

Highlights

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ELI STUDENT VOICES

Volume 17, Issue 3

Fall, 2013

The Real Value of a Pencil

Thomas Scarassati Bello
RW45

1st place

Since the earliest times, people used to write their thoughts, experiences and histories. They could do the art of writing on a rock, wall or even in oldest historic times in papers and books. In this way, the device used to write always was important. Today, people can use a pencil, pen, or a computer. In my opinion, the best of these are, and always will be, the pencils. They are the most useful tool that anyone could have. You can summarize a person life just for his pencil.

In the case of my mechanical pencil, I could describe a lot because it has been with me almost 4 years. Because of the age, it is a pencil that looks old and has a lot of imperfections. It has a long red body with the black top and a white bottom that has little eraser. In its red body there is a writing of my college in Brazil called “UFSCar”. It feels just right in my hand. It is a soft mechanical pencil made with plastic and there are a couple of humps to hold it to make easier to write.

Independent of all this, my mechanical pencil seems very useful to me. That is why I really like it and have brought with me for 4 years. For example, it is very soft to use, the lead just slides around the paper. This is important to me because I do not have pain in my hands because of a long writing. Another quality that I like is that I do not need to throw it away. I only have to buy new lead, and they do not cost too much. It makes me feel good that I do not need to buy new pencils every time one is impossible to use because of the short size.

Furthermore, a pencil, especially mine, brings me many memories. The first time I saw it, it was in my first year at university. I found it on the ground because someone dropped it moments before I was there. In that moment I felt myself very lucky and it became my lucky charm. I used to use it every test that I had. I trusted it. That is why I brought it with me today.

Because of all these reasons I am convinced that a pencil is the best object that someone can receive or get. You can have a lot of experiences and your growth is directly involved with it. The pencil can be an object that is a part of your life. There is so much more sentimental and cultural value than other gifts that people usually give of more value. It may be the most valuable item of a person.

In conclusion, a pencil can have much more value than it really appears.

Do You Know My Beautiful Institute?

Nadiatou Hamidou Karimou
RW30

2nd place

Do you know my beautiful institute?
you know my beautiful institute,
which is in Gainesville?
far from the noise of the big cities,
over there at the University of Florida,
in this university is my institute,
it is called the English Language Institute
ELI ,
framed in foliage,
it looks like a bird's nest,
my institute is shaded,
there we learn to speak,
to read and write all this crowned by the rules of grammar.
Every Saturday involved in a Cultural Immersion Program.
Thanks for those activities which enhance learning and making
friends from the four corners of the word
Student life at the ELI is an experience I'll never forget!
My institute is the best
the most beautiful.

Bloodstained Venezuela

Claudia Bossio
RW53

Violence is a serious problem in Venezuela. According to the Venezuelan Violence Observatory (OVV), it had the second highest rate of homicide in Latin America in 2012, and one of the highest in the world. In theory this country has no internal or external conflicts, but its homicide figures are as high as those of a country at civil war. In fact, last year the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights reported that while Syria was going through a severe internal conflict, the number of homicides there reached 28,000; while in Venezuela, where no war was going on, there were

22,000 violent deaths. That is very small difference considering the social situation of each country. This concerning scenario, which has a direct impact on both the country and its people, has deep and structural causes, such as widespread impunity, unemployment and ubiquity of firearms.

The current level of violence is having a big impact on the economy of the country. There is a lack of international investment due to the fear and insecurity generated in potential foreign investors by these crime figures. According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL) international investment in Venezuela has been consistently decreasing between 10% and 20% each year since last decade. Moreover, investment from Venezuelan nationals is also deficient. Many Venezuelans prefer to invest their money in a safer place, and in some cases, if they can, end up leaving the country entirely.

In addition, this violence has psychological consequences in the population because of the fear they have for the lives of their loved ones and themselves. People live scared in Venezuela. From the moment they leave home, they have to be very aware about people around them; every suspicious person is a potential criminal. This situation exposes most Venezuelan people to a state of constant stress and anxiety. As a Venezuelan resident, I have experienced this first hand and know many other people who have as well. Driving, walking, or getting to a place, can easily turn into a stressful situation when you notice suspicious people or cars. Even calling someone on the phone can cause worry if you don't get an answer.

One of the causes of this high homicide rate is the widespread impunity. The penal system in Venezuela is inefficient. The number of criminals that actually get punished is worryingly low. The OVV states that of 100 murders, only 9 are investigated. As a result, delinquents lose the fear of getting caught by the law, and feel confident about committing more crimes without having consequences.

Furthermore, there is a high rate of unemployment, which leads more and more people to enter into the criminal world. This transition initiates when some Venezuelans find themselves in extreme economic situations and cannot find a job; thus, they begin committing robberies to survive. However, once they get used to the violent and criminal environment, the chances that they may commit more serious crimes increase. Another worrying fact is that some people do not even bother in finding a job first, but they get into the world of delinquency directly. Nonetheless, the difficulty to find a job certainly aggravates the problem.

Finally, this entire situation is only possible due to the ubiquity of firearms. The OVV reported that there are approximately 6 million illegal guns circulating in the country. Furthermore, the existing firearms control is ineffective. Consequently, getting a weapon is relatively easy for any person. According to the Presidential Commission for the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Disarmament, 94% of the homicides in 2012 were committed with guns, which means that the number of illegal firearms and the homicide rate are closely related.

In conclusion, the roots of the high homicide rate in Venezuela are problems related with major areas such as the

economy and legal system. As long as the conditions in Venezuela respect impunity and firearms control is favorable to crime, this situation will inevitably get worse. Also, working conditions have a crucial role, because if people cannot find a job, they will find another way to get money to survive, possibly starting the criminal process. To solve this problem the basic structure of the country needs to be substantially improved, therefore it is going to take a lot of time and money. Nevertheless, not taking actions about it will definitely have a much greater price and irrecoverable losses in social and economics terms.

My Experience in the US

Abdul Al Subaie
RW10

My uncle loves America. He lived here thirty years ago. He loved America for three reasons: safety, laws, and people. America has very good safety. If there is a problem with anyone, just call 911. After that, everything will be fine. There are many laws in America, in the streets, in airports, and everywhere. All the people here respect the rules and the laws. The people here are always smiling at every-one. When I was listening to my uncle, I did not believe his ideas about America because I thought he was lying. Now I study in America. I know why he loves America. When I see all this, I love America more than my uncle.

Become a Billionaire: How to Set up a Startup

Alejandro Magnani
RW53

Everyday new Internet companies make a difference in how people view and do things. Facebook was the beginning; a new way of making friends. After that twitter: your ideas in 140 characters. Then Pinterest, Instagram and many more followed. Every month a new company gets millions of dollars in funding, and their owners are no more than college kids or entrepreneurs. But, how did they start? Where is the beginning of this story? How did they become so rich and famous? The secret is it all begins with a startup, and by following these simple steps you can have your own.

First of all, you need an idea for a potential project. Finding the right idea is not a simple task. Probably, for every ten ideas you may have, nine already exist and the other one may not be an attractive business model. Take for example 9gag, a successful startup that posts funny pictures every day on their website. It has millions of visitors, but still hasn't accomplished a solid business model. However, some projects like Airbnb, which helps people to find lodging in over 192 countries, have enormous potential business opportunities. In the process of creating your idea, you must be really innovative. You can create something original or just take an existing idea and make it better. Grooveshark, a local

Florida startup, had the original idea of streaming music. On the other hand, Facebook took the idea from Myspace, but changed it to something better. You should look for a new and fresh idea, work on it, fall in love with it and be willing to give your life for it.

The next step is building the right product for your idea. If you want to have success, the product is the main and most important thing in a new startup. Probably, at this point you already know what you want to do, but you need to figure out exactly how you want to do it and how people will use it. A famous book titled *The Lean Startup* by Eric Rise defines this process in three simple steps: first build your ideas, then test your product with a bunch of people, and finally get feedback from them. You have to repeat this cycle as many times as possible to get the best of your final product. Building your idea is not easy. The CTO and co-founder of Grooveshark, Josh Greenberg, gave a recent talk in UF where he claimed that in the early years, Grooveshark couldn't get many users. In fact the problem was not the marketing department but the platform. User's feedback puts you on the right path to improve your product. Listen to them, and you will always know what to do next.

If you are already at this step, it is because you have worked hard and you are so in love with your idea that you don't care about the money. However, if you want to survive in this jungle you will need some rich friends. Investors are your next aim. Finding them is not that hard, however, you will have to knock on a lot of doors before they give you one cent. Fortunately, there are a lot of ways of raising money. One of them is kickstarter, a webpage for crowdfunding, where people give you money to support your idea. Another way is to enter startups contests like "the startup weekend" which you can find every month in different cities. In addition, you can find venture capitalists or angel investors that can support your project with capital. If all else fails you can take the easiest way, and ask your parent for money. In others words, you will need to raise money in order to jump the gap between failure and success.

So far, your product is excellent, your idea is up and running, you have money, and most certainly you have already found some employees that believe in your product. They share your philosophy and they want to go big. It's time to call the attention of world, and for that you must do marketing. Marketing includes promotions, coupons, and "going viral" on the internet with ads and Facebook invites. Convince your users to share your cool app and they will grow exponentially. Many companies, such as Pinterest, 8tracks, and 9gag have used this strategy to get new users from social networks. Although, some startups, like hello Flo, used catchy videos on YouTube to call the attention of the people. There are so many original ways to market your startup that you may even surprise yourself with the new commercial.

Congratulations for reaching this point! Probably by now you are the new Zuckerberg, and have already appeared on the cover of *The Verge* magazine. If not, remember this process is tough. With each step, everything gets harder and harder, and bigger and bigger, but you will be recompensed for your hard work. You will no longer have a startup; instead you will be managing a huge company and your baby idea will probably be valued at a couple of

million dollars. You are at the end of the story, and you will have two options: sell your baby, and become an angel investor as other entrepreneurs have done; or, as our friend Zuckerberg did, try to conquer the world with the most popular social network ever. It's your call. Make the Gator Nation proud!

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The Hard Life of Shampoo

Joan Manel Prat Pla
RW53

"Do you agree with torture? furthermore, have you ever tortured?" When the comedian Luís Piedrahita asks this question to the audience, they were shocked when they heard it. The comedian keep on talking saying that he felt guilty because he noticed that he was practicing torture without knowing. According with the idea that everybody practice torture every day, I believes that the humans are despicable because every day they go thru a process of torturing the shampoo bottle. We do things that we don't pay attention about it, but when somebody show us this reality we can only laugh.

First of all, the frightening shampoo's life story starts when the population buys the cheapest shampoo, without wondering if other shampoo with a not so far expensive price is better or not. The population doesn't take care of their hair, believing that the cheapest shampoo is enough. Nowadays we know this action as "bullying". There are so many reasons such as: the shampoo is more expensive, I don't like the shape of the bottle, or I don't trust the strange color of the shampoo. Every thought like this despises the quality of the best shampoos.

After buying the shampoo we think we are doing what's the best for the shampoo, but we cannot be more wrong, the shampoo is going to suffer so much. After the customer decision, it is thrown in the cart without wondering about hurting the bottle. Then, it is going to be crushed by the other supermarket elements, until the customer decides that she has finished and she goes to pay. The cashier, also, doesn't pay attention to the shampoo's injuries and after the shampoo gets blinded by a strange red laser, the cashier pulls him to a toboggan which ends in a wall.

After a couple of hours, the shampoo is on a shower's border, but it is going to suffer even more. It is only the beginning of the torture. People put the bottle upside down and squeeze as much as they can to get "the information". Sometimes, if the torturer is a woman this is not enough to do it once and she do it twice. The shampoo of course, give to the torturer what they want but it is not enough because the next day it is going to happen again. After some days, the punishment becomes worse, the torturer squeezes it with such strength that the shampoo is not able to breathe. When the torturer had what she want, the shampoo tries to breathe making an anguished sound. After a month, the shampoo has

have to learn to do all these things. Maybe you will live with one roommate and you will have to deal with him or her about splitting house chores. In a few words, you have to learn how to be independent.

The second effect and also very common in the life of a foreign student is missing family and friends. For this reason, sometimes you can feel sad. However, missing them is inevitable, so you can just reduce it by talking with them on the Internet or cell phone. Therefore, it is normal for a foreign student to spend a long time on it talking to families.

The third and most important effect in the life of a foreign student is the difficult in adapting to the new culture. When you arrive in a new country, you usually don't know the language, the food and the people's habits. Then, you have to familiarize with them and this period can be very difficult. Sometimes you can't understand what the people are talking with you or vice versa. Sometimes you do something unkind because in your country it isn't unkind. As a result of the contact with a new culture, you can acquire much knowledge and maturity.

In conclusion, the life in a different country isn't only about good things. You must be prepared to face this challenge because it will bring great impact to your life. In my opinion, the knowledge acquired and all the new friendships you make equalizes all the difficulties you may encounter in the process.

After the Winter

Rodrigo Rampazo Amadeu
RW45

After the Monkey's Paw Story... a continuation of the story by W.W. Jacobs

The winter was much longer than normal. The monkey's paw froze below the snow, which depressively fell day after day. Only on the first spring's day, the gravedigger could see the point of the primate's claw. He thought that this was one piece of branch and didn't get interested in it. On the second day, he was calmly cleaning the cemetery and, for some reason, he saw the farther piece of branch pointing him. All the following days he was caught looking for the branch far away for him with the coverage snow melting. After seven days, he decided to investigate this brown spot on the white landscape.

"Oh My God! It's a hand!" he cried out through the cemetery's silence. All the crows answered his shout with a great and sound flock. With disgust he took the amulet and carefully analyzed it. "This is the most horrible thing I ever saw," he spoke to himself and was strongly launched by the hand on the ground.

At night, one nightmare made him suddenly wake up. His pajamas were dripping water. "I need the paw", he devilishly whispered. A lot of bad dreams reached our burial man in this evil night. He normally woke up and went to work. He was living alone in a single apartment in the suburb 2 blocks away from the Whites' graves. All his relatives and friends were already dead.

At the end of that workday while he was digging his last grave, he received a strong gust of wind. He decided to wear his coat. While wearing it, he felt one heavy burden in the pocket. He was startled to find it there: it was the monkey's paw. He was coldly trembling in fear. He held the claw and with all his strength he prayed: "M-my-my... Dear Go- -d ...", he was crying in fear, "I, I-- wish that I will never again see this horrible...", he stopped, breathed and screamed the following words with a malign voice, "monkey's paw".

He never more saw the monkey's paw.

My Garden

Horacio Aloe
RW10

My garden is the place in my home that I enjoy most . I enjoy it because I have roses, azaleas, and countless seasonal flowers. Also, I have a garden of aromatic herbs I use for cooking. There are squirrels and birds in my garden, too. It is very nice to see them eating the food we place there for them. The spring season is most beautiful. The garden is covered with flowers. The garden demands working throughout the year. The tasks are sowing the seeds, stir the soil, fertilization, pruning, watering and caring for it during the coldest days of the year. I can smell the scent of flowers. I can see their beautiful colors. For these reasons, my garden brings me joy. I take pleasure in my garden .

You Know you're a Floridian if...

Felwah Al Anquri
RW45

You know you're a Floridian if..
...you can tell the difference between fire ant bites and mosquito bites.

I really faced a bad situation here in Gainesville because of mosquitoes. They are everywhere, and they bit me in several places. This situation is so annoying because you have pain, and also it will make you itch for many weeks. I haven't yet had a fire ant bite. I hope that I can deal with this situation and avoid it in the future.

The Fourth Wish of the Monkey's Paw

Isadora Leite
RW45

A continuation of the story by W.W. Jacobs

The Monkey's Paw was left on the top of the White's grave and stayed there for almost a year until a priest finds it. Priest Morgan lived in the Chapel of Saint Claire in London. He is a

sweet person that is always trying to help people who need it. He found the Monkey's Paw and curious about what it was, he starts to ask people about the White's story. Certain that the consequences of wishing something with the Monkey's Paw are not good P. Morgan decided to keep it in secret.

Four months later P. Morgan was at the church when suddenly someone knocks at the door. The Priest, wondering who could be knocking at his door in the middle of the night, assumes that is probably something important or someone in need. When he opens the door, this woman comes in crying desperately, begging him to help her. The Priest gave her some tea and asked her what happened.

The woman named Ariana asked Priest Morgan for an absolution because her sins were making her go crazy. She started telling him a story, "Three years ago I got married with this soldier named Brandon Holmes, who was a really good man. Brandon was sent to Iraq and I stayed alone in London. One year later, Brandon hasn't come back from Iraq yet but his friend Brian Smith has just come back and went to our house to see how I was going. That was something that Brandon asked him to do. Brian and I became really close and what was a friendship became a romance.

Six months later Brandon came back and tried to restart his life with me. We decided to move to Brazil. But Brian, desperately in love with me forced me to tell Brandon about their romance. I cried and begged Brandon for forgiveness, telling him that he is the love of my life. He believed me and I asked Brian to leave, explaining to him that what happened between them was a mistake and that I loved Brandon.

Then Brian completely lost of his mind attacked Brandon with the kitchen knife and stabbed him until he died. I was horrified and desperately ran away from him and the only place that I could be safe from him was the church."

After hearing Ariana's story P. Morgan forgives her for her sins but he can't stop thinking how unfair it was for Brandon to die this way. Brandon was a good man that didn't deserve this end. P. Morgan remembers the Monkey's Paw and its ability to grant wishes, and after thinking and rethinking he gets to the conclusion that no matter what could be the consequences of his wish it wouldn't be worse than Brandon's death.

Holding the Monkey's Paw in his right hand and making his wish Priest Morgan didn't feel anything different. Later that night he gives Ariana a room to spend the night in safety and then he goes to bed.

Early the next morning P. Morgan wakes up and Ariana is not there anymore. He goes on normally the whole day, and while he was at the confessional this guy named Brian come to confess his sins. He says that he was suffering great regret because he killed the woman that he was in love with. At that moment, P. Morgan realized that this man was the Brian that Ariana told him about the night before and he probably just killed her. The Priest worried about what could have happened with Brandon and asks Brian if the woman that he just killed had a family. Brian answering the question says that she had a husband that fainted in the house.

Priest Morgan, without thinking twice, pulled the Monkey's Paw of his pocket and holding it in his right hand wishes, "I want

Ariana alive again." The Priest forgives Brian and closes the confessional for the day.

Later that night, P Morgan is in his house at the church waiting for something to happen, when suddenly someone knocks at the door and when he opens it, Ariana and Brandon hurry in desperately, and right after them is Brian running, trying to get them in time. Realizing that there is nothing he can do, Brian shoots at Brandon but unexpectedly, Ariana steps in front of her husband and Brian ends up killing both with one shot.

Completely lost of his mind Brian shoots at P. Morgan, so there is no witness for his crime. Before leaving the crime scene Brian sees the Monkey's Paw in Priest Morgan's hand, and knowing the story about it he doesn't think twice before making his first wish...

My Father

Robert Bracho
RW10

My father loves his family. He was born in Venezuela on 09/17/1955. He is a petroleum engineer. He works with the Weatherford Company in Mexico. He travels to Venezuela every thirty days. He has three sons, all male. Two sons are engineers (one in systems and the second in petroleum) and the third son is a lawyer (me.) He loves his three sons. He tells them he loves them all the time.

A Beautiful Experience that Marked my Life

Linda Wafa Younis
LS30

One day when I was in high school, I had an activity with my friends. We went to an institution to help special children with mental diseases. I shared with them stories; we played, ate, and did many more things. I learned that all the people have the same rights, and we should not discriminate. So, I had a beautiful experience that marked my life.

How I Use English Every Day

Abdul Alsubaie
RW10

The English language is the most important language in the world. When we need to see the latest news or latest events anywhere, we need to understand English. I use English every day. When I wake up, I listen to the radio. After that, I go to my school. I talk with my teachers in English. When I need to borrow books in the library, I use English. When I need food, I go to the restaurant. I talk English with the employees. I use English

with my roommate. I use English because I like this language. I traveled from my country to America because I love this language.

The Long Weekend

Juan Carlos Goncalves Rizza
RW10

The last weekend I had a great time with my friends. On Thursday, I went to a party with all my friends from the ELL. On Friday, we went to a concert with singers from Venezuela and Colombia. We had a super good time. On Saturday, I was in my house with my roommate all day. On Sunday, I went to friends' houses and we swam in the pool at one home. On Monday, I went to Ocala with my friends to drive go-carts. This place was closed so we went to other friends' houses and we ate Arabic food. In conclusion, I had a very good time because I was with my friends from the ELL.

Why Alcohol is Forbidden in Islam

Saad Alhatlani
RW Section 6

Islam doesn't forbid anything without causes. The Islamic book also called the holy Quran says: "Alcohol is made by the devil." The main reason that alcohol isn't allowed for Muslims is because it blinds the mind, so the drunk person can do anything and they don't know that they did it and when they wake they don't remember anything. If the Muslim can't think or pray that's a big problem, so Islam doesn't deprive alcohol without a big reason.

Generation Gaps Between Parents and Children

Shu-Hsien Kao
RW45

Have you ever argued with your parents because you thought they didn't understand you? Have you ever thought your parents are behind the times? Or have you ever had the conversation like "when I was your age, I had to/ always did..." Most people's answer should be "Yes!" Due to the improvement of technology and Internet; the environment, culture, and people's thinking have changed especially in recent years. Therefore, there might be different kinds of gaps between the young and old generation.

First of all, the developments of economy and technology result in different experiences as children and further cause changes in habits and behaviors. For example, parents have never understood why children sit in front of computers for a long time. They think it just wastes time mostly because they don't know how to use computers and don't know how much information and works

people can do though them. Another difference in experience occurs in music choices. Parents might like classical music more instead of pop music since they think pop music is informal and noisy. In contrast, young people think pop music is fashionable. Another example is about dress style. Parents are confused that teenagers wear uncomfortable clothes such as skinny jeans, mini skirts, sleeveless skirts, and so on. These seemingly small behaviors cause the controversy.

Vision of love is another gap between parents and children. Decades ago, people were more traditional and conservative. Couples seldom performed intimately like hugging or kissing in the public. However, love is performed more freely and open today. Young couples might have intimate behavior on the street. Some of them even have sex and get pregnant before getting married. Furthermore, it results in opposite outlooks on marriage. Young people decide to get married easily but also divorce easily while older people think marriage is one of the most important decisions in life.

Last, having babies or not is an issue as well. In the past, almost all people thought continuing family bloodline was their obligation. Having more children would not only carry on their ancestral obligations like house, land, etc., but also help them to do farming. However, due to the changes of work patterns (more services and industries instead of physical labors) and the changes of lifestyle, more and more younger people prefer to enjoy their own life rather than raising babies. The totally different needs cause the serious conflict between parents and adult children.

Although lots of gaps exist between parents' and children's generation, neither side is absolutely right or wrong. Since the different thinking results from the environment and background, a better way to avoid fights is to respect different opinions and to communicate with each other. Then the gaps might be closed.

My Grandmother

Nivea Oliveira Martins
RW10

There is a special woman in my life. My grandmother was a good and admirable person. She never forgot my birthday. She always was present in my life. However, she died six years ago. She was 84 years old. I miss my grandmother. In the end, she was a special and amazing woman for me because she always cared for me.

Summary of *Little Women*

Nivea Oliveira Martins
RW10

This book, *Little Women*, is a story of four sisters who lived during and after the U.S. Civil War. They were proper young ladies and with many differences between them. Meg is the oldest and is pretty but she is swayed by material goods. Jo is a good hearted

daughter and a writer. Beth is a shy, sweet music lover and Amy is the youngest. She is a little selfish, but very social and elegant. These sisters fight but they try also to keep together as they wait their father to come back from war. Lastly, I loved this book because I like to read about the four sisters' lives.

Surveillance: Is it a Problem in the Workplace?

Monica Angeles
RW 60

In reality, people everywhere are observed through cameras installed in the streets, workplace, clubs, stores, etc. Surveillance is an important topic in the news these days. For the government watching what all the people are doing is good because with that they can reduce the violations of the law, crime, and terrorism. Also, for the employers, it is useful to install some cameras in their workplace because with this they can watch over their employees. The question, is if it's a good thing for the employers, what about the employees? How do they can feel about it? There are some advantages and disadvantages about being observed in the workplace.

One of the advantages of surveillance in the workplace is the employers will know what their employees are doing all the time in their job spot. The employers can watch their employees all the time. Another thing is that the employers also have the chance to know what they are doing when working on their computer like what kind of document they have, what type of emails they would send, and maybe know about what files the employees have in their own desk. For example, Andrew Quinn a systems manager in a toy company told a history about he has been watching their employees and he has found that one of the workers has a weakness for herbal medicine. (Guernsey Lisa, 2013).

Another advantage is the employers can learn about how to improve their jobs, watching their employees. When the employers watch their workers, they have the possibility to know how to do better things for improve the results in their companies. The workers can learn how to work better together with their co-workers. Also are good monitoring employees because that may show new work strategies to achieve the goals of the company. Likewise this advantage can be useful in another work place like the prison, universities, college, etc. For example, in the 18th century, Jeremy Bentham a legal expert developed a plan for a new type of prison. He called the prison Panopticon. The plan consists in designed a central guard tower from which prisoner could be observed all of the 24 hours of each day. The thing was the prisoner doesn't know if the guards were looking of them or not, so with this they have to behave in the right way all the time. (National Geographic, 2013).

On the other hand, surveillance could be beneficial for the companies' owners or employers, but is important to think about how the employees can feel about this. That is the reason why monitoring people in their jobs should have disadvantages. The

workers might feel like the employers are invading their privacy, because they are always watching what they are doing. This could affect the efficiency of the employees in their work. Also. it can produce stress in the workers and with that they can't improve their assignments. Moreover, the employees can handle being monitored if their employers tell them about that before they begin to work in the company. A supervisor from the company's North American distribution named Karen Trainor says that monitoring employees can be an invasion of their privacy, because is not fair if someone knows everything about what the employees are doing. (Guernsey Lisa, 2013).

In the second place, the employees can feel like they are criminals, because they are being watched all the time. This is one of the reasons why the employees could give up their jobs. The workers might think that it is important if their superiors trust in them. They can develop their strengths in the work if the employers stop watching them and begin to trust in their employees. Is it wrong if the workers have personal things in their desk and the employers come to their office and begin to search the workers things just to look at what they have in their lockers or personal areas

Monitoring workers in their job is not good for them, because they can interfere with the development of the employees in their jobs. For some people like the employers it is good, because with that they can watch what they employees are doing all the time. Moreover, it has been known that some employers found out their employees are stealing things from the company.

There are several advantages and disadvantages related to monitoring people in their workplace. These circumstances should be expressed between the workers and the employees to eliminate any kind of problem. The employers understand the positions and the employee's feelings, but the workers must put themselves in the owners' position and think what they would do if their workers do bad things to the company.

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LeBron James Could be the Second Greatest Player in NBA History

Po-Hua Lin
RW41

LeBron James, forward of Miami Heat, nicknamed "King James", is one of the most influential players in sport history. After last successful championship season in 2013, all the basketball fans witnessed this super star's achievement in another peak of his unbelievable career: two championships, four NBA Most Valuable Player Awards, Two NBA Final MVP Awards, nine NBA All-star teams, nine All-NBA teams, five All-defense teams---all of these

accomplishment made experts start to debate on the status LeBron should be in NBA history. In the past fifty years, NBA has so many great players like Wilt Chamberlain, Bill Russell, Oscar Robertson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson, Larry Bird and Michael Jordan. According to a recent ESPN comment, experts consider LeBron among the top 7~12 greatest players in NBA history, but in my opinion, besides MJ, LeBron should be the second greatest player in history.

First of all, LeBron was the most powerful high-school basketball player in history. Before he got into NBA, the media around the world had already started to focus on this high school genius' performance. Because of this young man, more and more scout started to pay attention to high school basketball. Also because of his ability in playing the ball, LeBron has an outstanding NBA season in his 18~21 year-old period, while other stars in that age were still learning in college. That's why LeBron was able to keep breaking the NBA record so easily.

Second, LeBron James has the most superior physical condition in the NBA history. He was 6 foot 8 (203 cm) and weighed 250 lb in the small-forward position, but he is strong like a center and fast like a point guard. As a result of his physical advantage, it is very difficult for his competitors to play against him. He is so dominant that every team is afraid of him.

Third, LeBron is the best playmaker in the field. Due to his mature skills and perfect teamwork sense, he always levels up his teammates' ability and organizes the entire team very well. Because of his leadership, every team he has stayed had a nice atmosphere and the mentality to win the games.

Most of all, he has no weakness in his basketball technique on the field. Every great basketball players have their own weakness. Great centers like Wilt Chamberlain, Bill Russell and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar could dominate the painted area, but they still needed a guard to assist them. Oscar Robertson, Magic Johnson and Larry Bird had a complete set of skills, but they didn't have the excellent body contact ability as good as LeBron's.

Overall, LeBron James is really the most talented player in all time that I couldn't find another player to compare with him. Nevertheless, Michael Jordan is still stable on the top position of basketball history because his six championship, and he status in basketball remains unapproachable that all the world know him as "MJ". However, as long as LeBron keeps winning more championships, he is probably the only one who has the biggest chance to surpass MJ in the future.

Why I'm Studying in the US

Jessica Moraes
LS30

I am going to tell you about why I'm studying here in the United States. Brazil has a government program called 'Science without Borders', which gives students the opportunity to study abroad for one year with all expenses paid. In order to participate, a student must apply for the program by sending in the information

about their high school and their academic life. It is a competitive program because students apply from all over Brazil and there are not too many spots available. Studying at the best universities in Brazil, having good grades, and having experience in research and medals in the Olympics are important factors that help a student qualify for this program. Normally, students already speak other languages when accepted in this program, but the government offered me a course to study English before entering a university in the United States. To me, studying here has been a great accomplishment for myself because there are so many students who wish they could be in my place. I have learned that if you try your best, never give up, and strive for it, you can accomplish anything.

A Summary of "Looking for Bad Guys at the Big Game"

Kimberly Peralta
RW 41

According to "Looking for Bad Guys at the Big Game", nowadays governments regularly use security cameras to recognize faces and to spot trouble in specials occasions. This technological arrangement helps organizers of big events a great deal. Each person who enters places where there are gate-mounted cameras will be recognized, and their data will be analyzed in the federal computer systems. There the authority can see the records of each person. Such an advanced version of face-recognition technology, termed Biometrics, is used to analyzes facial characteristics in order to find out who the person is, or to monitor the streets. This kind of security devices helps the police to have control in many situations. But not everyone agrees to such use of technology. Some people think that it invades their privacy, and sometimes the technological devices make mistakes and target an innocent person. Despite the controversy, the use of biometrics will likely become more and more popular for security purpose.

My Favorite Room in my Home

Nivea Oliveira Martins
RW10

For me, my home has many important rooms, but my bedroom is my favorite. I pass many hours in it. I can have everything that I need in this place. My bedroom is perfect because I can use it to read my books. I can call my friends so we have fun moments together. I don't know what I would do with myself without my bedroom. I love my bedroom because it is my comfortable space where I can relax and think. Finally, it is my private room where I can have moments of study, fun and tranquility.

Sacrifice to Get What You Really Want

Brigitte Cardenas
LS30

I would like to talk about one success of my life. It's when I came to the US to learn English. I found new friends while I was learning about their cultures. I also learned to be independent and value the sacrifice that my parents made for me. This is the best experience of my life. I obviously miss my family, friends and my country, but it's a sacrifice that I need to make for myself. I will go back to my country when I finish this semester for this reason. The US is an incredible country with many opportunities where maybe in the future I will return to finish my major or something like that. Now I am satisfied with everything, and I am enjoying my last semester to the maximum.

I learn from this experience that you need to sacrifice in your life to get something that you really want.

A Little Failure in My Life

Wilmaury Gonzalez
LS30

Hi my name is Wilmaury Gonzalez from Listening and Speaking level 30, and I'm going to talk about a little failure in my life. Well, when I was in my third year of high school, I always got good scores in my evaluations and for me that was so easy; but, when I passed to my fourth year, I began to have trouble with chemistry and physics and got bad scores in the tests. I didn't know what happened because in my third year I got 20 or 19, but in my fourth year I got between 10 to 15; so, I became frustrated, and believed that I couldn't do or understand it. That was so difficult for me and my friends and my family knew that. One day, I said that I didn't want to try again because I knew that I was going to fail the test. My mother saw me and knew that I was losing it. She tried to calm me down. Then, she told me that sometimes I have to try or do it again because I will not get whatever I want in the first attempt. Now, I know that when you fail, you have to stand up and try again; you can't stay on the floor because if you do that, you aren't going to go on and get whatever you want.

My Experience in the US

Nivea Oliveira Martins
RW 10

Really to live in the U.S. is extremely different and good for me. I never went to another country before. It's my first time to experience this. Sometimes I feel afraid because I'm far from

my family and feel alone. There are three areas that are different for me: the food, the people and the university. For me life in the United States is easier than in Brazil with relation to food. Here, there is fast food but it's less healthy than Brazilian food. For this reason I miss my food in my country. Also, I think that some American people are so serious while the people in my country are more friendly. Another difference which I see is the teaching at the American university requires few hours of study in class. On the other hand, the Brazilian university demands many hours of dedication in class. I think that is because the classload is bigger in the class of my country. Some peoples in Brazil pass all the day at the university though this difference depends on each different curriculum. To live in this new place occasionally leaves me confused because I don't speak and understand English very well. However, I'm excited to learn this important language. In the end, my life in the United States has many new things and obstacles. However, everything here is necessary for my personal growth.

Fortunate

Jessy Gutierrez
LS30

I consider myself fortunate to have grown up in a nice family, being educated with principles and values that help me face the realities of life. Starting from a young age, my father and my mother helped me to appreciate each and every thing I've set as a goal throughout my life. Playing sports such as football, swimming, cycling and baseball helped me to have a healthy life.

Studying mechanical engineering has helped me focus on my goals and given me the opportunity to pursue more goals, such as specializing in project management in my own field.

Working for a great company as a mechanical engineer for fifteen years, I built myself into a true professional by dealing with technical and managerial challenges every day, in which I gave my best effort in learning and sharing lessons.

Studying the English language, which I have been doing through various stages in my life, has given me the opportunity to learn things and achieve other better things for the future. Among these things is to improve my knowledge of the language and give my family the opportunity to experience the culture and life in the United States, which is one of the top countries in the world.

Making My Future

Mariane Guerra Martins
RW 41

Three years ago, when I passed the university entrance exam, I had to make one of the hardest choices in my life. I was accepted in two big public universities to study engineering. One of them, UNESP, is in my hometown, Bauru, and the other, UFSCar, is in a different city, Sorocaba, which is far away from my family. To

choose the most appropriate one, I had to patiently analyze the differences and similarities between them, such as personal growth, the purpose of the courses, and career prospect.

First, I thought about my personal growth. Living with parents is very different from living alone or with friends in another city. when you live with your parents, it is common to have clothes washed, food cooked, and your room cleaned for you. In contrast, living away from home in another city, you need to do housework, and you must take up a lot of responsibilities, be mature and have the right attitudes.

The most important consideration of my choice is the course I can take in the university. Although both have the same name and equal length of schooling, there are differences in the purposes of education. While the UFSCar's courses have emphases on sustainable production, the UNESP's courses are about civil construction.

Last but not least, opportunity for professional development is another determining factor in my choice. Both Bauru and Sorocaba are big cities. However, there are many more employment opportunities in the latter one because of the many companies existing there. Consequently, the probability that I get out of university and then find a job in Sorocaba is much higher than in Bauru because there is a greater demand for engineers.

Considering all these aspects, I drew the conclusion that I preferred studying Industrial Engineering in UFSCar, Sorocaba, even being away from my family. It is clear that I go through difficult times when I need to do housework, or make decisions alone. However, this new experience is making me mature, and it will probably lead me to an optimal career path when the time comes.

About Me

Nielisbeth Assante Rodriquez
RW10

My story began 40 years ago. My name is Nielisbeth. My parents are Eglis (mother) and Hector (father). I have four brothers and sisters who are called Maria, Martha, Benilde and Emilio. I married at seventeen with Jessie and I have three beautiful children whom I love with all my heart. I am cheerful and friendly. Besides studying, I love to dance, walk and laugh. I love freedom. This is me.

My Favorite Restaurant

Chen Tzu-I
RW Section 6

One of my favorite restaurants in town is "Su-Shi". I love to go to there for several reasons. First of all, it's located near my school; therefore, it's very convenient for me to eat there. What I love the most about the place is that the owner is very friendly. He is a very nice person who takes care of the students like his children. He gives free dinner on customers' birthdays. Finally and most importantly, the

food at "Su-Shi" is delicious. Their sushi (a slice of raw fish on top of rice) is very tasty. I strongly recommend "Su-Shi" to anyone who is hungry to try out this place!

My Son, Jessie Jesus

Nielisbeth Assante Rodriquez
RW10

I have a beautiful son. His name is Jessie Jesus. He was born on May 20, 2011 in Florida. He's a very friendly, cheerful but naughty boy. Jessie James loves to laugh and kiss his Mom. My son has light brown eyes and cute lips with a beautiful smile. My son, since birth, gives joy to my life. Every day, I love him more and more.

Alcohol and Pork in Kuwait

Mohaned Alqabandi
RW Section 6

I have never seen Kuwaitis drink alcohol in Kuwait because it's completely illegal. But in the United States of America it's legal to drink if you are above 21 years old. So I saw many people in the United States of America drinking alcohol but in a few places like bars or at home. I thought you could drink everywhere in the USA, but it's not. Also, Americans used to eat pork meat which is not allowed in Kuwait because of religious reasons; also, it's illegal to buy, sell, and import it from other countries. Even if it becomes available and legal in Kuwait's restaurants, Muslims will not eat it.

Different Stages of Life

Valeria Contreras
RW45

According to Robert Frost, "In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on." In life we go through different stages and we are responsible for our decisions. This means that no matter what the decisions we have made are, life will continue day by day and it will not wait for us to make the right plans. Success or failure is just a personal decision. At this point, we can classify the world's society in three categories by age.

The first group is the young people. This is the base category that plays an important role in improving society. People from 0 to 18 need to know how to differentiate the good from the bad. This is the most important point in life. This category has to have a familiar base, full of values and principles. Parents have to be the role model for their children, doing what they say their children have to do. Therefore, here is where a society full of values starts growing, such as respect, honesty, solidarity, trust, integrity, and responsibility.

The second stage is population from 19 to 60. Here is where all the values have to be clear and strong in order to achieve

personal growth. The ideals for this group are to obtain a university degree, to get an attractive job, and build a family. The hardest part of this stage is to maintain a balance between the professional development and family. Another important fact that helps the improvement of society is in this group, which is the hardest part of life.

With a perfect balance in life, we start to relax. The last stage is the population from 61 and over, who are retired people of the economic system. Normally this category enjoys life without stress and pressure. When we reach this point of life, it is important to be healthy and economically stable. This group is the wisest because of all the experience they have been accumulating during life. Society takes this group as the ones that can share better advice and have a clear point of view about life.

The world needs all of these categories. Listening to our parents is important in order to have values that society needs every day. We have to construct our family from birth through the end, without forgetting about having a balance between family and job. All these aspects are important to reach the senior stage as good as possible. It is in our hands to build a good society full of solutions and empty of problems when we are teenagers and over. Every type of person belongs to a different category that provides evolution for society.

You Know you're a Floridian if...

Nicolle Gorla Fonseca:
RW45

You know you're a Floridian if...

...flip-flops are everyday wear. Shoes are for business meetings and church.

I arrived in Florida about three weeks ago. Here it is really hot, so since I arrived, I have been wearing flip-flops to go everywhere. Last Saturday when I was at the swimming pool, I looked down at my feet, and I realized that they got sunburned. Now it looks like I am wearing flip-flops, but I'm not. Nowadays, every time I go somewhere with flip-flops, I have to use sunblock on my feet.

A Living Room

Osmar Pias
RW10

There are important things that a good living room must have. A living room needs to have a comfortable sofa for people to sit on so they can talk. A television is also important because TV watching is a hobby for people in their free time. In some places that are very hot or cold, having a heater and an air conditioner in the living room is a good idea. A coffee table is very useful and cool place for books, magazines, and cups. These are some items

that, in my opinion, are necessary for persons to have a nice living room in their home.

Don't Do It

Thiago Campos de Oliveira
RW 21

All my childhood, I was restless. One day when I was four years old, I went to my grandma's house. There were all of my cousins. They were jumping from a mango tree to mountain sand that was under the tree. So my parents said to me, "Don't do it!" before they let me go to my grandma's house. But as the children are disobedient, I played with my cousins and climbed the tree. When I jumped off, I missed the sand and fell to the ground and broke my leg. So my godmother heard my screams and took me to hospital. But children don't learn easily. One month later, I was jumping off the table.

My Kitchen and Cooking

Maria Segura
RW10

I'm going to write about my kitchen because I like to cook. My kitchen has all the utensils for cooking. It has lots of pans and pots, a big oven, a good microwave and a large area for moving around. But the thing that I like the most about cooking is when my guests say "Ummm, it's very good". So these are the reasons why I love my kitchen and I love to cook.

You Know you're a Floridian if...

Franz Salazar Ancasi:
RW45

You know you're a Floridian if...

...you never use an umbrella because you know the rain will be over in five minutes.

Before I arrived in Florida, I had never seen the hard rain. In fact, in my country, Peru, it is impossible to have rain. My first reaction was fear, and then I felt more secure because my cousin told me that it is normal in Florida to see this kind of weather. If you wait, it will be over in just a few minutes.

My After-Class ELI Activities

Saif Alzahrani
RW10

Wonderful !!! When I go to ELI activities after class, I speak English. That is good for me. For example, on Game Night (Monday night) in the Reitz Union, we play bowling and practice

English. When I go to Coffee Talk on Wednesday nights, I also practice English and I meet other students. On Gator Night, Friday night, we watch free movies and the popcorn is free. Finally, I like ELI activities after class because we speak English and we have fun.

Pork in Islam

Abdulmuhsen Alajmi.
RW Section 6

There are no Muslims that eats pork because of different kind of reasons. the most important one is that it's prohibited in the holy Quran , cause in our belief its the nastiest animal in the planet , and if he is nasty then his meat must be nasty. first of all he eats his own waste , his rubes his body on the dirt , plus the pig is an impure animal , and Muslims are prohibited to eat impure meat. cause it contains a lot of diseases as the since had proven with some studies and researches. and they have proven that its one of the most dangerous meats in the earth , and it causes a serious diseases and it may causes death. and i agree with this belief cause i just get sick from just seeing one

Technology

Firas Abed
RW60

Technology

Finally, I realized that the reason behind the low grades of all students on their exams. Technology not merely used by younger people, but also by children; it has serious effects on kids through direct or indirect ways. One of these ways is by spending a lot of time sitting at the computer or texting by cellphone , watching videos, and communications with friend. All these have had a negative effects on kids. According to all research that has been previously completed, which related to the relation between kids and technologies, it hurts kids by over loading their brains, consuming their time and creating health disorders.

First of all, it is clear fact that modern technologies can exhaust the brain's energy levels by concentrating technologies by recruit the brain energy through concentrating activities that it need to be done. Games are the major field in which children are using computers because it contain a lot of characters that they already have in their fertile imaginations. The brain needs rest, gets it when the kids go sleep, student spend all times playing games, although they had studied before at the test, but their brains are un able to remember accurately what material they have previously studied.

Secondly, families need to sit together from time to time; when children or adults spend more and more time on the technological devices make the kids far away from their parents, then the results are cold relationships between parents and children. Poor social relationships and inability to communicate with the real world outside of technologies. It diminishes the imagination of the kids because every things is ready; here,

furthermore, kids will be un able to invent because they become addicted to obtain every things already being accomplished for them.

Finally, health disorders are one of the most well-known results of too much technology usage. The physical and mental health risks for kids who can't pull themselves away from technological devices. Eye problems is one of the first effects on kids because in their entire life they be exposed for a long period. If the eyes exposure from fresh age the effect is more than the one who exposed after two or three years later. Teens miss more school and have more mental health, sleeping problems, stomach ache, and anxiety and depression than other people in different age groups.

In conclusion, technology is a good invention and it progressed quickly by time. People should be careful about how to use the technology as they can; however, they should keep their kids under their eyes because it has several effect on kids. It impacts their mental abilities; the time they need it to communicate with parents and relatives and teachers in school; and their body health.

Religion and Food

Ali Bu-Humad
RW Section 6

In our religion we have a lot of food and drinks that we can't drink or eat. First of all, we can't drink alcohol because when we drink alcohol it will go to our mind and we will act weird. We my do something we don't want to do. After that we will be sad for what we did when we drink and this same thing make us not to drink like this drinks. Secondly the food. We have many food that we can't eat like pork because when we eat it, it may make the people feel sick. It leads to many diseases due to harmful bacteria. In my point of view, I think that everyone should stop eating pork and drinking alcohol.

Korea's Sweets Days

Jiae Yu
RW Section 6

Korea has many special days eating sweets. One of days February 14th is called Valentine's Day. This day women give sweets to men. When I was young, I made chocolate with my mother and gave it to my father, my brother and our neighbors. In addition, March 14th is called White Day. This day men give sweets to their loving women. My father gave some sweets to me until I was a high school student. Also, November 11st is Pepero Day. Couples give Pepero to each other and eat it together. These days are popular with teenager. However, as they get older, they think these days are childish, so they stop giving sweets to each other. With age, I thought these days are childish too and stopped celebrating these days, so my last giving sweets was in the first grade of high school.

What I do to Get Better

Husen AlQattan
RW Section 6

When I'm sick I have many steps to get better. The first step I do when I'm sick is go to hospital. After that I will talk to the doctor about how I feel. Then he will give me medicine to become fine. Then I will take the medicine regularly to become healthy. The other step I follow when I'm sick is staying at home and my mother take care of me to become fine. She makes special food for me and she gives me the medicine at the time. This is what I do when I become sick.

You Know you're a Floridian if...

Ana Ordóñez Delgado:
RW45

You know you're a Floridian if...

...you never use an umbrella because you know the rain will be over in five minutes.

The first day I was in Gainesville, it was raining every ten minutes. This rain continued for a whole week. The first thing I did was buy an umbrella. Since then, I have carried my umbrella everyday to school to not get wet. Then I realized that the rain only lasts five minutes. That is why I now leave my umbrella home, and if it rains, I will wait five minutes until the rain stops.

Marmaris

Ceren Bedir
RW43

Have you ever been in a city located in middle of the Aegean Sea and Mediterranean Sea? This unique city is located in southwest of Turkey, which is called Marmaris. The city has lots of natural beauties. That's why the city is a port town and a tourism resort on the Mediterranean coast. The city's main source of income is tourism. Marmaris is a pearl of the world with its good weather condition, natural food products and entertainment. Marmaris has a hot summer Mediterranean climate characterized by hot and humid in summer, and cool, rainy in winter. Summers are hot and temperatures are high during the summer. October is still warm and bright. Many tourists prefer to visit in early of autumn, especially in September, because of the temperatures are not as hot. Winters are mild and wet. Winter is a rainy season. Aside from the weather condition, the city has four seasons. Spring, summer, fall and winter, and the four seasons affect the natural food productions in a good way. In particular, in winter, citrus fruits and vegetables are especially fresh and tasteful because of rain. Most importantly, nature gives the natural and best quality of products, which are honey and olive oil. Even though these products can be

useful for cooking, they can be used for beauty too. As known, olive oil and honey are the beneficial products for skin, hair and body health. In addition to good weather condition and natural food products, the city has lot of entertainment places. Marmaris is a famous city with its charming beaches and nightlife. One of the best attractions in the city to attend is a daily boat trip. The boats take their guests in the morning from the harbor and organize tour side bay and islands. The clear and warm sea hypnotize people. Furthermore, the city has a long beach. Tourists can enjoy and relax at the beach with pine forest and beautiful sea. Finally, Marmaris is a city that never sleeps. All kind of fun is here. Tourists can find all kinds of atmosphere; R&b, techno, live music, pop, rock.... every kind of music and clubs available for party.

In sum, Marmaris is a unique city with its good weather condition, organic food products and entertainment. The city has hotsummer Mediterranean climate. The city has different kinds of seasons, and this has good affects on natural food productions, such as citrus fruits, vegetables, olive oil and honey. Last but not least, the city is famous with its entertainment places. The gorgeous beaches and fun night life's. That's why people know how to party there and keep coming back.

Staying Healthy

Ibrahim Almutairi
RW Section 6

The steps that I do when I am sick to get better. The first thing I go to see a doctor. If am just sick not something serious I'll go to the student health center. In there I can see a doctor. And after he prescribes medicines for me. I'll go home and have some rest with eating my medicines until I get better. But if am having something serious I'll go to the hospital. In there they will take care of the situation. And I'll be staying at the hospital for a while. And if you have a flue or some thing unserious don't go to the hospital because you will wait for a long time to see a doctor. If you want to be better when you are sick see a doctor ' eat your medicine and have a rest.

My ELI After-Class Activities

Nielisbeth Assante Rodriquez
RW10

I love the ELI program after-class activities, but I can only enjoy going to Coffee Talk. This is on Wednesday nights. I have family commitments with my kids. Also, it is difficult to take the bus and I have no car. I like and make a sacrifice to go to Coffee Talk because I like to share time with new friends and my friends in class: Horacio, Robert, Maria, Abdullah and Mohammad Alkuwari. I also enjoy reading about the different possibilities in the ELI Weekly. Eventually, I want to enjoy more of them as my colleagues say they are fantastic. All the ELI activities are great.

My Important Teacher

Amal Alamri
RW 21

She is an important teacher in my life, and she is my mother. Her name is Dafrah. She has many ideas about life. She is teaching me positive thinking because her life was difficult. She helps me in my study, and she tells me how to cook. She is living in Saudi Arabia right now, but I think she is not far from me. She likes to talk with me every day, and I want to learn a lot about the life of my mother. She is an example in my life. She is a great woman.

Ramadan

Abdullah Alshuaib
RW Section 6

In Ramadan, we make some delicious sweets and cakes. Ramadan is a special month in Islamic calendar. Muslims fast in Ramadan until Sunrise. After that we eat our meal, and we start eating dates and drinking water. After we finished we eat our special sweets. Many people make sweets and give them to the neighbors. In the middle of Ramadan, we have a special day. It is a special celebration for children. These days children knock on the door and sing to have some candies and the sweets. In the end I think eating sweets and traditional celebration make us happy.

The Different Class Culture

Chen Tzu-I
RW Section 6

I can't understand the class culture in America; the students can talk to anytime. They don't need to raise hands. Even those who raise hands don't wait for the teacher to call them. I don't think that this is a bad habit, but I can't listen to the what the teacher says when I want to listen. It's very usually in America, but I think that is interference sometimes. In Taiwan, we can't talk during the class. If you have any question, you need to raise your hands, and you must "WAIT". You can't talk immediately. We almost don't speak when during class time. Now, I am unhappy in the classes when I listen to the teachers say and someone speaks,

too. But I know that's every usual in America. I hope I can adapt quickly and join the classes. But I still think we can't talk to when the other is talking. Please raise your hands, and "WAIT FOR A MOMENT."

The Life Teacher

Thiago Campos De Oliveira
RW 21

When I talk about a teacher, I remember all of my teachers in school, high school, and college. Everyone was a good teacher, but my best teacher was at home. With this person I learned everything that I know about the world. She taught me to walk and speak. She's the most important person in my life. She's my mother. I have known her since I was born. She's the first person that I loved. She's very wise, and she has a heart of gold. She taught me that I should never give up, that I should keep trying. If I'm here, it's because of her!

In My Holiday

Kawther Al Jasim
RW Section 6

In my holiday , I can eat any sweet. When I went with my friend in her Easter , I eat chocolate eggs. I flavor this sweet because it is very soft. When I went to my family home, my mom cooking some sweet like cake . I like this sweet. I need any body to cooke this sweet to remember my mom . I love mom and I love anything from her. In Iraq I was cook many sweet like cup cake and cake . I was do ice crem. My sister she was cooking pastry very good . When I was with my family I eating this sweets and I was very happy.

Thanks from the Editor

Thank you for sharing your writing with everyone. I hope you enjoy reading your fellow students' writing. Also thanks to Megan Forbes and the University of Florida Bookstore for arranging the gift certificates, to the Reading/Writing, Listening Speaking, and Grammar for Writing instructors for supporting their students in their writing, and to Debbie Kellermann, Patrick Klager, Valentina Komaniecka, Olga Moody, Patricia Moon, Karen Owens, Tom Ratican, Maya Shastri, and Victoria Shelly for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone!

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