
ELI STUDENT VOICES

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Getting Along With Your Partner

Satoru Kake

(1st Place)

R/W 60

“I can’t live any more in such a village where men don’t hunt.” A woman who grew up in the uncivilized upper reaches of the Amazon got married to an American man by a matter of chance. She moved to New York, lived there with him and had a child but after all, she left her husband and child in New York and went back to her hometown in the Amazon. This is what she said when she left. Now she is in the village where men are hunting and she is living womanly and happily. When I saw this documentary film on TV, I was impressed and wondered about sex and the gap between the sexes. God alone knows why and we will never know why there are men and women on earth. We are the living witnesses to prove the truce that they have survived severe nature while raising their children again and again over a million years. In order to survive and develop through evolution, humans have been struggling and must have realized the differences between men and women biologically and psychologically. The people who notice the differences have tried to make good use of them to accommodate depending on the circumstances and those differences are still remaining today with no changes. Since campaigns for equal rights for women have become active nowadays and women have gone into several societies, it seems that the differences have been disappearing on the surface. However, it is impossible to conceal physical and mental essences of them and we can’t create women from men and men from women perfectly. Grasping their difference completely has been a big homework for a long time and we still can’t finish it. It is a long way from perfect but some differences between men and women appear when we see their daily life. It is obvious to see the different values between males and females by instinct in their house, their work and their leisure.

You can observe a big difference in their sense of values when you examine at home their domestic chores, their finances and their conversation. Since a long time ago, maybe from the primitive age, humans divided their roles of housework. Men thought that they were expected to protect their families from fierce animals and enemies because they had physical strength. From the beginning, they were supposed to go to the dangerous outside world and hunt game such as boars and mammoths at the risk of their lives. In this way, their abilities to move around large areas have made progress. This fact is supported by a scientific discovery which showed “males navigate better in an unfamiliar environment” (“Men, women find,” 2004, p. 6A). Today, men are supposed to do heavy work

such as mowing the lawn, repairing the roof, washing the car, painting rooms and throwing out the garbage in most of the families in the world. On the other hand, women thought that they were not expected to do what men were expected. They were expected to manage inside and around their house. For the first time when women were appointed to the post of taking care of children, growing vegetables and gathering fruits and nuts, they have developed their abilities to keep watch and move around the limited sphere of their houses quickly and smoothly. Because they were often pregnant or taking care of small children, they could not accompany men on the hunt, or wander far from home. Now, women are supposed to do light work like cooking, knitting, needlework, washing dishes and laundry.

At home, you can also realize the differences of household finance between males and females. It is often said that men are idealistic and women are realistic as for their money in general. As mentioned above, it might be natural that men tend to be outside the houses and to look outwardly because they always think about hunting big animals in order to provide for their families. Women, on the other hand, tend to be inside of the houses and to keep watch inwardly because they are required to maintain their family-lives by noticing their family-member’s changes of feelings and behaviors such as depression and illness. For these reasons, it is natural for men to be idealistic and for women to be practical when they manage their personal finances. According to a Yankelovich survey, “More women than men describe themselves as bargain hunters while more men than women describe themselves, in terms of money style, as risk takers.” The results of this survey show that women try to spend their money practically, while men are likely to invest and get more fortune (“Financial Practicality,” 2001, ¶2).

Consider risk in the situation of hunting. Cave men sometimes had to take a risk and get close enough to drive their spear into mammoths. Cave women, on the other hand, couldn’t risk injury because then they couldn’t carry on care for their children. Actually, while most modern people think that the primitive hunting was more important than the gathering, anthropologists think the opposite could be true. Hunting is “iffy.” Maybe you will kill an animal; maybe you won’t. But, probably, women could always find some fruits, nuts and seeds. That was the “safe investment” that saved the family during periods of no luck hunting.

Here is my experience. A few years ago, I went to the casino to gamble with my wife. At the roulette section, we bet only on the color red or black at first. As we were playing, we both could make some money. While my wife was playing Red or Black, I began to play Straight Up because I had enough money that I earned and felt I could get rich quick. After all, she

won and got more money and I lost all the money that I had. Though men try to make money in the stock market or by gambling because they are dreaming of a fortune at one swoop, women try to live within their income steadily. In other words, men seek all or none while women seek sense of stability.

Another recent survey reported in Live Science announced that “among 43 percent of couples the women make more of the decisions in the domestic realm than men do” and “forty-five percent of women said they are in charge of home finances” (“At Home, Women Rule,” 2008, ¶9). This research also reflects the different ideas of household finance between males and females. One of the reasons why women should face up to the cold, hard facts of the situation is that because “they live longer, they earn less pay and often receive no pension” (“Financial Practicality,” 2001, ¶3). It is necessary for women who are considered to live longer lives and to have low social status compared to men to plan how they can manage family lives on a realistic basis.

The various views of their conversation at home are also major factors when you examine the difference between male and female. Men go home from work with fatigue every day and seek ease at home. It is important for men to talk about their jobs to make their partners understand how hard they work all the day in order to nurse their pride and to recover from fatigue, while women are busy with housework and taking care of children all the day. It is important for women to talk about daily happenings such as children or their common hobbies to feel close to their partners by sharing the feelings.

Not only when men and women are at their home, but also you can see their different sense of values at their places of work. It has not been a long time since women were on a par with men in business. You may be surprised how many women are working in several types of job today when you compare to fifty years ago. As stated before, each sex has defined their roles that helped to survive severe environment since ancient times. Men hunted animals while women gathered food near their home and took care of their children. Passing through these important tasks, from the point of the theory of evolution, their brains have advanced to enable them to perform their different jobs. Men developed their brains to use essential navigation skills as hunters. It reflects “the fact that there are many more male mathematicians, airplane pilots, bush guides, mechanical engineers, architects and race car drivers than female ones” (Renato, 2000, ¶3). Men are considered to be superior to women when it comes to “estimate time, judge speed of things, carry out mental mathematical calculations, orient in space and visualize objects in three dimensions” (Renato, 2000, ¶3). On the other hand, women developed their brains to have smooth communication skills through child care. This is one of the reasons why there are more female telephone operators and receptionists than male. Women are considered to excel at verbal and social skills and empathy, in other words, human relations. These differences between male and female originate in “the brain region in the cortex called inferior-parietal lobule (IPL) which is significantly larger in men than in women” (Frederikse, 1999, pp. 896-901). Moreover, the left side IPL is larger in men than the right side, stated JHU researchers. “The left IPL is involved with perception of time

and speed, and the ability of mentally rotating 3-D figures.” The right IPL is related to “the memory involved in understanding and manipulating relationships and the ability to sense relationships between body parts” (Renato, 2000, ¶14). The difference of the brain structure between sexes lies also in the hippocampus. According to the study, “Both sexes use the right hippocampus in negotiating the maze. But only men used the left hippocampus.” It suggests males navigate better in an unfamiliar environment (“Men, Women Find,” 2004, p. 6A). These scientific discoveries enable us to understand the different types of job between men and women.

I have often heard complaint about women from my friends who are working for several companies with some woman-staffs. They are always complaining about women’s lack of ability and flexibility as members of society. Fifty years might not be enough for women to acclimate to a male-dominated society. Men basically do not defy their boss. Even though their boss gives wrong orders to them, they try to take orders for the time being or to pretend to do that. Women tend to express their different opinions without considering if they think their opinions are right no matter how high their boss’ position is. They don’t try to accept unwilling orders. In Japan, men are definitely going to be in trouble if they disobey their boss’ orders; on the other hand, women might be forgiven their misbehavior and be accepted their opinion in general even if they refuse to carry out orders. The noteworthy difference between men and women is the way that they do after their boss issues orders which lead obviously to awkward result. Men don’t object to the decision made by their boss; however, they don’t follow the unwise instruction from their boss. They try to finish off their work by the way of their own and to accomplish them properly. Their boss doesn’t complain about their work as long as they bear fruit. In contrast, women try to do as they are told by their boss even if they know that it is going to cause some trouble because their boss orders so. Naturally enough, they are in big trouble and might be attacked by their boss. Women get angry because they think that they just follow their boss’ order. They tend to take it so seriously that they don’t know how to get things done flexibly as business women.

Following the different values between male and female in their house and work, you can also see the big difference in their leisure hours. A matter of taste makes considerable contrast between the sexes when concrete examples are given. Imagine that you are having dinner with your girlfriend or wife at a restaurant. You often see that men decide the menu more quickly than women; however, women are slow in making their decision. Generally, women tend to like to read their moods and enjoy imaging several tastes of foods when they try to order them at the restaurant. Therefore, even though their partners have already decided their menu, women have difficulty in choosing them because many foods catch their eyes. Men decide already what they are going to eat before checking the menu in their mind and order without being irresolute, but, in contrast, women would often change their mind by the atmosphere and their moods even if they already chose. Men always have clear senses of purpose and have tendency to attain their decided objects while women are capable of adapting to changing circumstances.

A second example is when a couple takes a trip all by themselves. Men have previously arranged their plans and are going to carry out as scheduled. However, women are thinking that they want to drop by some spots when they find them interesting and exciting without considering partners' plans. This gap of the way of thinking between them often brings fight to them. Most men try to achieve their goals according to their schedules; therefore, they get irritated when they find difficulty in carrying out their previous plans. On the other hand, because women grasp the things on the spot, changing plans are all in the day's work. As I mentioned in the example of restaurant, women have accommodation to change their decision anytime they need whether it is a good idea or not. As for their trip, they try to devote their energy to consider how they can enjoy and be excited. However, men hate to be twisted by women's willful ways and they want to carry out as they planned.

People often go shopping in their leisure time and there, you can also notice the difference between male and female. How many men can say that they really like to go shopping with their girlfriends or wives from the bottom of their heart? Most men have experiences to have fight with their partners during shopping. "Men like shopping provided they're going out to buy a Porsche or a computer—a toy for a boy, but when actually forced to do domestic shopping, that's when they become very stressed out and fed up" (Stacy, 2002, p. 5A). Men in general show deep attachment when they face with their favorite fields or the things they are interested in. There are more men who are nerds or collectors such as watch, camera, video game, golf, motorcycle and car. Basically, men are good at seeking one thing professionally. This is one of their characteristics that they are able to devote every minute to their interesting fields even with cutting down on sleeping hours. However, when it comes to uninteresting field such as grocery and domestic shopping, their stresses and strains are beyond women's imagination. According to the survey which recorded how much stress men and women feel while they are shopping, "Every man in the survey registered considerable increases in blood pressure and heart rates while only 25 percent of women registered a significant change" (Stacy, 2002, p. 5A). Then, why do women feel less stress than men even it is not their interesting shopping? As mentioned above, women are supposed to be at home all the day while their husbands are out for work. They feel senses of alienation from society and anxiousness for not receiving social estimation which their partners get by working. Therefore, in their leisure, their feelings of freedom lead to reduced tolerance for frustration. It is natural for them to feel everything to be fresh when they are out and go shopping even if it doesn't interest them.

Here is a final example of the difference between sexes in leisure time which often happens to couples when they have dates. While they are walking in a town, he meets a female friend by chance. His girlfriend watches the pair of them talking happily and feels upset because of jealousy. When he and his girlfriend began to walk again after parting from his female friend, he notices something wrong with his girlfriend. He asks her, "What's wrong?" And she says "Nothing." He asks again "Are you in a bad mood?" He thinks, "I did something bad to you?" But she answers madly "I said, nothing!" She thinks,

"You know why I am angry." He really has no idea why she is upset. After a few hours, she says "I didn't say it to you, but I was really angry with you at that time." He is surprised and asks her, "What are you talking about?" He is really confused when and what she is talking about. She says, "You were talking with that girl with a slack-jawed smile all over your face at that time." She thinks that he is dissembling. He says "At that time? Are you talking about the my friend?" He feels honestly he was talking with the girl normally without any other meanings. Such a story which occurred to couples is often heard in daily life. From woman's angle, she complains about man's dissembling or pretending. However, man's hearts are buried with a lot of "?" at that time and even if a happy look actually came over his face, he doesn't notice it himself. As mentioned at the home difference, women are good at keeping watch inwardly and paying close attention to changes of others' feelings and tend to take things emotionally. While men tend to catch the fact that happens as it does and don't take notice of the changes of their or partners' emotions.

In conclusion, considering the circumstances such as home, work and leisure mentioned above, we can realize several differences between men and women. There is a fundamental difference between them and to understand it is to understand creatures from outer space. According to the Creation of Genesis, humans in reality are selfish creatures and put the blame for the failure on others. However, God doesn't desert them but always help them. Through Genesis, it is more important to notice that man can't live alone and man are allowed to live by someone than to know how the universe was created by God. Because humans can't survive by themselves, they need help. Men and women were created in order that they always need helpers each other. It is natural that men are different from women to make up for women's weak points, and vice versa. The matter of great importance for men and women is to considerate for partners' feelings and to aid each other based on their differences. At home, if a husband has difficulty in repairing the roof because of his fear of heights, his wife shouldn't oblige him to do for all that it is his role of domestic chores as a physical-strong-man but she can repair it instead of him or ask a repairman. If a boyfriend is dreaming of making money at one swoop on the stock market or gambling at the risk of all his money, his girlfriend should wake him up to reality and let him know practically. When a man and a woman are working together in a company and he notices her mathematical problem, he can make up for her lack of ability to calculate. When he has difficulty in striking a bargain for business, he should ask a woman to reach agreement with counting on her social communication skills. A business woman tends to have trouble with her boss because of her strong sense of justice. She should not be tied to superficial problem but have priority to consider how she can carry out her tasks smoothly and how everyone can work comfortably without making a person unhappy. A man should not blame her for such inflexibility but try to understand her characteristics and work together. As mentioned above, generally, men are considered to be short tempered and they like to plan ahead. If a woman can't decide her menu quickly at a restaurant, she should choose same menu as her boyfriend's and should not make him wait.

When a couple takes a trip, a woman needs to understand man's characteristics and follow her boyfriend's schedule. Men often become obstinate when their opinions are rejected but they will back down easily when their partners concede. In shopping, men and women also should know about feelings brought by different stresses. Men exhausted by everyday work want to see and buy their favorite things, while women tired out by housework at home all the day want to see around anywhere to refresh their daily lives. When a woman finds her boyfriend's happy face because of his female friend and get upset, she should explain to him when, where, who and who, what he does and how she feels exactly. A man needs to understand what and how she feels at that time. Although there is no limitation when it is showed the differences between men and women, it is possible to dispel partners' misunderstanding and get to know each other more and more by communicating closely. Unnecessary fights are getting decreased when men and women try to understand their partners and they will be able to enjoy their differences. It is necessary to considerate each other in order to get better partnership.

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One Day

Yifei Yin
R/W 50

(2nd Place)

In the morning
Facing the mountain of predecessors' achievements
Which seems could not be crossed
Grove for the direction in the perplexity
Impetuously, anxiously and impatiently

At noon
Strive for the goals ceaselessly
Clothes are soaked by sweat
And looks appear languished
The distance between dream and reality is struggle

At twilight
Inhabit the hilltop forgetting the coming road
Tasting the gain and loss all the way
The tattered clothes are swinging in the wind

In the breath of the setting sun
Thank the loyalty to the ideal but not to the trend in the beginning
Thank the hard work in loneliness but not the venture in the middle
When finally standing at the top of the world in the end
I know I was just a grass of the mountain even higher
And the only thing left is to turn into dust
For the much higher mountain and other grasses

Capital Punishment

Hyemin Shin
R/W 50

Recently, the movie "Maundy Thursday," which is about a condemned criminal was released. By releasing this film, the argument about capital punishment is protruded again. Capital punishment is the maximum penalty which deprives a person of life. Execution by death penalty destroys human dignity by depriving human life. Because of this, the movement about the abolition of capital punishment is continued for a long time. Also, with the progress of this movement, some nations have abolished the punishment every year. I agree with this point of view. I think the death penalty should be abolished.

Human life is invaluable. There is nothing equivalent to human life. The life is the origin of human dignity. It is proper that human dignity should be protected by the law, but the nation infringes a national's right of human dignity by executing by death penalty. It is no exaggeration to say that the nation commits anymore.

Also there is a possibility of misjudgment, because of imperfection of a man. A judge is nothing but a human, so he might make a mistake in judgment. The capital punishment is deprived of one's life. So, once if it is executed it can't be restored by any method. In U.S.A from 1973 to 2001, 98 condemned criminals are set free from prison because the criminals have their innocence established. Guiltless people should not be sacrificed by misjudgment anymore.

People who insist on maintenance of capital punishment say that the death penalty can control a crime. So, they think, if death penalty is abolished, heinous criminal rates will be raised. But according to research in 1988, 1996. the UN announced that their attempts to prove that the capital punishment is more failed. Therefore, capital punishment is not the fundamental countermeasure for preventing of crime scene. Also, in Canada, the criminal rates decreased by 59% after the abolition of capital punishment. So, the insistence that the abolishment of death penalty boots criminal rates is improper.

Because of these important reasons the capital punishment should be abolished. And instead of capital punishment, other alternative idea should be prepared. The

supporter of abolition of death penalty suggests a life sentence. A life sentence does not infringe on the rights of criminal, and can enlighten a criminal by providing chance for introspection. Although the criminal committed an atrocious dereliction, their human dignity as human beings should be respected in society. In order to establish such society, the capital punishment should be abolished as soon as possible.

My Friend

Taejin Lee (Jinny)

R/W 10

My friend's name is Yunjung-Ji and she looks very heavy. She has a round big face. She sees with small eyes. Also, she has a fat neck. She wears only black shirts and pants. She always has a T-shirt loose around her neck. Although she looks fat, Yunjung-Ji is very lovely.

Yunjung-Ji is a very nice person. Many people call Yunjung-Ji by a nickname. The nickname is "Cute Pig" and people say this to her because she is heavy. This nickname can hurt people, but when people call my friend this name, she doesn't get angry. She is a happy person. When everybody is fed up, "Cute Pig" always smiles because she has a kind mind. I think about that, and I feel safe when she is around. Her friends love her.

The Process of Winemaking

Jiye Lim

Grammar for Writing

There are many kinds of alcohol in the world, but only one is described as "The Tears of God". Even though wine is mainly made of grapes, the taste of wine varies because the winemakers decide the style and personality of wine by using their unique skills. Each winemaker has his/her own production style and technique to make a bottle of wine, but everyone follows the 5 basic guidelines: harvest, crusher, fermentation, clarification, and aging / bottling.

The first step is the harvest. The time of harvesting is different depending on each region. Usually, the harvest time starts early August and lasts into November. Farmers harvest good quality grapes during early morning and move them to the winery. However, they still remain some of grapes for making ice wine. They are harvested after freezing by nature.

Next the grapes are transferred to the stemmer and crusher. In this step, the stems of the grapes are removed, and the grapes are crushed. However, some of the grapes just go to be crushed skipping the removal of the stems. Crushing the grapes without removing the stems is also one way to make wine.

After wine makers crush the grapes, the grape juice goes to ferment. The juice is put into the fermentation vats in which alcoholic fermentation takes place. At this moment, alcohol, sugar, CO₂, and some other stuff such as fruits and herbs are mixed into the grape juice. During the fermentation, winemakers should be careful to keep wine at the fixed

temperature because fermenting starts above 15° and stops above 30°.

When the fermentation is finished, winemakers start to clarify the wine. At the same time, they filter it to catch large solids. These solids are harmless for people, but remains make the quality of wine fall because wine becomes muddle. They remove the remains of grapes using the whites of eggs or gelatins. After filtering, the clarified wine is racked into a different vessel.

The aging and bottling of wine is the final step to make the wine. After clarifying, the winemakers choose when they will move wine to a bottle and which type of bottle the wine will be put in. There are several things such as basic bottle, stainless steel tank, oval, barrique, or small barrel. Depending on the type of bottle, the taste and length of wine change a bit. For example, if wine is good for drinking at early, winemakers put the wine in the stainless steel tank. On the other hand, if wine needs some time to be ripe, they keep it in the oak vessel. Winemakers decide the way of keeping wine following their purpose, namely, period of keeping or the character of wine.

No matter what kind of wine is being made, grapes must pass through these steps to become wine. Even though the style of wine is made from differences in each step by winemakers, they do not ignore these steps when making wine. Harvesting, crushing, fermentation, clarification, and aging / bottling are the basic process of wine making.

My Korean Husband

Hee Kyoung Seo (Casey)

R/W10

Let me introduce my husband. His physical characteristics reveal an average, middle-aged Korean man. He has black curly hair and brown eyes and lovely hands. He likes to wear pink shirts and cotton pants and brown shoes. Also, everyday he wears his wedding ring. He is a very handsome man to me.

His personality is energetic and hardworking. When he was in Korea, he had to work a lot in his company from 9:00AM to 12:00 midnight. Also, he never stopped studying in his field. Although he worked from Monday to Friday, he woke up early for golfing on Saturday in the morning. He likes many sports such as table tennis, tennis, soccer and golf. I respect his energy.

Obesity is a World Issue

Yujin Lee

R/W 41

Most countries are different in economy, politics, food, and people's characteristics but this problem is the same in every county. That is the global obesity epidemic. Every year, the rate of obesity is rapidly accelerating. There are no exceptions. How many people experience pain because of obesity? There are three factors to consider such as the effects of obesity, what happen to children who are obese and how to

protect our body from the obesity.

First, how many people are obese? To follow the research from the World Health Organization internationally more than 1 billion overweight adults live in the world and at least 300 million of them are obese. Moreover, obesity-related causes, risk of hypertension, heart disease, diabetes and some cancers cause people who are obese to die each year. For instance, 71 percent of American males are overweight and among them 31 percent are obese. On the other hand, 62 percent of American females are overweight and among them 33 percent are obese. One method to indicate overweight or obesity is to use the body mass index or BMI, by calculating your height and weight. For example, someone who is 5.4 foot and 145 pounds is overweight because their BMI is over 25. That mass index is according to the National Institutes of Health in America.

Nowadays, most children face obesity. If someone were heavy during childhood, s/he could die as much as five to ten years early. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that 25 percent of children ages 2 to 20 years are, or are at risk of becoming overweight or obese at twice the rate of just a decade ago. The Middle East, Southeast Asia, Mexico, Chile, Brazil, and Egypt increase of obesity in children has been the greatest. In China, one in five children will be overweight by 2010. They are being bombarded to eat all the wrong foods like people in the West. The Europe Union researches their children's obesity condition. In the case of boys, the highest rate of obesity is in Spain with 41.4 % obese and the most girls are in Italy, 38.8%.

Third, we might be changing our behavior to protect of obesity. The main reason for obesity is too much food and too little exercise. We need to choose low-fat food, and learn food's forms the five major food groups. Moreover, we should eat sensible portions, and use fats, oils, sweet and salt sparingly. Low activity levels as little as 100 extra calories a day translates into 10 pounds in year. Dr. Brian McCrindle, a childhood obesity expert at a pediatric hospital in Toronto recommends people change their behavior.

To sum it all up, a great deal of people experience pain about obesity such as risk of hypertension, heart disease, diabetes and some cancers. The problem has spread to the whole world. A lot of research proves that obesity causes severe diseases. We have to know how to use the major five food groups and eat responsibly. However the most important thing is we have to change our behavior.

My Brother

Min-Gu Kim

R/W10

I have a younger brother. His name is Hyun-Woo Kim and he is 19 years old. He is a university freshman and studies engineering. He has small eyes and black, short hair. His face is a little bit small. He is short and heavy. He also has small hands. He has many different kinds of clothes with many colors (black, white, purple.) He almost always wears a T-shirt and blue jeans. Hyun-woo also wears coats. . He's very different

from me. My neighbors and friends tell me, "Your brother and you are very different."

My brother is healthy and active He is not lazy He likes basketball and he now plays basketball on the school team. Hyun-Woo does push-ups everyday, so he has good muscles. His health is good. He always has a diet. He says "I need to be careful for my health." Actually, he always has vegetables for his health. I respect my brother because he isn't lazy and he keeps his health. Although we are different, I really love my brother.

Economic Crises Around the World

Manuela Salcedo

R/W 3

Throughout history, different countries have suffered economic crisis, a few deeper than others. The behavior of the economy is completely cyclical, which means that each of the events that happens repeats itself constantly. Nevertheless, though the behavior is cyclical, it does not reveal a trend that will help to prevent the catastrophic economic depression that the world has suffered.

Economic crisis means financial crisis and its lead actor will always be the financial system of a country which includes the banking system and the monetary system as well. Usually an economic crisis occurs when you do not have adequate controls on credit and foreign exchange markets, which mainly reflects how the central bank and local banks manage market share and level of credits granted.

One of the deepest economic crises was the Mexican Crisis which occurred in 1994 and was called "The Tequila Effect." This emerged because of the lack of international reserves and wrong decisions taken by the president of the time. The Argentine crisis called "El Corralito" was another economic crisis. The main strategy was to prohibit people from withdrawing money they had in their own bank accounts. This resulted in paralysis in the credit and trading system and suffocated the economy.

Finally, the most influential crisis has been the crisis in the United States which we are experiencing now. This started when people became unable to make their credit payments. This resulted in bankruptcy of major banks and deep devaluation of the housing market.

In conclusion, economic crises, in general, are caused by not having sufficient controls to protect the economy. We can see that some are deeper and longer than others, and although the economic cycles are completely similar, they are impossible to predict.

Around Florida

Yunjae Shin

R/W50

Before I came here, I had had a plan to travel around the U.S. to places like New York, Boston, Los Angeles, Orlando, Miami, and other places. Isn't it fantastic just hearing

these names?! After spring semester, I went to Orlando, Miami, and Key West by myself. Now don't you worry about my network of friends that I would need to help me in this project. I have many friends, but they had other plans at that time. I'm serious.

First of all, I rented a car because it is hard to get around where I want to go if I take a bus. If you're under 25 years-old, you have to pay extra fees, \$27 per day. When I arrived in Orlando at outlet stores at almost noon, I went shopping during 6 hours. It is very cheap compared with Oaks mall. I booked a hotel at Kissimmee, it takes 15 minutes to drive there, but it is much cheaper than Orlando. The next day, I went to Universal Studio and Islands of Adventure. I entered at 9am, it is normally opening time, and left out of there at 7pm because it closes at 7pm. Of course, I walked around by myself. Sometimes I felt loneliness when I ate lunch and dinner because at a near by table, one family was eating dinner together. Eating along is the saddest behavior and taking a picture by myself made me crazy, so I have many pictures without myself.

On the third day in my trip, I drove for 8 hours, from Orlando to Key West. When I started to drive, it was very good because it was first time to me drive on a US highway. However, as the time passed I exhausted myself driving. But I want to recommend this road to Key West. It is so beautiful, especially the 7 mile bridge is a romantic bridge like in a song. It took long time but it did not disappoint me. A breeze from the sea, the antique buildings, and everybody looked comfortable. I visited the home of Hemingway, the famous novelist.

I spent whole day on the sea on my second day in Key West. If you like water sports, I recommend to you enjoy this program. You can enjoy parasailing, jet ski, snorkeling, and lunch on the ship only \$125. In my case, it was the first time had been snorkeling so I drank a little sea water. Many people said that Key West is the best place to enjoy the sunset. I saw it at Mallory Square. Wow, it was amazing. I had never seen that beautiful sunset.

After I saw that, I went to Miami right away. I don't know why I felt like that, but my first impression of Miami was it was a scary city. I enjoyed Miami Beach and SeaWorld. If I were younger than I am now, I would have felt much pleasure. But it was really good.

When I was returning to Gainesville, I had a small problem. When I passed the tollgate, I didn't have cash, but I had to pay only cash. I was embarrassed because at that time my English ability was worse than now. Anyway, I finally was back in Gainesville safely. I learned many things from this trip because I had enough time to think by myself. But if I have a chance taking a trip by myself, I won't go because I already experienced it. That's the end of my story.

My Experiences of Halloween

Abdullah Alghamdi

R/W 31

Since I came to the US, I have tried to learn more about American culture. Last week, there was one of the important events in the American culture, which was a

Halloween celebration, and I tried to experience it with my friends. Because I knew that the costume was important for Halloween, I looked for a costume to wear. After a while I found one; it was a scary costume, so I wore a black robe with a head cover and I painted my face with colors to look like a skull. Then I went to the ELI Halloween party; everyone was wearing a costume, and some of the costumes were scary, some were crazy, and some were funny. Besides that, scary music was playing. After the party, I went downtown with my friends. Most of the people there were wearing costumes and doing crazy and funny things. After that I went to my friend's house with others and we cooked a dinner but it was not good so we ordered pizza. At last, we sat down together and tried to scare each other by telling scary stories. At the end, I knew there were a lot of traditional things to do on Halloween, but this was my first experience, and I enjoyed Halloween.

Happy Halloween

Ockshin Kim

R/W 31

Have you ever heard about the holiday that adults and their children are also able to enjoy together? Halloween is a happy holiday and falls on the evening of October 31. There are so many Halloween activities such as trick-or-treat, costume parties, ghost tours, Halloween foods, and symbols such as apples, candies, and jack-o'-lanterns. At the Halloween party, attendees usually wear Halloween costumes, which are symbolized by magical witches, one-eyed pirates, scary vampires, wicked ghosts, and so on, for they are supposed to set free from hell on that evening of Halloween. When it comes to Halloween, most housewives prepare sweet, appetizing candies to give to the neighborhood children. These mischievous children visit neighborhood houses with jack-o'-lanterns that are typically carved pumpkins, and say trick-or treat. As stated above, all parents and children enjoy Halloween. This holiday is mostly observed in the USA and Western Europe. However, nowadays in other countries, young people and children have Halloween parties as well; although Halloween is not a traditional holiday. In brief, Halloween is a happy holiday for grown-ups and children all around world.

My Halloween

Marie Josee Naho

R/W 31

How did you spend your Halloween this year? This year, I celebrated Halloween with my African friends. We had a great African party in my friend's apartment. When you entered in the apartment and looked to your left, you could see "Happy Halloween" drawn on the wall with fairy lights. At the right, on a small table, we put the drinks, snacks, and Halloween candies. At the top, we hung cute and engaging jack o' lantern with candles inside. The candles had a good smell. And then, in the center, we moved the seats, the sofa, and the TV to have space for people who wanted to dance. Everybody dressed up in

different costumes such as a baby, a monster, a nurse, or a doctor costume. We ate rice with chicken, and fried pork. We danced to American music like RNB. We also danced Reggaetone and Zouk, which is Haitian music. It was really cool; I had a lot of fun!!!

Halloween's Party

Veronica Perez

R/W 31

Have you ever been in United States when the people celebrate Halloween? Every year in America, the people celebrate the scary night called Halloween. This year I went to a great party in downtown, Gainesville. On the way to the club you could see the people wear costumes, and you could hear the children's voices beginning for treats. The party was at The Studio, a popular club. From the entrance, you could see a large hall with evil decorations. On the right side were circular tables with comfortable chairs, and you could take candies out of a bag to try the sweet or sour taste of candies. On the left side, was a long bar with a lot of ghosts and orange or black glasses. In the back of the dancing area, was decorated with bats, jack o lanterns and skeletons. There were a lot of people and you could hear sounds or voices to scare people. To conclude, the party was really good, everything was decorated with Halloween things, and everyone had on nice and funny costumes.

My First Halloween

Hye Moon Kim

R/W 31

Have you ever heard about a Halloween party in the U.S.A? Let me introduce my experience. On Oct. 30th, I attended the ELI Halloween party, and I had not known what Halloween was until I attended the party that day. Before I attended that party, and the day before the party, I bought a Screaming costume, and my friend bought a red Dracula costume. As soon as we entered Megan's house, we saw a lot of scary costumes, sexy costumes, and small black witches, and we heard horror songs playing loudly in the living room. When I touched someone's costume, it felt bumpy, and I could smell perfume. On the left side of the living room, I could find a TV, so I watched a horror program. Next to living room, there were lots of salty snacks, sweet chocolate, and sodas on the table. All the while, the doorbell was ringing. At the back of the kitchen, I found a large backyard, and there were many very cute pumpkins that had a sweet smell. I took many pictures and talked to the ELI students. I left there at approximately 11 pm in order to do my assignments, so I missed the rest of the party. It was very good for me.

Halloween in the United States

Yahya Aseri

R/W 31

Did you heard about Halloween in the United States? Halloween in the United States is an exciting traditional celebration. It is on the evening of October 31. In the beginning of it, the people believed that the dead returned and become dangerous to the living. In these times, it is a lot of fun. In this party, people dressed up in some clothes to appear as ghosts and skeletons. You can see small black witches, pumpkins, and dark houses. Also, you can hear children's voices begging for teats, screams of people in the party, and scary music. During this party, you can smell sweet pumpkin, gelatin, and you can taste the sweet sugary candy, the taste of chocolate of cake, spicy chili a sour lemon. In addition, you can touch the pulpy, squishy insides of pumpkins, touch the cake, and different kinds of clothes. In conclusion, Halloween in the United States is very interesting and exciting holiday.

My First Halloween

Valentina Eyzaguirre

R/W 31

This year was my first Halloween. Now I will tell you about all the wonderful things that I did. I went to New York with my husband to our friend's house. That day we dressed up; he was a cow with a white suit that had black spots and I wore a leopard girdle with a leopard dress and black gloves. Then we went to a parade to see a costume show. It was wonderful!!! All the people were wearing costumes. The children had bags with a lot of candies, and were saying "treat or trick". The city smelled like a sweet pumpkin. Finally, we went to a Halloween party. We danced, drank cokes, ate pumpkin cookies, and took a lot of pictures. Never in my life will I forget that incredible experience.

Amazing Halloween

Siriporn Chaichana

R/W 31

Why don't some Christians have Halloween parties? Halloween, an international holiday, is celebrated on the evening of Oct 31, and it is often celebrated in the morning and afternoon as well. First, about the timing, everyone dresses up in costumes such as ghosts, skeletons, witches and devils. I dressed up as a witch and found several similar costumes in a horror and dark party at Megan's house last night. Second, in the front of the house, the symbolic pumpkins being carved into jack-o-lanterns which are lit by a romantic candle inside were all lined up. Also, they have generally sweet pumpkin smells. Moreover, on the left side of the living room, where there are black cats, bats, and web spiders for traditional horror in a scary atmosphere. Third, the activities include the variety of costumes are the kids trick ad treat by knocking on the doors, and they

will be given sweet candies or sweet chocolates, and they also sing song, see the horror movies, eat food, and take pictures. Therefore, there are wonderful costumes, horror symbols, and fun activities on Halloween. It is very interesting to celebrate Halloween in the US.

Halloween Costumes

Jessica Jimenez

R/W 31

Here in the USA, I saw a variety of costumes for Halloween. All the people buy their costumes before the day with strong color like orange and black. The people chose costumes of warlock with a big hat and of course the broom. Three days ago, I saw one family's daughter with the costume of a warlock, her mother was dressed up like a cat with yellows and black colors, and her father like a ghost with a big white dress, and his face white and blank eyes. It was very interesting to see the different kinds of costumes that the people use to enjoy this day.

Preparing a Halloween Party

Mercy Perdomo

R/W 31

In the United States, you can have the best party for Halloween. There are many traditions for Halloween, so I am very expectant because I am going to have my first Halloween party at my house tonight. Yesterday, my sister and I went shopping for several scary ornaments, candies, a delicious pumpkin pie, and costumes of evil characters such as scary vampires and ugly monsters. This morning, my sister got up very early, and she started to decorate the house. First, she began with the yard; she put black and orange lights on the trees, and on the grass she put a lot of jack-o-lanterns. At the entrance door, there is a vampire, when the people ring the doorbell, this will made a horrific sound. The scenery in the living room looks like a haunted house and has the sweet smell of apples. There are many ghosts, cold skeletons, and hairy black cats around the living room. In conclusion, I hope that my first Halloween party will be full of both real and traditionally scary Halloween experiences

My First Halloween in the U.S.

Jin-Woo Jang

R/W 31

For your English you have to study at the desk, but I guess you might not like it. If you came to the Halloween party, you could practice your English at the same time you could enjoy your free time. Yesterday, I experienced a Halloween party at Megan's house. It's my first time to attend an ELI activity. I had never experienced a Halloween celebration before. That's why I didn't prepare by wearing a costume. There were many students who were wearing grotesque and

ridiculous costumes, so I was really surprised because I didn't know many students would wear their own style of costumes. They were ready to enjoy the party, but I wasn't. I just saw their strange costumes and heard people's laughter. Behind the house in the back yard, there were many pumpkins being carved into jack-o-lanterns, which smelled sweetly. The windows and each door were decorated with sticky spider webs, black scary bats, and crimson bloodstains. On the table, there were many sweet sugary tasting candies. Inside the house, there were various kinds of monsters, such as devils, angels, murderer, witches, skeletons, and ghosts. They took a lot of pictures of each other. They looked so happy and funny. It was so exciting and interesting to me. I think American peoples are very active in their celebration. In conclusion, experiencing a Halloween party will be a good memory for me. For next Halloween party, I will prepare my costume and keep it as a surprise.

Halloween Party

Dhari Al-Jasmi

R/W 31

The fun, first Halloween party I went to was on Thursday at the ELI party. I went last Thursday to a Halloween party at the LAs' houses. It was an awesome party. Everybody was there and wearing different costumes. Some of them were scary, others were funny, and some were nice costumes. When I went to the food corner, there wasn't any food left, because there were a lot of people eating and the party was crowded. In conclusion, I liked the party and it was really a fun party to attend.

Halloween

HsuWei Huang (Lawrence)

R/W 31

Why does Halloween have so much attraction for people? Halloween is one of the important and traditional holidays in America. On the road, you could see everywhere that people had decorated their apartments or houses for this specific and special holiday at this time. For example, they also used evil decorations or spider webs to embellish their house. You would be feeling this celebrative atmosphere during Halloween. In the meantime, you frequently heard children's voices saying, "Trick or Treat." Everyone knows that the most permanent symbol of Halloween is carving jack-o-lanterns. You could see many places that put some cute and engaging carved pumpkins inside and outside. At this time, people sometimes come together for unique costume parties and dress in scary or symbolic costumes. Everyone enjoys it and releases their pressures from their job or school. All in all, Halloween is one of the most popular holidays in America.

What Life Is

Yu-Cheng Lin (Jimmy)

R/W 32

Life is like a bird.
You can fly and sing wherever you want.
Life is like a dog.
When you are happy, just swing your tail.
Life is like a cat.
You always can find the way to enjoy yourself.
Life is like a horse.
Remember to encourage yourself, because there is a long way to go.
Life is like a lion.
You need cooperation to survive.
Life is like a giraffe.
You have to look far, and go for your future.
Life is like a monkey.
Scratch your friends' back actively, if they need it.
Life is like a beaver.
Work hard, and then you can build your family.
Life is like a gator.
When you are ready, just open your mouth.

No matter what animal you are, in the wild world, you must be strong!

The Little Prince

Hyunduk Cho

R/W 50

Actually, I already read this book several years ago. At that time, it was not that meaningful to me. I was a middle school student, when I first read the book. Since I could not find that many meanings from this story, I just thought of the story in the context of the world, the real life I lived. So I could not help but think that the world in the story was the strangest world and the story was so strange that I could not help but come up with so much curiosity. But, now I have become an adult and my reading as an adult is pretty different.

Through the second reading, I realized so many things. My second reading gave me another view. I could think about the world and human being again. Also, now I know for sure that this book is so wonderful. Especially, the author's fantastic and metaphorical expressions are very impressive. Also in terms of contents, the stories in seven asteroids are really interesting. Through the first asteroid's king, the author shows us the image of an arrogant adult. The second planet's story shows the image of a vain adult, and the drunkard in the third planet is the image of an adult in nihilism. Also the fourth asteroid's story criticizes our materialism, and through the fifth and sixth asteroid's stories he implies wrong images of the recent adults. Finally, through the Earth story, the seventh planet, he wanted to talk about interaction of people. These seven planet stories give me so many instructions; moreover, I really want to admire the author's metaphorical expressions.

Even though the author's writing style is simple, the instructions have very deeply meaning. That's why *The Little Prince* is a book for adults, too.

Many other people think as I do. "Every time I read *The Little Prince*, by the end I fell into depression. There is a bold message "WE LIVE WRONG LIVES". I want to be a child but childhood is gone forever and we adults have to spend most of our lives trying to survive." (an unknown man, age 33, from New York city, United States, 2005). I strongly agree with this review. I am living to survive; moreover, I am destroying many things to survive. "For me, it contains lessons that most of the people are forgetting in this days. The story tells us to think maturely and the best lesson is that the most essential thing can't be seen by our naked eye, it is the heart. I love the book very, have a copy of it in English, but when it visit the bookstore, I saw a Pilipino version of it so it immediately got a copy. I just want to know who really is the little prince. And whether the sheep had eaten the rose or not!!! Can you please answer my questions all of you who loved the little prince!" (Levi, age 18, from Philippines, 2005). "I believe *The Little Prince* transcends the innocence of children to becoming an almost ethereal being.

The Little Princes acquires more insight into human nature in his considerably short stay in our planet than most humans could ever hope for in a lifetime. He encounters, greed, humility, love, loss and even friendship, yet he never loses his quench for knowledge nor his devotion to his home and all it has. It is only with the heart that we see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye. It is all you will ever need to know" (Michelle, age 33, from Australia, 2006). The above two reviews support my discussion. Although I read the book which was published in English and I had a little bit of difficulty, this second reading was so impressive to me. It reminded me to realize my life in this world and I promise to myself that I should try to live my life like the little prince. Sometimes, my situation makes me an immoral and impure man; because, I want survive in this world as a wealthy and honorary man. But I realized that it is not important at all. The really important thing is that I should find my own way. Maybe the world is getting heartless. But I want to maintain my pure mind like the little prince's beautiful mind. I think the author was so lonely while he was flying. Thus I hope that my life also flies and my flying life is pure and valuable even though I won't get a lot of money.

Finally, this book was written during the World War II. So I think Antoine de Saint Exupery was motivated by the circumstances. Since the greediness and selfishness made the WWII, the author wanted to appeal the wrong image of mankind to our future generations and us. That is, the book contains the author's desire. Like his desire, we ourselves should do self-examination.

My Turkish Brother

Hande Erol

R/W 10

My brother is a teenager who is 15 years old. His name is Kemal Ulaş. He has big hazel eyes. His hair is blonde and

straight. His skin is very white, like milk. His face is big, but he has a small nose. He is tall and a little fat. His eyes aren't healthy and he wears glasses. He always wears comfortable, dark color clothes and shoes. His style is "rock", so he likes rock style t-shirts. Kemal is a typical Turkish teenager.

My brother's character is social and successful. He is enthusiastic about music, basketball and nature. He plays several musical instruments and he plays guitar and harmonica at the same time. He writes songs so he is capable about music. Maybe, he will be musician in future. He is good at basketball and he plays basketball on the school team since he started the primary school. My brother likes nature, also. He goes camping every summer with his friends. I think my brother seems sweet and nice. His character sounds good. He is a lot of fun and he is a good, young man.

Shopping at Stores vs Online

Young-Dae Lee

R/W 30

Before the Internet spread out, we bought products in stores only. But, recently we have a lot of ways to buy things, because shopping is influenced by the Internet. Online is a good example. Shopping online and stores each have characteristics. So, I will talk about each of characteristics in this essay.

First of all, shopping online and in stores have several similarities. One of the similarities is processing. If you want to buy something, you need to think about the procedure. First, you must consider if it is a necessary. Then you compare prices. Next, you can buy the product after you decide to buy it. All of these procedures are necessary for honest consumption. Another similarity is they can refund the product. When you think you don't need the product or the product is not what you thought, you can return it.

On the other hand, shopping online and in stores have some differences. The biggest difference is way of the shopping. To buy, you online use a computer in a house, but shopping in stores you need to go to stores. So, the benefit of each are a little different. Online shopping can save times since you don't waste time walking around. Also, shopping in stores can check a product immediately. Another difference is negotiation. Shopping in some stores, you can negotiate with the owner. In contrast, online shopping, you can't do that. It is good for you if you want to save money.

For the conclusion, online shopping and shopping in stores have some similarities and differences. Sometimes online shopping is better than another, but sometimes it is opposite, because each benefit is different. So, we can't choose which one is more correct than another way. Additionally, they are trying to change their disadvantages, so each method is more attractive than before.

My Saudi Brother

Mohammad Alharthi

R/W10

My brother's name is Ali. My brother is a young Saudi man who is 32 years old. He has a round face and curly black hair. He has black eyes and a big nose. He has a beard and a mustache. He likes to wear red shirts and cotton pants and black shoes. Usually, Ali wears jeans and T-shirt. It is like his formal outfit outside home. His style is traditional. Finally, my brother is very neat. Ali seems like an average Saudi man.

Ali is a mechanical engineer. He loves his work. He has a workshop for car repair and he is a teacher in college. He is a very ambitious person. Ali is creative in his job and optimistic. He is usually enthusiastic and he is organized in his life. Now my brother is a big businessman in my city. For that reason, he is not an average Saudi man, but he is my role model.

My Favorite City

Omar Al Ajlani

R/W 10

My hometown, Damascus, is my favorite city in the world. It's very important for several different reasons. There are many people who travel there every year. There are many mosques and churches. Also, Damascus has old restaurants and beautiful places. It has many hotels. It's very beautiful. Also, Damascus has beautiful mountains. Damascus, in the morning, is very busy and there is a lot of action. These are my reasons why I love Damascus. You need to come to Damascus.

Beautiful Incheon

Ahra Ko

R/W 10

My hometown, Incheon is very lovely. Incheon has a harbor. It is very useful. Incheon has nice scenery. Incheon is a bathing resort. It is very nice! It is very clean and pretty. Also, Incheon has a historic war memorial. It is very solemn and calm. I miss my lovely hometown.

My Chaotic Hometown

Ji Hun Joung

R/W10

My hometown, Seoul, South Korea, is very chaotic. Korea is very small. The land size is similar to Florida, but the Korean population is four billion. What is more, the capital city of Seoul has a population of two billion. So, the land is small, but there are many people. There is so much traffic, too, in Seoul. Finally, Seoul is very confusing and complicated with a lot of cars every day and they are everywhere. I love Seoul because it is my chaotic and busy hometown.

Immigration

Mohammed Kidrawi

R/W 30

In Saudi Arabia, there are two ways to immigrate legally or illegally. Legal immigrants get visas to come to Saudi Arabia to study in university or work, because Saudi Arabia has a good economy, and is safer than other countries. Some immigrants open new restaurants to serve the foreign in Saudi Arabia. The people in Saudi Arabia like to try a new people. Illegal emigrants come from neighboring countries to make money very fast in illegal ways, so they don't have any qualifications. They work almost per hour for people. They walk around two-three days to get in Saudi Arabia in the desert. When they come they bring with them new stuff like new food and different kinds of music.

Saudi Arabian people like listening to new music. The immigrants when they come they bring with them music. For example, immigrants from Egypt bring with them different kinds of Egyptian music, so you would see them all the time listening to their music even though they are in Saudi Arabia. Sometimes, people ask them about the song that they are listening to. In fact, we like their songs. Sometimes we ask them Can you give me the name of this singer of this song. Sometimes, when you go to foreign restaurant you will feel you are not in Saudi Arabia because they use their music to be different from the others.

Most of the immigrants like to open a business in Saudi Arabia. For example, a lot of Lebanese people open a restaurant or coffee shop. They bring the Hookah. So now a lot of Saudi people smoke Hookah, more than before. Some emigrated in other countries in Saudi Arabia all so effects. They enjoy having the immigrations in their place. However, most of the owners of these foreign businesses have enough money to live their life in Saudi Arabia. Other ways, if someone from a foreign country wants to have a license to open a restaurant, they have to register the restaurant with Saudi people.

There are too many different ways to speak Arabic. Immigrants speak Arabic but sometimes we don't recognize what they say or we don't understand the whole meaning. Because they speak a little different and different accent sometime they speak words that we know it but they have another meaning. Sometimes they speak fast, so we don't know what they are talking about. Their voices are different from one country to another. I think Saudi Arabian people have a hard time understanding immigrants when they came to our country first time.

I think it's better for Saudi emigrants to come to Saudi Arabia, because they get along in fast way. Finally, the governments of Saudi Arabia try the best to serve the immigrants and to make them feel like in their countries.

My Lovely Hometown

Hee Kyoung Seo (Casey)

R/W10

I always have a smile on my face whenever I think of my hometown. This is Seoul. There are many things in that city, such as my lovely family, friends, and my dear memories. I grew up there. I met my good friends and my lovely husband there. In Seoul, he and I fell in love and got married. Finally, my precious son was born in Seoul. There is my own house for me, my son and my husband, also. I have experienced, and accomplished many things in Seoul. So, I love my hometown.

My Systematic Hometown

Suhee Yun

R/W10

My hometown, Ansan, South Korea is a planned city. There are many buildings arranged in specific ways according to their function. Nursing homes are in parks. Sick people in the nursing homes get help from the parks. They exercise at the parks until they are healthy. Many shopping centers are near each other. People walk around them easily. Also, Ansan has many beautiful parks for the whole community, so it is called "The Green City". All of this was planned before Ansan was made. Maybe Ansan is an unnatural city. However, Ansan is a very regular and systematic city for its citizens.

Musical Inspiration

Khaled Abualula

Grammar for Writing

Music is a beautiful thing that can help us sometimes to forget or feel and sometimes to remember. Depending on the music and on what feeling the person gets from it, for example: when I listen to classical music or slow music I remember some sad things and feel love. I don't know how to explain it but I feel that I need someone beside me. I feel that some parts of me are missing that I need to be complete or better to say to be fulfilled. I think that music reveals some true hidden feelings that exist inside the person.

My Life in the U.S.

Sunhee Eo

R/W 30

I came to the US with my husband three months ago. When I first arrived in the U.S., I felt like a fish out of water. The culture, language, and environment were so different. So, I was confused. Now, I am not so bad. I will control my emotions, that I will acclimate myself to a new environment. Now, I am interested in cooking. Before I got married, my greatest interest was fashion because I had worked as a fashion designer in Korea. I am not working now. I liked shopping and I abhorred that I was behind the fashion. After my marriage, my interest changed. Now, I don't ponder the latest fashion, but I

ponder a menu every day. However, I don't know many cooking recipes. Thus, I usually use cooking recipes I find on the internet. When my husband eats with gusto, I am happy. To me cooking is very interesting.

Bus

Yifei Yin

R/W 50

When I was born
I got on a bus
Passengers are my family
It heads to harmony
For harmony brings prosperity

Later I grew up
I changed a bus
Passengers are my brethren
It is toward solidarity
For solidarity brings full flourish

Now I am on another bus
Passengers are from all the world
With different colors and different languages
Scattered by the fear of God thousands of years ago
Gather together by the awakening will
To build another Babel in our hearts
Which could not be wear and tear

Notting Hill

Deoksang Jo

R/W 30

My favorite movie is Notting Hill. I like some romance. I saw this movie when I was a high school student. Notting Hill is a kind of romantic movie. It is about love between two people. This movie's actor is Hugh Grant and the heroine is Julia Roberts. In the movie, Anna Scott (Julia Roberts) is such a lovely woman. She is a world famous actress, and she has a lot of money. But William Thacker (Hugh Grant) is just the owner of a small travel bookstore in Notting Hill and just an ordinary man. I like the ending scene. Before the ending scene, Anna went to William's bookstore to meet him, and she said, "William I need you. If you want, I will stay here" but he rejected her proposal. After that, he talks with his friends and family. They give him some advice so he realized his mistake. At the same time, Anna has a last press conference at a hotel before she leaves the UK. William must meet her so his friends help him. They ride a car and go to the hotel quickly to find her. Finally, William arrives at a press conference room in the hotel, and sees her. He asks Anna, "If a man who is English man realized his mistake late, and he begs you to forgive him and proposes to you again. Can you accept his proposal?" Anna answered, "Yes." And then, all of the reporters take pictures of Anna and William and another reporter asks her, "How long will you stay here in the UK?" so she said "Indefinitely." I

really like this part and this word. When I saw this scene, I was so impressed by this scene and this scene's music. The music's lyric is very romantic. I remember a little part 'she may be the face I can't forget.' I think this movie is totally beautiful.

Making a Good Presentation

Chao-Rui Chen

R/W 49

It's common to see someone doing a presentation in public. As an example, in schools, the teachers ask students to make presentations. We can also see someone making presentations on the street. It is a type of learning activity. The goal is not to test the students' knowledge about the major that they are studying in, but to show how well you can speak in public. To learn how this activity does students observe presenters speaking in front of audiences and doing a good job. The question is how to be as good as those observed speakers? There are several useful steps to make a good presentation before giving information to listeners.

First of all, we need to think hard to come up with good ideas by confirming what our topic is, who our audience is, what background information they already know, and then decide what we need to do some research from the Internet, libraries and even surveys.

Second, we have to write an outline and think about what is our introduction, how we can hook our audience, what the body is, and what we should let audiences know. If time is limited, we just have to give two or three main ideas to present to the audience.

At last, we should practice several times before doing the presentation. This is an important part. We need to try to speak clearly, confidently, loudly, slowly and without reading our notes. Sometimes we can speak to a mirror or ask friends and families to listen and then try to look at everyone from time to time. If possible, we can use some body language to show the meaning that you want to communicate to the audience. We might even use some tools, like a data graph, PowerPoint, or the blackboard.

When giving a presentation for the first time, ask yourself, "What should I do?" At that time everyone will be nervous and feel awful. Then tried to follow these steps above, little by little, everyone can become better at making presentations.

Weird Japanese St. Valentine's Day

Yuri Nakajima

R/W50

♪We wish your merry Christmas. We wish your merry Christmas. We wish your merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.♪ I'm so excited because one of the biggest events, Christmas, is coming soon! Even in Japan, most people don't care about religion, but we do something special on Christmas Day; for example, we hang out with a boyfriend or a girlfriend, and give presents to each other. I can say that the Christmas Day in Japan is like St. Valentine's Day, which is supposed to

be for a couple to make sure how much they love each other. However, do you know that our St. Valentine's Day in Japan is little bit different from other countries? In Japan, it is the day girls give boys some chocolate, which means that she likes him. It is a typical way to tell the favorite person on your mind that you like him or her. Therefore, most of the guys in Japan get nervous because of their expectation that someone might give them chocolate; additionally, some girls prepare special chocolate for just this day with much stress. Like this, St. Valentine's Day has been recognized as the special day for boys and girls in Japan. Nevertheless, I feel that St. Valentine's Day is getting weird and less romantic these days

First, we have other chocolate for guys who are not special at all, it's called "obligation chocolate". We buy cheap chocolate like this for less than 5 dollars, and give it to some friends or coworkers. Why we do like that is it is kind of a custom today, especially if you are in a company. We should give it to them, because, otherwise, a boss or senior might think that you don't like them; we don't want them to feel sad because they don't any chocolate. As I mentioned before, guys are forced to care about whether they are popular or not, and how many chocolates they get. Therefore, obligation chocolate is not such a big deal, but still a good thing for guys; and we expect that they give us better things from them later because some proud guys think giving something good item back to girls can make him popular, so some girls use this system for make benefit for themselves. These are the likely main reasons which are only unimportant for us, but also it has kind of become an annoying custom for girls and boys. It makes St. Valentine day less romantic in today's world.

Then, in recent days, girls started giving handmade sweets such as chocolate cookies, chocolate cake, or chocolate muffins to each other; it's called "friends' chocolate". Actually, I have this experience when I was in college even though I personally don't like this kind of nonsense events because it's supposed to be a day I give it to a guy I like and not girls. For the reason, when my friend announced to me that she was going to make some cookies for me and she also requested of me to make her something as well. Now, it is common between younger generations such as high school students although there is nothing to relate to the original St. Valentine's Day style.

Thus, the Japanese St. Valentine's Day is going in a different way then it is supposed to be celebrated; though, I can also say that it is natural to change customs from time to time. Still, I think that Japanese St. Valentine's Day is a really sweet day, and as much as I can say that this is my favorite day within whole year because my memory of that day is always so special that I want to keep it. Also, I want other people to feel like I have felt about this holiday. Of course I want you to feel it too. Why don't you have a St. Valentine Day the Japanese way someday?

Teamwork Vs. Individual Work

Franck Yeboue

R/W 60

GRE Topic: "People work more productively in teams than individually. Teamwork requires cooperation, which motivates people much more than individual competition does."

According to the dictionary, the definition of work is an exertion or an effort directed to produce or accomplish something; also it can be considered as a kind of labor or toil. In fact, the word work takes all its sense in the practice. For example, one person instead of a group of people makes the manual laborers in a field of cotton. The result is clear. The one-person worker will take many more hours than the group to work in his field. The teamwork with this conception has been used throughout time until now, and in plenty of domains. But this collaboration between workers is now considered a big issue. The reasons are numerous. But despite these criticisms, teamwork has many advantages and it will stay valuable whatever the place where people will use it.

Teamwork is a method. In this method people can interact with others and generate a huge number of ideas. You can also brainstorm, and produce a variety of ideas. However, this method, compared to the individual work, requires a great level of participation. Each member has to do something for the group. There are no barriers between members of a team or a group, which makes each participant in a team similar to the others. This conception is applied in many companies and organizations with the intention of improving the effectiveness of workers. Also, the teamwork activity can "contribute to the overall success of the organization" (Heathfield, ¶ 2, 2008), by helping companies to reach their objectives each year.

Another point is that in teamwork there is no conception of individualism. You have to be social related. Even if you work alone, with your own method and technical skills, the result will be assimilated in one and your principal objective will be collective. Teamwork associates a great number of different tasks to create one result. This is not the case in an individual work, where the results are based only on your own and exclusive production. Also, people in a team need to have some special background before they belong to a group. These characteristics are: listening, discussing, questioning, persuading, respecting, helping, sharing, participating and communicating ("Teamwork Skill," 2008, ¶ 4).

Some people don't believe in the efficiency of teamwork for the simple reason that people are all different. This differentiation in thoughts, opinions, and judgment can result in a lack of cooperation, and a worst management in the crew. Also, another argument, more objective than the first, says that the teamwork takes more time. In fact in any group team, such as sports teams (Basketball team, Soccer team, American football team...) especially, people have to elaborate rules (define each person occupation) and regulate the procedures (what do each person is suppose to do). All these actions take more time and make difficult the working of a group.

In conclusion, the use of teamwork in a company will not cease to decrease, according to my point of view. Working with other persons is important and very helpful instead of working alone. Even if there is a good advantage of working alone, and getting flexibility in our time, I think we can't compare it to the success of our company (or group). But this is another issue that we'll discuss later.

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Breaking Bad News for Patients

Ahmed Al-Jumaili

R/W 60

Introduction.

Imagine if a doctor says directly to the patient who has cancer, "You have a cancer!" What do you think the patient's reaction will be? How this patient will feel after hearing this bad news? In other words, is telling the truth directly the only way that we can use to tell the patients about their illnesses? Although having a serious disease similar to cancer or not, telling the truth directly to the patient who has a serious illness, is not always the correct thing. Amiel (2006) stated that in spite of the attention that doctors make in telling patients about their illnesses, "receiving a medical diagnosis may be overwhelming," and they were avoided telling the truth in a cruel way. (p. 13). However, despite the badness of bad news and the reaction of patients towards it, doctors are required to tell the patients about their illnesses in order to take care off and treat them. In fact, telling the patients the fact of their serious illnesses is emotionally complicated for patients and physicians at the same time. Therefore, doctors in England (Seale, 1991) and France (Rudnick et al., 2000, p. 157) avoid telling patients about their non-curable diseases. Some people said that doctors should not delay to tell bad news, others prefer to wait until choosing the appropriate time and circumstances to deliver bad news. Some people recommend presenting the patient's family, whereas others argue that it is the patient's choice to have the people who he needs them (Schofield et al., 2003, p. 48). Thus, people are not in agreement about the way, the environment, and the time of breaking bad news for serious illnesses patients. At the same time, people are different in delivering or receiving bad news. So, in this research, we are going to describe bad news that patients would not like to hear and its effects on the patients, how doctors break bad news and their feeling while doing this task, patients' reactions towards bad news, and the effect of doctors' gender upon breaking bad news.

Which news is bad?

People are not agreeing about the degree of badness in news to be considered bad news; however, they are completely agreed that bad news is the information that tells people about a

serious disease or case related to their health or lives. In fact, although some patients already have serious diseases, telling them the fact of their illnesses is considered bad news. Some people consider any information which tells them they are sick is bad news while others consider only telling them they have serious illnesses like cancer and AIDS is bad news. Buckman (1984, p. 1597) defined bad news in medicine as any information which is the cause of negative and drastic altering in patients' view of their outlooks. This definition focuses on the existing effects of the bad news upon patients after receiving this news. On the other hand, bad news is any information that breaks down people emotionally, behaviorally and cognitively for some time after receiving this news (Ptacek & Eberhardt, 1996 (as cited in Fallowfield, L., & Jenkins, V. (2004)). In this case, the author emphasizes the reactions of patients towards bad news. These reactions are very important because they may affect the next steps of the patients' treatment. Thus, doctors may break bad news differently according to their definition of this news.

How do doctors break bad news?

Based on many studies, Amiel et al. (2006) found it is difficult for physicians to experience breaking bad news to patients. Because physicians don't have good expertise and reluctance to deal with the patients' reactions, they always avoid delivering bad news. On the other hand, Butow et al. (1997, p. 858) stated that the physicians' estimates of the amount and type of the information that is required by patients are not good nor the effectiveness of imparting information. Seale (1991, p. 944) found that 70% of doctors and nurses felt that it is easy to deal with their own emotional reactions or feeling to death and dying while 26% felt it is difficult. Thus, doctors are responsible about the awareness of the messages they may give out (Butow et al., 1997, p. 862). In spite of the importance of creating good environment to deliver bad news, fewer physicians concentrated on the environmental support, which is involved in giving bad news to patients. For example, 34% of the physicians didn't wear white coats, 35% of them turned off their communication devices like cell phone, and 38% of them supported the patient by having his family presented when they disclose bad news (Farber et al., 2002, p. 916). So it's important for physicians to support their patients to face bad news and reduce its effects on them.

The effects of bad news!

Some patients accept their situations patiently and they try to calm down themselves and their families and convince them that what had happened to them is their chance in this life. They continue taking a treatment and follow their doctor's instructions. In this case, the bad news will not affect them very badly. Other patients crumble when they know about their illness. Then they act negatively. They feel very sad and may not try to find and take the recommended treatments. In this case, patients' reaction will affect them; and their situations may get worse. So, doctors should be careful about breaking bad news to this type of patients in order to keep them at least at the same situation and preventing them from getting worse. "Research has shown that if bad news is communicated badly, it

can cause confusion, long lasting distress, and resentment; if it is done well, it can assist understanding, acceptance, and adjustment" (Fallowfield & Jenkins, 2004). In addition to the direct effects of bad news upon patients, doctors and nurses trust that patients will be psychosocially influenced by the way in which bad news is broken (Schofield et al., 2003, p. 48). Therefore, physicians always try to prepare patients to receive bad news in order to reduce the side effects of this news on the patients. Most patients feel anxiety and stressed when they hear bad news. Schofield et al. (2003, p. 48) stated that preparing patients for diagnosis experiences, presenting family with them while they were listening to bad news, and knowing much information about their diagnosis results in reducing their anxiety.

How do doctors feel when they break bad news?

Even though some doctors have good experience in dealing with patients, especially when they disclose bad news, others feel anxiety and fear when they are needed to tell bad news. This feeling makes it difficult to start conversation and increases their responsibilities about the disease. Buckman (1984, p. 1597) mentioned the following aspects of fear that doctors feel when they give bad news:

1. "Fear of being blamed": some patients could not be able to face the fact of their illnesses, especially when it refers to dangerous diseases, and start to blame doctors about the information they gave or the bad situation they are in. Therefore, doctors avoid giving bad news in order to prevent themselves from being blamed.

2. "Fear of the unknown and untaught": for many doctors it is okay to do or practice what they were taught or known; however, they will feel more awkward in situations when they don't have any information about or training before (like talking to dying patients) so doctors try to avoid these cases.

3. "Fear of unleashing a reaction": not all patients have good and controlled reactions to bad news so it is difficult to guess the reaction of patients for bad news. Some patients maybe start to cry and make noise. These actions may bemuse treating the following patients at the same place. Thus doctors don't like to break bad news to avoid an unleashing reaction.

4. "Fear of expression emotion": although doctors are taught to behave tranquilly in their work to hold back any panic that may be felt and any anger or antagonism that they may feel towards any individual patients, they may express these reactions towards patients.

5. "Fear of not knowing all the answers": based on their experience when they were students, it's hard for some doctors to be confident to say, "I don't know" because it was expected to earn failure. Thus, physicians who expect themselves don't have answers for the patients' questions, especially when breaking bad news, may fear breaking bad news.

6. "Personal fear of illness and death": doctors as human don't like to be sick, at the same time, they don't like to die. Also it is difficult for many doctors to manage their own emotions, sadness, and feeling failure when they disclose bad news (Fallowfield & Jenkins, 2004). Finally, in spite of any

type of fear that physicians may feel, they are required to expect and understand the patients' reactions towards bad news so they can reduce the bad news effects on the patients.

Patients' reactions towards bad news and their preferences!

People react differently towards bad news according to their personality, age, religion, education, etc. In general, people do not like to hear any bad news, especially when it is about their health. In fact, patients as human have groups of feelings, senses, thoughts and reactions. They sense the surrounding environment and feel happy, uncomfortable or maybe sad based on these different circumstances, and may react positively or negatively towards this news. Some patients would like to hear about their illnesses, while others don't like. About 90% of the patients would like to be informed about their diseases (Valck, 2001, p. 399). In addition, patients who cope difficultly with their anxiety and worry requested to be told about their diagnosis alone without their family (Rudnick et al., 2000, p. 158). Buckman (1984, p. 1599) said, "He doesn't believe every gloomy detail and possible horror must be spelt out." In addition, he found that half of the patients in two studies wanted to be shielded and not to be told their diagnoses exactly. Patients are different in their preferences about how much information they would like to know about their illnesses. Butow et al. (1997) found about 85% of patients prefer to know a lot of information about their diseases, while 15% wanted minimal details (p. 859). In addition, he found that more details about their illnesses were significantly required by female than male (p. 861). In addition to the emphasis of the current medical ethics on the right of cancer patients to be told completely about their cases and participating in their treatments' decision making, most sick people preferred the doctor to make the decisions (Butow et al., 1997, p. 857). Patients' preferences differ based on their confidence with their doctors. For example, patients who think that doctors will make the right decision, they don't prefer to hide the information of their illnesses. Furthermore, patients who believe that their illnesses and its process are influenced by God prefer fewer details and facts of their illnesses. On the other hand, patients are different in preferring different information related to their illnesses. Butow et al. (1997, p. 859) stated that 97% of patients were looking for more advice about what is happening to their cancer, 88% would like to know about the future of their illnesses, and 91% sought more information about their illnesses. Patients who had been told everything in clear ways were highly satisfied (Schofield et al., 2003, p. 51). Thus, patients' reactions and their preferences should be understood by doctors in order to help them choosing the suitable way to disclose bad news.

Different genders break bad news differently.

In addition to their life's experience, doctors were always taught in their undergraduate studies how to break bad news. So we expect them as males or females to break bad news in a similar way. However, female and male doctors break bad news differently. Tipper et al. (2003) said, "Female doctors break bad news to patients better than their male counterparts do." They found that female doctors use better-quality abilities

to communicate with patients in comparison with male doctors and they prefer to make "empathy-building statements" when they talk to their patients. So women, based on their experience as mothers dealing with babies and young children, have high quality experience to deal with people who need help or suffer from something. This experience is reflected in their communication with patients. In contrast, men who always do hard and serious work like participating in battles or fighting to defend their country may become hard-hearted which causes them to communicate harder than women in breaking bad news.

Farber et al. (2002) found that female physicians were better than males in providing emotional materials to sustain patients and their relatives and in spending time (31 ± 11 minutes) when they were giving bad news as compared to males (26 ± 11 minutes). In addition, men always point directly towards the problems and try to give clear solution while women discuss the problems to show and establish the intimacy and empathy to strengthen relationship. (p. 916)

In other words, a male doctor may say, "I looked at your X-ray report and I found that you have cancer," whereas a female doctor always tries to calm down the patient and tells him about his illness indirectly. Thus, communication styles which are used by females and males can be described as "relate vs. debate", 'rapport vs. report', or 'cooperative vs. competitive.'" (Gender Differences in Communication 2). Furthermore, Valck (2001) stated, "Female students appear more humane-oriented (p. 398), and "More patient-centered and more psychosocially oriented than male students" (p. 407). Finally, Farber et al. (2002, p. 916) recommended doing more work in order to decide whether female doctors are genetically more developed or if their previous experiences have helped them more paying special attention to patients' emotional desires. These studies and others may help improving the communication styles between doctors and their patients, especially in breaking bad news, and creating a suitable environment to break bad news.

The suitable environment to break bad news!

Even though bad news is bad, unfavorable, and the patients don't like to hear it, doctors can reduce the shock of bad news and its effects on the patients by creating a suitable environment to tell this news. They can improve the environment of breaking bad news by understanding the patient's thoughts, reactions, and behaviors; and by practicing some actions or emotions to support the patients when they give this news. Hann stated that doctors should create the right environment and choose the suitable time for delivering bad news. She emphasized that the doctors must give a specific and enough time to deliver this news and not allow other things to interrupt them while they are doing this task. For example, turning off their communication devices, sitting beside or in front of the patient, not behind a table, asking the patient how much he knows about his illness, when he had this pain, and what doctors told him about his disease. By gathering this information, the doctors could understand the patient's abilities and his reactions to hear bad news. In addition, Hann said that doctors should ask the patient if he would like the doctor to share the information of his illness with other people like his son or his wife or he wouldn't. In this case, some patients prefer

to share their illnesses' information with their family. In a cross-cultural study, for example, Ali et al. (1993) noted that in Egypt the family who nurtures the patient, takes care of him, and participates in decision-making, which is related to the patient's treatment. In addition, having people present with the patient, especially whom the patient himself prefers, while he was listening to bad news was very linked to higher satisfaction as compared to being alone with a doctor (Schofield et al., 2003, p. 51). So doctors are required to have people present who are needed by the patient while breaking bad news. In contrast, other cultures like American culture where the independence is presented, a doctor can generate other approaches to tell bad news (Butow et al., 1997, p. 862). Furthermore, doctors who engaged in private practice provided more environmental items to support the patients than others who didn't engage in private practice (Farber et al., 2002, p. 916). Thus physicians, according to their experience and knowledge and the information that they collected about the patient and his abilities are required to create and improve a suitable environment to disclosure bad news.

The conclusion.

Because of the direct or indirect effects of bad news on both patients and physicians, doctors are working and investigating continuously to get the best way and environment to disclose bad news in order to reduce its effects on the patients. However, it is still difficult and hard for patients to receive bad news. At the same time, it is very fear for doctors to deliver this news. So, breaking bad news to seriously ill patients is a complicated medical issue because it is related to patients as receiver, doctors as deliver, patients' relatives or family as supporter, and communication styles as environmental factor. Thus, people are needed to do the best in order to overcome this problem.

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Gender Differences in Communication

Raeda AlKhars

R/W 60

I like the Japanese proverb which says, "Cold rice and cold tea are bearable; cold looks and cold words are not." This means that we can tolerate cold food and drinks but we can't tolerate banal and cold nonverbal communication, and we dislike receiving boring and emotionless verbal expressions from the others. Some times, people sabotage their warm emotions and fervent events by being cold and by providing disinterested communication with the other gender while communicating. According to Cary in her article, "Finding Real Love," "Human beings crave intimacy, to love and be loved. Why then do people feel isolated in their intimate relationships?" While it is not difficult for us to have good food, it is not easy for most of us to create and sustain intimacy with the other (Barbor, 2001, p. 58).

A lot of educators, scholars and communication experts are advocating the importance of learning and perceiving the differences between males and females in different areas in order to improve our point of views about

each other which lead to positive communication. Therefore, both genders ought to keep in their minds that these differences of communication styles will last for their whole lives. In other words, they need to recognize these differences and try to produce balanced communication processes that have harmony, empathy and cooperation. Also, continuous supporting, endorsing and listening for ideas the sender is trying to transmit may contribute a lot to communicate contents with outstanding empathy with the others.

First of all, body language usage varies between men and women. For example, women are more spontaneous, natural and candid than men of the non-verbal signals such as moving the hands while communicating. In addition, women try to be more attractive, warm and friendly during the communication process by smiling a lot, trying to offer social solutions and showing more empathy and enthusiasm while communicating with the others. On the other hand, men tend to be brief and formal in their facial and body movements. For instance, men usually attempt not to make their emotions so obvious to the other people. Most of the time, they tend to have short and quick smiles on their faces when the communication situation needs a smile. Furthermore, men feel comfortable in establishing eye contact while communicating with the others whereas women don't prefer to use the eye contact during the non-verbal communication process.

Second, in selecting the comfort zone, in formal meetings and informal situations men and women will sit differently according to the communicational contexts and the gender that they are communicating with. ("Bridging the Communication Gap," 2003, ¶11). For instance, men try to look formal and organized in their body movements while they are at work in order to show more self-assurance, remarkable knowledge and cognition. But, they prefer to move freely and have spontaneous movements with the other gender in a picnic. Women, however, add a lot of emotions to their body movements and faces during the communication process inside and outside their jobs. In locating the place of seating around the meeting table, the women favor to take seats in restricted fixed areas which will help them to stay tacit, less active in the argumentative discussions during the official meetings. However, men's fervid positions are freely unfolded around the meeting tables which give them more freedom to look proud, control the conversations, talk and argue more during the meeting. Also, they have differences in the sitting arrangement and selecting the favorite chairs. "That females had greater feeling at ease in rows of tablet-arm chairs and in clusters, while males felt more at ease in u-shaped and rows of tables with individual chairs" ("Gender Differences," 2007, ¶1).

"Women talk almost three times as much as men, with the average woman chalking up 200,000 words in a day -13,000 more than the average man" (Macrae, 2006, p. 1). Most of the research papers have proved that women are more talkative and verbose while communicating with the others but, there is a new documented percentage that men speak more up to 80 percent compared with women. Moreover, a lot of educators and scholars are advocating the importance of the natural style for the female students to be active, fervent and talkative. "Students with poor English language skills tend to clam up in

company. The challenge before teachers is to make them talk” (Indiresan, 2002, ¶1). For these educators, being silent is a learning obstacle for the female student’s academic achievements. For example, male chauvinists will describe them as naïve and diffident when they evaluate their work outputs or academic achievements.

Unfortunately, some female students or workers who have wide knowledge and efficient experience may be described as tongue-tied in formal meetings or public interactions. “Women students do well in studies. Often, they take away all top positions. Yet, they fare badly in job interviews. Apparently, women talk a lot among themselves, but when men are present, they become shy and do not communicate effectively” (Indiresan, 2002, ¶1). For educators, these shyness and communicating disabilities should be fixed and improved by training, encouraging extra practice for reading and performing speech in public. “Those are the girls, who constitute a large majority, that need special training in communication skills. Without such special support, they will not be able to compete in this male dominated world where negative gender stereotypes, bias and discrimination prevail.” (Indiresan, 2002, ¶4).

According to Usheroff at the Metro Toronto Conversation Center, there is an essential need for perceiving the differences between females and males in verbal and non verbal communication in order to achieve an effective and successful communication process that reduces the gap between the two genders and presents them as cooperative and productive workers in the medical or hospitals fields. Moreover, Usheroff preaches the importance of targeting well developed connections and relations by concentrating on how to send the message effectively with a candid content in order to give the receiver a positive impression about the sender that doesn’t concentrate on how she/he appears. (Usheroff, 2003, p 1).

According to, “Bridging the Communication Gap” (Usheroff, 2003, p1) in hospitals the males prefer to bear high positions relating to management while females may have stressful emotions in performing these tasks. While females usually tend to use long sentences in their conversations with specific details due to their empathy in order to build warm connections with the others, males tend to be objective, brief and direct their conversations. Furthermore, Usheroff emphasizes the importance of understanding the variety of the meaning and use of the body language between the two genders. For example, understanding the head nod signal can reduce the gap of misunderstanding and bolster the communication by agreeing for men and continuing the conversation for women. “Women tend to nod their heads a lot when they are listening. It looks like they are agreeing what they are saying is that they are listening. On the other hand, when men nod their heads they are just telling the speaker to get on with it” (Usheroff, 2003, p. 1).

Moreover, males feel zealous in gainsaying the advanced tasks and they master the ability to express their disagreements in stoic negative ways, while the females can not express their disagreements in the challenged tasks. They only precipitate the quickness and loud-mouthed way of communicating which may reflect the lack of appropriateness

of being effective communicators. Also, the males prefer the positions that satisfy their veneration needs where they become pioneers and leaders with precise decision making. But, females treat the others with a lot of empathy and they are very selective in their comments and jokes with the others. Women try to establish rapport most of the time and they don’t take the risk of destroying their relations by making fun of their partners. So, both genders should concentrate on how to be effective communicators who are capable of transmitting the messages veraciously and effectively which will help a lot in bridging the communication gap between them.

To conclude, I agree with those educators that being effective active communicators by using a lot of body language naturally in performing effective speech for female students and workers are rights rather than privileges. Every silent female student or worker should act and receive training to be a successful communicator in order to achieve equity in job opportunities with males and with vocal students or workers. Finally all males and females should concentrate on how to be effective communicators who are capable of transmitting the messages veraciously and effectively which will help a lot in providing successful communication, education and work performances.

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Communication Differences Between Male and Female

Adoonka Kwankaew (Ball)

R/W 60

Introduction

Have you ever understood why your girlfriend always says that “you never listen to me” or “you never understood what I feel?” What should you say when your girlfriend asks what you think about her dress? What if I say there are differences in communication between men and women that if

we, both men and women, can understand, we can reach the agreement every time in conversation.

As you know, human beings have existed for several thousand years and they have developed and built their societies. They have passed their knowledge by generation to generation. One of the tools that help them, making societies and transferring their ideas, is an ability to communicate, languages.

However, the bigger societies are getting, the more complex communication is also becoming. Languages change from the easy tool to help them communicate to the obstacles to frustrate them in communication instead. One of the hindrances is the differences between men and women, both physical and psychological even though the differences are the things that attract each sex to the other to help human beings exist and develop societies. Both groups cannot understand each other even though they communicate in the same language because they have different views of the same situation; sometimes they even create conflicts between both of them.

In my point of view, these conflicts happen to all of us, no matter who you are. According to the Christopher (2008), whenever you talk to someone of the opposite sex, a whole new dynamic takes place. Sometimes, it seems as if we are trying to communicate with someone from another planet.

In contrast, if anyone can obtain the ability to communicate well, he or she is more likely to be more successful in everything he or she does. According to the author, communication is the single most important skill set that an individual can possess. People who have excellent interpersonal skills tend to have better relationships, better marriages and are more successful in their careers (Christopher, 2008).

Therefore, if we know the differences that cause the conflicts between men and women, we can decrease the frustration in communication between men and women and attain good communication skills to make our lives even better. In my opinion and a man's view, I came up with the three differences in communication that stimulate troubles between men and women.

We speak differently:

First, one of the major communication differences between males and females is the purpose of conversation. They operate their conversation in two different social worlds. In communication, men are more likely to speak whatever they want to say and it really means what they actually say; men give the main idea of conversation to the others directly. For example, men are starving and want to go eat some good food at any restaurant; then, they will say it unambiguously. However, women tend to use different ways of language to state what they really mean, speaking implicitly. For instance, in the restaurant that has a meeting between men and women, one girl asks her friend to go to the restroom with her. In this case, men might think that the girl might really want to go to the restroom and be too shy to go alone; however, the girl actually wants to put more make-up on her face and asks for her friend to go with her and check the make-ups with her.

Moreover, in reality, women likely speak more than men do in the same period of time. Macrae (2006) said women talk almost three times as much as men, with the average woman chalking up 20,000 words in a day – 13,000 more than the average man. In addition, they also use both sides of brain while they are talking. It seems like women can handle two conversations at once though that does not necessarily mean they are better listeners (Tanner, 2000). However, men use only one side of a brain when they speak and listen; as a result, the problem happens at this point. It means when women have a conversation with men, they send two messages to men but men can receive only one message.

Furthermore, the purpose of conversation can be expressed by body language; women likely use their body language more often than men do. According to the author, women send approximately five times more body language messages and gestures than men in the same time period (Rodrigues, 2005). Body language can carry the same or different message from verbal language does. And, the difference in meaning causes a lot of trouble to men because they cannot understand what women want and women also always say that men never understand them. Men usually use their body language that means exactly the same as verbal language does. For example, when men get angry during conversation, they might hit on a table or express anger on their faces. On the other hand, body language that women express usually has different literal meaning from verbal language does. For instance, a man is drinking in a bar and looking for a girl he wants to pick up. Then, he makes eye contact with one girl, and watches her for a few seconds after that she looks away. If she does something that implies that she has become nervous like playing with her hair or adjusting her clothing, it means she is interested in or attracted to you (“Body Language 101”).

We think differently:

Another difference in communication between males and females is the thinking process. Males are more likely to think about everything logically, and females tend to use emotion when they think. It happens this way because males and females have biological differences; therefore, before they speak, their brains proceed differently in the same conversation. These differences are shown in many studies; for example, Gerlach (2008) stated men have more testosterone than women do; it means men prefer analyzing whereas women prefer intuiting. Furthermore, the study of Eden (“Left Brain Right Brain”) also showed that men usually proceed their way of thinking with a left brain while women usually do with a right brain.

Moreover, there is another theory that can explain the different ways of thinking between males and females, “Intimacy and Independence,” Tannen (1990). Men are usually in the position of independence, establishing status and telling others what to do (Tannen, 1990). However, women stay in the different position, intimacy. Women's process of thinking usually deals with complicate networks of friendship, lessens differences, discusses to one another, and prevents the appearance of superiority among friends (Tannen, 1990) For

example, a man wanted to go out with his friend whom he had not met since graduating from high school. He decided to invite his friend to stay for the weekend and did not tell his wife that he asked his friend to be a houseguest and would go out together. She was upset because she just came back from out of town business and could not stay with her husband. But what she got mad at him the most for was that he had made the plans on his own and did not discuss with her first (Tannen, 1990).

Another interesting theory that describes the differences of thinking process between men and women is empathizing and systemizing (Cohen, 2003). Cohen said empathy predominates in the female's brain, and understanding and building system influences the male's brain. That means women, on the one hand, put other people's thoughts and emotions into their way of thinking, and respond to them with the proper action; therefore, they can know how people feel and how to treat them well. On the other hand, men likely analyze a situation and explore the system that works; as a result, they can intuitively figure out how things work. This example shows the differences between males and females, explained by E-S theory. On some psychological tests, boys are better at reading a map and can give correctly details about direction just by looking at the map. In contrast, girls prefer to play with dolls (Cohen, 2003).

We sense differently:

Next, the other difference between men and women is that sensitivity is differently expressed by men and women. They both react to the same situation in different ways and also usually show sensitivity in the different condition. There is an article that shows sensitivity between males and females based on psychological and biological basis; on the one hand, men have more testosterone hormone that leads to aggressive behavior; on the other hand, women have more estrogen and progesterone hormone that directly affects strong emotion (Conner, 2000). That makes men more focus on solid relationship that comes from sharing activities such as sports, and competition whereas women tend to create solid relationship through communicating and sharing experiences together.

From the psychological and biological differences, Men and women sense and react to the same situation in different ways. For whatever reasons, men usually do not express their depression such as crying or feeling sad and try to keep it in their mind and that makes physicians do their job harder to diagnose depression in men and always mislead to the original causes. In spite of showing their regretful feelings, men usually express their sadness in physical symptoms and sexual dysfunction; in addition, their depression might also show up in anger, substance abuse, inability to function at work, and sleep pattern change. Moreover, most males are reluctant to remedy their sadness and even deny that they don't have depression disease; as a result, ending up with committing suicide or developing heart disease has been a lot more done by men than by women (Shaw, 2002).

Men usually show their depression in mania; on the contrary, women are more sensitive to what they experience

and show their feelings in crying or telling a sad story to other people. There are many reasons that make women feel depressed, inside and outside the body, such as the hormone changes of menstruation and stress from the office, family. Moreover, the symptoms that affect women are different from those that affect men. For example, women have depression that affects their menstruation, self-esteem, weight gain or loss, sleeping period, and anxiety. Furthermore, they also perceive depressing situations differently. For instance, men receive depression and that affects them. They will not notice it until they have sexual dysfunctional problem; however, women accept regretful feelings and the effects happen to them as well but they will detect because they cannot handle jobs at work or home properly like they used to. As a result, the cause which women explicitly express their regretful feelings is shown in statistics that women are twice more diagnosed to be depressed than men (Shaw, 2002).

Conclusion:

The differences in communication between men and women are caused by both psychological and biological factors. Moreover, there are the three big differences in communication style between men and women. First, men and women communicate in different ways to express their purpose of conversation. Women speak implicitly, use a lot of words in conversation, and send a lot of body language messages to whom they are talking; on the other hand, men do the opposite things. Next, women's processes to come up with thoughts are different from those of men. Men likely use their left brain to proceed their thoughts; men are logically thinking whereas women tend to use their right brain in their thinking process; women are emotionally thinking. Then, both men and women show their sensitivity in different ways. Men respond to depression by mania while women react to it by crying or sharing experiences with other people.

Therefore, the key to compromise the misunderstanding in communication between both sexes is to accept in partners' different conversation style and to rethink how the message we send could be interpreted. Moreover, both partners have to try to choose the statements that might sound more neutral and tolerable to the other and to learn how to translate the other's messages and how to explain them to the other as well (Stanton, 2001).

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Attending the English Language Institute!

Ahmed Al-Jumaili

R/W 60

Learning English is very important for international students, especially when they are going to study in an English-speaking country. Students can learn English by attending an English language institute (ELI) or by buying teaching materials like software and books and talking with people in public places. Attending an ELI is an argumentation issue because some students believe that attending an ELI will teach them fresh and practical language while others think that it wastes their time and money. At the same time they can teach themselves English quickly and efficiently by staying home and reading English books, listening to TV, CDs and talking to people in public. I think that international students who need to learn English should be enrolled in an ELI to get perfect English, time management skills, and feedback and negotiation answers.

Students who attend the ELI will get fresh and original language directly from native and formal speakers. This source of information and formal style of teaching will help students to sense the language and deal with it actively more than receiving information about it from machines. In addition, most of the teachers in the ELI are professionals and have good experience in teaching English to international students so they teach the most important things of the language which are required for

students to be successful. They can check the students' progress and decide which discipline of language a student has problems with then focus on this issue to help students to overcome it.

In addition to learning English directly from the teachers, students will learn good time management by attending the ELI. For example, each ELI has a schedule to arrange the class times every day Monday through Friday from early morning to late afternoon. This schedule is always based on teachers' and experts' experiences in teaching for a long time. By following this schedule at least one or two semesters, students will learn how to manage their time and use it efficiently. This experience helps them to study more and more in a short time. As a result, the time that students spend in the ELI to improve their English will be shorter than the time they spend at home to reach the same level of English.

Another reason for attending the ELI is the ability to negotiate and argue about the correct answer for the students' questions. In other words, the students who attend the ELI can discuss their questions and answers with the teachers until they get correct answers and acceptable explanations. On the other hand, students who use computers to learn English may say it is easy to get the correct answer and good explanation for their questions faster and directly. However, the computers can give the correct answers and explanation for common questions only. They can't answer any question or give any explanation if they are not set up with it before. Therefore, attending the ELI will give the students a chance to ask, discuss, and find an appropriate answer for their questions.

Controversially, other students don't agree to go to the ELI because they think that practicing with CDs, watching TV, reading English books, and talking to people in public are enough to improve their English. In this case, most of the software or hardware which are bought by the students may or may not give them the correct sounds of the language and cannot feel the students' difficulties or issues. Furthermore, they always repeat the same thing that students can use in a specific situation only; for example, they teach the student how to order the words in a sentence like subject, verb, and object. However, they don't teach them the words that they use to write a sentence.

In conclusion, I recommend that international students attend English language institutes when they are going to learn English. Staff in these institutes has good experience in teaching English for a long time, which will help the students to improve their English directly, perfectly, and fast. However, if students for some reasons can't attend the ELI, they can improve their English by reading English books, watching TV, or practicing with a computer. But, this way of learning should be recommended by a professional teacher in order to get the right way to learn English.

The Hope of Our Future

Aaron Kim

R/W 60

As the U.S. presidential election comes up, some candidates suggest economic plans that can ameliorate the

downturn of economies that are facing financial problems, lack of job opportunities, and energy problems. In contrast to later one, the two formers are temporary obstacles that can be solved by cosmetic solutions or interventions of government; however, energy problems that always have influenced and linked with politics, annual life cost, and economies not only for one nation, but also worldwide for several decades to come. Do those candidates make breakthrough possible? Until now, the answer can be "No." One of the candidates, Barack Obama, said that he will concentrate on ecologically friendly renewable energy such as solar, wind, and so on. Those sorts of energy sources can not be appropriate solutions of this economic recession; however, as you become a proponent on nuclear energy, we can bolster our lives including economies.

The absolutely significant reason that can lead us to success is the efficiency of nuclear energy. Nuclear energy is the most economically and geologically efficient energy source in the world. According to data researched by the IAEA in 2007, International Atomic Energy Agency, the cost of energy product of the nuclear energy is approximately four cents per every kWh; whereas, the cost of the solar energy is seventy one cents, and wind energy needs to cost ten cents. The solar energy source which is in the spotlight in mass communication, especially in the U.S, is almost two times as expensive as the nuclear energy source. Is that all? No. When we consider more in-depth knowledge about capacity and required area of each energy sources, our answer becomes more obvious. The electricity capacity of one nuclear power plant is one million kW while the solar energy and wind energy can produce just three hundred kW and one thousand kW in each power plant respectively. In addition, the area required to construct a nuclear power plant is less than 0.2 square kilometers; the solar energy and the wind energy need to ensure 67 square kilometers and 248 square kilometers. Thousandfold efficiency follows us as nuclear power plants flourish.

The supplementary positive effects of flourishing of nuclear power are the following: multi and vast usage of nuclear energy, and nuclear fusion technology. Nuclear energy can be applied to local heat, nuclear power generated container ships, submarines, and airplanes in the future. Even nowadays, we use the radiation technologies that come from nuclear industry in the medical fields such as treatment for cancer, x-ray photography, and radiation tracking technology all around the world. Basing on nuclear power energy, scientists have researched nuclear fusion technology for several years. Have you heard about artificial sun? If nuclear fusion technology becomes true, our future will be illuminated without any anxieties because fusion technology can lead us to several thousand times efficient energy sources; also, we are using plasma, what it called the fourth state of material, a mixture of ionized gases, in many industrial fields, for example, PDP, plasma display panel, is an epoch-making discovery in modern industry. If you think these additional advantages of nuclear energy technology deserve to be treated as important things, your thoughts should confluence into a tide of nuclear power generations.

As you know, condemnations can appear in every controversial topic, and most people who disapprove of nuclear

energy insist that nuclear power plants are extremely dangerous and wastes of nuclear power are very harmful to human. Usually they exemplify the Chernobyl disaster. It can't be denied that it jeopardized an entire city of the Soviet Union; however, it can't become appropriate reason that nuclear energy should be avoided.

According to Wikipedia, one of the world's most famous on-line encyclopedias, Chernobyl jeopardy can be explained by two reasons. The first possible reason is that two operators ignored the regulations. To be more specific, when operators get rid of control rods from generator, they are required to follow some process. However, one of them skipped that process and another operator misunderstood the situation, taking an inappropriate solution for that accident. If there was strict training and knowledge for operating, it is obvious that they could have prevented them from the facing tragic case. The second reason is that the Soviet Union used the own type of nuclear generators that have different material for the controlling system. Generally, the controlling system consists of cooling water; in contrast to common nuclear system, the Chernobyl generator preferred graphite rods for controlling system. The graphite controller makes a generator's coefficient positive which is supposed to be negative in common sense; consequently, as nuclear generators are heated, those system add more heat to the generators; while usual generators dwindle their heat for stability of the nuclear generator. Unfortunately, without a distortion of facts, two reasons of this tragedy can't ensure the persuasive power for people who protest nuclear energy.

Because of radiation of nuclear wastes, even if those explanations are suggested, there might be still some dissensions. To conclude first, the nuclear waste problem also has not enough supports for objections. The following are four kinds of radiations induced by generating of nuclear power plants: alpha, beta, gamma, and x-ray. The alpha and beta rays can be blocked by aluminum, very easy to be seen everywhere, and x-ray can't penetrate the lead, one of the heaviest metals in the world. What about the gamma rays? The gamma ray, well known as the most dangerous radiation, which can even damage human's organ severely, also can't pass through the concrete wall; therefore, when nuclear wastes are processed, they are covered by concrete, enclosed by drum cans and isolated in the underground repositories. Even though you touch the processed nuclear wastes, the quantity of radiation from nuclear waste is less than the amount that you get when you are exposed to radiation comes from space and electronic depots. The scientific research already has shown that when we measure by using mSv degree, the amount of radiation from nuclear waste is 0.01mSv, and the radiation from space, treatment for cancer, and foods are 1.35mSv, 1000mSv, and 0.35mSv respectively. To be candid, in your usual life, you are absorbing several times more radiation than nuclear wastes from your surroundings.

Becoming audacious, I advocate the nuclear energy as hope of our future. I believe the explanations mentioned above have convinced you to the benefits of nuclear power. But it doesn't mean that I exclude every other energy source and means other energy source can't replace the nuclear energy now. Though nuclear power can't give a way to others now,

researching other energy should be accompanied complementally to make them more economically efficient, and as we research, we can expect other benefits that come with other power sources like that we found in the radiation technology and nuclear fusion technology. But now, it is obvious that only nuclear energy can bring a lot of benefits and become a breakthrough to finish this economic aberration turn into prosperity. There is the saying that when you change the spelling from the “g” of “change” to “c”, it becomes “chance.” It is time to take turnabout toward change, and we can expect the bright future by hoping nuclear energy.

The Brain Differences

Franck Yeboue

R/W 60

In the bible, the first citation about the woman starts with the book of Genesis 2: 18-25, which says "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place. And the Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib, which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. And the man said, 'this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.'" You can notice by reading those verses how complex a woman is, a complexity which started with its creation since the beginning of all things. Unfortunately, this complexity spread itself throughout time, taking a significant place in the relationships between women and men, and making them very tough. One of the most famous debates between these two sexes is the brain difference. This topic is important because it can help us to understand and prevent different issues concerning male and female sex. Three important ideas are: First the female memory (compared to the male), second the male reaction to female beauty and finally the different communication style used by both sexes.

Generally, and according to our different beliefs and customs, women have a better memory than men, especially for strong emotional events. How is this possible? In fact, due to many research studies, scientists are now able to explain this phenomenon. The result of a study, called "Women have better memory for emotional events," and describing that "the wiring of emotional experience and the coding of that experience into memory is much more tightly integrated in women than in men" (Recer, 2003, p. 5) contributes to a large explanation of this idea. In reality, women's brains are more genetically prepared to keep more emotional information and react immediately than men's brain. When women are exposed to important emotional stimuli, for example a picture of a dirty toilet, a gravestone or a dead body, scientists reported that the stimuli "makes a strong link between cognitive behavior and a brain structure that gets activated" (Recer, 2003, p. 8). In addition some studies show that women's brains are different, in the conception, than men's brain. "One of the most interesting differences between men and women is estimating time, judging speed of things, carrying out mental mathematical calculations, orienting in space and visualizing objects in three

dimensions" (Sabbatini, 1997, p. 2). This previous affirmation is printed in a book called *Are There Differences between the Brains of Males and Females?* and it shows us the various differences between the two sexes. All these ideas prove how complex the women are.

Not only women, but also men own some special characteristics. Some authors have said that men react to beauty and food the same. How can we explain that? "The beautiful women were found to activate the same 'reward circuits' as food and cocaine do," stated author Hans Breiter and appearing in a recent study ("Men React to Beauty, Food Same," p. 8A). Indeed, this reaction is in touch with the men's brain. Beauty creates a primal circuit, the same as food, and this circuit causes a conditional response in the male behavior. Another point of view is that the part of the brain responsible for emotional control - the amygdala - shows significantly higher levels of activation in males viewing sexual visual stimuli than females viewing the same images" (George A., 2004, p. 1).

For this reason, male and female brains react differently to a sexual stimulus. On the other hand, why doesn't beauty have the same reaction in the women's brain? This is a mystery. But as a result, we can deduce that men and women are different in the brainwork.

In addition to ours two previous ideas, we noticed in the same way that there is a difference in the communication style between the two sexes. Do Men and Women have the same communication style? There are many stereotypes about this issue. For example, men are supposed to speak less, to be violent, autonomous, goal oriented and objective. In the contrary, women have to be dependent, submissive, cooperative, and subjective. Deborah Tannen, quoted by Laura Bryannan ("You Just Don't Understand," 1990, p. 3), observed in her study that, for males, conversation is the way you negotiate your status in the group and keep people from pushing you around; you use talk to preserve your independence. Females, on the other hand, use conversation to negotiate closeness and intimacy; talk is the essence of intimacy, so being best friends means sitting and talking. For boys, activities, doing things together, are central. Just sitting and talking is not an essential part of friendship. They're friends with the boys they do things with.

As many authors said, those differences create many conflicts in both sex's relationships. But they are just stereotypes. In a couple of people, the communication can have many variables. It depends on the education, the desire, the culture and the person involved.

In conclusion, humankind is a very difficult species to understand. For now many centuries, a great number of scientists, philosophers and readers have been interested in the difference between men and women. As a result of this interest, many speculations, many organizations and many rules have been fashioned to make equal men and women. But, in our point of view there is a difference. "We" are not equal! The understanding of this difference can be helpful not only to resolve, in the next decades, simple problems, but also to help or prevent diseases such as depression or mental problems. It's very important for human, to understand ourselves. This era might be a new age in the Humankind's evolution.

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Multitasking

Mutaz Atallah

R/W 60

Did you know that computers processors are similar to people's brains? Nowadays, computers processors can execute many processes or programs simultaneously. Multitasking is the skill of dividing people's attention on many things at the same time. For example, you sit in front of your computer to do some writing while you are checking your email, listening to the radio, chatting with your online friends, or talking on the phone. This seems very interesting and exciting; however, you are going to lose your focus. Although you won't be fully dedicated to one of these tasks because your attention is divided in too many directions, some people are very good in multitasking and they've the ability to control their attention. This skill has a development curve over the years, and the development of this skill is connected to the development of a specific part in the brain called the Frontal Cortex. The Frontal Cortex has an exponential development curve that increase gradually until it reach its peak then it start to decline.

Toddlers and preschoolers can focus on only one thing at a time. If they were distracted and lost their focus, they couldn't think about the same thing when they got back to it. For example, if the child was talking to someone then we let him watch TV, he/she wouldn't remember what they were talking about when finished watching TV. This is because the Frontal Cortex of children at this age is still not developed, which means they can't multitask. Moreover, they are not thinking about anything else such as house hold tasks.

By school age, the Frontal Cortex has started to develop, and the multitasking skill turns up. Therefore, children can perform another task or can think about something else without forgetting the first one. By this age, children can do

simple multitasking such as doing their homework or playing with their toys while watching TV.

The peak age of multitasking is in our 20's and 30's because the frontal cortex is fully developed by that age. Moreover, the brain at this age has an adult's ability to oversee several tasks. This age is considered the best age for fighter pilots because they have very good speed and accuracy while performing several difficult actions.

When people get older, the multitasking skill starts to decline. This doesn't mean that the Frontal Cortex will be demolished or destroyed. This happens because people's brains have a lot of distractions at older age, and some parts of the brain slow down. These distractions affect the speed and the accuracy while doing several difficult actions therefore they find it hard to multitask.

The frontal cortex which is responsible for multitasking skill has a development curve over the years. This curve starts from school age, reaches its peak in adulthood, and declines as people get older. In addition, research studies have proven that women are better than men in multitasking; however, scientists were not able to find a scientific explanation for that. The only proven reason for that hypothesis is that women experience more pressure that makes them better than men.

Teacher Assessment vs. Self-Assessment for the Students' Learning Progress

Raeda AlKhars

R/W 60

"Assessment for learning is a practice whereby teachers use evidence about students' achievements to adapt instruction to better meet learning needs" (Wiliam, 2006, p. 2). This is an argument by Wiliam and there are educators who agree with him and advocate and pay great attention to the importance of assessment for learning by the teacher who has a lot of training and erudite background which are the most important educational tools to evaluate the students' learning progress. According to Wiliam, "The teacher quality is the single most important variable in students' progress" (Wiliam, 2006, p. 2). For example, these educators believe that the enthusiastic teacher has great educational back ground and has teaching degrees in linguistic that help him/her in mastering different teaching methods and teaching approaches that he/she may use in the class assessment in order to achieve effective learning outputs for the students.

Another argument for these educators, who support the teacher's assessment in learning, is the teacher's teaching experience and daily roaming in class looking for students who need help and providing them the exact feedback that is appropriate for their learning stage, which plays a significant role in the students' learning progress. Moreover, the teacher's eminent experience with various categories of students will help him/her a lot in strategizing very fervent teaching strategies that meet the students' needs. This is because, the teacher knows precisely what stages of learning and what learning errors and obstacles the students may face while they are learning.

Therefore, the teacher's important role comes in creating a climatic environment for learning for the students that fits their learning needs with a touch of rapport and connections with the student. According to some educators, "Being able to make a direct link between a student's results on a set of assessments depends on their stage of development" (Carmel, Hill, and Fullan, 2006, p.1).

Moreover, the educators on the Critical Learning Instructional Paths (CLIPS) are emphasizing the distinctive role of establishing and finding a straight and clear connection between the pupils' learning performance and results on a context of teacher's assessment. Therefore, the educators and researchers on (CLIPS) are speaking in favor of the significant role for modeling the assessment for learning and employ it in a passionate teaching ambient learning environment that fit the pupils' stage of development in the learning process (Katz, 2006, p. 2).

Opponents of teacher's assessment in class claim that the teachers' help in class won't work alone to target effective learning progress for the students. They believe that the students will be independent if they follow the self-assessment learning method where they will be free of the spoon feeding learning strategy and the teacher's directions.

However, the students may face a lot of anxiety and stress in the self-assessment learning strategy. The students will be confused and disoriented in this learning strategy because they will miss the teacher's observation and the feedback. Therefore, the teacher's assessment will help the students to be more focused and it will help them to save a lot of time and effort that could be invested in learning something new.

Another argument for the self assessment learning strategy is that the students will be more creative and productive if they discover their errors and difficulties by themselves. But, the students in some stages of learning are still naïve and lack the experience and the educational background that the teacher has. According to some scholars, assessment by teachers in the learning process helps in "clarifying and sharing learning intentions and success criteria with learners" (Wiliam, 2006, p. 4).

On many educational issues and controversies in the learning strategies on both sides of the arguments we can find a concession where a mix of teacher's assessment and self-assessment would be a successful combination that helps the students' learning progress. For example, some scholars have found that "as a result of reflection on both our success and failures, we have been able to identify five elements that increase the successful implementation of assessment for learning: accountability, support, choice flexibility and gradualism" (Wiliam, 2006, p. 5).

To conclude, I believe that the teacher's assessment with his/her educational background, help, experience and warm feedback are the most important factors that contribute to provide successful outputs in the students' learning progress. Sometimes, the students can't see the forest for the trees. But, with the teacher's support, rapport, and directions they will know how to master a global view which enables them to see the trees for the forest.

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Tiping at Restaurants

Mutaz Atallah

R/W 60

Tiping at restaurants has become very customary in the US and it's expected from all customers. In addition, a lot of Americans who are looking for part time jobs prefer to work in restaurants because the owners are very flexible with working hours and they can make a lot of money from tiping. Some of the customers don't want to tip or don't know how much they should tip, and this angers the servers because they expect that the customer is going to leave them a good amount of money as a tip. This is a hot button issue for internationals who came to the US for the first time because in some countries there is a service charge or gratuity charge instead of tiping.

Servers at restaurants are responsible for clearing all the plates off the tables, clean the mess left behind, spills, the floors, bring the drinks and food, and bring you things if you ask for them. In addition, they are serving several tables or sometimes a whole section of the restaurant. Therefore, a lot of people think that we should tip the servers because they have a lot of things to do, and they are paid very low wages for what they are doing. These tips make their wages reasonable for living compared with the other workers' wages.

In fact, servers at restaurants are not the only workers that have a lot of things to do during their working hours, and are paid low wages compared to their work. There are a lot of laborers that are responsible for many things, working in a dangerous working environment, exposed to harmful disease such as cancer, and are earning low income. For example, cleaners, painters, builders, mechanics, and coal miners. By tiping servers at restaurants, we are encouraging the restaurants' owners to lower the wages as much as possible to increase their profit. For example, some owners pay between \$1.50 to \$2.50 per hour, and this is very low for the work that servers are doing. Restaurants' owners should increase the wages of the servers, so they can live with it without asking for tips.

When people are looking for a job, most of them prefer a job where they don't need to deal with customers. This is because customers are not all the same, and some of them are very picky or in a bad mood and need special treatment. Moreover, some customers shout at the workers and say bad words to them if they don't do what they want. This is true and

expected in any customer service job and not only at restaurants. Therefore, people believe that by tipping the servers they are encouraging them to do their job in a better quality, and offer them some appreciation.

It's really true that when customers are making an order at restaurants some of them are picky, or moody. However, this type of customers is a minority, and there are a lot of customers that appreciate their servers and they are very nice with them. If we use tipping to encourage servers to do their jobs in a better quality, there are other ways to do that without tipping. For example, restaurants' owners can offer the good servers a monthly salary increase, or offer them incentives. Another way to do that is the employee of the month and end-of-the-year competition, and this employee should get a special bonus. These encouragements that come from the owner are much better than tipping to increase the service quality. Moreover, it'll encourage all servers to do their job in a better quality, and this will be beneficial for the restaurant.

In conclusion, tipping is not the only way to make servers' wages reasonable for living, and increase the service quality. Restaurants' owners should reevaluate the servers' salaries and equalize them with the amount of work that they do. This will be beneficial for the owner before the server because the restaurant will be crowded and make more money if it has a very good food, service, and happy servers. If the owners insist not to reevaluate the servers' wages, or use the service charge instead of tipping, the tipping should be standardized because if the customer didn't pay a good amount of money as tipping, then the server would say bad words to the customer or they get bad service on their next visit.

Single Parent Adoption

Eiad Dahnim
R/W 60

As couples want to have a child or more in their home, singles may want it too. Several statistics show that many women who delay their thinking of marriage and concentrate on work get old without being married. Some others like to have a child or more and they don't have any other choice but adoption. The desire to raise and to share life as a family is a demand that is felt by a huge number of people and it is not exclusive to married people or couples. Statistics shows that the outlook of a single parent has become more acceptable than before. Approximately 5 percent of the adoptions of children are by single men and women. These statistics are very important because they show the demand among single parents for adoption. However, this raises many conflicts. Personally, allowing the adoption by a single parent is a disaster for the community if it's left without a high controlling organization.

Many states in the United States no longer deny the adoption to a person based on sexual orientation because states' agencies and courts now seek what is best for the child. Therefore, it is very important to know the sex orientation of the one who is going to adopt because parents have a huge impact on their children. In other words, if the parent is gay or lesbian, it's more likely for the child to be influenced by his or

her parent. The government needs to prevent singles from adopting children unless if their case shows that they can provide a healthy home.

There are many people with different orientations other than sexual! A terrorist or prostitution manager might adopt those children to take advantage of them in the future. In this case, we will face a huge problem in the future that will counteract on the society. The availability of the other parent is very important because it works as a monitoring for misbehaving and abusing those children. It's their right to live and grow in a healthy life rather than living with problems that might severely affect their future.

Foster Children don't have the choice to decide whether they will live with a married couple or not. They have nothing but the foster care communities that hold them. It's better for those children to live with a single parent than living in the foster care communities. There should be a role model that they could refer to when they grow up. Foster care communities might develop those children with some defects that a single parent might be a better choice to heal them.

Moreover, statistics shows that the number of foster children is increasing every year. The adoption agencies should listen carefully to those who want to adopt parentless children or orphans. If those agencies are too restrictive in allowing single parents to adopt, then it will eliminate all the possible opportunities for those children to survive.

To conclude this, it's highly demanding for foster children to be adopted; however, it's also very important to know more about the ones who are going to adopt. Leaving children without a serious monitoring will eventually increase the number of child abuse and then will return to the society with huge defects in the future.

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Differences between Males and Females: Spouse Selection and Home Life

Germain Mavah
R/W 60

Since the beginning of human history, one of the most perfect unions has been husband-wife. This union has for principal components male and female as spouses who live in the same home. To be a spouse is human nature. The first thing to make this happen is to select your spouse according to some important qualities. By living in the same home, male and female have to mix many ingredients' minds and/or behaviors

that come from different sources. So, what can happen by coming together in behaviors? Certainly, this amalgamation cannot work well as perfectly as the couple wishes. Because of the nature and nurture influences, the couple can challenge many differences in this home life in several ways.

Prior to that union, male and female have differences in dreams about what are the best qualities that the perfect spouse can have. Even though in the home life, both mind's males and females don't have homogeneity. Many studies have been conducted on the purpose of figuring out the gap between male and female in the spouse selection or in the home life such as communication, finance, and chores.

In humans, the perfect union involves a happy and stable relationship. Therefore, spouse selection is one of the primary steps that is sometimes hazardous, because in human relations there are many factors or shortcomings that can influence gender traits. In the couple you can hear people say, "If I had known." This disappointing situation means gender's choice is always based on some criteria. The study conducted by Brown on the spouse selection preferences of male and female Korean college students and the ideal affection suggests that men are more idealistic than women and that women and men differ in their partners' selection criteria (Brown, 1994, ¶ 1). In the same way, recently, a study about the preferences for the ideal personality characteristics of their mates shows that women expressed a greater preference than men for a wide array of socially desirable personality traits (Botwin et al., 2006, ¶ 1).

On the other hand, according to an informal survey conducted in Reading and Writing class at the English Language Institute on September 16, 2008, men are looking for attractive and intelligent girls while their buddy girls prefer to find an emotional sharing and a man who has a good job. By these results, we can infer that males are more emotional than females and they like appearance traits. Researchers said, "Feminine beauty affects man's brain at a very primal level" ("Men React", 2002, p. 8A). In contrast, women have more reminiscence for affecting dealings (Recer, 2002, ¶ 1, 23). Maybe she needs someone who has abilities to share these emotions with her? However, thinking about a good job can imply that women believe in support for a sustainable future. As we can observe, our quick survey results in class follow the scientific study trends. According to Barnes (Yale University), and Buss (University of Michigan), who examined preferences in partners' choice within the broader context of the human sociable system, men more than women preferred mates who were physically attractive. "Women more than men preferred mates who showed good earning potential and who were college educated" (Barnes & Buss, 1986, p. 11).

In the home life, once the choice of spouse is done, we have to challenge other areas such as communication. The conversation within the couple can take place in different ways and can involve disparities between male and female during their common lifetime. Andra (2001, ¶ 14-16), a social worker at the University of Massachusetts, wrote about the role that the conversation can play between male and female in the couple. This paper was a review by many researchers who work on this topic. So far, no one understands with precision why male and

female in the couple communicate in different ways. No one knows what tomorrow can bring; we have to keep this in our mind in the way to overcome any difference surrounding the couple during our trip. This difference is the new couple's first problem. Despite the communication ways that exist, male and female have to understand by mitigating problems. To know the male or female's incentives in advance is an important factor, which can allow partners to avoid some manners that can reach conflicts at home. Good communication between male and female can make a difference around the world because it is a kind of bridge for the couple. "The key to avoiding misinterpretations is for couples to realize that one's partner most likely has a different conversational style than one's own, and to think about how a message could be heard differently than was intended" (Andra, 2001, ¶ 21-23).

For instance, the communication around decision-making is an important step that male and female have to control. Genetically, environmentally, male and female are different, and so their manners of thinking have to be different, but living in a partnership means to build a bridge between these two kinds of thoughts. A male is a partner of independence while a female is a partner of intimacy. In the study conducted by Tannen (1991), a female gets upset when a male makes a decision without informing her in advance. In contrast, male seems to ask for permission by consulting his wife in advance. However, confidence and/or freedom in communication are sometimes useful but the most important thing is to know just middle of their side's effects. "To survive in the world, we have to act in concert with others, but to survive as ourselves, rather than simply as cogs in a wheel, we have to act alone" (Tannen, 1991). At last, disparities that exist in decision-making within couples are influenced by internal and external factors which are surrounded our survival ("At Home", 2008, ¶ 12).

Besides decision-making, there is love in the communication as a home life component. Where is love in the home life? Should divorce exist if love exists? As a component in home life, love is a feeling of deep attachment. Home life can be divided by three steps, the beginning, the middle and the end. These steps refer to age of spouses. Around these three steps, many differences can take place. According to a survey, "Men become more careful about love after they turn 60" ("Men Value", 2003, ¶ 1, 2). This survey said, "Around this age, men become more interested in intimacy". Another survey said, "Otherwise at the beginning of marriage, men show they love more by sex, but when they are old, they begin to believe that there are other ways of love" ("Men Value", 2003, ¶ 8). Finally, over 65 years old, the couple builds a more perfect union and minimizes all bad things they have met in the past.

Moreover, in the home life, another area that requires differences is finance. This area can be compared to a spinal column of the couple that can involve difference between males and females in the management styles. The difference in finance between male and female can exist around investment and house spending. In spring 2008, during discussion day Reading and Writing class 41, we debated about the principle causes of divorce; money problem was one of the most important problems. Yet, one day I asked an informal question

to my Education Student Exchange Experience (ESSE) partners, “What is the principle cause of divorce?” They said, “Money problems”. Regarding the gap in investment between male and females, Wachovia, Securities Financial Network (2004, ¶ 1) said, “According to the studies, women in general don’t like the risk regarding lost money”. For this reason, they put their savings into more conservative savings in the banks while men face the risk of hazardous investments. In the research based on couple-households and on the implications for individuals of different systems of money management, Pahl (1995, ¶1) found, “Male-managed systems were associated with higher income levels and with male privilege in terms of decision-making and personal spending money.”

Also, in the management styles of finance, there is another task which is house’s spending in which there are some differences between males and females. In general, men are interested to pay for equipment regarding living room and dining room while women are interested to pay those regarding kitchen and embellishment of living and dining rooms. As explained above, likely at home men and women’s preferences in shopping task are not the same. Men are stressed out when they face noisy stores choosing a gift, and standing in check out lines (Stacy, 2002, p.5A). So, in a home who can buy furniture or food? Males like to go shopping merely to buy computers or toys.

In addition, in home life, there are some differences between male and female regarding chores such as cooking, house cleaning and taking care of the children. A study conducted by Monica Biernat (University of Florida), and Camille Wortman (State University of New York at Stonybrook) about work and home life showed that, “Overall some men’s implications in chores, women were more self critical than men about their performances in home roles, women’s roles performance was rated more highly by husbands than themselves” (Biernat & Wortman, 1991, ¶1). A study conducted on husbands’ involvement in female gender-typed household chores shows that the females assume more these tasks than males (Starrels, 1994, ¶1). In the household tasks, an informal survey done in our Reading and Writing class showed that males were more attracted to the tasks such as home maintenance, cleaning garage, repairing car, washing car, changing lights, while females are attracted to cooking, laundry, washing dish, cleaning inside house, and sweeping. In other words, women work more for internal house tasks.

Overall, in traditional society, the differences between males and females are deeply felt. At that time, for example, indigenous people were called hunters/gathers; otherwise people who lived by hunting and gathering, so, males were hunters and females were gathers. From that time to now, with the social evolution many things have changed. In that time these differences were very apparent. Females’ tasks were inside the house while males’ tasks were outside house. Nowadays, this old labor division remains in some cultures despite the social evolution of human beings. In certain cultures, a man gets upset when it is necessary to help his wife while woman gets upset when man comes regularly in the kitchen. So, who is right? With the society which is in the repetitive evolution, things have to change, but the change

doesn’t have to create new conflicts. Differences in human beings life have to mitigate according to each culture.

As we stated above, the differences in gender tasks are also subject to many stereotypes. According to the study conducted by Panter-Brick (2002, ¶1) on sexual division of labor, the evolution of human beings has encountered many stereotypes. So, for example, for hunters/gathers tasks, the male focused his attention on hunting and the female on gathering because it was their parents’ goals. This question takes place in anthropology thinking around many researchers and is caused by environmental and imitation shortcomings.

Because this gender difference is evidenced across diverse studies, the exciting question is why they exist? Again, from the selection of perfect spouse to the home life, differences take place between male and females. Communication as an expression of contact has its differences between these two entities. This gap between men and women in conversation has existed, exists and will exist because it is the lifestyle of human beings. But, finding a way to build a connection created by communication is the perfect gift that males and females can put in their union (Andra, 2003 & Tannen, 1994). If we know that something exists, likely the best way to alleviate conflict is to avoid this thing. In sum, the concept of gender has its disparities which come from genetic and environmental aspects. At home life, there are also difference within finance and chores’ tasks. In our survival, the most useful things what we do to make our loving partnership is to struggle for a just middle that cannot hurt each partner. In a word, we have to take care of the balance in the way that two partners have to deal with this without hurting each of them. In one word, it is natural to feel some difference between male and female but we have to bridge these differences and to move behind them and this allows us to keep our union more perfect as we can.

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Learning English

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R/W 60

Speaking the English language is considered to be essential nowadays because it's a communication tool, and it is considered the worldwide language. Some people like to learn English just to be able to do something in their spare time, such as watch movies or TV. However, other people have more important reasons for learning English such as studying overseas, working in a multinational company, travel, etc. The

only thing that is common between the two types of people is the difficulty they experience while learning the English language. There are several aspects of learning English that challenges non-native speakers. Memorizing the spelling, learning vocabulary and synonyms, and understanding the grammar rules are considered the major challenges of learning English for non-native speakers.

Spelling words correctly is very challenging even when you start to learn your own language. Scientists have proven that children memorize the difficult or challenging things faster than adults. Because of that, spelling is taught in schools from the early grades. This is the first challenge that non-native speakers face when learning the English language because most of them learn it when they are adults. They'll write the words wrong or misspell them many times until they memorize it. For example, the word "believe" sometimes its spelled "beleive" because there is another word "receive" that confuses the writer, and this is also a common error for native speakers. The only solution to avoid or overcome this issue is to write as much as possible.

In order to learn how to speak and write in English, non-native speakers need to learn vocabulary and synonyms. Learning vocabulary will help them to speak and write in English. However, sometimes they choose a word that doesn't fit the sentence, or express the correct meaning. This is because the English language has several words that share the same meaning, but they are used in different situations. For example, the word "relieve" has a lot of synonyms that can't be used in the same sentence such as ease, alleviate, allay, reduce, mitigate, help, lesson, etc. This is called the synonyms of a word in English, and they are essential to speak and write fluently in English. Some languages don't have synonyms, and this makes it challenging for non-native speakers. There are many solutions for this issue such as memorizing the word and its synonyms, understanding the definition and usage of each synonym, reading a lot of passages, etc.

Learning the grammar rules is considered the most challenging for non-native speakers. This is because they have to understand how to use and when to use each tense, and the differences between them. For example, the difference between present perfect and present progressive, the difference between past perfect and past simple, how to use the simple present to express future tenses, etc. In addition, some languages have a different grammar structure or order. Understanding the English language grammar rules and practicing them is very important for non-native speakers. They spend a lot of effort learning grammar rules and structure; however, sometimes they get confused or find it difficult to follow the parallel structure. In addition, they have to differentiate between the formal and informal English. For example, using "going to" in the future tense is formal; however, using "gonna" is informal in written English.

Although learning English is challenging for non-native speakers, they spend a lot of effort learning it properly regardless of the purposes that make them learn the language. They memorize vocabulary and synonyms, write, read, speak as much as they can in order to overcome these issues. In addition, the difficulty level of these issues varies between the

students because of the differences between their home language and English, and the proficiency of English language institutes in their home countries. The only solution to avoid these issues and any other issues is to practice English as much as possible with native speakers.

What Are the Effects of Poor Funding on the Students' Educational Achievements?

Raeda AlKhars

R/W 60

The most important aspect of the civilized societies is the educational foundation. In order to achieve an equal and fair educational process, some educators have asked very critical question like, "Would schools be better if they had more money?" ("Poor School Funding, Child Poverty, and Mathematics Achievement," 1999, ¶2) or I could ask, "What are the effects of poor funding on the students' educational achievements?" Poor funding in schools can negatively affect the students' educational achievements and their self-esteem.

Therefore, some researchers have suggested two solutions.

There are some differences in the funding system in the United States between the poor and the wealthy areas depending on the taxes. Thus, public schools in poor areas will not receive equal funding to buy things and teaching aids that help in improving the educational outputs. Moreover, some researchers and scholars have proven the validity of the significant relationships between students' tests grades, records and the smaller classes' size and the schools' locations. In 1995, for example, the state with the best level of public school funding was New Jersey, with an average rate of \$8,118 per student (adjusted for differences in cost of living), whereas the state with the worst record was Arkansas with a rate of \$3,599 ("Quality Counts..." as cited in Payne & Biddle, 1999). However, this does not mean that every recipient or student of wealthy educational funds in a very nice and supported school is a great achiever. In other words, some schools which have very low funds are surviving and have very good students. Those students still have the hope to enjoy and attend exciting classes with equal educational supplies and doing their best with what they have.

Although most scholars and educators are emphasizing the importance of qualified teachers on the learning and educational process, learners who are born or live in poor areas or states still don't benefit from the advantages of qualified teachers. In other words, very qualified teachers with long years of teaching experience are doing their great jobs and presenting numerous interesting classes in wealthy schools. On the other hand, poor schools have a very limited number of qualified teachers and are losing them gradually. So, why do some highly qualified teachers remain and not migrate to low poverty schools? (Machtinger, 2007).

Some scholars have suggested very useful advice in order to reduce the negative effects of low funding on the students' educational achievements. For instance, some scholars consider poor school funding and poverty as indicators for diversity. The teachers should be educated about how to deal

with learners who grow up with diverse backgrounds. So, the teachers should master some teaching methods that help in reducing the diversity pressure on the learners and booster their self-esteem. Some researchers such as Payane defined poverty as "the extent to which an individual does without resources" (Empty Tissue Boxes: Considering Poverty in Diversity Discourse," 2005, ¶5).

Once, in a very poor school, a happy child with empty tissue boxes was assigned to move to another school. He asked his wonderful teacher to write to his new teacher to save the empty tissue boxes for him so he can build blocks (Cuthrell, Ledford, Stapleton, 2007). His very educated and well trained teacher did it because she mastered the teaching methods that support the students' with diversity backgrounds and motivate them.

The other solution for unfair distributions of school supplies and poor funding could be achieved by changing the federal laws in the United States. According to, given Baird, the national emphasis on student performance coupled with the persistence of uneven student outcomes, the time is right to rethink how federal dollars can best promote the goal of school funding equity (Baird, 2008). Our concern however is the purpose of education. I believe that it should instill in the mind a library of ideas, beliefs and attitudes. When we need to ponder a problem or discuss any topic, we then have a mind full of resources. As we furnish a house with chairs, beds, and modern conveniences, so we furnish the mind with ideas. There are many examples of people who fulfilled their life's ambitions and attained great status without education, but let it be remembered that these were exceptional people who succeeded in spite of this lack, and not because of it.

Achieving equal and fair education is beneficial for our students in order to be more self-confident in their social lives. With it, our students can stand on their own two feet and not take a back seat to anyone. They can argue a case reasonably but firmly, and feel confident in any situation. Education also helps us develop a working relationship with authority. Changing the federal and educational laws will create successful educational process that should break down the barriers created by diversity.

Overall, I think trying to achieve productive learning by providing equal supplies to the public schools in the United States and changing the federal educational laws will make every student motivated and satisfied. In the 21st century, education is a right rather than a privilege. Therefore, equity in education must be targeted as one of the greatest achievements for the successful educational process anywhere no matter what type of school or where the school is located.

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Tippling in Restaurants

Germain Mavah

R/W 60

Nowadays, tipping has become a controversial custom. At the foundation of a concept, tipping is a way to show your gratitude to servers as a result of good service that you had received. So far, it seems to be volunteer action what someone should do without external pressure. I agree with this custom because after receiving some services from someone it is extremely gratifying to thank him. However, this custom has become controversial because today many people agree while others disagree for many reasons. Yet, in practice this concept is so confused between the perception of tipping for the servers, employers or customers. It's extremely confusing, and it varies not only from country to country, city to city as well, but from person to person. Below are some arguments, counterarguments and refutations to show how controversial the custom is.

First of all, tipping is good because it is an encouragement of a good service. By being generous you leave some remaining in the memory of a server, and expect to receive good service on the next visit. For example, if you go to the same restaurant every month, you probably want to keep the server happy by tipping well, usually 15 to 20 percent. In a word, it is a way of ensuring continued good service. However, some argues that you shouldn't have to give money to show thanks or gratitude, if not, it is a kind of corruption because the justice is to get what you deserve but not anything else. Also, they argue that about all of those other services we receive in our life. Do we know how much we should really tip them? Are we tipping for all these services? So far, I don't think that this argument is valid because it is a false analogy with other services. We have to thank people by doing some material gestures.

Second, tipping is a kind of incentive for the server because we know the server works hard and isn't paid well. However, some argue that it is the government's responsibility. The government has to protect people about their minimum wage. If not, it is a kind of discrimination by paying people with an informal wage. According to the rights, people are equal in right and they must not be paid under minimum wage. For example, if a server is paid \$ 2.54/hour and she can earn \$ 150/day it is not good because this shows that the employer and

server are both a kind of dishonest people because a employer is doing business and he has to treat people as well as possible. Also, a server doesn't have to expect tipping because it is not a deal with a employer when they apply for working. Again, this is a false analogy because even though the formal economy exists, informal economy is also a kind of branch of development.

Third, tipping is a way of making us to feel better about being served good because people have to show their compassion with others. However, others argue that it is a kind of arrogance because all people don't have the same economic level. They believe that tipping can be a kind of discrimination because some people will have good service and others will not. Overall, we have to be humanist because today, all people are preaching for love, but where is the love? I think, tipping can be a proof of love if we don't exaggerate. If not, why can we not practice what we preach? In fact, exaggeration takes place for example, when you buy an item for \$ 10 and if you give a bill of \$20, you leave the change under pretext of tipping. In this case you can hear someone says keep the change! Those kinds of people exist in some areas but this behavior can be an appearance of arrogance or the use of money what come from suspicious sources (bad money).

Despite all these arguments stated above, it will be significantly important to standardize tipping without exaggeration. Yet, people don't have to think about additional taxes but it is only a kind of gratifying and a way to show how we share compassion with people who gain low income because even though the improvement of minimum wage, we will always have difference levels of minimum wage. Among server, manager and customer, things have to be clear and each of these people has his responsibility beyond the tipping custom. For the servers, whatever the kind of pressure they receive from the manager, tipping cannot be the result of this pressure. Tipping is a voluntary action from the customer and it will be hazardous to expect on a volunteer action. For the managers, they have to be right about the minimum wage and all of aspects which are linked with how they treat their employees. Servers still probably won't get benefits and they will still have to work some long shifts without a break, but they might as well be paid for this work. That's not the customer's problem. For customers, to thank someone is very useful and it is also good for someone to help someone, but without exaggeration. By this action, we show how much we love other people. It is also a good manner of living.

Finally, even though tipping has become a controversial custom, people have to be comprehensive. No one has to expect bad behavior under tipping. As we said, tipping is a kind of positive reception that customer gives to server, and to the manager too. But for the customer it is a kind of sharing our love with other people. Thus, to mitigate some misunderstanding, tipping has to be standardized. This is a way to reduce controversial emotion on this custom.

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