree looks a little different from other trees. First, it is not as big as its age. It is more than 500 years old, and it does not come from a seed of a small tree. Also, this tree has a white stone between the largest and second branch. If someone tries to pull off the stone, the tree is going to die because the stone is lodged into the tree very deeply. People don't know where it came from, and why the tree has that stone, but it looks like it is part of it and has never been separated. The stone has separated the tree into two branches.

I heard about the legend of this tree about 10 years ago just once, so I can't remember it correctly. The story is similar to "the Romeo and the Juliet" story. There was a man and woman. They loved each other very much but unfortunately their towns hated each other. For that reason, they had to meet under the tree secretly. Then the woman dies from a disease and the man follows her, and dies. After that, the white stone appeared, and people performed a religious service every year. I heard that one branch represented the man and the other the woman.

Unfortunately, people don't believe in the legend anymore, and they don't perform a religious service anymore. Later, it became a playground for children, but it's going to die because it has a disease and it's too old. Maybe a few years later, nobody will see that tree and nobody will know about the legend. My town is going to lose their own legend and the symbol.

Some countryside towns in Korea have old things and legends before. But these days people don't believe their legend and don't care about the old things. As a result, people are going to lose their legend and symbols. A few years later, we have no story to tell our kids and grandkids. People always think about money for living but not to keep their legends and symbols. I worried about this.

Mochi

Taiyo Okabe

R/W 50

Do you know *mochi*, which is one of the Japanese traditional foods? Its English name is rice cake. China and Korea also have the same type of food. We usually eat them when we have some festival or event. Then, we prepare them into two colors, which are white and red. The size of *mochi* is usually as big as a cassette tape. In January, we always have these traditional foods with which we wish our health and good luck for the year. In this time, sometimes we can see a huge *mochi* which is 30 centimeters in diameter. This is only for decoration; however, many Japanese believe that a god is in the big *mochi* from Shintoism, which is Japan's original religion. *Mochi* is one of the most interesting Japanese foods because of its characteristics: original way to prepare, many ways to eat, and celebration purposes.

Mochi is made of special rice, which is more sticky than any other types of rice. East Asian people basically like to eat sticky rice. But this rice is more gummy than normal Asian rice because of its ingredient. *Mochi* is often prepared by a special method. First, we put boiled rice into the *usu*, which looks like a bucket and is made of wood. Second we pound this rice with a large hammer which is also made of wood. After a guy hits the *mochi*, and before he hits it the next time, a woman turns over this white object because this action makes us prepare it more efficiently. We repeat these actions around a hundred times. Then the rice is put together and becomes a white mass which is called *mochi*. The rhythm of this hitting and turning over between two workers is very important when we make *mochi* by this method.

We usually eat *mochi* with soy sauce. However, we can eat it with not only soy sauce but also *kinako*, which is the powder of beans. In January, we put this into Japanese traditional soup that's made with many vegetables and some seafood. We call this *ozouni*. In addition, *mochi* is eaten as not only a normal meal but also a dessert. We call this sweet *oshiruko* which is made of boiled small beans with sugar and *mochi*. You can see this sweet at some of the coffee shops in Japan because this is very popular among women and kids.

In some of the areas in Japan, people often throw *mochi* when they build a new house. After they put up basic poles and minimum framework, the owner and his relatives toss down *mochi* and many snacks to neighbors from the top of the house. At the ceremony, many people who are not only neighbors but also people who are living in the same town gather to the house to get *mochi*. These people are usually women and children because this event normally is held during daytime of weekdays. I used to go there to get *mochi* when I was a small kid. I still remember how this event is tremendous. Old women who are usually very quiet and walk slowly try to gain these blessing so actively. They were not "elder people" any longer. They picked up *mochi* with screaming. It is unbelievable how they could move so quickly during only this ceremony. *Mochi* must have a special force to change people to be active.

Finally, *mochi* is an essential food for Japanese people because of its unique specialty. Even though *mochi* is a very old and historical food, it is had among not only old people but also young people. *Mochi* has a mysterious power that fascinates many people. Japanese people never live without this white food culturally. In fact, we can see *mochi* at Asian markets all over the world because Japanese people believe that *mochi* makes them better by *mochi's* special power.

What is peace?

Diana Medina

R/W 41

What is peace? This question may look like a joke, because many people talk about peace but never think really hard about it. Maybe peace is only a dream, and war and disagreements are a normal behavior for human beings. Possibly, peace lives only in our minds, and seeking it is just a crusade.

At the beginning of civilization, human beings fought wars to find peace. This is a contradiction, because when violence and death were used as tools, they generated more violence and woke up terrible feelings. Perhaps human beings were fighting through something unavoidable and the solution could be no looking for peace anymore.

It is impossible to try to coordinate all of the issues present in a conflict and create rules to discuss, especially when each part thinks only of winning. Disagreements are an element of human nature. This thought could be a good point to start the analysis of the issues and establish some guidelines for discussion.

Human beings live constantly looking for answers outside of themselves but never seek inside where peace is born. Peace is a mental state. When one has knowledge about oneself, it is easier to understand the other person. Building peace is possible only if each of us tries to discover human nature beyond the material necessities.

Maybe peace is a dream. A dream that is dreamt by all of us to make it true, but it is necessary to be fully aware of our responsibility for the construction of that reality. Peace is a high step for humanity; the way to achieve it is not easy, but it is the only way to live together.

Social classes in Colombia

Catalina Londono

R/W 41

Colombia is a country of the third world that has a lot of problems. For instance, drug trafficking, guerrilla groups, paramilitary, unemployment, poverty, corruption, lack of education, etc. One of the most principal problems of the third world of undeveloped countries is the big difference between one and others. Most noteworthy, social classes in Colombia are classifications in three groups: high class, middle class and low class; these three different groups have a lot of divergences.

High class is the group of people which have more money. They are usually owners of principal companies in Colombia. For example, the Santodomingo family is the owner of the better manufacturer of beer; this is Cerveza Bavaria; Mr. Luis Carlos Sarmiento is the owner of three banks and Mr. Carlos Ardila Lulle is the owner of Postobon, this is the competition of Coke. An important note, the rich class has access to the government and clubs, lives in the best areas of the cities, can go to the Universities in the US or Europe, and can go to take vacations, etc. However, they have problems also, like security. They don't have a lot of liberty, because they are threatened by kidnappers.

Low class is the group of Colombia which doesn't have opportunities. In contrast with high class, this poor class lives in marginal areas of cities; sometimes they cannot finish the high school and sometimes only finish primary school. Although this class is the working class, they don't have a lot of opportunities. Twenty percent of the population of Colombia doesn't have employment and an important percent of this number is in the low social class. The working class usually makes a minimum salary of US\$185 per month. They have a big family composition, such as pregnant women when are fifteen years old (a lot of them raped by stepfathers, etc.). A major development of poor class lives in rural areas; in this case, they are peasants. Sometimes they don't have public services like water and electricity. Furthermore teenagers younger than eighteen years old are often part of guerrillas groups; paramilitary group or army and they are now at war. However with all these problems, the working class in Colombia is humble and good.

The middle class in Colombia is actually the class more affected by the economy. With the current economic problems, the rich people will be richer and the poor people will be poorer. As a result the upper class needs to struggle to continue in this class. For instance, many people of this class are unemployed but need to try to continue the standard of living. In this case, some ones of these classes are called shameful families because they don't have money to eat. However, they will not to go to the streets to beg. The parents of middle class were university students and went to private high schools. At that time, they don't have money to pay one of these for their kids. The intermedium class in developed countries is the most important to raise the economy and Colombia has now less and less upper class.

In conclusion, governments in undeveloped countries with the help of developed countries need to do something about the big bridge between rich and poor. It is important to take important actions of the big difference of the actual social classes, in Colombia: high, middle and low. Globalization is making to cross an important line, which then the middle class is being exterminated and going to the poor class.

Quieres bailar

(Tayito Caliente)

R/W 50

Do you know what "Quieres bailar?" means? It means, "Would you like to dance?" in Spanish. People are supposed to use and hear this word in Latin dance clubs. Recently, Latin dance has been spreading not only to Europe but also Asia because of its passionate and sultry movement. Many people, including me, are into dancing Salsa in the world.

I met Latin dance such as Merengue and Salsa when I came to the US. It was the first time to see "pair dance." Basically, I like playing many sports and any other physical activities, so I was interested in these dances soon. I still clearly remember when I danced the first time. This memory makes me embarrassed because my dance was so awful. I went to a Latin nightclub with my friends without any information about Salsa dance. I danced with a South American girl, who is one of my friends but I didn't feel comfortable then because our dancing motions didn't correspond completely. She shouted and explained something, but I could not distinguish what she said because she spoke Spanish and this club was too loud to have conversation. I was totally confused. I danced like a marionette during the day. However, I was satisfied so much and roused to dance Salsa at the time. I hadn't expected that I would be into dancing in America. Probably, I am part "Latino" even though I am an Asian which are famous for being shy and quiet. I suspected where my grandpa came from . . .

First, before I started to dance Salsa I learned to dance Merengue because Merengue is much easier than Salsa. Merengue's basic step is two beat and good for beginners because the steps look like "walking" and it is easy to time the music and your steps. This simple step makes it easier for us to time and try to swivel. I learned many turns during Merengue.

After I understood how to dance Merengue, I wasn't satisfied with these simple steps. Then, eventually I tried to dance Salsa, which I really wanted to do. Salsa steps are much more complicated than Merengue's. The rhythm is four beats and the step is three step and one pause. However, Salsa swiveling is almost the same as Merengue's. So if you know some Merengue turns, you can use these turns for Salsa. Even though I could use Merengue turns for Salsa, I didn't dance Salsa better than I expected. I noticed that Salsa is very profound. It is hard to combine Salsa steps and swiveling at the same time. Also, we have to keep time with our partner's steps, which is complicated. Lately, I have started to understand how to time. My next goal is learning more swiveling and more complicated steps from advanced dancers.

I think that dancing is a kind of conversation without speaking, because your personality reflects your dance clearly. Particularly, pair dances such as Merengue and Salsa are very important to time with partner's steps. It feels like talking. I think that many people might agree with this idea. Therefore, I really care about my partner's stepping and movements. I don't feel comfortable if my partner and I dance differently. I prefer nice timing dancing better than trying difficult turns. Even though I am a beginner or intermediate dancer, I understand

what uncomfortable dance is. In addition, learning dancing is similar to learning new languages. When I see dancer's motion first time, I don't understand what they do. But I can recognize most of their dances clearly now. However, I still can't understand what more advanced dancers do. For me it is as difficult as understanding what fast native English speakers say.

I am often asked who my dance teacher is when I dance Salsa in front of South Americans whom I meet the first time. My dance teachers, all of whom are Latin American, are friends of mine. They have already known how to dance Salsa and Merengue because they have danced and looked at other people's dance since they were kids. Also, they teach me how to ask girls to dance with us. My teachers are so kind and patient. However, the only problem is they and Asians have different structure of body and rhythm senses. When I see their dancing, I often wonder why they can dance so well. Japanese traditional or festival dances, which are named "Nihon Buyou" or "Bon Odori," require slow and correct movements rather than dynamic movements or sense of rhythm like Latin dances. So we have a few disadvantages to dance Salsa because of our lifestyle.

Finally I was not interested in dancing before I saw Salsa. I didn't care about even Japanese dances. I preferred to play sports that we decide who win or loses. There is not winning or losing in the Salsa world. Maybe most Japanese people, one of whom is I, feel embarrassed to dance. But Salsa is different for me. Its active movement has been attracting me since I went to a nightclub with my friends. I am looking forward to thinking how my dance is going to change.

Effects of smoking marijuana

Maria Gabriela Medina

R/W 50

Marijuana smoking is very unhealthy for the human body. The body's reaction to marijuana can vary because of the drug concentration found in marijuana. The active drug in marijuana is THC (tetrahydrocannabinol). The body is affected psychologically and physically and marijuana is also said to cause addiction. Smoking marijuana affects a person psychologically by causing them to feel confused and disoriented. Physically, the drug causes cancer, weakens the immune system and is dangerous for the unborn. These facts are important to know because of the negative effects that are caused by smoking marijuana.

Among the physical effects is cancer. There is a strong link between smoking marijuana and smoking tobacco, this combination increases the risk of developing cancer. Studies show that many of the same carcinogens are greater in marijuana than in tobacco. So even if they consume less marijuana than tobacco they are still taking in the same amount or more. One marijuana cigarette is said to deposit four times as much tar as a cigarette.

The immune system is also affected by smoking marijuana. The immune system protects the body from viruses and bacteria that cause diseases. Studies have shown that marijuana affects the immune system found in the lungs. This

allows viruses to spread quickly and deeply throughout the body. For this reason, people with HIV are told not to smoke marijuana.

Another danger of smoking marijuana is the effect it has on fetuses. The results of smoking during pregnancy are many. In some cases it affects the size, weight, and the head size by making these figures much lower than in children born drug-free. The problem with having smaller babies is that they are at greater risk of becoming sick. The babies' nervous system is affected as well as their concentration.

In conclusion, the negative effects marijuana has on the human body are great and should be considered. Although marijuana users say they feel happy and relaxed, they are not confronting the dangers of smoking marijuana. They also believe the myth that marijuana is not addictive. Yet, what they fail to understand is that addiction is not only defined by a physical need for a drug but also by a dependency, regular use, and becoming resistant to the drug itself.

Nizwa Fort

Hamed Al-Ismaili

R/W 42

Oman is one of the Arab countries. It is located in Asia. In the past, the tribes in Oman were engaged in wars with other countries. Therefore, they had to build defenses against their enemies. So they built a lot of forts which are built to defend an area against attack. The government of Oman has protected and restored these forts.

Nizwa fort is one of the biggest forts in Oman. Nizwa is the name of the town where the fort was built. This town is located in the very heart of Oman. This fort is cylinder-shaped and has very high, thick walls, which are made by a special type of mud and stones. It has big gates made from a special type of wood, so break-in was difficult for enemies. In addition, there are a lot of outlets in the walls of the fort. Some of them were used to pour hot liquids onto enemies. Others were used for observing and shooting. Also, there are a lot of cannons inside the fort. Moreover, through the fort runs a *falaj*, a stream of water, which supplied people inside the fort water. But in the case of war, people didn't use the *falaj* because enemies might have put some poison in the water outside the fort. In that case, the defenders of the fort used only well water.

Nizwa fort had many uses during peacetime. In the fort, for example, there is a suite for the *imam*, the leader of the people, and his family, a school, a mosque, a prison, and a lot of stores for food and weapons. However, the main use for the fort was to be a center for the army.

These days, Nizwa fort is a museum opened for visitors. It displays some old weapons, furniture, traditional clothes, and a lot of antiques. The government has organized a guide team which can take tourists on tours inside the fort. Furthermore, it has published some books about the fort and its history for visitors.

In conclusion, Nizwa fort is an interesting landmark for tourists. Thus, it is a good idea to visit Oman and have a good time visiting this fort. Also, taking photos is a good way

to remember this place and to recommend this landmark for friends and family.

Down Under *Alfredo Bellucio* R/W 41

AUSTRALIA has been called DOWN UNDER for the reason that it is enclosed. Australia has an abundant territory and for that it is called an island, continent and country at the same time. Nobody knows about Australia and the capital or how many people live there. This reason is because on the news and on television only very little information appears about it. Australia is divided in seven states akin to New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, North Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania. Three of them are the most important cities in Australia like Melbourne, Sydney, and Canberra, for the reason that they are the most important and developed in that country.

First, Sydney is found in New South Wales, and the population is more or less five and half million of people, and has all the most important industries, factories. Every political development is present there and for that it is the heart of Australia. There are many places that only one can find, like The Harbour Bridge, The Opera House, which was built 1932, and the construction was stopped, because the technology did not exist at that time, and the cost of the construction was more than 100 million dollars, but the building was finished in 1973.

Another city is Canberra, which is the capital of Australia. This city is different from Sydney because it is smaller, and the population is between 500,000 and 400,000 people, and it was built by planners and everything there is in a perfect location, like the Government House, Parliament House, National Library together form a triangle of 90 degrees, and all the city is like that. Nobody knows about Canberra because the news always involves Sydney.

The last city is Melbourne, the capital of Victoria. It is the same size as Minnesota state, and is the second largest population of Australia, about four million of people as Sydney. Melbourne has many factories, not the same level as Sydney. Melbourne is a Metropolis, and has many places to visit as Art Galleries, Museum, Casinos, and National Parks etc. Even though Australia's cities are completely opposite from each other, they have never lost their own original Australian style.

In summary, Australia is a country where everybody can find the most beautiful nature, the most amazing buildings, most dangerous animals and trees, so it's the greatest country to visit.

Modern art: Why I love it *Ekanut Ungphankorn* R/W 42

"Why do you usually go to a museum of modern art as often as you can?" is a question I am often asked by my friends. It is not only because I love modern art but also because it

benefits me, unlike science, which gives me only logic. Besides increasing my knowledge, the arts develop my mind, too; they also explain the spirit of the culture that I visit.

Of course, knowledge is the benefit I will get. Seeing the arts, I have to consider the idea of their artists. Thus, I will practice thinking by analyzing their concepts. Though I can't figure out how they think, my brain will not "freeze" because of under-use. In addition, the modern arts will broaden my perspective, which is one reason for success. For example, in a business deal, I can talk over Vango's style with my client, who loves art.

In today's hectic society, technology stiffens people. From the time they are born, they are taught to have rational thinking. Arts will soften their minds. Instead of having only "straight line," they will understand "the curve." They will know what beautiful is. They will also comprehend how others think, bringing about the reduction of their egos. Moreover, arts will raise the individual motivation; for instance, I got an idea for a project while gazing at Michelangelo's sculptures.

Most importantly, modern arts explain the spirit of the culture which I visit. I can comprehend what the art means in the natives' minds and how they appreciate it. Furthermore, modern arts demonstrate a "time" I live in. They show our generation's spirit to the later generation's eyes. In the future, our great-grandchildren will be able to learn about our time via the arts like we learn history through our ancestors' arts.

In conclusion, to increase knowledge, to develop my mind, and to explain the spirit are the main reasons I love modern arts. They tell me about both time and culture, which I cannot find in science.

Living in Gainesville: An unforgettable experience *Oscar Real* R/W 42

Gainesville, Florida, one of many college towns in United States, combines a friendly atmosphere with a variety of large-town services. With a population of more than one hundred and fifty thousand, Gainesville is located in north-central Florida. It has spectacular weather and provides quick and easy access to the state's major cities. Gainesville is only a two-hour drive from Orlando, Tampa and Jacksonville. It is a very special place if you are planning to learn or improve your English skills. Life in Gainesville gives international students plenty of recreational opportunities, economic opportunities, and a welcoming environment.

There are many different kinds of recreational opportunities for international students, making their lives fun and comfortable. Sports and outside activities like golf, soccer, and tennis can be found in abundance, as can the scenic beauty of the area's flora and fauna. If you prefer to admire nature while doing some exercise, you can ride your bike. Bicycling is very popular, and rentals and maps of bicycle routes are available to newcomers. If you don't like using outdoor facilities, the University of Florida offers concerts and has one of the largest natural history museums in the southeast. There

are also some good places like coffee shops and movie theaters to hang out with your friends and have a great time.

One of the most important characteristics of Gainesville is that it's a small city in terms of development. Gainesville is the perfect location for new and expanding companies looking for the correct place. The population makes this town the correct location to attract business and industry. In a few years, I predict that Gainesville could be one of the most important towns in Florida and will have many employment opportunities. The University of Florida being located here increases job opportunities. Shands at UF provides a wide array of skilled positions available to graduates of medicine, engineering, and business. Many UF graduates find employment and make their homes in Gainesville.

If you want to feel as if you were at home, Gainesville offers you the amenities to do so. With the university atmosphere is a great deal of diversity. People, including other university students, are usually very friendly. International students practice and learn strategies for interaction and successful conversations with native speakers of English. In addition, many student organizations provide the opportunity for you to socialize with people from your own country.

Indeed, Gainesville is one of the most convenient locations in central Florida. It provides its citizens with many recreational and job opportunities. It is especially helpful for international students, who take advantage of the variety of available services. Are you looking for place to live, to learn English or to spend some vacation time? I fully recommend coming to Gainesville in the Sunshine State, and you will have an unforgettable experience.

How to create a Quality Manual

María Goitía
R/W 41

Globalization demands high quality of work of all current companies. An indispensable tool to find the maximum excellence is a Quality Manual. A Quality Manual describes how any company follows rules to get quality in its products. This manual is an important document that shows members of a company the general procedures for each department. The steps to create a Quality Manual are: observation, evaluation, emitting pieces of advice, and editing of the Quality Manual.

In the first place, it is essential to observe each general procedure and type the common way those procedures are done. This activity changes depending on the company's size and it demands a careful attitude in an auditor. The auditor is a person or group of people who inspects all dealings in a corporation. The purpose of the observation is to diagnose monitoring of the rules, laws, and parameters required to get a maximum fineness. After this process, the auditor has to make a simple handbook about the present *modus operandi* in the corporation and promote a meeting with the board of directors. The idea of that meeting is to create awareness about the company's current situation.

At this point, it is necessary to look over and compare each general procedure with the International Clauses of

Quality. The auditor spends usually one or two weeks creating a comparative balance which is submitted to the board of directors. This step is extremely detailed and strict because the report that is obtained at this stage will be the foundation of the success needed to obtain the quality in the company. Also, a guidebook that shows some advice of the auditor to improve the current situation in the company is required. These pieces of advice can or cannot be followed by the board of directors because sometime this implicates a high production and a high maintenance cost of the corporation, but in the majority of the cases it is desirable to follow the advice.

Now, the auditor has the ability to order the preparation of the Quality Manual. This one must have as many sections as the clauses that the norm of quality has that apply to the company. The main ideas contained in the manual have to be the work instructions and description of procedures, besides the new personnel's training. Finally, a different auditor must check if the concluding manual is in fact a good representation of the real functioning of the corporation. This step is called editing the Manual.

In summary, creating a Quality Manual is a extensive process, but it is a great demand inside of globalization's concepts. It is important to make a good feedback procedure among the board of directors, the company workers, and the auditor. In order to get a good Quality Manual, any company has to do four basic activities: observation and evaluation of all the procedures, emitting pieces of advice, and editing of the final Quality Manual.

House

Maria Cecilia Hou
R/W 400

The characteristics of houses represent the creativity of people. A perfect, large and beautiful house is one that doesn't need anything, neither the minimum details nor the big ones. This house will possess many rooms that may be decorated in different kinds of styles, a big garden, and an incredible entrance.

A house looks better if it's decorated in different kinds of styles. This way, it doesn't look like it has monotony. For instance, each bedroom is going to be decorated with different accessories and materials. The walls are going to be painted with colors that are adequate for the ambiance and the personality of the person. The most important thing is the space that it must have.

The garden represents the peacefulness of the house. If it's large, it is better because this way you can find nature. It should have lots of plants and colorful flowers. A garden must bring joy to the house. Moreover, you will feel relaxed in the quiet environment that you can discover.

The most important impression of a house is the entrance. It should look nicer and always must be well arranged because it is the first thing that a guest would see when she or he enters a house. The entrance represents all that you can see inside. For instance, if you have a messy entrance, maybe the

inside of the house doesn't look pleasant, or if you have a well-arranged entrance, the inside looks pleasing to the eyes.

In conclusion, a house should represent the personality and creativity of a person. Also, the way it is arranged and decorated should symbolize the character of a person. If someone wants a perfect house, it must be decorated in different kinds of styles, have a big garden, and an incredible entrance.

Swimming freestyle

Walter Arends

R/W 400

Swimming is a healthy sport that people practice to stay in good health. There are four competitive strokes in swimming: freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly. Freestyle is the most basic and easiest stroke. Normally, it is the first stroke that people learn to swim. The following implements are needed for a good swim: a swimming pool, swimsuit and goggles.

The first step is to keep floating on the water on one's stomach in a horizontal position, with your arms and legs stretched. The arms should be completely stretched out above the head. After that, start kicking; freestyle kick is one leg after the other, with a continuous rhythm. The next step is the stroke; freestyle stroke is like the kick, one arm next to the other; when one arm is in front of you, the other must be behind you.

The last and most difficult step is breathing. It is made by getting your head out of the water, and it is when the stroke is in the half of the movement. You can breathe on the side if you want to, but it has to be on the side that your arm is out of the water.

Those are basic steps for swimming freestyle. With practice you can get much better at your swimming, and you can increase your speed.

The monitoring program and how it affects our privacy

Maria Gabriela Medina

R/W 50

Thousands of foreign students come each year to the United States seeking education. These students come from different backgrounds and each one has his own beliefs that he thinks are true and wants to express them in whatever way he or she can. On September 11, 2001 terrorism hit this country. One of its results is a monitoring program that allows the government to track foreign students and pay close attention to them through different ways. I think that this program has its benefits but at the same time has some drawbacks. On one side, this program will give the government an extra tool to protect itself against terrorists, but on the other side it will make all the foreign students feel like they are being watched all the time and feel like people need to be cautious around them. In addition the private life of these students might not be respected anymore.

The events of September 11 have created a new image of foreign students. Before that day, a foreign student was simply an individual who came to this country to learn and enjoy the spirit of freedom. Now this student can have a different definition because he might have a different purpose for being in this country. He can be a terrorist who is here to do evil! For me being in this country is like visiting someone that does not know you a lot. Since the United States is hosting us and giving us all the rights to seek the knowledge that we came here for, it also has the right to take all the precautions that will allow it to defend itself against another September 11. As long as the student is here for education, he or she should not be against this program. This individual should not reject that everything he or she is doing in the society be monitored if he or she is not doing anything wrong. In my opinion this program is not taking away any of my rights; on the contrary it is making this country a safer place to live in for me and for its citizens.

One of the drawbacks of this program is that it will make foreign students feel like they are being watched at every step that they are taking and this might make them feel that they are being deprived of their freedom. People might think that they have to be cautious around foreign students and might start to treat them in a different way and this way might sometimes be bad.

In addition to that, if the foreign students are monitored all the time, this might lead to breaking into their private lives. If the government is to allow checking on the student's e-mails and phone calls then this means that these individuals can no longer use these things to write or talk about anything private. So someone might feel that his privacy is not respected.

In conclusion, I still think that the United States is the leader of "freedom" in this world and because of that, I am with any idea that will protect this nation and its people from evil as long as my private life is protected and as long as I am treated as a welcomed guest.

The variety of lifestyle

Mi Jung Kim

R/W 400

All countries in the world have a unique lifestyle in their own way. This is affected by their traditional culture. Also, this varies with the time, place and climate. Therefore, it differs with countries in a mode of living. I think that South Korea and the United States have many differences on some points. Three styles of them are clothing, food, and shelter.

One important difference is clothing style. In Korea, clothes are formal and seem to be noticed more by other Koreans. Also, Koreans wear clothes which do not expose one's self in public. Additionally, when they attend a funeral, the majorities are dressed in white. On the contrary, clothing in the United States is much unrestrained and people do not pay attention to the others' clothes. Americans mainly wear comfortable clothes. Also, when they attend a funeral, they wear black.

Second difference is food. On one hand, Koreans eat mostly rice and vegetable. Korean cooking uses mainly traditional things. Also, it is almost always a fixed meal type daily. Koreans set the table with all dishes at once, not course meals. Additionally, Koreans share food out of one dish. On the other hand, Americans usually eat meat, and a dish with some vegetable. They eat different dishes, which come from the other countries. Additionally, their food is offered one by one and is a variety meal type daily. Also, Americans do not share food but each person has his or her own dish.

Finally, shelter is a special difference between Korea and the United States. In Korea, Koreans assume the seating form. For this reason, heat warms the floor of their rooms which is called an *ondol* (a hot-floor room). They are covered with a floor paper, not carpet. Also, Koreans don't put on shoes, but instead they walk around barefoot in the room. On the contrary, because Americans live in a standing form, the floor of their room is cold, and a heater is installed. Therefore, it warms only the air. Also, all rooms are covered with carpet, even the bathrooms. Additionally, Americans walk around in one's shoes in the rooms.

Because South Korea and the United States have traditional culture, there are significant differences in their clothing, food, and shelter. Of course, wherever they live, their minds are almost alike. However, we should remember that they have a distinctive way of life in their own way.

Rice alcohol

Chao-chih Wang (George)

R/W 400

There is no doubt that rice alcohol is very important in Chinese culture and life. In fact, there are several ways to use rice alcohol. People can use it not only for drinking, cooking but also curing and celebrating.

The reasons are quite clear. It is very traditional that Chinese always brew their own alcohol, which is called rice alcohol. One of the most important benefits about rice alcohol is for drinking. For example, people always use it for celebrating or increasing the atmosphere in parties or family gathering. There are many kinds of rice alcohol, like fruit, sugar, flower smell and so on. The original one, which tastes a little pungent, could be more than fifty percent alcohol if they preserve it longer than three years. Normally, people drink it just around twenty percent alcohol and make the rice alcohol a little warm to be perfect.

Second, Chinese people use the rice alcohol for cooking. They always drip a few drops in the meals so that they would be more delicious for some food. The most obvious evidence is that people always marinate beef, pork, and chicken with rice alcohol before cooking because they always have some raw smell.

The third and very important reason is that people use rice alcohol for curing. For example, Chinese use the twenty percent rice alcohol when they get hurt and have a little pain in the skin. They put some rice alcohol around the wound so that it can make the patient feel better and without pain. Also, high

quality rice alcohol can kill bacteria and sterilize when they get hurt.

After explaining the reasons above, it is very wise to say that rice alcohol is very important and useful in Chinese culture and life. They can use different kinds of rice alcohol in drinking, cooking, celebrating, and curing.

Different points for watching a soccer game

Fabio Prado Chaib Jorge

R/W 41

There are several forms to understand a soccer game. For many people soccer is the most important thing in their lives. When one great admirer is watching a soccer game, he or she is not just cheering, he or she makes examination of the formation of that game to understand that it is necessary to know how each team can be divided. We can divide players into three parts: defenders, midfielders, and forwarders.

A soccer aficionado should be able to observe the players playing defense. In spite of the soccer team's goal, which is to win the game, making many goals is also important to keep the defense protected against the other team. Therefore, he or she can watch many games that for most teams the first thing to think about are playing to save its goalkeeper to do not take goals.

Although the traditional soccer belief says that the main sector in a soccer game is forward, this is not true for the majority of soccer coaches. They think that for the forwarders to make goals is necessary for some people who connect them next to the goal, such as kicking the ball into the area to be "easy" for forwarders conclusion at the goal. They are called midfielders, so their paper in the field is extremely hard because they need to protect their defense and at the same time start making a goal. Actually, coaches put them in 4 players and they share that function in 2 parts, each one with 2 players.

On the other hand, almost all of the famous players in the soccer's life were or are forwarders. That happens because how everybody knows that the most important thing at soccer is a goal, so they are the ones who make more goals at each game. They are the stars at games; one can trust them because they will be able to decide whatever the destiny of the game is.

Finally with these explications, the admirer of soccer is going to know how his or her team is playing in any game. Therefore, the functions can be divided in 3 forms, players who play in the defense, midfield, and forward. Each one has different "ways" in the game; one has to protect his goal against other team while one has to make goals to win the game.

How to be a good friend?

Claudia Aires

R/W 41

In life, there are many important things: One is the friendship. One meets people but sometimes they will be friends. How to be a good friend? One must be sincere, helpful,

and understanding. This is very difficult but one must follow these steps.

The first step for a good friend is sincerity. A sincere friend is the kind that one will tell the other person the truth, even when one does not want to hear it. This kind of honesty builds trust which is the foundation for a strong and long lasting friendship. A sincere friend is one that can be counted on for support and strength, because one knows there is no hidden agenda. Only sincere friends are the ones that will help you through the rough times.

During these rough times one is able to tell who is a true friend. One of the duties of a friend is to be willing to help you in sticky situations such as running out of gas at three in the morning, or to provide a shoulder to cry on when someone breaks up with you. Friendships are based on reciprocity: Friends do things for each other because they know they can count on their help at a later date. A true friend does not need to be with you at all times to prove they are your friend. They just need to be there when one needs them. Same as a person being there for them when they need someone.

The third step is understanding. In any friendship, it is important to have understanding. When one is a friend, this does not mean that they always think the same way. People are different but it is important to understand the other person. Sometimes this friend needs understanding and support, and that's when one must respect the person's feelings, goals, and the way he or she thinks.

By following these steps one can be a good friend. Always remember that friendship is an important aspect of life. Definitely, friendships are not easy. One needs to put a big effort in order to be a good friend. As a result, though, this effort is rewarded with many good friends always willing to help and care for you.

Contrast life customs between Venezuela and the U.S.A.

Maria Eugenia Menendez

R/W 41

All countries in the world have different customs in their religion, culture, family, and society. They are different for many reasons like geography, weather, population or history. Some of the most contrasting differences between countries are family, society or religion customs. For all these reasons Venezuela and the United States have many diverse traditions.

One of the most important contrasts is family customs. In the Venezuelan family the children are very close to their parents. Their relationship is very loving and their affiliation is always between parents and kids. On the other hand, in an American family their relations are different; in this type of family children are more independent. Their relationships in this case are very friendly and their connections are more like friends or partners. Also, Venezuelan families are bigger than American families. Normally, in Venezuela, families have numerous children between two and four. On the contrary, the United States families try to have only one or two kids.

Also, another contrast is when people usually decide to leave their homes. In Venezuela, people don't leave their homes until they get married or get a new job in a different city from where their parents live. However, American adolescents leave their homes when they go to college or when they are eighteen years old.

Another distinct custom between the countries is when people normally decide to get married. Venezuelan people very commonly get married very young, between twenty-five and thirty years old. Unlike Venezuelans, American people usually get married older, because they normally decide to get married around thirty and thirty five years old. Also, in Venezuela, the boyfriend and the girlfriend do not live together in the same house until they get married. However, in United States normally people live together before getting married.

Another very significant contrast is lifestyles. In Venezuela, people generally are more traditional than Americans. On the one hand, Americans are very practical, so perhaps that is the cause for children to be informal with adults. On the other hand, young people in Venezuela address old people very politely and with much respect for them. Even though the United States is different, when young people are with old people they address them as their friends.

In conclusion, between these two countries there are different lifestyles and people have diverse customs. All these contrasts may be because of the different geography, weather, population and economy. Also, some of these different traditions are for religious reasons because most part of the population in Venezuela is Catholic. In contrast the United States has many diverse religions.

My hometown

Wanjun Yan

R/W 42

My hometown, in which HuanAn County government is located, was a silent and green place, but recently, tourists have come from all over the world to break its quiet way. Residents in this town feel excited about the change in their lifestyle. They have an opportunity to make friends with people who come from different countries.

My hometown is really an ancient town. Tourists enjoy their trip to the town because they feel as if they have returned to the 18th Century. You can see many ancient buildings, and even some original and natural lifestyle here. Some guests say that they like the simple and pollution-free lifestyle here.

Oh, don't worry! You didn't really return to the 18th century. There are many modern guesthouses and hotels as well as exciting entertainment amenities in the town. You will feel very comfortable here. By the way, don't take too much money. Everything is so cheap that newcomers can't believe it's true.

Unfortunately, most people in my hometown have a poor English speaking and listening level. If a beautiful girl says to you, "I love you," don't fall in love! She just means she likes to talk with you and she will help you if you need. Sometimes, their poor English can be a lot of fun. I prefer that people keep their English level like this.

Take some pictures here. I believe your visit to my hometown will be the best memory in your life.

A technician . . . please!

Oscar Augusto Mendoza

R/W 40

“The world hasn’t changed for the politic, or else for the technique.” **-Friederich Durrenmatt**

The meditation, the necessity of life, and the debate, moreover, unnecessary over well-being have led me to the desperate petition of an order or disorder having technicians as protagonists.

First of all, I say that the debate over well-being is unnecessary because everybody, absolutely everybody, knows that the human being’s only objective is its well-being. Simple existence is *sine qua non* condition of animals who, born being animals, obey, certainly, adaptations to nature and whatever they can, through instinct, obtain.

The human being is born and needs to create its own existence, navigating towards and through the project of its life that simply submerges it in tasks and other things. The human being has to force itself through exercises that are strictly superfluous. It has to be somebody who can be obedient to well being as well as to what he or she desires. This exercise means, to the animals’ difference, if not in the adaptation of the media to the subject, if not in the adaptation to the subject to the media.

Now, the reason why I add superfluous to the complicated exercise of transformation of the media towards subject. I’d like, here, to center this reflection on the thought of *Ortega Y Gasset* and say that warmth and food are human needs and are conditions for living, in the sense of mere existence and simply being in the world. “Are, then, needs in proportion to that which the human being needs in order to live.”

For the human being, according to *Ortega y Gasset*, living is absolutely necessary, but its well-being is more essential. The human being doesn’t look for heat when it is cold; it makes the fire, and makes it because living is necessary, existing. And the exercise of that technique, structural resources that are implicit in the human being itself, shows up as the capacity to transform nature, and in it, play like this produces well-being.

The technique itself appears to us as synonyms of man, as the development of fundamental parts of the spiritual form and the intellectual importance of the fulfillment of dreams, constructing over nature a reality that challenges, that adapts to its task, and the integral conceptual principal of its existence.

If I am cold I make fire and therefore I don’t die from the cold. If I am hungry I simply eat and so life exists and my needs satisfy my rights over nature and my thoughts and my need that compels me to construct, and traverse the road that I am going to cover through this life that is, no less, my existence.

This road is constructed submerged in an exercise, in a methodology of life that permits exploration, with the nature’s resources, of the mechanism of well-being and good living that thanks the technique, the *sine qua non* condition of the human being and permits us to enjoy superfluous desire that is over and above simply living on the earth.

I’d like to return to Ortega: “. . . It occurs to everyone that if the human being didn’t have the intellectual capacity to discover new relationships between things that surround it, it wouldn’t invent instruments or advantageous methods to satisfy its needs.” And more . . . “When the historian takes in front of his eyes vast ranges of time, he finds that he can’t name it or else is alluding to the peculiarity of his technique.”

Apparently, some important people in the world and above all, politicians, differ on the tasks of the game of existing and invite us to no be too “technical” and be more human, as if technique and humanness cannot be related. As if the human being is only that which is regulated by intuition and not that which is sensitized by technique.

The game that some politicians propose to adapt to the circumstances and not that the circumstances adapt to us, makes me cry out at the imperious necessity to solicit somebody who understands Technique as it can behave like a human being and definitely give rest to those who look for heat when it’s cold because they don’t know to make fire.

It’s necessary to construct the game of the nation without lies or falsifications of the truth because “Lying in the game is falsifying the game and, so, not playing.”

How to maintain a Bonsai

Mari Tatsuzawa

R/W 41

Bonsai is one of Japanese traditional arts of ornamental plants. When one starts to raise a bonsai into good shape, one needs knowledge of horticultural skills, such as how to water, how to prune the branches, and how to wire the branches. Bonsais are kept small. The height of most bonsais range from five centimeters (two inches) to one meter (three feet). One needs some good technique and a lot of experience about bonsais.

How frequently one waters bonsais depends on many things. One should try to water the plants every day in the summer and several times a week in the winter. Generally, if one keeps one’s trees outside where rain can water them, one does not have to worry in the winter except in the hot weather or little rain. However, in dry season or dry area, can quickly dry out the soil; therefore, one must check moisture levels regularly and spray water to the leaves with a sprayer.

Pruning bonsais is necessary to maintain a good shape. Before pruning, one must find out the type of plant and research the best times to prune. New growth is mostly pruned during the growing season to maintain the shape of bonsais. Moreover, old season growth is pruned in the autumn. When one prunes away the outward growth, one must trim just after the next series of leaves.

When one is wiring, one should try to follow the natural curves of the trees in nature. Wiring is a temporary measure to control branches for a desired shape. The method of wiring is clenching the branch with both hands and applying the wire around the branch slowly. The wire should not be left permanently on the tree. Furthermore, one should check regularly whether the wire does not bite into the tree. In conclusion, to maintain a bonsai is very difficult; also one needs knowledge about plants. One must look carefully at the bonsai and check it every day for the plant's condition. Always remember that one is working with a living plant.

Salsa

Yamer Jimenez

R/W 400

It is easy to learn to dance "Salsa," if one can feel the music in their heart. Salsa is a tropical music that not only provides a relaxing moment while one is dancing, but also offers the opportunity to be in shape, and it is a great occasion to know interesting people. There are several major steps involved in learning to dance Salsa like: to have the intention to do it, to find a good partner, to select the correct music, to learn the basics steps, and to learn to turn round.

The first step is to have the real intention to learn a different kind of music. This is a very important step, because one needs to know that learning to dance tropical music it is necessary to feel the music not only in your feet, but also in your soul. Next, it is important to find a good partner who has the same or more inspiration than you have. If one could find that person, this will be a perfect combination of two people with the same goal.

The third step is to select the correct music for you. This means not only the right music, but also it means to choose the correct rhythm for you, not too slow or too fast. The next step is to learn the basic step, which will be the base for a successful knowledge. First, relax and feel the music that easily takes over your body and your movements. In addition, give alternating steps in front and behind you, and synchronize vigorously, naturally and gracefully all of them.

The last step is to learn to turn around, which implies more concentration and precision in the movements that the basic steps require. First, hold your partner softly but firmly, and turn around simultaneously with the previously established direction. As a result, both of you will meet together at the beginning point.

The final result is a fantastic experience that will provide another point of view, when one is dancing. One does not have to see other friends having fun all the night. Now you can be the attraction of the party. All these things are possible, if one follows these easy steps to learn how to dance "Salsa".

How are bananas processed for export

Jason Serrano

R/W 41

One of the most principal agricultural products for export in Ecuador, South America, is bananas (*Musca paradisiaca*). It is important to mention that the whole process actually starts when the plant is sowed, although major emphasis is put in the packing of the fruit. Nevertheless, in the plantation one must also be careful with the phyto-sanitary controls in order to be able to export specifically to the United States. This essay will be focused basically on the packing of the fruit starting from when the raceme is cut until the fruit is placed in the port.

The first step is to choose the right racemes that are ready in the plantation. Each raceme has to be at least a grade of 42 in thickness in order to be cut. Then one has to use a special ladder to reach and cut each raceme. This is the step where the producers are still researching to find a better way because at this moment the raceme suffers usually the major damage. Immediately after that, the raceme has to be placed in a cradle to prevent any further kind of damage while it is transported from the plant to the funicular line. Next, the raceme is carried and placed in the funicular line and transported to the packing building. In this place, the raceme is checked one more time and qualified by a special person who has a caliper gauge to measure each cluster in the raceme and make sure that it is the correct grade and size. After, the raceme is deflowered to minimize impurities in the latex bathtub. Finally, the raceme is transported to the parking lot where this is the beginning of the process for packing the fruit.

The second step consists of cutting each cluster from the raceme using a special tool and then putting them into the latex bathtub. Next, each cluster is cut once again for presentation and to arrange the crown using a curved knife. All the fingers from the clusters that one eliminates in order to give the cluster a better presentation are called rebound. Some producers usually sell this rebound to local markets or generally use it to feed the cattle in the same farm. After that, the clusters pass to another bathtub with fresh water to avoid any residues of latex and filth. It is important to point out that each cluster has to be in this place for at least ten minutes, otherwise the fruit could be spotted with the latex. Thereafter, the clusters are placed on a special tray with holes in the bottom to drain the water. Then these trays, which contain the clusters, go through a table to be fumigated with a special fungicide to prevent crown from rotting.

The third step begins after the fruit is fumigated. Then another person puts a distinctive label in each cluster with the brand name of the exporter, such as: Dole, Del Monte, Bonita Bananas, etc. The clusters are then placed in a particular cardboard box. It is necessary to weigh each box using a scale; the weight depends on the country of destination. For example, if the embarkation is for Chile, South America, one can send boxes over fifty pounds but if it is for the United States or China, the maximum weight per box is forty-two pounds. Next, the clusters inside the box are covered with a special plastic bag

where all the air is extracted with a vacuum cleaner to prolong the ripeness process of the fruit. Soon afterward, the box is covered and bailed into a container with a limit of one thousand boxes. The last step is to take the fruit to the port and wait to unload the boxes from the trucks or wait until the containers are placed inside the ship. Finally, it is equally important to note that when something in the packing process fails, all the fruit in the port can be rejected.

As one can observe, to export bananas is not as easy as it seems because one has to follow a very detailed and complicated process in order to sell this kind of tropical fruit. The care begins since one sows the plant and ends when the fruit is already in the ship. It is a cultivation which needs a lot of human labor but it is quite profitable. Notwithstanding, in spite that Ecuador is one of the main exporters of the fruit in South America, it still has problems of commerce especially within the European community.

The tennis game

Noel Lasanta
R/W 400

People can find different ways to learn the tennis game. Sometimes there are people that have a natural ability for sports, but they have to learn the correct way to play this game. I hope that you learn the tennis game with this essay.

The first step is that you should talk with a certified tennis instructor; that way you can choose your equipment correctly. Meanwhile, he will go to tell you the correct manner to work with you. The next step that you have to keep in mind is not to spend a lot of money in rackets at the first stage of learning; just choose the correct one but not too expensive.

The next step is being interested at all times and to pay attention to the instructor all the time because this person has a lot of experience and knows how to teach you. After that, ask him or her about some strategies that you can follow to learn the tennis game quickly. Finally, you can see all the things related with the tennis game like: magazines, newspapers, sports news and the Internet.

After that, it is recommended that you subscribe to the United States Tennis Association and play in certified tournaments. After you play in those tournaments the USTA gives you a level rank. They will send you information periodically about some events, game strategies, new rules and techniques that you can use to improve your game.

Finally, you can enjoy the tennis game as a whole because you are going to meet a lot of people. Therefore, you or your children can get a scholarship in a prestigious university just for playing very good tennis.

If I lose . . .

(Mr. Pooh)
R/W 50

Even if I lose my wallet, I can live. I couldn't use city buses any more though.

Even if I lose all of my money, I can live. I would be hungry though.

Even if I lose my hair, I can live. I would be cold in winter night though.

Even if I lose my arms, I can live. I couldn't hold my favorite Pooh Bears though.

Even if I lose my legs, I can live. I couldn't dance lightly any more though.

Even if I lose my sight, I can live. I couldn't see *mamasitas* on the beach though.

Even if I lose my hearing, I can live. I couldn't listen to Elvis though.

But if I lose my this, this smile, I can't live. This is my all.

Student websites

R/W 50

The students of R/W 50 have made a set of websites to promote themselves and display their work. See them at <http://geocities.com/tesltimes/home.html>.

Thanks from the Editor

Thank you students for allowing us to share your writing. I hope you enjoy reading your fellow students' essays, poetry and paragraphs. Also thanks to Noreen Baker and the HUB 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 Jessica Mills, and Darion Hutchinson for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone!

Steve Flocks