

ELI STUDENT VOICES

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Clothing that Makes Me Feel Special

Stephany Gil
RW3

First Place

Behind every piece of clothing is a legendary story, usually related to who we are. Nowadays, my country is suffering a very difficult political situation. This is why my favorite piece of clothing is actually an outfit made of my hat, my black t-shirt, and my lucky black pants that I wear when I protest defending the democracy and the rights of my country. When I go to protest, I like to combine style with comfort in order to identify myself and highlight my attributes.

My outfit translates into comfortable clothes that make me look good and feel confident. One piece of my outfit that makes me feel strong is my black t-shirt, which has an emblem on the front that says “Venezuela resistance” with a map of my country. On the back, it has a phrase by Leopoldo Lopez, who is the opposition’s candidate, which says “Who gets tired, loses”. The second part of the outfit is my orange hat, which has the name of the political party to which I belong. The color represents the best Venezuela that we all want. The last piece of my outfit is my lucky black pants. I call them my lucky pants because one day I was robbed wearing them and I didn’t suffer any damage compared to the people I was with.

Every element and every detail of my outfit is carefully selected and designed to make people who are supporting the government realize our dissatisfaction about the way that they are destroying the country. My outfit in general describes all the punishment that every Venezuelan sustains in these difficult days, such as, scarcity of food products and medicines, inflation, delinquency, exchange control, unemployment, political prisoners, freedom of expression, and many other strategies that the government has used to oppress us. Each time I go to protest, I forget the fear that the government has implanted inside of us; therefore, at that moment I become a brave person capable of confronting any hard circumstance that is in my way.

I remember one time when my friends and I went to protest and the situation went out of control. The soldiers began to repress the protesters, leaving a total of 15 injured, one dead and 40 prisoners. These kinds of situations are experienced daily in my country. For that reason, while I was in my country, I fought day

by day with my battle outfit to defend the rights of all Venezuelans. Unfortunately, the Venezuelans have a country where the young students play the role of soldiers trying to defend their homeland due to the incompetence of the army.

In conclusion, my outfit is always going to be the clothes that make feel a hero of freedom. Wearing this hopefully, I will have the confidence to achieve the change that Venezuela needs and make people stop being indifferent to what we are living through; however, if my country continues being governed by political dictators, it is very possible that a civil war might begin, which would be the biggest misfortune for everyone. someday.

Traditional Chinese Clothing

Ping Hu
RW3

Second Place

Clothing is one of life’s essential necessities. Most of the shopping malls provide thousands articles of clothing with different brands, styles, and prices to meet the demand of different people. People usually dress in functional clothing. They wear a uniform when they go to work or go to school. They wear casual clothing when they meet friends outside or stay at home. Traditional Chinese clothing is for celebrating the holiday and important events. It is my favorite piece of clothing.

Qipiao is one piece of Chinese traditional clothing. Qipiao were first worn by women in Qing Dynasty. The original Qipiao was wide and loose. It covered most of the woman’s body, revealing only the head, hands and the tips of the toes. With time, Qipiao has now become more fitting and revealing. The long robe is worn in a formal event such as wedding or graduation celebration while the short robe makes you bright and noticeable when you attend a party.

When I held my wedding ceremony, I decided that I must choose a red traditional Qipiao as my last wedding clothing. During the ceremony, the bride should dress in several different pieces of clothing. People always think saving the last is the best. Red means great future and happiness. So you could imagine how I liked the Qipiao. I was so tired of the long wedding day, but I was thrilled and recovered when I went to dressing room and saw my red Qipiao. When I came back to the banquet hall, all the lights

were turned off, and all the guests were waiting to see my last wedding dress. Finally, all the guests were so surprised and joyful. I even saw some of them open their mouths and eyes wide as they peered at my red Qipiao. I felt I would be a queen at that moment. The Qipiao is not only the Chinese traditional clothing but also one part of Chinese culture. People who travel or stay in foreign country are used to taking one or two pieces of Qipiao. They will wear Qipiao to a special event to represent that they are from China. My daughter will be wearing a blue Qipiao to preschool in America on her birthday. I assume all of her classmates and teachers in Gainesville will remember the cute little Chinese girl and that birthday celebration in a long run. You also could see a lot of actresses wearing a Qipiao in movies from the 1930's to the 1940's in Shanghai because the Qipiao was treated as fashion and modern clothing at that time. It developed rapidly during that period, and even Hong Kong women started to wear the Qipiao since then.

The Qipiao is my favorite piece of clothing for the joy it brings and the tradition it recalls. Nowadays, the Qipiao tends to be more and more popular all over the world. Even the foreign movie stars are willing to wear Qipiao in public. They think it is the best way to be closer with their Chinese fans. Qipiao boutique may be open worldwide in the following years.

Tradition is Female: Connection Between Gender and Folklore in the South of Italy

Dalila D'Ingeo
RW 52

Italy is the heart of Ancient Europe: apparently it is a whole country, basically it is divided in two more little regions --- North Italy and South Italy. Like all the "Souths" in the world, the lower part of the Peninsula is characterized by old and settled folk traditions. Especially in Puglia - the heel of the boot - people keep from the past customs and behaviors strictly related to gender rules.

There are three examples that display clearly the strong connection between gender and folk traditions: Pizzica dance, the house fairy and the folk doctor.

Pizzica is a folk dance born in the Salento Region of South Italy, mostly danced among women to fight against evil forces (De Martino, 2005). This is the local name for the *Tarantella*, the Italian dance that borrows its name from *tarantula* - a spider with lethal poison that brings madness. This dance was used as a cure for tarantula victims; the steps were frenetic and combined with drum sounds and traditional songs. Pizzica was a kind of exorcism to remove bad energy from body.

The ritual sees the victim in the center of a big circle formed by the members of the community that dance together, hunting bad spirits. Later this dance was used to cure women with mental diseases like hysteria; it was a practice to control the female body and domesticate her behaviors. As explained by Jerri Daboo (1967), "Women in particular became the representation of the

South, as a creatures of sensibility rather than the intellectual and objective 'male' world of the North".

According to oral traditions, the house fairy is the spirit of a woman who lives with the family in order to protect and defend the house against criminals, bad people and evil forces. A Byzantin belief narrated that to be solid a building had to have a cadaver in its foundations, and according to this tale, the family fairy was the spirit of the first woman who passed by while the house was built up. She is a ghost who interacts with the family through pranks or good actions. Her behavior depends on the family: if the members respect her, she is gentle and courteous, otherwise she acts as a bad witch. Community members mention two famous prayers that are still used to ingratiate the sacre spirit of the house:

- "BBuènn ggiorne patrone de case, u male iesse e u bbuene trase" ("Good morning fairy, let the evil go away, let the good come in").
- "Fata me de la casa, uegghiem bben e non de si facenne mai vedè" ("Spirit of this house, we respect you but we don't want to see you").

The house fairy is still a legend that lives through time.

The last example concerns the folk healer. She was typically a woman who mixed natural medicine (using herbs remedies) and religious beliefs to alleviate pains and cure diseases, similarly to the traditions studied by Solomon and Solomon (1979).

This was not just a form of superstition, but a real unorthodox medicine opposed to the official one, mostly dominated by male power (Sharp, 1986). A witness recounts her personal tale describing an old woman who prayed and danced on her daughter's body using natural elements and pronouncing old religious songs.

Far from judging them as primitive and obsolete, we can say that these folkloristic rituals have helped south communities to keep and hand down their home habits. The key character in these legends is the woman. All these tales illustrate the female role in southern society from different points of view. In Pizzica the woman is a witch, bitten by a poisonous spider, to be controlled and domesticated through her body. The house fairy narrates about a woman who takes care of the house and its family. The folk healer recounts about a "white", good witch who cures the members of the community in alternative to official science. These witnesses tell us the reality of gender discrimination in southern Italian society, but they also show how women had an important role in the community: preserving rituals and letting them survive.

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A Heart Divided

Debora da Silva
RW61

When people overcome borders
They are immersed in a different world and orders
They have two nations in their hearts
And their world has one more part
My country is Brazil
I live in front of beautiful hill
I was born in a farm
Where everything has a rustic charm
I wake up there with the smell of wet earth
Cows, mares and sheep give birth
The sky there is brighter
As the stars were drawn by a writer
The water is cleaner
Once it does not have pollution near
I can hear birds singing
And the wind runs as a bell ringing
Gainesville has many attractions
And possibilities to distraction
It is the house of the Gator nation
And University of Florida location
The ELI students are privileged
They live in a city unlimited
The campus is impressive
The progress in the campus is aggressive
There many stories in the walls of this university
And people with so much diversity
Gatorade is a UF invention
Its success got the world's attention
I feel happy to live Gator's life
The departure will cut me as a knife
I will miss the bells of the Century Tower
And the smell of the colored flowers
University of Florida, thank you for your lessons
I have one confession
Everything I learned
Makes me feel concerned
About what I can change in my nation
In order to have a better federation
Politics with less corruption
And constructions with function
And to end
A message I would like to send
My world is now filled
My life is now an open field

My Catty T-Shirt

Jamila Alkhaibari
RW3

A Saudi woman does not like shopping! Do you believe that? Growing up in the middle of two girls who like shopping was not easy for me, for someone who doesn't like either shopping or clothing. I did not think that one day I would be attached to a piece of cloth. In our society, like anywhere else around the world, women like clothes so much, it becomes part of their lifestyle . Clean, neat, and color matching is all that I will look at for a piece of cloth. Style and brand are not important for me. Seven years ago, I became attached to a black T-shirt with a cat print. My cat print T-shirt is special for me because it provides a comfort zone, a good memory, and an emotional / family connection feeling.. My favorite T-shirt is soft, comfortable, and easy to wash. It still suits me even after 7 years. The type of fabric it is made from is the reason for the soft and comfortable feeling this T-shirt gives. Summer or winter, I can still wear it all session. The T-shirt is black in color with short sleeves and with a cartoon cat print. The cat is white in color with big cute blue eyes and a nice smile. I told myself when I bought it , it is a nice cartoon figure my children will like it . I did not expect that I would be pregnant in the same week. This shirt holds many special memories. I still remember what I was wearing the day when I knew I was pregnant for the first time. The happiest day in my life was the day I became a mum. I was wearing my black T-shirt with a funny cat print in the front. The dream became true for me when my friend called me to inform me about my blood results. Sharing a good memory with a T-shirt has the same value for me like sharing it with anyone else. The smile in my son face each time he saw Mr. Meow as he name the cat print in my T shirt, made me more attached to it. The joyful feeling this T shirt brings to me grew when my son started calling the cat "Mr. Meow" when he was three years old.

Each time I wear this particular catty T-shirt, I feel great about myself. The ability to accomplish things like being a mum was one of my goals in my life. The T-shirt is very old but still in a good condition and still suits me even after 2 children.

To throw away an old T-shirt is not a big deal, but to throw "Mr. Meow" from my life would be a difficult decision. My son's smile, the best day in my life, and the feeling when I wear it make it special and difficult to replace with another piece of cloth. Maybe other memories and feelings will connect me with another piece of clothing, like my son graduation or his wedding clothing may replace Mr. Meow or not . At the end, it's not only a piece of cloth.

When Clothes Talk

Thalles Perdigao Lima
RW3

Wearing clothes is common in most of cultures. The habit to use clothes started a long time ago and is passing from generation to generation until the present days. Initially, the necessity to wear clothes was related to protecting the body from weather conditions, and then arose the need to cover the nakedness. But in the modern days clothing goes beyond these things and has become an identity. Your clothes can tell a lot about who you are and about what do you like to do. Because clothing says a lot about you, pieces of clothing can be more than a simple object but also something with a special meaning.

My favorite t-shirt is of my favorite team: Clube Atletico Mineiro. It has vertical lines alternating between black and white. On the front side there is the Atletico's symbol in the left top and in the right top there is a rooster, the mascot. On the back side there is a big number ten printed in orange, and above the number one, the famous name: Ronaldinho Gaucho.

Ronaldinho Gaucho is one of the best soccer players ever. I remember the day when he came to play for Mineiro. I was at the shopping mall looking at the store windows when I saw that beautiful black and white t-shirt, I came closer and almost could not believe when I saw Ronaldinho's name on the back. I said to myself: "I will buy that t-shirt and one day I will tell stories about it to my grandchildren".

This t-shirt represents part of my heritage. I am from Brazil, and one of Brazil's biggest prides is soccer. The meaning of my special t-shirt is in the passion I have for this sport. When we Brazilians are wearing our soccer t-shirt to cheer for our teams, the feeling is that we make part of the team and we will take to the field with the players and play against the opponent team. Every time I am wearing my favorite t-shirt some great memories come to my mind. It is like I can travel back and relive these moments. The very special moment was the final of the most important soccer championship to South America. If I close my eyes I can see thousands of people inside the stadium wearing Atletico's t-shirts, singing songs about winning, believing in the victory. The crowd sits there with eyes shining, full of hope, some crying waiting for the end of the match. And the end brought joy, Atletico won the championship and Ronaldinho lifted the trophy!

In conclusion, clothing can say a lot about you, but also can say a lot to you. When great memories are brought to your thoughts while you wear a special piece of clothing, it is like a friend talking to you about the trip you did together. Take care of your favorite clothes, so they can continue telling you stories about unforgettable moments.

A thunderclap I remember hearing that sound In a summer afternoon

*A thunderclap
I remember hearing that sound
A summer afternoon*

Yusuke Hidaka
RW 40

Not surprisingly, reading "Haiku" is not a piece of cake even for Japanese (we always use a word "read" even for "saying" or "writing" Haiku). Haiku is a very short Japanese poem that has been written for almost four hundred years. In fact, Haiku is known as the shortest poem all over the world. I've not known the fact that many countries have Haiku clubs and magazines.

Haiku has a 5-7-5 character form in Japanese. Each Japanese character could be counted like syllables in English are counted. In addition, the character "o" in some words (ex.to) is pronounced like "u." In contrast, Japanese characters hiragana and katakana have their own sounds and they are not be changed when they are used in words. To give more details, "Hello world" is 2-1 syllable sentence in English and that has 5-5 characters, however, with Japanese unique characters – katakana or hiragana it would be written as "ha lo u wa a lu do" so that the sentence has 3-4 sounds and it is also 3-4 letters.

In the article "*Guidelines for writing Haiku in English*" William J. Higginson says, "*Haiku in English tend to be shorter than seventeen syllables; today they average 12 to 15 syllables. In English, 12 to 15 syllables closely approximate the Japanese haiku in the time to takes to read or say and in the amount of information included. A traditional form for English-language haiku might have a short-long-short rhythmic pattern of 2-3-2 accented beats, since traditional poetry in English is based on stress accent.*"

This is one of the most popular Haiku in Japan.

*Furu ike ya
Kawazu tobikomu
Mizu no oto*
---by Basho Matsuo in 1686

This Haiku is transliterated into 17 Hiragana

Fu ru i ke ya 5
ka wa zu to bi ko mu 7
mi zu no o to 5

And this could be translated in English as
Ancient pond
A frog jumps into
A sound of water

This haiku is well known as “Old pond” haiku. It just shows a landscape but we can easily imagine that situation and it’s available to understand however people want. “Old pond” has not author’s emotion and it was not a traditional style haiku. At that time, it was more common to write haiku to show author’s mind or emotion so this haiku caused some arguments. But, after that, many “Haijin” - that is people who write haiku - tried to write haiku like “Old pond.” Afterwards, large quantity of haiku that do not contained author’s mind appeared. As a result of these aspects, the pioneer of a recent style of haiku, “Old pond” becomes the most famous haiku now in Japan.

Koko de ikku

(It means like “Now is the best time to say Haiku”. Almost all people say that phrases before saying Haiku.)

*A thunderclap
I remember hearing that sound
A summer afternoon
---by Yusuke Hidaka*

I also write Haiku in Japanese to pronounce in Latin script.

Raimei no
kikioboe taru
natsu no gogo

Literal translation
raimei(a thunderclap) no
kikioboe (remember hearing)taru
natsu (summer) no gogo(afternoon)

This Haiku means “On someday in the future, if I hear a thunderclap on a lazy summer afternoon in Japan - I remember wonderful memories that I got in Florida - the place that has a lot of lightning, rain and thunder.”

There is no question that writing Haiku is always difficult even in Japanese. Much less there is no easy way for people in other countries to do that in their mother tongues. However, I hope you “read” Haiku. It makes your imagination more fertile.

Reference

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<<http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/ncta/pdfiles/2013CourseMaterials/Guidelines%20for%20Writing%20Haiku%20in%20English.pdf>>

Animals are best than You

Meshari Almuhaiteeb
RW32

Animals have a lot of advantages more than human . However, scientists proved studies that animals have better things than you. Scientists said, animals have beautiful voices and communication more than human, animals could remember everything and animals have the best food more than human. To say animals are better than human, but the same breath say that we can treat we can treat them exactly how they treat each other because we are better than animals and also we are any different than they are.

Some animals have the best communication and voices. First of all, animals have a specific voices to communicate with other. For example, all animals like, chicken, cows, dogs and else are communicate with human and also they have beautiful voices that all animals have the capability of understanding more than human.They try to do everything useful for you like they talk with you and play games. Animals are so friendly. They always gathering in the region and eat together.

There are a lot of food that animals eat in their life. Animals choice the best food. For instance, some animals eat mud it more healthier and delicious than human food. Because that animals food is really healthier and sweet , but human food caused a lot of disease. Sometimes human food feel you stay in the bad health.

All in all, animals best organisms in the earth and also animals products connected in supermarket and restaurants. animals are the most different to obtain by human.

Untitled

Marcia Ramirez
RW32

Since I arrived to Gainesville, I lived many moments with my friend Paula and many of then have been very funny. One day Paula and I were in my house and I needed to buy some things at the supermarket. We walked to Publix. When we get, started selecting the things that I needed, between that was “Arizona Tea” and I want 2 gallons, them We finished We walk to my house. As We walked, we decided across the Street where We not should and We ran and in the middle of the Street I broke my bags where I had the gallons so Paula started to kicking the gallons while I was dying of laughter, when We finally made it across, all te people were laughing at us, then a old woman got out of her car and gave us a ball of fabric, then a man offered to drive us to my house because he saw all our show on the road. That moment was very funny for me. I lived very funny moments here in Gainesville and I hope that I follow living.

Once upon a time in Dubai

Gerardo Alba
RW22

Once upon a time in Dubai, two children Fays and Faysa were playing on their grandmother's farm. One day they saw two horses: one black and one white. The horses saw a snake and they shook hitting Faysa. Fays didn't know what he had to do. He was in shock. When his grandma saw it, she ran and took Faysa to the hospital. Faysa was only knocked out. They came back to the farm. Everything was normal again. Although Faysa never returned to the farm and she didn't want to talk with her brother again. Her brother died, after she was regretting, but she didn't forgive her brother. She died of sadness.

Jeans

Prasit Rojtanapong
RW3

In human history, people have always been developing clothing styles and innovation of textile. When the time changes, everything else changes. For clothing fashion, it changes everyday as you can see in the history of textile. I am one who follows the new fashion. My favorite piece of clothing is a pair of jeans. I like them because I can wear them everywhere. The three best things about jeans are the history, memory, and color.

In the history of jeans, the cowboy and miner called their special pants "blue jeans". It became famous among teenagers, and today it has many colors and styles. I have many favorite memories of my jeans. When I was young, my father bought me a pair of LEVI 501 jeans, which were blue. I thought they were very awesome. I had to cut my first jeans, because it did not fit me. In that moment, I was very crazy about them and wore them everywhere. When I was ten years old, I try to wear something else such as shorts and trousers, but they were not my style. After that, I did not change to wear anything but jeans, and I began to collect pairs of jeans: skinny, leggings, straight, and slouch.

When we talk about color of pair of jeans, people will think about blue jeans, but I think about black jeans. I usually wear a black pair of jeans, and it is very easy to choose any clothing to wear with. For example, I can wear black jeans to wedding ceremony, religious ceremony, and carnival, because they are quite polite and suitable.

In conclusion, there are three main reasons that make me to wear a pair of jeans. I like jeans so much that I do not want to change to another style. I recommend a pair of skinny jeans because they fit closely to your legs. Also try jeans when you have to go to outdoor activity, they will support and protect your legs from danger.

My Favorite Piece of Clothing

Amira Rey
RW3

I love Cartagena, a colonial city in Colombia's Caribbean, where I was born. I really enjoy all the memories about the city. This is why my favorite piece of clothing is a Cartagena T-shirt.

My T-shirt is beautiful and simple even though is very special for me. It is size M, V neck, and it has short sleeves. It has a small and black stamp in the front, in the bottom, and on the right side of the T-shirt is the most important colonial place of the city, the Clock's Gate. The clock's gate is the gate of the old city founded in 1533 by Spanish conquerors. It is a big and tall tower with a big clock and bell, and it rings each 15 minutes to tell the time, in the bottom of the tower there are two gate for pedestrians. Under the stamp is the name of the city (Cartagena de Indias). The material of the T-shirt is Pima cotton produced in Peru, it is the best quality of cotton. It is very soft and it does not shrink when I wash it.

The T-shirt helps me remember my childhood. I used to Shop with my old aunt and my grandmother and we would eat together in a restaurant each Sunday after the mass in the cathedral of the city. I received from them much love and support. We enjoyed much time together. I learned to love old people and enjoyed their teaching and advice. When I use that T-shirt those memories come to me and I feel very happy.

I enjoy my T-shirt and I feel so excited because I am carrying with me the name of the most beautiful city in Colombia, with its bay, its beaches, its islands, and the memories of my family and my friends. When I use my Cartagena's T-shirt, I am proud and happy of when I am and where I came from.

In conclusion, there is a strong link between my town home and my favorite T-shirt. It is a source of happiness and pride when I wear it. It is stronger when I am in others place, and I feel good wearing it.

Jeans: A Big Adventure

Carlos Velasquez
RW3

Today things happen very quickly, people need to move fast without looking sloppy or losing their own style. Fashion remains essential, no matter the lifestyle. That's the reason why in order to look good, be comfortable and pay good prices, you can always find a good pair of jeans.

I still remember my first pair of jeans, my mom bought them for me when I was 4 years old, so that I could wear them to attend the classes in the preparatory level in one school in my hometown, called: Liceo De Cervantes. This pair of jeans was so ugly, still my mom convinced me that I looked wonderful, she said to me: "Oh my lovely boy, you look great, you are the most beautiful boy that I've ever seen".

Throughout my life I have had a lot of jeans, of all colors, fabrics, designs and as time passes by I more and more recognize its advantages. The most important thing is that jeans are the most comfortable type of clothes. You can wear them in any season, whether it's cold or hot. Another advantage is you can wear them with all kinds of clothes, formal, elegant, and casual. You can also find all the prices, but most are very accessible.

I have several favorite brands of jeans. One is Diesel, but it is also the most expensive. I travel twice a year to the U.S. to buy my clothes and of course, good jeans. Another of my favorite brands is definitely Levis, and you can always find them here in the US big sale discounts. This means I can take them back home for a lot cheaper than what I could purchase them back in Colombia. Even though those two I just mentioned are my favorite brands, I must say that there are so many other type of brands that have such good prices, that it can be common for me to end up buying some others.

In conclusion, jeans are an amazing piece of clothing for people who like to be comfortable as I do. This is why if I could ever recommend something to wear for someone who doesn't know what to put on because he wants to look elegant but not too fancy, I would say jeans because you can combine them with an elegant shirt and you would be ready to go anywhere, and that works fine for women or men, and you can called that "casual fashion" for anytime.

Taipei 101

Chen Tzu-I
RW43

Taipei 101 is my home, it is an amazing building. It has spent all its time to help the people. When I lose my way, I just raise my head, it can help me find my way. When I feel frustrated, I raise my head, and I have a lot of hope. When I see it, I know I am home.

When I stayed up late for work, I liked looking at the window, looking at the shining building and taking a break. The white lights symbolize cleanliness, purity and peace. So, looking at it, I can feel peaceful. Even if I have a lot of problems, I need to solve them. When the whole world is sleeping, the rest of the world is so quiet just like a silent hall, but it is still awake. Looking at it, I feel that I am not alone. When I walk in the dark, following the light, I can find my way home. It is just like a huge flashlight – following the light, I will not feel scared.

Taipei 101 is my home, it is like my family. It is always happy with me, sad with me. Especially when we celebrated in the New Year, and everyone gathered around it. It would opened its arms to hug everyone. It becomes a super star by changing many clothes quickly. Blue, green, red, yellow.....

Taipei 101 is my home, I miss it.

Comedy animals

Salem Almansouri
RW32

There are many kind of comedy animals in this world. Such as monkey, penguin, parrot and a lot of animals. First, monkeys are the most comedies animal because the monkeys can tradition some of human behavior. Some of traditions human are drink, eat, play and clothes.

Second, parrots also funny birds. Some of can talk, dance and shows some of them have a nice color. The best parrots are from African. Parrots are one of the friendly birds for human. Someday my grandfather have a parrot his color is green with black and red. The parrot came on my grandmother shoulder and she was scary form the parrot but the parrot still on her shoulder

Finally, penguins also from the comedy animals in this world. Penguins are the good animals and I think it's friendly. Penguins are good in the shows and dance. They are from southern hemisphere. They live in a cold weather. Penguins has a black, white and yellow color and sometimes red color.

To sum up, there are a lot of comedy animals but in my opinion the monkey, parrot and penguin the best comedy animals in this world because they can make laugh for the human.

The Effects of Racial, Sexual, or Religious Discrimination

Ahmad Alnahhli
RW44

As a humans being, we live in different places around the world, which include all kind of differences. People around the world have various cultures and religions, which makes us special in several ways. In fact, every person is unique. There is no problem to be different from others. Also, being different has some advantages like you look at same thing in different ways, which is good at some points; however, being different could also bring discrimination, which is that," action that denies social participation or human right to categories of people based on prejudice"(Wikipedia). It is a disease that may cause broken nations. thus, there are some kind of racial, sexual and religious discrimination .

First kind, it is a racial which is human classification. The racism, which is that " a classification system used to categorize human into large and distinct population or group by anatomical, cultural, ethnic, genetic, geographical, historical, linguistic, religious, and /or social affiliation"(Wikipedia). It is one of the reasons that can make the community fall apart. For example, in some countries it is not allowed for some members of racial to be in a high position even if he/she has qualifications for that. As a result, this

could cause an influx of people who are looking for nice place to live.

Second kind, that is sexual discrimination, such as a man apply for job and he has experience and qualifications for that job, but the company wants to hire a woman in this position. In addition, in some countries there are some conditions of employment to keep some job for men ;but the men have not enough quality for that job, and it is still a men's job until now. Sexual discrimination can also include sexual harassment. For instance, when someone has a boss who always say some thing bad about her assessment body and he try to touch her in some point she may stand for herself and he could say "I don't think you are right for this job." This is sexual discrimination .

The most important kind, the religious discrimination, is one of the biggest reasons for making a violence. The religions, which is " an organized collection of beliefs cultural system , and world view that relate humanity to an order of existence. "(Wikipedia) It is different from one to another and that differences are going to make the problem, because every one thinks about themselves. Also, every one think they have right to fix the other religion without respecting each other. For example, some people think they own the key to heaven and that is great, but they also think it only own by them and they can invited any one who want. In addition, if you believe or not, but the God who create us make for us some way to be good in life without control from any of human.

As a result, we live in violent world and you hear the bad news every where. Also, the killing and war is an usual word to describe the news. And the reason for that may be the definition of discrimination become as a result of same effect of racial, sexual or religious discrimination which could be the cause of violence or a broken community.

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Vegetarianism benefits on human health

Dalila D'Ingeo
RW52

"Let the food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food" – Hippocrates

Going vegetarian could be a torture for omnivorous consumers. Suddenly the average meat-eater could strongly object: "I like meat; I don't care about animals' pain". Certainly, when it comes to other living beings, each one has a different sensitivity. Moral and taste are subjective and everybody can choose freely what to eat and what to care about. But, a good response for a *meat aficionado* relates to objective evidences: many studies on vegetarian

diet show its benefits on human health. According to the American Dietetic Association, "Appropriately planned vegetarian diets have been shown to be healthful, nutritionally adequate, and may be beneficial in the prevention and treatment of certain diseases. Vegetarian diets are appropriate for all stages of the life cycle and there are many reasons for the rising interest in vegetarian diets". Three advantages of a meat-free diet on human health are: the prevention from certain diseases, the improvement of sports performances and the benefits on the state of mind.

Vegetarianism is neither a panacea nor a miraculous medicine for all diseases, but a plethora of valid scientific research prove that this diet is helpful for obese people, it is a valid ally to control cholesterol levels in the blood and a good arm to lower the risk of developing cancer. Obesity is one of those chronicle diseases that most affect American society; it is strictly related to an excessive consumption of "super-processed" food, full of calories and deficient of nutritional values. According to Dr. Bernard (Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, March 2012), "In 1909, the average American consumed less than 4 pounds of cheese in a year's time. Today, that number is pushing 34 pounds. Typical cheeses are about 70 percent fat, and every last fat gram packs nine calories that no one needs. Over the same period, meat intake rose from 124 pounds to more than 200 pounds per person per year. Sugar is way up, too. We are eating way too much, and what we are eating is, in a word, junk". The most important issue is that people are not educated about food: eating less is not the only ingredient to loose weight, our body needs calories and all the benefits that come from healthy aliments. This is why a plant-based diet helps people to reduce their body mass index replacing fat food with fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds and legumes. All of these aliments, full of water, fibers and minerals, guarantee a sense of surfeit without compromising physical health. But this is not the only merit of a vegetarian diet. According to Gary E. Fraser (The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, May 2009), a regular consumption of nuts, whole grain, fruits and vegetables is associated to a lower risk of CHD (Coronary Hearth Disease), because "Animal fats (largely saturated) raise LDL cholesterol and increase risk of CHD mortality; these obviously come from food eaten less or not at all by vegetarians". Furthermore there is no doubt that red meat, which is mainly processed meat, is highly related to colon and colorectal cancer and, quoting The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition: "This was the only food association with cancer that was labeled "convincing" in the recent report from the World Cancer Research Fund, American Institute for Cancer Research". According to these data, a vegetarian diet could be a good prevention against chronicle diseases. Why do we continue to take pills if the real cure is our daily diet? As the philosopher Feuerbach said, "We are what we eat", and everyday we choose a healthy or an unhealthy life through the food that we consume.

However vegetarianism is not only the weapon to fight diseases, in that case the famous meat-eater could object "Why do I have to eat vegetables if I am healthy? This is the same as taking pills without being sick". Well, a vegetarian diet is also recommended for people in perfect health like the athletes. A

recent study conducted on runners of 1000 km races shows that a plant-based nutrition has all the essential nutrients that an athletic body requires. Furthermore, compared to omnivores competitors, “vegetarian runners had higher intakes of dietary fiber and poly-unsaturated fatty acids and a lower intake of cholesterol” (Chris F. Ewan, Sports.org 2002). And, adding some gossip, also many famous athletes are vegetarian, including Bart Yasso (runner), Scott Yurek (ultra-marathoner), Brandan Brazier (ironman and ultra racer) and last but not least, the legendary Carl Lewis.

Nowadays people have all the information they need to start a healthy life: everybody knows about the risks related to a “bad” nutrition. Nature gives us all the aliments to keep our body strong and healthy and we perfectly know that a healthy life is also a happy life. Probably one day scientists will prove the strict relation between a vegetarian life-style and happiness, for now they are starting to study how an excessive consumption of meat is related to masculine and aggressive behaviors. On April 2012, The Huff Post reported an interested study by Bonnie Beezhold published in the “Nutrition Journal”. According to this article, “Omnivorous diets are high in arachidonic acid (omega-6) in comparison to vegetarian diets. Past research has shown that high intakes of arachidonic acid, found mainly in red meat, poultry, and some fish, promotes changes in the brain that can negatively disturb our mood. High blood levels of arachidonic acid, in relationship to eicosapentaenoic acid (omega-3), have been linked to clinical symptoms of depression” (The Huffington Post, April 2013).

There are many good reasons to be vegetarian, most of them are scientific and few of them are moral. Science works whit data and evidences and most studies on vegetarian diet show its benefits on human health. Today going vegetarian is, without doubts, the most aware and responsible choice that a human being can do. However being vegetarian requires more attention in order to reject all the poisons available in the food market. Eating vegetables doesn't necessarily make you safer or healthier if you don't avoid other dangerous substances. Preservatives, OGM and hormones contaminate most of the food that we daily eat without really knowing all its ingredients; vegetarianism could be the right way to wake up our conscience. Vegetarianism is a diet, but also a life style: a kind of “consumer's awakening”.

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National Passion

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RW3

The Brazilians have, certainly, one big love: soccer. In all parts of the country we have different teams and clubs, but the passion for soccer is very similar wherever someone is. One way to demonstrate the love for our team is wear the club's clothes. I have many t-shirts of my team, may be ten or more, but one of them is very special.

Each club has its own colors and design, and my special t-shirt represents mine. The name of my heart's club is Grêmio Football Portoalegrense. The team is represented by three colors: blue, black and white. Not coincidentally these always were my favorite colors. My special t-shirt was made with those three colors, arranged in vertical thin lines alternating the colors over and over again.

My t-shirt is very special, and different from the others that I have because it has a story. All my family are Grêmio's fans and my father was the one who taught me to cheer for Grêmio. My father was the one who gave to me my special t-shirt. One day, we were staying in a hotel, and we discovered that all the players of the team were there too. I took a lot of photos and almost all the players gave an autograph on my t-shirt. I will never forget it.

When I'm wearing my special t-shirt, I feel love. I'm a very passionate Grêmio's fan and I love soccer and my team. When I'm wearing this t-shirt, I remember my father and my family, and I think about many special days that we had. Because of this, I bring my special t-shirt with me and when I see it I always feel better because of the love of my family.

In conclusion, even though I have many t-shirts and other clothes of my club, one of them is very special, because this t-shirt has a history. It isn't a simple team t-shirt. Rather, it represents to me the love that I feel for soccer, for my team, and for my family.

Expansion Policy of Russia and Pan-Slavism

Cuneyt Caliskan
RW52

In our world and our life, there are many 'best' and 'most' things such as what is the most populous country, what is the least populous country, what is the highest mountain in the world or what is the funniest event in our lives, and so on. Here is the another question: Which country is the largest country in the world? It is exactly Russia without doubt because it is located north of Asia and it is covering less than half of Asian Continent; but how could it become the largest country in the world? It would not be wrong if we say Russia is like a 'matriyoshka doll': It was a small

state like other states around the world but it started to expand step by step like a growing tree.

The Grand Duchy of Moscow existed in Russia, mostly centered in Moscow and north of Moscow, until the Tsardom of Russia was founded. This duchy was a small state for the first years; however, it began to become powerful and wealthy year by year. During the rule of Ivan III Vasilyevich, also known as Ivan the Great, he married Sophia Palaiologina, who was the last Byzantine Emperor's niece (Kubilius, Kerry. Ivan III - The Great). That is why he became the successor of the Byzantine Empire. Subsequently, he incorporated the Byzantine Empire's customs, rituals, and even its double-headed eagle emblem to his country. After he died, a couple of decades later, his grandson, Ivan the Terrible, began to reign. During the rule of Ivan the Terrible, the Russian Orthodox Church declared him as a 'tsar' in 1547 and he founded the Tsardom of Russia. With this event, tsars were going to achieve a huge impact upon the other Orthodox nations. After that, he conquered the Khanate of Kazan and the Khanate of Astrakhan in 1552. In this way, boundaries of the Tsardom of Russia started to expand to the east. These expansions were going to continue in the next years to the east of Asia.

In the following years, nothing changed except the country's name. The Tsardom of Russia would go on to expand its boundaries everywhere, which would make it the third biggest empire in the world after the British Empire and the Mongol Empire. Thus, Tsar Peter the Great renamed his country the Russian Empire in 1721, taking the title of 'emperor of all Russia.' The Tsardom of Russia already had lands in the east and north like in North Asia, Northeastern Asia, and Siberia; therefore, Peter the Great decided to go west and make the Russian Empire one of the powerful countries in Europe. Emperor of All Russia, Peter the Great, innovated issues of military, religion, and state management. A new and modern city, St. Petersburg, was built northwest of Moscow at his request and order (Kubilius, Kerry. Peter the Great's Reforms)(Andy. Peter the Great Accomplishments). After that, he moved the imperial capital from Moscow to St. Petersburg. Peter the Great was thinking about sailing around the world with a mighty armada. The Russian Empire had a port at Archangel - a city in Russia - on the White Sea but it was insecure and useless. That is why he declared war against Sweden to take ports on the Baltic Sea and he won. In subsequent years, the Russian Empire continued to expand towards Central Asia and the Caspian Sea. During the rule of Empress Catherine the Great, she fought with the Ottoman Empire in the south and other European countries in the west. She annexed Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, and some parts of Poland. She conquered Crimea, which was under the patronage of the Ottoman Empire. Hereby, the Russian Empire had ports and coasts on the Black Sea. This event was going to threaten the Ottoman Empire and also was going to put it into a very difficult situation in the following years. Meanwhile, nationalism rose after the French Revolution. This idea was very dangerous for multinational empires like the Ottoman Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire because they had various nations and each one of them wanted to be a national country. The Russian Empire wished turn to this idea its advantage. It started to

use idea of Pan-Slavism because the Russian Empire wanted to make a huge Slavic country and supported Slavic nations such as Bulgarian, Serbian, Greek, Romanian, Croatian, and Macedonian on the Balkan Peninsula. Thanks to nationalism and Pan-Slavism, the Russian Empire achieved a big influence upon the Slavic nations. The Russian Empire fought with their sides against to the Ottoman Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In 1877 and 1878, the Russian Empire made war with the Ottoman Empire. Russians won that battle and they came to the front of Istanbul- it was the capital of Ottomans. After the Treaty of San Stefano; Serbia, Montenegro, and Romania became independent countries and also the Principality of Bulgaria was established.

In 1917, the Russian Empire was demolished after the October Revolution. Nicholas II, the last Emperor of Russia, and the other Romanovs, ruling dynasty of the Russian Empire, were killed by Bolsheviks in Yekaterinburg in 1918 and this dynasty vanished (History Channel. Romanov Family Executed). After that revolution, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics- USSR, shortly the Soviet Union, was founded in 1922 (Buchanan, Kelly. Treaty on the Creation of the Soviet Union - Signed, Sealed, and Delivered?). In that time, the Soviet Union did not conquer anywhere because it already had a lot of lands and countries. The Soviet Union covered almost half of the Asian Continent and it held fifteen different countries together with itself. These countries were Russian SFSR, Ukrainian SSR, Byelorussian SSR, Uzbek SSR, Kazakh SSR, Georgian SSR, Azerbaijan SSR, Lithuanian SSR, Moldavian SSR, Latvian SSR, Kirghiz SSR, Tajik SSR, Armenian SSR, Turkmen SSR, and Estonian SSR. Bolsheviks ended the monarchy after the revolution. They changed the state management so that they made these countries republics. Unfortunately, Bolsheviks strengthened their positions in those countries and areas. If people went against to the ideology of the Soviet Union, they were exiled to the far east of Asia or north of Siberia by Bolsheviks. After that, Russians were sent to exiled people's areas to change population and demography. In 1991, the Soviet Union was demolished and the Russian Federation was founded in the same year and all of these countries became independent countries. Nevertheless, the Russian Federation is the largest country in the world because the Russian Federation is executing its same policies and it is still expanding. Even now, the Russian Federation has twenty-one autonomous republics and all of them are not from Russian Nation. In recent days, the Russian Federation annexed its precious country of Crimea from Ukraine. Russia is creating a disturbance in the east part of Ukraine, especially in Luhansk and Donetsk. Russians living in these two cities want to leave Ukraine and become a part of the Russian Federation. They are secretly supported by government of Russia. Consequently, when is the expansion of Russia going to end? Russians can easily annex a place or a country whenever they want. The countries of all around the world should be unified and they have to condemn Russia and also sanctions should be enacted in each area like economical, political, cultural, and more. Finally, Crimea and other countries in Russia should be the real owners!

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Causes of Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest

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 RW 51

The Amazon rainforest is considered one of the largest sources of natural resources. It is responsible for producing 20% of the Earth's oxygen. However, people have been deforesting this forest on a large scale. Amazon deforestation is the result of three main causes: illegal logging, land clearance for agriculture and infrastructure expansion.

The illegal logging is the primary reason for Amazon deforestation. Companies make illegal wood extraction to expand their businesses in the fastest way. People have cut down approximately 20% of the Amazon over the last 40 years. This rate reflects a large increase compared to the beginning of the colonization of the Brazil. Part of that illegal extraction is destined for exportation to many countries around the world. In addition, roads are being built to support the process of timber production, and because the forestry sector is an extremely lucrative business, illegal activities have been increasing every day.

The second great cause of tropical deforestation is agriculture expansion. Farmers and ranchers replace the forests for crops such as soy and beans, primarily for the purpose of subsistence. The main natural resource in the Amazon is certainly wood, and people need to use it for survival. The correct action would be planning activities, this means: we cannot take more than the forest can support. Second the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, Brazil is at the top of the list of countries with the largest deforested area, with losses of 42.330.000 hectares in the

period 1990 through 2005. While this numbers is startling, the estimates do not consider the wide expanse of the country and do not calculate the forested area in proportion with the territory. Another factor that contributes to the loss of forest every year is the creation of roads. In answer to the development, they are necessary to make the whole deforestation process easier. The Trans-Amazon Highway and the BR-163 are authorized roads, but most all of them are not. For the purpose of exportation, almost 105,000 miles of roads have been made illegally; about 170,000 kilometers. They affect the rate of deforestation by allow entrances to commonly inaccessible areas.

Many are the causes of the deforestation in the Amazon, but fortunately many are the solutions. The illegal logging, the land clearance for agriculture and the infrastructure expansion can be changed by sustainable development. Possible strategies include: agro-forestry, selective logging, education and monitoring. Considering the importance that the Amazon has for the planet, we need mitigated measures with urgency.

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Brazil's World Cup 2014, The Challenges of Making It

Francisco Lourenco
 RW52

"I'm ashamed for the Brazilian people who were expecting big investments and a great legacy for them, for us. We promised to rebuild airports and improve transport and infrastructure. I am sorry for all the things we promised and have not completed." Reported Ronaldo, who is the World Cup's all-time leading goal scorer so far, and was one organizer of the Brazil's World Cup 2014 (BWC)(GOAL, 2014); therefore, it is evident that Brazil has faced hardships preparing for the FIFA World Cup to happen. Mainly, the extreme high cost related to corruption, delays of all sorts, and popular manifestations and protests against, are likely to be the biggest embarrassments encountered by BWC organizers. Corruption has helped to make the BWC the most expensive in the tournament's history, coming by 14 billion dollars (Apendix 1) (Brooks, 2014) (AP, 2014). "Only with the stadiums that are been built, more than 3.5 billion dollars, or 163% more than the initially planned, was consumed. From this total, 97% is public money.

Furthermore, after the tournament, all stadiums will be out of the Public Power control” (Segalla, 2014). For example, according to government auditors, “the cost of building Brasilia’s World Cup stadium has nearly tripled to \$900 million in public funds, largely due to allegedly fraudulent billing.” (Brooks, 2014) This is even worse noticing that there is no major professional soccer team in Brasilia.

Delays have become a big problem since they were present not only in stadiums (re)construction, which were a priority for the matches to happen, but also in the general infrastructure of the twelve capitals holding the games. In fact, some works such as in airports, in public transportation, in hotels, and even in creation of new policies, were unfinished, affecting directly 600 thousand foreign tourists and 3 million Brazilians, who were estimated to be there throughout the event (RFI, 2012). According to Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) president Sepp Blatter, “No country has been so far behind in its preparations since [he] have been at FIFA even though it is the only host nation which has had so much time – seven years – in which to prepare.” Another important concern was manifestations, which dominated the Brazilian scene in advance to the BWC. Since Jun, 2013, more than a million of people have made protests against the Brazilian situation – huge economic inequality, government corruption, undemocratic policies, etc – which were first triggered by the rise of transportation fares (Lefrak, 2014). Right before the tournament begins, the words in people’s mouth were: “World Cup, I gave up. I want money for health and education!” (Segalla, 2014). This clearly shows the disapproval of population in regarding to the BWC investments, even though the sports minister, Aldo Rebelo, replied people’s anxiety by arguing that the budget of the Ministry of Sport was just 1% comparing to the budget of health and education fields together (Agencia Estado, 2013).

To conclude, in spite of all adversities faced by Brazilians preparing their country to the world, the same world brought its eyes to Brazil, getting to know more the country as well as enjoying this huge enterprise named World Cup. Protests, overrated stadiums, and unreleased constructions, built a feeling of fighting for a better country, characterizing the Brazil’s World Cup 2014 by having not only a tough preparation, but also a sense of changing for Brazilian demand priorities.

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Appendix 1

Host	General cost
 BRA (2014)	US\$14 billion (1st)
 GER (2006)	\$6 billion (2nd)
 KOR /  JPN (2002)	\$5 billion (3rd)
 SAF (2010)	\$4 billion (4th)
 FRA (1998)	\$340 million (5th)
 USA (1994)	\$30 million (6th)

Jeans – The Oldest Piece of Clothing

Greta Csipkay
RW3

Everyone loves jeans, and so do I. Many people around the world are wearing jeans. They are the most popular piece of clothing since the 19th century. Jeans were worn by factory workers because the material was very strong, and they were made from cotton. The jeans became popular in USA because of lots of western movies. Many American soldiers wore jeans during the time of World War 2. In the 1960s came the hippie time, when many young students

wore jeans. Today, jeans have conquered the world. There are three main reasons to wear my favorite piece of clothing: it has a lot of variety, you can wear it often, everywhere, and all people are the same on it.

Jeans are trousers, but it has a big selection in colors or materials. The most popular and the oldest color is blue, but you can also find it in green, red, pink, or yellow... in any possible color. The jeans material can be stretchy. These days young people buy sleazy, dirty jeans too. Jeans come in various types like skinny, tapered, slim, and straight. Both men's and women's jeans have a zipper down the front.

It doesn't matter if you are a model, president, business man or farmer, you can wear them! Jeans are not real business clothing, but it depends on your work. If you wear it with shirt and suit or blouse, they can be a nice business dress. Some workplaces have strict rules for dressing, but if there is none, you can go to work in jeans. Banks, auto salons, law firms and conferences expect serious clothing, but IT developers, car mechanics or webdesigners can have them on all day and night.

Jeans bridge economic and social barriers. There is no difference between poor or rich, black and white people. All people are the same if they are wearing this piece of clothing. Humans have a lot of preconceptions, and the jeans can help by cancelling these. Nobody will be judged in this clothing.

In conclusion, jeans are very comfortable and leisurely clothes, which a lot of people have worn for a long while. It is for every class, everybody can buy and have a jeans around the world. It doesn't matter, if you are a child, adult, woman or man, old or young. Jeans are for everyone!

Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, The Caliphists

Francisco Lourenco
RW52

"Come and get your AK47, your grenades and your vest pack": British fighter lures young jihadists on internet (Hall, 2014). This is part of recruitment of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the most powerful and effective non-state military organization on the planet. Not underestimated anymore, this group acquired so forceful capability for these three main reasons: efficient campaign, experienced leadership, and financial windfall. First, ISIS has shown an efficient and vigorous campaign. Running into a solid infrastructure, branched in: recruitment, where a lot of foreign fighters are now being attracted via social media; basic training program for new rebels, providing them armament and military knowledge; organized actions and military tactics, 800 rebels expelled 30,000 Iraq soldiers in Mosul (Chulov, 2014); and stabilization of conquered areas, creating laws and providing basic services. "It's a situation where now, they're worried about ISIS and militants potentially taking over Iraq," says Stephen Biddle, a fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations (Macguire, 2014) (Beauchamp, 2014).

Second, ISIS consists of military leaders, with experience, knowledge and motivation to run a war successfully and achieve their goals. Most are high-ranking former members of Saddam's army (AAN, 2014). In detail, their leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, is considered "a shrewd strategist, a prolific fundraiser and a ruthless killer" (McCoy, 2014). Moreover, according to a former British officer: "These men are very good and very ruthless at this sort of thing," he said. "How do I know? Because I trained them. As did the Americans and everyone else for their fight against Iran in the '80s. It's all the same guys at the top now" (Prothero, 2014). Third, being arguably the richest terrorism group in the world, ISIS has raised their funds up to 2 billion dollars. This wealth comes from strategic resources such as oil and gold acquired from conquered regions; donations from rich Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait contributors; sale of electricity from invaded power plants; and mainly ransacking cities banks and financial institutions. This last point leads to the conquest of Mosul, the second biggest Iraq city, which was worth more than a billion for the insurgents (Macguire, 2014) (Black, 2014).

To conclude, in spite of the uncertain future of ISIS, it has already shown the world that they are not disbanding easily; on the contrary, with a huge monetary revenue, wide spread domination power and an accomplished military structure, they show eminent danger for those who stand up against their mission. It raises the question about how long their motto – remaining and expanding – will last in the world, and what this same world is going to face stopping these faithful soldiers.

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A Dress that Can't Be Missed

Hawazin Alobaid
RW3

I still remember my first wedding dress that I wore at my sister's wedding party. I was eight years old, and it was my eldest sister's wedding. It was my first wedding dress ever, and I looked like a beautiful little girl wearing such a fancy princess dress. I was so excited to wear my pink hooped dress. I was so happy, and I felt so pretty like I was the bride. Since then I just fall in love with dresses. There are many kinds of dresses that I have, but there is one of them that I like the most.

My favorite dress is beautiful. One of the reasons I keep wearing it even though I bought it two years ago, is that it is stylish. It is a long dress, reaching my ankles. It has some weird details: black and white squares, while it is considered as a floral dress. It has big maroon flowers and some small peachy flowers. It is tight from the top, and then it is loose.

This dress makes me feel rested. When my favorite piece is a dress that doesn't mean it is uncomfortable, because it is really a comfy dress. It is a flowing dress, so it makes me feel convenient to walk around and feel free. It is an easy dress. It isn't one of the heavy dresses that you can't even hold up. It makes me cheer up and makes me feel beautiful at the same time.

Every time I wear my dress I remember a really special day. I wore my dress at our Feast day after the last day of Ramadan. Everyone has to wear new clothes, and I wore mine and it was so good. Also, everyone asked about it and that is why it is "the dress".

In conclusion, this dress is my favorite piece of clothing. This beautiful dress is and going to be the nearest to my heart, I'm not going to throw it away. I really like to see it every time I open my closet. May be if I have a daughter in the future she will wear it

Causes of Violent Crimes

Hyun Heo
RW52

Kidnapping is happening, robberies are taking place and murders are committed. As listed earlier, violent crime is a crime in which an offender uses or threatens force upon a victim, according to the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation). These days, more

cruel crimes are happening and they became an issue. There are a lot of theories that support the causes of violent crimes but the three main causes are home background, biological problems and system of society.

In a human's childhood, the role of family is crucial to a child and it really affects one's behavior and values. When a family cannot function properly, the person would more likely to become an adult who cannot serve as a human in society. According to The Church of England Newspaper (October 8, 2010), absent father and the breakdown of the family are the greatest threats to society. In addition, having violent or abusive parents can be the one of the causes (Shane Hall, June 25, 2014). If one has violent or abusive parents, he or she will get harsh and aggressive discipline in the home and the person would be dispirited or crooked. Therefore home background is one of the main causes.

The other main cause is biological problems. Shane Hall (June 25, 2014) said, "Violent offenders exhibited a dysfunction in the area of the brain that controls aggression." It means the brain that regulates a human's actions and emotions cannot perform its duties. In a situation that gives a person the needle, the person with brain dysfunction would fly into rage, could not stand with his or hers brief emotion and has more ability to perpetrate impulsive results. Also, a review of all the twin studies of crime conducted up to 1993 showed greater concordance rates for criminality in monozygotic twins as opposed to dizygotic twins (Raine, 1993). It represents the genetic element could be a significant factor.

In a sociological side, the organization of society is a reason for the violent crimes. The naked truth is that we have test score-oriented education which induces competition between students. This system judges a person by his or hers scores and regard the lower grader as an incompetent lazy person. The evil in education is an obstacle to learn the value and worth of human rights (Newsis, 2012). The structure defect increases the rate of crime.

As mentioned above, the reasons of violent crime are divided into three parts: environmental, biological and sociological matters. Family background gives strong power in young age and makes problem when it is unhealthy. Also, lack of impulse control from brain is the other. Finally, the structure of society encroaches the human right and leads to crime increasing.

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How to Make Zoe Crazy

Ahmad Kano
RW32

I love Zoe when she teaches, but I like to make her crazy. You can try these steps if you want to change the mood of the class. First, use your cell phone in class and speak your native languages. She is a good teacher, but she gets angry very fast if we use our cell phones in class and don't use it as a dictionary. Sometimes she gets mad at the student because they speak in their native language beside English. Second, cheat in class during the tests. Sometimes, students use cell phones or talk to each other with their first language, and then Zoe gets really angry. Third, don't do your homework or study for the tests. She wants us to do our homework on time, but we are lazy to do it. She wants us to be more serious in class because we have to pass many different types of tests. She always wants us to write paragraphs and rewrite. However, the students never do that job in class, so she gets angry. Fourth, be late or have many absence for her class. The best way to make her angry is being late or having many absence. In sum, I like to make Zoe angry because when she becomes angry, she looks funny. Sorry, Zoe! You are the best!

In the Process Of Learn, No One Said, It Was Easy

Nataly Gómez Jiménez
RW41

When I started a class Reading and Writing, I'm good at writing short stories, but my problem, I wasn't have many vocabulary, but in this class I could learn multi vocabulary, academic vocabulary and other things. I'm good at Reading comprehension but in some cases, when I read a book and it has a skill vocabulary, I can't understand some parts.

On the other hand in this class i learned about the structures of paragraphs and different tips about writing. In the process of developing one essay I can write more and very well, however I need to acquire more techniques and awareness.

While I hope I acquire more vocabulary and write essays and summaries very well, because it is very important for my life and my studies, even more in my major. This class is very productive and very important, because you can meet new rules and different subjects about English language.

More Than a Piece of Clothing

Isabela Ribeiro da Silva
RW3

Everyone has a favorite piece of clothing. However, what makes this more important or special than any other piece depends on each person. There are many reasons, like the fact that this is the piece that makes you feel more beautiful, or is a fashion clothing, or simply you have a outstanding story about that. When I think on my favorite piece of clothing, I think on a very special dress that my mother gave to me when I was 21 years old. In my case, the main reasons that make this dress so special is its enormous emotional value, how it makes me feel and the fact of it is a pretty dress.

The emotional value is the most important aspect that makes the dress so special. My mother gave it to me because of the meaning that it always had to her. Actually, she was using this dress when she met my father for the first time, so it became her favorite piece of clothing. The fact that it was so special to her and it is a part of the history of my family is what touched my heart and caused the dress to become so special to me too.

This dress makes me feel special when I am wearing it. I feel so glad and happy to have the opportunity to wear something that represents so many things, and at the same time I feel beautiful and comfortable too. I don't feel the same thing when I am using other clothes. The fashion doesn't matter: they could be new or beautiful, but the dress still is my favorite piece of clothing.

The dress is also very beautiful. It is a blue dress with white little flowers scattered throughout the length. In addition, it has a delicate red belt, which serves to mark the waist. It is a little short to me than it was for my mom, because I'm taller than she is, but it ended up giving a more youthful touch to the dress. Everybody says that it is a really cute dress, and despite the fact that it's not a new dress, it continues with its beauty preserved. I think that when I am wearing it, the age doesn't matter, but just the fact that it is pretty to me.

To sum up, many reasons can be attributed when we think about what makes a unique piece of clothing more special than any other. In my case, the most important aspects that make the dress cited so special are the emotional value, the way that it makes me feel and its appearance. Each person will have their own reasons to choose his or her favorite clothes, but most important is to remember that you should dress the way that most makes you feel good and not according to what others think you should dress.

The Best Piece of Daily Clothing

Jorge Barrientos
RW3

One normal day, one of my father's employees was working in the workshop, and he was not only wearing a work T-shirt and

jeans, but also he was wearing sandals, which was a mistake. After a few minutes of working, a heavy piece of tractor fell on his feet breaking five of his ten toes. To avoid accidents in a workshop, it is important to wear an adequate uniform, and one of the most important pieces of it is leather boots. Because of this event, my favorite piece of the daily clothing is the work-boots because it protects my feet from accidents, potential disease, and gives comfort at work.

Many things can fall to the floor in a workshop, like tools or equipment pieces and the most exposed body parts to get a smashed, scratched, or hurt are the feet. This kind of accident is very common. Work boots are made with leather, rubber, and steel. The hard layer of the leather and the rubber avoid scratches and hurts in the skin and the steel-toe part protects feet from smashes or broken bones.

A lot of potential diseases are on the workshop floor or in the field because of the presence of dust, polluted water, or mud. Those substrates are rich in nutrients that promote the growth of fungus and bacteria. These diseases can enter in the feet and cause bad odor, infections, and nail deformation. The polymer coverage of the boot repels the entrance of water, mud, or dust into the boots, and decreases the risk of foot diseases.

Comfort for strolling at work is important because it reduces the tiredness and as a result, contributes to a productive work day. The design and the materials of the inside of work boots allow the person to walk comfortably and help to reduce the work-stress. Also if the weather is cool the wool coverage keeps the body temperature warm giving comfort to the owner.

In summary, my favorite piece of clothing is the work boots. The design of the boots protects the feet from accidents, the materials and sealed design repel the entrance of potential disease, and gives comfort. For those reasons the workers can be more efficient at their job. And it is important that the employees wear a pair of work-boots at the workshop in order to avoid hazards.

Recovering My First Love

Ligia Oliveira Romero
RW44

Sometimes I really appreciate remembering all the blessed moments of my life because when I do this, I feel like I am living all these moments again. Even though I have lived many happy moments, I have my favorite one. I could say without any doubts that this was the happiest day of my life. This day was in my 19th birthday, at my home, where I recovered my first love. October 15, 2012, was a rainy and chilly day and I was very excited about my party helping my mother with the last details. My house was beautifully decorated with many pink and purple party balloons. In addition, the table of the dining room was full with all kinds of delicious candy and I could feel the sweet smell of chocolate and vanilla. I was waiting all my friends, including my old friends from high school and my first passion and also my friend,

Marcelo, that I had not seen for a long time, maybe since we graduated from high school.

Marcelo and I had a lovely relationship that did not work since we were too young to deal with the difficult “relationship things”. This way, unfortunately, we broke up after two years together, but the love and the affection was still alive inside our hearts. So, when I finally saw him after many years, all the good memories about us came back to my mind and I stayed at least one minute thinking about what I could say in that moment. In the early evening, we were so shy, acting like completely strangers but in the middle of the night we were naturally talking as we used to do in the past. He could not stop looking at me, I could not stop looking at him, and when he hugged me, I could feel his sweet smell again.

When everybody left, it was just us laughing and recalling all the good memories of our love history. My head was resting on his shoulder and I was daydreaming when suddenly he held my face and kissed me. Was a gentle and gracious kiss. The meeting of two passionate souls. I was so happy that I just could not stop to smile. It was definitely the most amazing and special night of my life. In this beautiful way, we ended our magic night. Me and Marcelo together one more time. The destiny was giving one more chance for our love and we could not waste this opportunity. I always will remember my 19th birthday and all the magic things that happened in that day. Some moments are really specials in our lives, and this was mine.

Why Do Americans Waste So Much Food?

Maria Goncalves
RW40

Do American people really waste food? Research shows that Americans buy too much food, but they do not consume it all. It might happen because they do not realize what the expiration date of food they are buying is. There are several causes why Americans waste so much food including: special offers, laziness, and taking food for granted.

One of the most consequential causes is the supermarkets' sales. Customers see opportunities to buy two products for the price of one. Thus, they buy as much they can. However, they do not consume it all. It means that they cannot control themselves when they see offers or low prices of food. What they see is that they have the opportunity to buy a lot of food for a low price. In brief, because of the supermarkets' sales, Americans often buy a lot of food in order to save money.

Another cause of wasting food in the United States is the Americans' laziness. They prefer buying food once a month. As a result, they would rather buy everything that they might need to eat in a month than going to the supermarket more often. In this way, they would not have to go to supermarkets during the rest of the month or when they finish eating all the food. To conclude, Americans have a bad habit, which is, wasting the food in order not to go to the supermarket more than once per month.

Finally, taking food for granted is another cause of why Americans waste so much food. It comes from the culture in every family, so parents raise their children how they were raised. They teach them to buy a lot of food no matter if after that they throw it away. In this way, they do not respect food, and their children will learn from them; when they are growing up, they will do the same as their parents. Moreover, Americans think that they will always have food, and they also think that they will never experience hunger.

In conclusion, there are some causes why Americans waste so much food, for example, special offers, laziness and taking food for granted. American people waste a lot of food instead of organizing what they really need to buy for a specific time. Also, they think that they benefit from supermarkets' sales because they believe that they do not need to go to the supermarket every two weeks. Moreover, they have a bad habit of being lazy; therefore, they do everything possible to avoid going to the supermarket. In addition, Americans take food for granted, and it will make that they continue wasting so much food. In my opinion, Americans have to be more conscious about what they need to buy in order to save money.

Kentucky 2012

Migdaly Serra
RW 43

My favorite photo was taken by my husband two years ago in Keeneland, Kentucky. This is a place where race horses are auditioned at a certain time of the year.

The two young men in the photo are my sons, Ivan and Sergio Alejandro. We are fully dressed with winter clothing because the photo was taken in October, a moment in which temperatures reach a very low level. In fact, that day was so cool, a snowstorm fell five minutes after the photo was taken, which is why we remember that picture.

I remember, the trees in the photo, completely devoid of leaves, were covered in minutes with a thick layer of snow and the grass became in a beautiful white carpet. The cool of that day was so intense that we had to stay very sheltered. The cold reflected in our bones and we could not talk.

That photo was very symbolic for us, because it was our first time in this place. We needed to buy a horse, but we couldn't because the cold was so intense. We could only look at the horses from our seats.

Hangover in Gainesville

Maria Victoria Camacho Prieto
RW32

"I cannot even imagine where I would be today were it not for that handful of friends who have given me a heart full of joy. Let's

face it, friends make life a lot more fun." - Charles R. Swindoll. My life wouldn't be the same without my friends; they're completely crazy, and make my days and nights better. With them I had lived a lot of stuff and will try to make a short story telling about one of my adventures.

Last night me and my friends went to a party, but before that we did a pregame, if you don't know what a pregame means well search on Google. The point is that one of my friends got super drunk with just three shots, she spent almost all night laughing with any reason, when we were ready to go and take the Later Gator, she was like "I shouldn't go I will stay," but then she changed her mind and me and all my friends went to take the bus, it was kind of funny because she didn't stop talking in English (that's a good thing if you're an ELI student), when we got there we had to wait like 15 minutes on the line to get in. During that time my drunk friends were talking with everybody, I think she made like 10 new friends waiting on the line. You don't know how some people can react when they get drunk, some persons just laugh the whole time, some just want to drink more and fight with other people and some people when they get drunk speak other language, like my friend.

Untitled

Meshal Alghazi
RW 40

Today I'm going to talk about the reason why Americans waste so much food. First of all, they don't know how to store the extra food. Second, if there is a sale on any item they just say: "it's a good deal" and then they buy it even if they don't really want it. Thirdly, some of them are careless about the money because their living situation is very good so they spend it on everything. In addition, if they are having a BBQ party or they invite some friends for dinner they cook more than what they want. However, there are a lot of people who know how to deal with the extra food by giving it to the poor instead of wasting it.

Untitled

Moath Al Sager
RW 40

Though I enjoy traveling to lots of countries to learn and explore their cultures, there are two countries where I really had an amazing time. They are Morocco in Africa and Indonesia in Asia. Indonesia has a very diverse lifestyle. There are many rich people, however, at the same time, there are poor Aborigines. In big cities like Jakarta, you will find big houses which are very expensive and are occupied by rich Indonesians. In poor areas you will see homeless people living and sleeping on the streets. In addition, on street intersections you will see young children going around cars asking for money. The weather in Indonesia is its obvious attraction. It has a rainy climate because it is surrounded by huge

mountains and beaches. The average temperature is low. You can feel the nice windy weather especially at night. Indonesia has many incredible beaches. Bali is the most significant one. Tourists come every year to see Bali beach and have a good time with their families. They like Bali beach because the water is clean, clear, and the sand is warm.

On the other hand, people in Morocco are still living a traditional life. You can see traditional families who are still buying chicken and vegetables in the old way. The weather in Morocco depends on the place that you live in. For instance, if you go to the north of Morocco, like Tangier city, the weather is foggy in the morning and cold at night-time. Moving south the weather changes a little bit. The temperature rises because you are moving from a high region that is surrounded by huge mountains to lowlands. The Atlantic coast has the most famous beach in Morocco. People there can simply go swimming, relax and do water sports. Furthermore, the sea is warm and clear.

To sum up, both countries have nice beaches and enormous mountains and I had a wonderful time exploring these two countries on different continents, nevertheless, they are different in many ways. Equally, like any country in the world, they have their own lifestyles - old or traditional, and diverse cultures, even if they have something in common.

The Effects of Soccer in My Culture

Natalia Lopez-Mejia
RW 44

Colombia; an amazing country with a sad story. In Colombia, we have been having a big social problem for the past seventy or eighty years. Violence and drugs are the only international news that everyone hears about my country. A lot of Colombians overcame one of the most famous problems inside the country; drug traffic and violence. Unfortunately, other Colombians did not have the same chance, and most of them found refuge in sports, especially in soccer. Generally, people from Central and South America are soccer lovers, and Colombia is not an exception. When Colombia's national soccer team is playing, every single Colombian is watching the game; we dance, cry, jump, drink... and all because of soccer. Soccer in Colombia's society has good and bad results.

In the 80s and 90s Colombia had the darkest era in history. Colombia had the most famous drug trafficker in the world, and his name was Pablo Escobar; additionally, the country had a terrorist group called "la guerrilla de las FARC". The violence in Colombia was terrible; thousands of people were dying every day. However, Colombia's national soccer team was brilliant; they never lost a game, even in Argentina where they won 5-0 and all the country celebrated while the war was going on. In 1994, the World Cup was in the United States of America and Colombia was in the tournament as one of a favorites to win. Unfortunately they lost, and Andres Escobar scored an own goal; under those circumstances, Andres was murdered days before the cup. "Based

on witnesses' reports, Escobar's death appeared to be retribution for scoring an own-goal." ("Soccer Politics/The Politics of Football").

After all these events, Colombia had a horrible reputation; the image of the country around the world was terrible and people did not believe in soccer any more, much less in the government. Not to mention that the violence and drug traffic increased. A lot of Colombians left the country searching for better opportunities because in Colombia they did not have jobs. As a result, this was the darkest era in Colombia; anyone wanted anything with the country neither some Colombians. In 1998, the government started hard work, giving back a good impression to Colombia around the world. After that, Colombia's economy improved remarkably. People were optimistic and they started to enjoy soccer again.

Nowadays, the government is negotiating with "la guerrilla de las FARC" and the country's economy is stable. Colombia has a better image around the world, and the majority of Colombians who are abroad are working to improve it. Colombia's national soccer team is in the world cup; all the people believe again and enjoy it fearlessly. When Colombia's team is playing, everyone is happy and it is almost a public holiday in the country. Due to Colombia's team, restaurants, stores, companies, public establishments have improved their gains and people are happy everywhere. Not to mention, the soccer's opportunities are good for children, because now they want to be soccer players in place of drug traffickers. Soccer is a country's refuge, because when a Colombian is watching the team nothing else is important in this moment, just the game.

Given these points, we can see that Colombia is a country marked by violence and drugs. However, Colombians find happiness in soccer. We will not forget the sad and painful past of Andres Escobar because adult Colombian people never forget this incident and they teach us young generations about it. Now Colombia is a totally different nation from twenty or thirty years ago, and this is thanks to the people who want a better place to live, who want to see a better Colombia, because Colombia is an amazing and unique place to visit and to live.

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My Mother

Abdulrahim Alkhibari
RW 1

My mother is the most important person in my life for several reasons. First of all, she was pregnant with me for nine months, and she took care of me when I was born. She is very kind, and she is friendly, talkative, and outgoing. She likes to spend time with

family and her friends. She is helpful. She helps me to study, and she encourages me to study hard. She is the most amazing woman in the world.

Our UF ELI

Huda Albu Ali, Mubarak Aldosari, Sultan Al-Hajri, Jumah Al-Jehani, Abdullah Alkhalifah, Emad Almousa, Sarah Almuqbil, Fatimah Alsaeed, Afaf Altarjami, Mohammad Alyamani, Rashed Alzahrani, Hayfa Alzubaidi, Ghufraan Baabbad
RW11

This is our first semester at the UF ELI and we like it. The teachers are good. The ELI helps us to meet new friends. The students from around the world are nice and fun. The ELI CIP has a lot of activities. They are helpful for learning English. The ELI has a lot of services. The staff communicates with the students and helps us with our questions about life in the U.S. This semester, the ELI has a new building and it is sophisticated and high-tech. The ELI is a good experience for international students. We appreciate the ELI for our English knowledge.

Brazilians against the World Cup

Rachel Alves da Silva
RW 52

One of the biggest sporting events in the world is the World Cup. This is a kind of event that brings development to the host country, and it is supposed to be a good way to improve some public sectors for the population. Although everyone would like to host the World Cup, the population mass of Brazil does not want it. There are several reasons of the Brazilians do not want the World Cup. The widespread corruption; problems with public services such as health and education; and the constant strike of workers are the main causes of the Brazilians' dissatisfaction.

First of all, the widespread corruption in all levels of government is the most shocking reason. Many governors are investigated and convicted guilty every year and nobody goes to the jail. In addition, the justice is really slow and the immense bureaucracy hinders the progress of any process. According to the latest survey by Transparency International, Brazil is the 72th position on the list of 177 countries surveyed about perceptions of corruption by national populations. On a scale from zero (highly corrupt) to one hundred (very transparent), Brazil received the note 42. Brazil is behind the all developed countries, and also Uruguay and Chile. Moreover, even in the World Cup season, a great opportunity to bring hope to the Brazilians, the corruption does not stop. The costs of the World Cup have exceeded all estimates and a big amount earmarked for stadium construction is coming from the public coffers. Furthermore, even though the World Cup is coming in a few days, less than 50% of the building is totally

ready. For that situation, all of Brazilians wonder where is the money which is supposed to bring development.

Secondly, Brazil is a country with serious problems in the public services which affect each Brazilian everyday. The public health is the most problematic. The hospitals do not have enough doctors and nurses and daily many people die in the line waiting to be attended. Moreover, there is also a shortage of hospitals in areas of low population. Even the infant mortality is still a serious issue in Brazil. According to Economist.com, around 60% of all spending on health care in Brazil is private; a higher share than in most other Latin American countries, and higher even than in the United States. Private provision mainly covers a rich and young minority. Furthermore, the public education is another problematic sector. Brazil has a poor education system because the government does not invest enough in this area. There are no libraries, science and computer labs in most public schools of basic education. Moreover, the remuneration of teachers, with any level of education, is really close to the national minimum wage. Having a good education in Brazil is synonym of paying for a particular school, which is really expensive.

At last, the constant strike of workers is another critical problem in the Brazilian's routine. Daily many workers of different sectors stop working to try obtaining some improvement in their job conditions. Public services such as mass transportation, mail service, security, and public cleaning are some areas which are affected constantly. Those workers claim for better wages, conditions, and investments. In fact, everyone faces the scrapping of transport routes, although the price tickets just become more expensive at short intervals of time. Moreover, the workers who are responsible for the security of population such as police officers and firefighters face the sad reality of bad remuneration and non-recognition of their functions. As a result, strikers happen constantly and the mean affected is the population that receives inadequate services and bad conditions to live.

To summarize, these were some critical problems faced by Brazilians every day. Brazil needs some attention and investments in areas which are in the base of anyone's life. The Brazilians do not have time to think positively about the World Cup while they are facing sub developed country's problems. Furthermore, it is a good time to think about real problems and necessities beyond stadiums and wasting public funds. Brazil was hoping for development and improvement of the nation when was noticed about hosting the World Cup. Instead, Brazil faces the worsening of public services and increasing of the unashamed corruption.

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My Father

Joo Young Cha
RW 1

I have great respect for my father because he is a great person. He is very smart. He attended Seoul University, and Seoul University is famous in Korea. Now, he is a professor in Korea. He teaches anatomy. In his free time, he likes to spend time playing saxophone. He is great at playing saxophone. On Sunday, he goes to church every week, and he conducts the choir. He is a great conductor. So I respect my father for all these reasons.

My Mother

Ahmed Albinhumdh
RW 1

I can write a poem about my mother when I think about her. My mother does everything to our brothers and me, so she gives her life and health to encourage and fight difficult situation. My mother is an outgoing and kind person, and she likes to speak with other people. She spends time visiting her friends or neighbors when they have some problem or celebration. My mother has a big heart, so she is happy to be caring and thoughtful to everyone. My mother grows dream in our mind even if it's stealing a dream from the Moon. How can I not write a poem about my mother?

Gainesville and Hometown

Saad Alsaqer
RW42

Some of people like very five years change their town or city I do that in my life too the last time I change my town is from in 2010 I want to Zahra city in my country Kuwait but when I came to USA I leaved in Gainesville FL. They are some similarity and more differences between them like weather, people, and building. Everyone like wonderful weather to have a nice day, both Zahra and Gainesville have a nice weather. Both Zahra and Gainesville are hot in summer, cold in winter and mild weather in the spring. But Zahra seasons of the year, summer and winter are long but

autumn and spring are short. In other hand in Gainesville all seasons is almost same duration.

People are the backbone of the cities without people the cities will dead. In two towns I meet nice people and bad people too. In both Gainesville and my town the most people there are friendly, helpful, nice, and kinds but they are some differences for instance some people in Gainesville have racism and discrimination however in Zahra town they did not have that. They treat people same. Secondly, in Zahra people helps their neighbors without fee, but in Gainesville everyone help them self.

Every city has something unique make hair famous. Both Gainesville and Zahra have wonderful building. The building in both cities are amazing, nice, and give you background about history of city and development. The building design in Zahra is different than in Gainesville. Zahra building made by stone and roman design .however, in Gainesville the building made by wood and take British design. In Gainesville they have oaks mall this mall is the biggest in Gainesville. Zahra have moll to they call it 360moll this moll make city famous because have unique design. In other hand in Gainesville the University of Florida is the unique building.

In summary every cities have three unique thing make hair famous for example nice weather, nice people, and nice building. It will be one of best cities in the world. Because those thing is a heart of cities without those cities will end and will be abandoned.

Insomnia

Saad Alsaqer
RW42

Have you ever have insomnia in your life? Insomnia mean: less sleep making you wake up in midnight or wake up early and feel tired .they are some affects and causes do that like your health, medicine and your feels.

Health care is good way to protect your health from insomnia. For example: when you protect your health from dieses you do not need medicine. Because some medicines make you wake up and less sleep. That is one reason to have insomnia. Second, if you have health problems such as heart dieses, asthma and memory problems those will make you have uncomfortable sleep. Everyone have good day and bad day. Bad day will change your like to sad and suck. You will hate everything in all day. You will wake up all night too. That happens if your parent dies, break up your relationship, and work problems.

Insomnia sometime takes 3 or4 days and it can be 1 or 2 months. It is depends to problems. For example: if you have tiredness and fatigue because work you can take holiday for 4 days to rest. However, what about if you have business problem .you won't sleep very well until you solve your problem Maybe, it takes month to solve it or more.

In summary, some people have insomnia for many cause like lifestyle, healthy and works. They are to kind of insomnia a short time and a long time. Take rest to protect your health.

Brazil and the World Cup

Saif Alzahrani
RW43

Many countries try to host the World Cup; however, just a few of them achieve the opportunity of holding it. In 2014, Brazil, which is known as “The country of the soccer,” got the privilege to host this admirable event. It has had some positive and negative effects such as the government getting a lot of money and fostering financial growth, in the positive side; and on the other hand, the Brazilian citizens becoming upset at the government and the loss in the World Cup.

For any country in the world, when the country hosts the World cup, the government will get a lot of money. Likewise, the government of Brazil got a countless amount of money from different businesses. First, due to airline tickets from the fans around the world, which was more than billions of people. Moreover, the money raised due to tickets was extremely high since the average price for some of them almost achieved \$250.00 and there were a total of sixty-four matches during the tournament. In addition, hotels and stores earned a significant amount from guests who came from outside this hosting country. Finally, some local companies got money, such as car companies and clothing companies in malls or stores from the tourists around the world. The second effect is that the world cup fostered financial growth in Brazil in many different aspects. Brazil built new hotels around the country in order to house billions of tourists. Second, the government built twelve new stadiums. The third effect the government caused is increasing the quantity of airlines to go outside of and to come back to the country. To sum up, the country tried to use all of the money made to provide convenience to tourists, in order to make them feel as if they were in their home country.

On the other hand, when the government built the new stadiums and hotels, they destroyed some houses to build them. Also, the government did not focus on the education and health care. This made the Brazilian citizens revolted with the government; therefore, people started protesting on the street to change the president. Furthermore, when the Brazilian soccer team lost against Germany, several fans from this nation became upset; as a result, they start rioting and the police had to stop them. Therefore, Brazil needs to help citizens on education and health care. For example, by investing in education and by paying more money to teachers.

In conclusion, it is a good idea to host the World Cup in your country, because the country would get money and the economy may increase, but be aware of possible problems. Therefore, every country needs to see their economy and what citizens need from the government before deciding to host the World Cup. This is what happened in Brazil, the government must look at the citizens and help them in all the ways, not just focus on the World Cup.

A Childhood Memory about Food: My Mother's Arepas

Solangel Padilla
RW41

The first memory I have about a delicious traditional food from my country (Venezuela) is the mouth-watering smell that a little circular piece of arepa was emitting. I was 6 or 5 years old, and my mom was making arepas (corn cakes) with a recipe that her grandmother had taught her.

The flour of my mother's arepa wasn't the same as other arepas I have tasted since then. It was special; it was softer and yummier. The outside of the arepa wasn't white; it was a little yellow and was more toasted than the other arepas I have eaten in my life. I learned in my teenage days that my mother's arepa is yellow because of the cheese that is mixed with the flour of traditional arepas. This cheese is what made her arepa softer and gave it that particular taste that I love so much, even until today.

Now every time I want an arepa, I make them at home. Even if they are not better than my mother's arepas, there is something satisfying about doing it myself. The arepa has to be shaped with both hands in a circle, and the circle cannot be too thick or too thin; it has to be the perfect shape so when it is done you can open the arepa in the middle and then put in ham, butter, eggs, etc -- whatever you want. The outside of the arepa has to be toasted, and you have to be careful that instead of toasting it, you don't burn the "face" of the arepa (as we call it in Venezuela). But that is not all: You may have made the "face" of the arepa, but it is still not ready to eat. You have to let it rest in the oven for 5 to 7 minutes so that you can do the verification to see if the arepa is ready. You will know if the arepa is ready by the sound it produces with a clap! Then you can eat it.

The Clever Thief

Meshal Aljabri
RW 22

Everyday a man and a woman walked in a park. One day somebody stole their car. They went to the police station. They made a report and the next day, they found the car near their house. When they opened the car they found a small paper. The thief wrote, “Sorry I stole your car because my wife was having a baby and I saw your car. Now open the glove box and you will see two plane tickets to Miami for you and your wife.” When they went to Miami they were happy and when they came back, they saw their house was stolen.

A Scary Experience

Zahra Alqurini
RW 20

I will never forget the time I lost my children. I was sleeping after coming back from my class, and my husband was staying in the living room with my children. My husband left the apartment and went shopping, but he didn't tell me that he was going out. My daughter opened the door and went out with her brother. My son is one year old and my daughter is three years old. After that, I woke up but didn't see them. I only saw that the door was opened. I didn't know what happened to them and felt very scared. I went out to look for them. I could only put on my scarf but not my shoes. I searched everywhere and shouted their names. I didn't see them or hear their voice. Some moments later, I heard my daughter crying but I still didn't see her. I was running around when a man came to help me. We finally found them two floors up! This story took place over one month ago, but I will never forget it because I thought I lost the most precious thing in my life—my kids.

The Day I Will Not Forget About

Naura Harandah
RW 20

I will not forget the day when I travel with my brother to the Philippines three years ago. We visited the beautiful Baracay Island, the most beautiful island in the Philippines. It was a secret place that few people knew. I learned about it in a movie. In 2012, Baracay was named the second best beach in the world. One day when I was there, I took an adventure. I tried diving. We were in a group of people with a coach. After putting on a diving suit, we had some training on the beach. When we finished training, we went in the middle of the sea from a boat. When I dived into the sea, I couldn't balance the pressure and I felt that I was going to die! Luckily the coach saw me and helped me. He put his fingers under my ear and massaged, and then I was able to balance the pressure. This experience was both scary and unforgettable. I still hope to go back to this beautiful island and dive again!

The Function of the State in Preventive Programs Related to the Health

Debora da Silva
RW61

In 2010, the First Lady Michelle Obama started a huge campaign against the childhood obesity, and finally all the population of the United States knew this problem. According to the journal *The New York Times*, the title of the campaign was

“Let's Move”, and people from the government of the United States, medicine, science, business, and athletics were engaged on it, in order to get children eating fresher and healthier food (Stolberg, 2010). This is one of many interventions that the government of the United States is doing to fight against the obesity in the country. The biggest villains of the obesity are fast food companies, with their large meal portions and huge cups of sugary drinks. Even though the measures of the government could not stop the obesity and created an additional cost for the population, health and nutritional care are also duties of the State.

Many opponents to the government intervention argue that the measures are not able to change the reality of obesity in the country. They affirm the government plans are going in the wrong direction, and what people eat is a situation which just the person can solve. An obese person needs to be conscious about their situation and realize the value of their health. The government intervention wants to fix a size for sugary drinks and regulate portions of meal, which are getting bigger year after year, and the price maintains the same. On the other hand, the government of the United States is the only entity which can control big fast food companies and restaurants; the government is supreme over all the establishments. The commerce pays taxes and must follow the laws. In order to have profits, fast food and restaurants are able to add more ounces on cups of sugary drinks, and turn portions larger, once these are more lucrative due the cost of delivering food items to consumers are fixed. Furthermore, people usually do not think while they are eating big meals or drinking big cups of sugary drinks; it is involuntary. If the portions and cups are bigger, it is able to cause a serious health problem, as is happening now in the United States. As a result, the intervention of the State is fundamental to combat the epidemic of obesity in the country.

Critics of the government intervention in the size of portions and drinks complain that non-obese and healthy people cannot enjoy high calories foods, once these are banned from menus. Moreover, the intervention proposes less sugar in the drinks, which could lead to a different taste. Another argument they have is about the taxes under the high calories foods, which means the food will be more expensive. These points of view are mistaken because they overlook the fact that non-obese and healthy people can enjoy whenever they want; however, they will need to pay more for them. The fact that the sugary drinks with less sugar would not taste the same is the consequence of a healthier diet. In addition, these people can also become obese if they consume even smaller portions of fast foods and sugary drinks. The purpose of the government intervention is preventing non-obese people from getting fat, which could mean more costs to the public safes. This preoccupation is important because a responsible and compromised government should care about what people are eating and the quality of it. Consequently, the State is looking for the benefit of the population and avoiding wasting money with new cases of problems related to obesity.

A third argument that opponents to the government intervention to high calories foods and drinks is that due the higher taxes, the State is going to have more available money and it can lead to corruption and misuse of public money. Furthermore,

food, which was before accessible to all the social classes, now would be too expensive for poor and low-income people. By focusing on the problem of corruption, these defenders overlook the deeper problem. The incoming of money due the taxes would be designed to clinics and hospitals charged with taking care of the patients who are victims of obesity and to programs to alert people about correct nutrition. About the accessibility of impoverished groups to costly food, people have other different options instead of unhealthy food and these can be cheap. For instance, cereals and grains are excellent sources of carbohydrates and proteins, and they are affordable. In short, finding out weakness of the government intervention such as a possible corruption due the higher taxes and accessibility of impoverished people to the more expensive food are not the best way to fight against it. All programs of the State have weak points. The important is if the result is beneficial for the citizens.

To conclude, a mobilization such as Michelle Obama was coordinating early in 2010 showed to the Americans that the government was disposed to fight against the obesity, starting on schools and with children. It is the function of the State: ensuring the population has correct instruction about important topics. The government intervention in the size of portions and sugary drinks is looking for better feeding in the American tables, even though appropriate nutrition is a concern for each person, since the consequences are for individuals. A solution would be the population has access to cheaper fruits and vegetables, throughout imputes and investments in agriculture and animal products. Farmers would have money from the State to grow their crops and the products could get in supermarkets with a reasonable price. The foundation of the United States had begun with Agriculture. Maybe now is the time for the nation to go back to its origin.

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Features That Can Make a Face Interesting, Beautiful or Handsome

Leonardo Morales
RW41

Healthy and beautiful eyes can make an interesting, beautiful or handsome face because they are the conclusion of series of not only physical but mental and spiritual elements. We know that people look largely dictates the personality of that person and, if we are observant and develop the art of meeting people through his eyes, we know that these are the “mirrors of the soul”. Another detail that makes an interesting, beautiful or handsome face is a beautiful smile because this is the light of our face, which opens many doors, which generates positive skills and smoothing

the way for us to reach others. Even the smile can diminish the effect of any error or mistake it.

My First Time Driving a Car

Abdulaziz Alzbidi
RW 20

When I first learned to drive, I was very scared. I worried about whether I could do it. I was not skillful controlling the car. I was also very frightened when other cars sped past me. I thought I would have an accident. I will never forget this experience. After many years of practicing, I sometimes still don't feel comfortable driving, especially at night.

Five Foods Which Are Most Difficult for Humans to Live Without

Leonardo Morales
RW41

There are 5 foods would be most difficult for humans to live without like cruciferous vegetables, citrus fruits, green leafy vegetables, onion and carrot.

Cruciferous vegetables include broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and many others; these contain indoles that increase the production of enzymes responsible for off toxins in food and prevent breast cancer.

Citrus fruits contain about 58 anticancer agents, which when combined together are more effective than other foods. It is recommended to consume whole by the presence of plant fiber.

Green leafy vegetables studies have confirmed their benefactor action to prevent stomach cancer and reduce the risk of coronary heart disease, thanks to the presence of folic acid.

Onion is considered diuretic, stomachic, antimicrobial, purifying. It is recommended for flu and bronchitis. It helps to eliminate uric acid.

Carrots have remarkable anticancer properties. Also, they reduce the formation of cholesterol plaques. Carrots have few calories, making them compatible with any diet.

These five types of food are necessary and vital to the human body because these have acid folic, calories, these contain plant fiber. They can prevent cancer and help to eliminate uric acid.

A Special Dress

Tairine Santana
RW3

Some people think that clothes are just pieces of fabric to cover our body, and that buying them is just a social surviving need. For others, clothes can show a lot of your personality and

humor. Clothes also help you to save memories, emotional memories. I am included in the second group. My clothes are really important for me. Each one tells a history of me. But there is always that piece of clothing that has something special, your favorite piece of clothing. For me it is a dress that I wore at my aunt's wedding. I love this dress for three reasons: the way that I look when I wear it, the price that I paid for it, and the emotional factor.

I really like the way that I look with this dress. It is a long green chiffon dress, with a part a little bit shorter on my left leg, without sleeves and with some shiny crystals under the bust. It makes me look taller and elegant because of the way that it fits me. The fabric is very delicate and soft. This gives the impression that I'm almost floating while I'm walking. When I use this dress I receive many compliments, so, it makes me feel confident and pretty.

I bought this dress at a small store near my house. I was looking for a dress for a while, but neither the prices nor the style of the dresses attracted me. One day, I was going to buy something for a wedding with my godmother and passed in front of this store. It was small and with some not so pretty clothes in the windows, but something told me to go into it. The saleswoman was adorable and showed me many dresses. When I tried on that particular one, I just fell in love. In Brazil, an evening dress for that kind of occasion is very expensive, about 600 reais, which would be about 300 dollars. My special dress was 280 reais or less than 140 dollars, which made me want to buy it even more.

I wore this dress at my godmother's wedding. She is a very important person for me. I've been living with her since I was 5 years old. She asked me and my sister to be her bridesmaids, but she gave up the idea because we couldn't find 2 similar dresses. Then I bought mine and 1 week later my sister found one almost identical. So, the wedding was a very special moment for me. All my family was there, and we all were very happy for her. My dress represents this special day.

In conclusion, these three factors make this dress extremely important for me. When I put this on, I feel glamorous and beautiful. It was really cheap, comparing with the others one that I saw. And it also has a sentimental value for me because I wore it at the wedding of one of the most important people in my life. It's clear that clothing can be more than a piece of fabric.

Unclear Foreign Treasures

Erick Perez Sifontes
RW60

Every day is a new day
Full of precious treasures
Hidden deep in your own road.
Walk with your eyes wide open
Take away the sand in your hands
Free yourself from the shackles on your feet,
Your senses are clamoring for the purity of life.

Blink several times
The moment is now,
Prick your arm full of clothes
This is the truth
Life is in front of you
You only need to walk through.
Dissolve the bonds in your soul
Expose your humanity
Feel the real happiness
Let your mind save gold and diamonds
Let your fingers touch the silk
Discharge your wildness in your journey
Live it.
Walk with your eyes wide open
Take away the sand in your hands
Free yourself from the shackles on your feet
This is life,
Those are hidden treasures.

When My Father was Shakiro

Oriana Morales
RW32

This is an interesting history about when my father was Shakiro and why. Do you know Shakira? She is a good bellydancer. Well, my father also was a good bellydancer. The difference between a real Shakira and my father is that my father has a big belly like a women with nine months pregnancy. He had to use a bellydance cloth because my family had a custom party. So, all people needed one custom to enter to the party. If you didn't have one, you couldn't stay there. In fact, my mother and I said to my father that he didn't have to worry about it because we had found the perfect dance custom for him. He trusted us and he didn't worry about lookig for one. After two pairs of days, the party's day came. When we were at the party and he had to wear his custom, he wanted to go out running when he saw a bellydance custom. We had adapted my bellydance clothes in his bellydance custom. Really, his face was very funny. My mother and I couldn't stop to laugh. He had to wear it because he needed a custom to be able to enter at the party. But it's just the beginning. When he used that clothes, one part of this is a brazier and you can see the belly. So, I painted a sun around his belly buttom and on his back, I painted a pair of eyes. But the surprise was when he arrived to the custom party, my family said that he had to dance. Also, I had prepared a choreography for him. I showed him and he tried to dance it. His big belly was moving left to right and right to left. He couldn't move any part of his body more than his belly. While he was dancing, he had to turned and the people began to laugh. It was because on his back, I had painted two eyes. But, he wasn't angry, he liked it because he won a prize thanks to us for the best custom and his unique choreography. In conclusion, all people who was at the party remember him as Shakiro.

The Current Political Crisis in Ukraine and Its Effects

Cuneyt Caliskan
RW 52

There is a stereotype all around the world which is that the most dangerous and complicated regions are in the Middle East. It would not be true because there are many conflicts or tugofwars in Asia, Africa, and even in Eastern Europe. Particularly, there are serious and complicated events in Eastern Europe. These events are about internal political crisis in Ukraine. The consequences of these events are apprehension and perilous because Ukraine is struggling with its political issues. Most importantly, Ukraine is trying to keep the country together and to protect itself against Russian occupation. That is why there are three important effects of this political crisis in Ukraine: Annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation, independences of Donetsk and Lugansk from Ukraine by ProRussians, and removal of Viktor Yanukovich from presidency.

First of all, it would be necessary to understand the one main cause of these events before reading the effects because Ukraine has a intricate political situation. In the background, two candidates, Viktor Yushchenko and Viktor Yanukovich, were competing for the Ukrainian Presidential Election in 2004. In the first results Viktor Yanukovich won the election; however, the election was controversial and some results were unfair in some cities in Ukraine, especially in Donetsk and Lugansk. That is why other candidate, Viktor Yushchenko, asked from his political supporters to protest the results until reelection for the presidential election. The protests started after his request and they turned to a revolution under the leaderships of Viktor Yushchenko and Yulia Tymoshenko. It called the Orange Revolution. After that, Viktor Yushchenko won the new election against his opponent is Viktor Yanukovich and also protests came to an end. This was not too much dangerous for Ukraine and Ukrainian citizens. At the next presidential election, the former candidate Viktor Yanukovich won the presidential election of Ukraine against his opponent is the prime minister of Ukraine, Yulia Tymoshenko, in 2010. After this date a couple of things changed: Yulia Tymoshenko was dismissed from premiership and Mykola Azarov became a prime minister of Ukraine in 2010 who was from Viktor Yanukovich's party, Party of Regions. One year later, the Former Prime Minister of Ukraine, Yulia Tymoshenko, was arrested and accused with abuse of power and embezzlement. She was sentenced to seven years in prison. The President of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, and the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Mykola Azarov, became stronger than ever. They started to be oppressive and to ban a lot things like free speech and freedom of the press. They also began to get closer with Russia because Yulia Tymoshenko was endeavoring for Ukraine's integration into the European Union. Therefore Viktor Yanukovich rejected to sign the Ukraine European Union Association Agreement on 21 November 2013 because of the

Russian Federation's threats. Citizens of Ukraine wanted the signing of this agreement and they were indignant against Viktor Yanukovich. The protests started at the same day by Ukrainians to have sign the agreement. The protests spread everywhere and became unbridled.

The first and the most important effect is annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation. In the history, first annexation of Crimea by Russians was in 1774 with Treaty of Kucuk Kaynarca. Russians took Crimea from the Ottoman Empire. From that time, the Russian Empire sent Russian citizens to live in there and also it tried to change demography. Besides, Russians exiled Crimean Tatars. During the Soviet Union, more than 200.000 Crimean Tatars were deported by Bolsheviks to the Middle Asia and Turkey (Vasilyeva, Nataliya. Ukraine Marks 1944 Deportation of Crimea's Tatars. May 18, 2014.) Because of these causes, the total population of Crimea was 2,033,700 and Russians were 8.5%, Ukrainians were 24.4% and Crimean Tatars were 12.1% according to the 2001 Ukrainian Census (<http://2001.ukrcensus.gov.ua/eng/results/general/nationality/Crimea/>). These results show that: What did Russians do in Ukraine and Crimea up to this time and how could they be a majority state in course of time. During the current protests, Moscow demanded to protect Russians in Crimea and it claimed on Crimea based on these results. After that, a referendum was held by Russians on 16th March, 2014. According to the this referendum, 96.77% of people vote for integration into the Russian Federation with 83.1% turnout (<http://rt.com/news/crimeareferendumresultsofficial250/>). In the last step, the Russian Federation annexed Crimea completely on 21st March, 2014 (Isachenkov, Vladimir. Russia Completes Crimea Annexation).

Secondly, two cities, Donetsk and Lugansk, which are in the east part of Ukraine, established their own countries leaving Ukraine. The Russians ethnicity was a majority status in these two cities. Two referendums were held in these cities on 11th May 2014 by ProRussians. According to the referendums, 96.2% of people supported the declaration independence of the Luhansk People's Republic in Luhansk (<http://www.interfax.com/newsinf.asp?id=503984>) and 89.07% of people supported the Act of State Selfrule of the Donetsk People's Republic in Donetsk (<http://rt.com/news/158276referendumresultseastukraine/>). The continuing of these disputes cause new conflicts between central Ukrainian government, separatists, and the Russian Federation. It seems that, these disputes and conflicts will continue for many years.

Lastly, the president of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, was unseated by Ukrainian Parliament, Verkhovna Rada, on 22 February 2014. As a matter of fact, he already escaped from Ukraine to Russia with his own airplane one day ago on 21 February 2014. In the meantime, one of the former prime minister of Ukraine and one of the Orange Revolution's leaders, Yulia Tymoshenko, get out of jail on 22 February 2014 which was that one of the protesters' requests.

Consequently, the protesters achieved some of their requests about dismissing of Viktor Yanukovich from presidency, releasing

of Yulia Tymoshenko. Most importantly, Ukraine European Union Association Agreement was signed by the new President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko who won the election of presidential election on 25 May 2014.

Thanks from the Editor

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