

Highlights

- **Love Murder Mystery pp. 4 – 9**
- **Autobiographies pp. 11 – 12**
- **Parents and Children pp. 17 – 21**
- **Poetry pp. 9 – 11**
- **Food and Health pp. 13 – 17**
- **American History pp. 30 – 32**

ELI STUDENT VOICES

Volume 16, Issue 3

Spring, 2013

Hands: A World to Explore

Alba Consuelo Hernandez (1st place)
RW 44

When I was a child, I discovered two great tools: my hands. I was fascinated with a lady's thin, long, and expressive fingers that appeared before me. Now, I know that these fingers belonged to the hands of a pianist. Since then, I have been distracted by people's hands: their habits, movements, beauty or ugliness, their "personality", and the stories behind them. From the beginning of human history, mankind has left marks of its existence on earth. From the beginning of my own life, my hands have left their marks on my life story too.

I compare my two hands and they appear the same. But if I look at both of them carefully, there are many differences and similarities. For example, their sizes are actually not the same. My left hand is bigger than my right. Looking at the shapes, there is no doubt they are hands, but my right hand's fingers are fatter than those of the other one, and the nails are wider. The back of my left hand has more freckles than the right one does. Also, the veins of my left hand are less noticeable. The palms are different too; their lines run in varied directions. People who are able to read palms will say that the left hand's lines refer to the past, and the right hand's refer to the future. I don't know how the palm reader sees the present, but it's okay. Another difference is the color of my hands. I don't know why, but the right is more tan.

In terms of abilities, my two hands can do almost everything: write, draw, paint, pray, touch, fix, move, etc. However, the left is stronger than the right, but when it comes to writing and drawing, the right one is more accurate. It's important to say that they work better together, helping and cooperating with each other and synchronizing themselves in order to accomplish goals.

The relationship between the two hands is excellent. It's like each one has its own intelligence and autonomy. They know where, when, and how to do anything. Also, my hands work very well with the rest of my body. They know about their own mechanics and the mechanics of the rest of my body. On the other "hand", they help me communicate with and express myself to other people, and most of the time, they allow me to improve my relationship with others. With this ability, I can use my hands to influence both physical and conceptual things. You can only appreciate this gift once you lose the use of your hands.

So, this is an adventure about the hands, my hands. The similarities and differences of my hands' abilities and structure make each hand independent of the other, but at the same time, they complement each other perfectly when working together to complete tasks. You can't even touch these intangible values with your own hands. Without my hands, I could have lost a way of knowing, loving, and understanding the world, people, and myself. The human history has many records about the various uses and the importance of hands. Thanks to our hands, the human race has built the world. I am sure about this - what about you?

The Minute of Hope

Nataliya Ostarova (2nd place)
RW 50

"There are causes worth dying for, but none worth killing for." (Albert Camus, 1940)

In today's world, we hear a lot of talks about globalization, a better and brighter future for everybody. Living in a developing country is a big privilege for us, but most of people don't realize it. You can do the same things everyday and enjoy your life while others experiencing severe torment and pain. Only bitterness and prayers help them survive in this cruel time. They don't have anything; only on hope can be their strong reliance. It's hard to imagine how to be in this situation, how to handle it, when you lost everything, and when you are alone without any support.

Thanks to my language school, I've met one person who later became a really good friend of mine. He is from Syria. We spent an amazing time together. I've learned a lot from him about the new and mysterious Arabic culture. It was interesting to discuss different things with him, especially to know his opinion about the situation in his country, because due to mass media I knew only a little part of the truth, moreover, politics doesn't allow to tell everything to people. So we can see and hear what our governments want us to know. How you are supposed to be a person who knows the world current situation, if someone controls all the information? That's why it was not only interesting, but also useful for us to talk.

Once we were supposed to have a picnic. The weather was nice and everything was ready to start our small adventure, but at the very last moment this guy called me and canceled the meeting. He didn't explain anything. We started to worry about him. For the next few days he didn't appear at school and didn't answer the phone. I had a bad feeling that something was wrong, because even being a private person, he loved to share his thoughts and ideas with me, but this time was only a silence from him. It was killing me; because I couldn't do anything for him... I couldn't help! Knowing that situation in his country is terrible; I read news everyday, paying particular attention to any that touched Syria. Of course, I knew that a big explosion happened in the town where my friend used to live. A lot of innocent people died. They were students, who like me and thousands of other teens are going to school everyday. They couldn't change anything... The revolution became an extermination of civilians and blameless people.

A couple of days later, I finally had a chance to talk to him. He was extremely upset about this fact, and I couldn't say anything, because there were no words in my head, only compassion and resentment that had steeped in my mind during these days. He lost his good friends! He didn't have a chance to talk to them, after he left a country, and he will not have this chance anymore...

Thinking about it, I can't say that it is sad. It's more than sad. There are no words in any language, which can express all the bitterness of the loss that these people have to endure!

After a while, he told me that it would be an event - moment of silence in memory of those people who were killed in that bombing. I came with him, and was amazed by the fact that in the other country with totally opposite culture there are a lot of people who really care about what's happening in the world. All of them came to express condolences. There were candles, flags, and banners with words of support. People who organized this event made the name of this country from the candles. It was charmingly. The sun already went down, and the crescent moon gaped in the sky like a symbol of support and hope for all Muslim people who are going through these difficult and torturing time. Some students gave a speech about what they think. I stood among all these people and felt a huge power of their support. Realizing that awful and terrible things happen around us, people are killing each other, sometimes without understanding goals, just following the orders. At the time when all people around became silent and began to pray, I could not even move. I stood rooted to the spot. A lump stuck in my throat. In my head started to appear all that frightening pictures of what could happen to people in Syria. Barely noticeable to others, but well perceptible to me, tears of sorrow rolled down my cheeks. It lasted only a few minutes, but this feeling I will never forget!

A minute of silence... a minute of hope changed everything that was in my mind before. I began to appreciate all the moments that happen in my life, even the smallest and insignificant ones, because in today's unpredictable world anything could happen, and I don't want to waste precious minutes of life on what I will regret about in the future. That moment of hope showed to me that in spite of all the cruelty that surrounds us, there are still many people who concern, worry, and want to help. As the saying goes, "hope

springs eternal", I think that as long as there are such people in the world, the concepts such as complacency, kindness, love, support and kindness will not disappear from our lives!

The Terrorist Who Changed Colombia

Geraldine Silva
RW 43

In Rio Negro, Antioquia, Colombia on December 1, 1949 Pablo Escobar was born. His parents were Hermilda Gaviria who was elementary school teacher and Abel Escobar who was a watchman. Pablo Escobar was the third of seven children. In 1976, he married and had two children, Juan Pablo and Manuela Escobar. Pablo Escobar studied for a short time in the University of Antioquia. His childhood ambition was to be a millionaire before he was 22 years old. Instead, he became a Colombian drug lord, politician, businessman, terrorist, cocaine trafficker and criminal. He was the founder and leader of the Medellin drug cartel which was an organized network of drug suppliers and smugglers originating in the city of Medellin Colombia, one of the most important cities in Colombia and also in the department of Antioquia. The Medellin cartel operated in Colombia, Bolivia, Peru, the United States as well as Canada and Europe. He was the most powerful man of the mafia in Colombia. As result of Pablo Escobar's criminal life, the changes in Colombia began.

The first thing that Pablo Escobar changed in Colombia has been policy. The policy in Colombia in the 1980s differed from the policy in 2013 because the government changed the laws and the management in the government to make the laws stricter. Pablo Escobar in the 1980s wanted to be a politician and in 1982, he was elected as a deputy representative to the house of representatives of the Colombian Congress. When Pablo Escobar started to be a politician, the government of Colombia was wondering about his money; they investigated him, then they fired him from the congress and ordered his capture. In 1984 Pablo Escobar created a group named "the Extraditable" of killers and drug dealers to fight against the extradition. After that group, deaths, bombs and attacks in Colombia started. The laws against trafficking and terrorism in Colombia before Pablo Escobar were less strict. Further, the extradition was not a common penalty and issue in Colombia; however, after Pablo Escobar, the government changed their laws to make it stronger and try to reduce the crime and trafficking. Pablo Escobar killed, kidnapped, and attempted the life of most of the government members and important people in Colombia such as the minister of Justice Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, who was the first person to denounce Pablo Escobar for his illegal activities; Guillermo Cano, director of the most important newspaper in Colombia, who wrote news about Pablo; Enrique Parejo, who was the substitute for Rodrigo Lara; Andres Pastrana, who was the mayor of Bogota; Carlos Mauricio Hoyos attorney, general of the nation; Luis Carlos Galan, who was the strongest candidate to win the presidency; and Valdemar Franklin Quintero, who was an army colonel. Pablo Escobar disarmed the government of Colombia at

that time and the government implemented new laws against terrorist, murderers, and drug traffickers.

Another difference is the society. Pablo Escobar struck terror and the Colombians lived the anguish, terror, and fear of leave their houses. He and his group put a car bomb at a gas station that was next to a building where the main newspaper in Medellin was; they put a bomb inside a plane leaving for Cali, the plane exploded and 101 people died; they put a bomb in the Administrative Security Department of Colombia where 60 people died and 600 people were wounded. They also kidnapped Diana Turbay, who was an important person in the government; she died when the army tried to rescue her. Francisco Santos, who was the director of one important newspaper in Colombia and Marina Monica Montoya, who was the sister of the secretary general of the presidency in Colombia were kidnapped and then "the Extraditable" killed Marina Monica Montoya. All of these events were to fight against the extradition and the rights that they supposedly had. On the other hand, Escobar built houses and gave those to the poor unemployed people. Oddly, many people hated him but many other people loved him. Moreover, he also influenced in the corruption because some politicians asked and received money from him to help him to fight against the extradition. Both ambitious and lazy people helped Escobar to achieve many of his aims. Pablo Escobar taught the people of Medellin and Colombia the culture of drugs trafficking. In 2013, the people continue with this culture to earn money easily, to kill people and to traffic drugs in Colombia and around the world. These days, the governments capture traffickers easier than before but the people still continue doing those things while they impede the development and safety of Colombia.

However, the economy has remained similar in some ways since the 80s. In 2013, there are less drug traffickers as Pablo Escobar who helped the poor people because he was a very rich man. On the other hand Colombia has more international connections, exports of oil, gold coffee flowers, fruits, coal, emerald, cotton and meat to the United States of America, European Union, China, Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, Chile and Peru. Also, Colombia has more industries, agriculture and petroleum. Colombia has more legal income. Colombia is a country in process of development and now there are more opportunities to work legally. Most of the people and the government are working together to build a better Colombia in many aspects. The poverty is less in Colombia every day, the government continues helping and giving them social housing and fighting the hostility, violence, terrorism, trafficking and they are accepting less corruption from the drug traffickers and illegal business.

The government has been helping to decrease the drug trafficking and capturing dealers and traffickers in Colombian and extraditing them to the US; thus, that drug culture and business has deteriorated since Pablo Escobar was killed. According to the Forbes magazine, Pablo Escobar was arguably the richest cocaine trafficker and the seventh-richest man in the world at that time. He imported exotic and expensive animals and had a zoo with more than 200 animals at his farm named Naples. Many of his houses,

cars, and other possessions were expropriated by the government after his death. In 2013, some of those properties are tourist destinations where his things are exhibited. Pablo Escobar remained hidden for several years. The army conducted a big operation and founded him; he tried to escape and they kill him on December 2, 1993. Many people celebrated his death because he was a person who made many unfavorable changes in Colombia. He was 44 years old.

Should We Keep Animals in Zoos?

Fangyuan Qin
RW61

Zoos were one of my favorite destinations when I was a little girl. There were many animals that I didn't have a chance to see in daily life, like elephants, giraffes, tigers and so on. I have learned a lot of biology knowledge by visiting zoos as well. The time I spent in zoos with my family is such a beautiful memory. However, when I grew up, I began to think about whether animals feel happy as well as I do. Unfortunately, I found the answer is "No". Zoos might be heaven for human beings, especially for kids, but not for animals.

Advocates claim that zoos are the main place where people can get close to animals and see varieties of real animals. Visiting zoos and being friendly to animals can make people cultivate good relationships with nature. I have to say this outlook is so selfish and wishful thinking. I have been to several zoos; every time I went to a zoo, I always saw such a scene that adults let their children throw everything to monkeys, including fruit, bread and even rubbish. Some people tried to have fun by producing loud noises to scare the animals. These phenomena are very common. Even though I believe that people don't really mean to hurt animals sometimes, we cannot deny that these actions have caused bad feelings to animals.

Also, defenders argue that another function of zoos is to provide protection for wildlife which is threatened by human interference with their habitats. It sounds like a robber breaks into your home, then the police come and lock you in a small room to protect you instead of catching the robber. The first and right thing we should do is stop destroying animals' habitats and return them to their home. Moreover, we should stop cutting trees and producing chemical rubbish which pollutes water and air. To provide protection is not an excuse for keeping animals in a small space. As far as I know, at more than half of the zoos in the world, zookeepers make profits by letting animals do some performances. For example, they let elephants lift heavy wood and give massages to people and train dolphins to be ridden by people. I don't think these are the ways to protect animals. Zoo owners are just selfish and want to make money.

Some supporters also believe that zoos are an ideal place to learn animal behaviors and then people can help animals in a much more appropriate way. I doubt that this way can be worked out. First of all, after being stuck in a small space for many years, most of the animals have already lost their natural habits. For example, tigers have gotten used to being fed instead of hunting by themselves. Lions used to live together, but now they usually live alone. If animals in zoos cannot show their natural characteristics, what's the point of this research? In addition, many animals in zoos have suffered physically and psychologically. They lost their rights to be free, to enjoy wildlife.

Some animals used to live in very cold places, like penguins, now they live in an artificial environment in a tropical zoo. Snakes are supposed to hibernate during the winter, now they are living in rooms with air conditioners. How can we get accurate information under these circumstances?

God gave life to animals before he created human beings.

Animals may not be as smart as we are, but it doesn't mean that they don't have their own rights. We are supposed to share the Earth with animals. I used to be a big fan of zoos, but we cannot be selfish. Zoos are heaven for humans but it might be hell for animals. I know we can make the way we treat animals better. We can find another way to get along well with animals. We should respect their rights and let them live where they belong.

Police Chronicles: Murder Mystery Solved

Guadalupe Soria
RW 4

After only three weeks police clarify a murder mystery

In February 2011, Ken Roswell met Myra Dery at a hotel in Chicago. In the same hotel at the same time there were also two other people of interest: Don Chester - a stockholder at a big company - and Alex Giubaldi. A year and a half later, two of these people - Myra and Alex - were dead. What happened? What were the reasons that led to the deaths? Here is the story as it was related by the police.

Myra Dery was dating Alex Giubaldi in February 2011 when she arranged to meet Ken Roswell at the Marcus Hotel in Chicago for the weekend. Myra and Ken had been dating secretly for 6 months up to that point. Don Chester, who knew Myra from high school and was her confidant, was also in love with her. Don had a meeting with Alex in the same hotel. Don did not realize that Myra was also there nor did Myra realize that Don was there. At the very moment of the meeting between Don and Alex, Ken saw them talking in the café of the hotel. Ken knew Alex but he did not tell Myra that her fiancé was also at the hotel. During the meeting, Don agreed to pay Alex \$10 million to leave Myra. Alex accepted. After that weekend, everybody returned to New York, where they lived, except for Don who went back to London, where his home was located. Don paid Alex the amount they had agreed upon at the same hotel the next month. By the end of March, Myra realized she was pregnant. She knew who the father was but did not want to reveal who it was because she was afraid of Alex's reaction. So, she tried to keep it a secret. Finally, she could not stand the pressure and she told Alex that the baby was not his, and that she wanted to be alone but Alex did not want to leave her in that condition. However, in August under pressure from Don, who already knew about the baby, Alex left Myra after giving her \$1 million.

In September, Myra and Ken met at Collin's Restaurant in New York. Ken already knew about his baby and wanted to do anything to be with Myra, but Myra was overwhelmed and told him that she had already decided to go to London. Ken thought Alex must have done something to his beloved Myra, and had that suspicion because he saw Alex in February in Chicago. All Myra wanted was to relax, have her baby and spend some time in London. In August the baby was born. Then, feeling alone, Myra remembered that Don lived there and

contacted him via Facebook. Don was surprised. Myra and Don then met in London in December.

The relationship between Myra and Don prospered, but Myra still had contact with Alex, who was worried about Myra and the baby. He probably had some suspicion that he was the baby's father. Alex offered to give Myra \$1.5 million because he wanted to be sure about Myra and her baby's welfare. She accepted and invented a story about needing to visit her family in New York in March 2012 so that she could deposit the money in a New York bank. Myra also apparently wanted to meet Ken to show him his son, but they were not able to meet.

Once in London, in April, Don proposed marriage to Myra, who accepted, and they got married in May. Ken was invited to the wedding by Myra as an old friend from her childhood. Ken attended the wedding. He was still in love with Myra and he was eager to meet his little son.

On July 14, 2012, Myra was found dead on the pavement of a 35-meter building where she, her baby and Don lived. On August 1, Alex was found dead on a railway in London. The police used fingerprints collected at the terrace of the building where Myra lived. The fingerprints were found on the upper part of the back of Myra's body and on the banister of the roof. The murderer apparently wanted to watch his victim die. The police were pretty sure: it was a crime of passion. The fingerprints were not clear enough and made the work of the police harder, but finally they determined that they were Don's fingerprints. The suspicion was confirmed after the police checked Myra's laptop. She left it open to go up to the roof in order to pick up some clothes when Don arrived at the apartment and read a chat on Facebook between Myra and Ken. He realized that they were in love and that Myra was thinking of leaving Don and going back to Ken's arms. That was reason enough for Don to kill his wife. As Alex was also in love with Myra, and having attended her burial, he could not recover from the loss and became depressed. That is why he threw himself under a train on that warm morning in August.

Having solved the case, the police could not arrest Don until the night of September 5. This event took place in Paris because Don had run there to a friend's house. He changed his appearance but he was not able to remove a tattoo from his right arm. He had been observed for two days and he was finally caught when he was about to take a bus to Spain. In court he demonstrated that he felt sorrow and that he was deeply concerned. He accepted the charges. Besides, he said that the baby's father was Ken.

After a few days, the police contacted Ken. They told him about the events. Ken was shocked. He accepted doing a DNA study in order to adopt the baby. And finally, that was made possible in December 2012.

Nowadays, Myra's family still cannot accept her loss and continues asking for Don to stay in jail for a few more years. Alex's family has founded an organization to help families who have lost their relatives because of depression and because they committed suicide, Don is in jail and every year he tries to get some years in jail taken off because of his good behavior, and Ken and his little son live together in Canada. Ken is dating a woman there. Her name is Mary.

A Murder Love Story

Alejandra Sposito
RW 4

This is a really sad story about love, secrets, and murder. Myra was a beautiful woman who was playing with the hearts of three men: Don, Alex and Ken. Don was a European, a rich business guy who was completely in love with Myra. By the time he first met her, Myra was dating Alex, a good-looking man who had just been fired from his job in January 2011. In February 2011, Don met with Alex to offer him \$10 million to stay away from Myra. Alex was in love with Myra but since he had been fired from his job, he really needed the money. After a while, in March 2011, Alex finally accepted the deal, and Don gave him the money. Meanwhile, Myra was in a hotel in Chicago with her lover Ken. He was her soul mate. She was deeply in love with him, but he was married. As a consequence of her date with Ken, Myra got pregnant. Alex thought the baby was his, so he gave her \$1 million to take care of the baby in August 2011, after she had broken up with him. Myra had the baby in November 2011 in London, and suddenly Don asked Myra to get married. Myra said yes, even though she wasn't in love with him. He was a kind man and she didn't want to raise a child by herself. Before they got engaged, Myra met with Ken in September 2011 in New York, to tell him that the baby was his.

Alex wanted to help Myra and he gave her \$1 million again in March 2012. He was still thinking that the baby was his at that point. Later, Myra went to the Bank of New York Mellon to make a deposit. The wedding was held in March 2012 in London, and Ken was invited. Later at the wedding, Don heard Myra telling Ken that she was in love with him and that he was the baby's father, not Alex, as he always thought.

In July 2012, Don killed Myra by pushing her from a high building. Alex was so sad over Myra's death that, consequently, he threw himself in front of a train in London in August 2012. Don was finally arrested for murder in Paris in September 2102. Thus, Ken decided to adopt the baby that in fact was his baby, in Paris, in December 2012.

The Conception of a Crime

Andre de O. Frantz
RW 4

Don is a famous rich man and a pro-choice advocate who holds a high executive position in a well-known news network company in New York City. He was on a business trip in Chicago in January 2011 when he met Myra and her brother Ken through a common friend named Alex. Alex was also a top executive from another news organization in Connecticut and in the past had already worked for Don. They went to a restaurant, and from there Don took Myra to his hotel suite where a relationship between both of them started. In February Myra got pregnant and this fact made Don really mad since Myra wouldn't want to have an abortion, being that she was a born again Christian and an antiabortion advocate. Since Alex was Don's

best friend, Don told him about the story in Chicago and offered him \$10 million to kill Myra's baby. Ken saw when all this occurred in Chicago.

In August 2011, Alex, as a service to his friend, met with Myra in the same restaurant they had met in before and gave her \$1 million to go live in London and have her baby there. The reason for this was that Don was an important person in his professional field and had to maintain an image of a successful executive. Myra started to be frightened by the offer and met with her friend Ken in a fast food chain restaurant, where she told him about it. Ken advised her to go to the police, but she decided not to go. That said, she followed Alex's instructions and went to London so she could have her baby there. Myra's baby was born in November 2011 and in December Don went to London to see Myra and the baby, giving her another \$2 million to never come back to the United States.

Myra went to New York anyway, in March 2012, and made a deposit of the \$2 million in her account. Don was aware that she was back in the US and sent Alex to meet her. Alex told her that she should leave the country so Don could marry her in London as soon as possible. She left and they finally got married in May 2012 in a very small ceremony with three guests, Ken included. This was because Don and Alex had upgraded the plan for killing the baby to killing Myra, since Don wouldn't want to kill a baby.

Alex, having conflicts with the idea, couldn't resist the moral pressure from himself and decided to abort the plan. Alex told Don about this decision after the wedding ceremony, when Don decided instead to kill him and Myra. He took his time planning everything and finally killed both Alex and Myra in two constructed suicide scenes, Alex being pushed under a train and Myra being pushed from their apartment's balcony. However, a neighbor saw what happened and called the police. Thus, in September Don was arrested in Paris where he was trying to hide. In the end, Ken adopted the baby and Don paid for his crimes.

A Love Story Ends in a Tragedy

Daniela Diaz
RW 4

Life has those moments in which a decision can definitely change the destiny of someone. That was what happened to Myra, a beautiful woman whose dark, wavy hair emphasized her blue eyes and pale skin. Her face always had a bright smile, but at that moment, she felt that her muscles could not obey, even if she wanted to fake a smile. Her thoughts took her back to the previous year when everything started. It was a love story that would end in tragedy.

In January 2011, Myra was on vacation in Chicago when she met Alex. He was a really handsome man who was aware of his charming effect on women. Myra was not an exception, and after a few dates, they started an affair. Myra fell in love with him, and she felt that he was the man with whom she wanted to spend the rest of her life. Everything went well; however, Alex was an ambitious man who sometimes could be unscrupulous.

In February, the couple was waiting for Ken, Myra's best friend, when an acquaintance of Alex appeared. His name was Don and he was a famous millionaire who was accustomed to having everything he

wanted. He immediately fell in love with Myra. Myra, however, only had eyes for Alex. They had a short but nice conversation, and after a few minutes, Don left. Then, Ken arrived. Ken grew up with Myra and, although he was married, she knew that she only had to ask, and her loyal friend would be there. They had a nice evening, and Alex excused himself for not going with Myra to her hotel, so Ken offered to go there with her. After leaving Myra, Ken returned to the restaurant. Surprisingly, he saw Don speaking with Alex, and he decided not to disturb them because neither one of them saw Ken.

After that night, Alex changed his attitude about Myra. He became cold and distant. That made her feel sad and everything got worse when she realized that she was pregnant. Alex told her that he did not want the baby, and he even told her that he did not want to see her again. Myra was really disappointed; however, she decided to have the baby and stay in Chicago until June. During that time, in March, Alex met Don and he received 10 million dollars from him for separating from Myra, but he did not say anything about the baby. After a few months, in August, Myra was in New York and received a phone call. It was from Alex who wanted to meet her. Myra was still in love with him, so she accepted. When she met him, Alex gave her a million dollars and he warned her that she could not say anything about the baby to anyone and that it would be better if she went to London. Myra was disappointed again, but she accepted the money because she thought that Alex's suggestion was the best for her. Before going to London, she called Ken and they met in September. Her loyal friend was the only one who knew that Myra was pregnant and that Alex was the father. He also believed that having the baby in London was a good decision.

Myra had the baby in November. Coincidentally, she met Don in London a month later. This time she noticed that Don was not only a handsome man but also a loving one and, to complete everything, he was rich! She decided not to tell him anything about her baby. Their romance grew fast and they decided to get married in May.

Alex found out about the marriage and he called Myra for the purpose of extorting her. They met in New York, and after a conversation, she deposited two million dollars in a bank for Alex. Myra had contradictory feelings. She was annoyed with Alex, but he was the father of her baby and she could not hate him. Alex was not totally happy because he realized that he not only was in love with Myra but also he had had a baby by her. However, his ambitiousness was powerful.

Don and Myra got married in London and, because he was her best friend, Ken was present at the wedding. Don received an anonymous call. Someone told him about Myra's baby. Don was furious and he felt humiliated. He did not say anything to Myra but he did not want to be with her.

Myra knew that something was wrong. Her husband had changed his behavior. She felt depressed and she decided to tell Don the truth because she wanted her baby to be with her. She was waiting for him, though, to make the first move. She could not believe that all these events were part of her life. Don called and told her that he would be waiting for her in his office. Myra went.

It was July of 2012 and all the newspapers in London were reporting on the death of the millionaire's wife who had fallen from a high building. Alex was shocked. He felt guilty; however, he knew that Myra was not the kind of woman who would have committed suicide. He then called the police before he killed himself.

The police started an investigation and in November, Don was arrested in Paris. Finally, Ken, the loyal friend who was always present in Myra's life, adopted her baby in December. He thought that his friend, Myra, would have been happy about that.

Greed, Love, and a Sad Story

Flavio Macarini Pereira
RW 4

Probably nothing has caused more sorrow and pain in human history than two different emotions: greed and love. Think about it. How many wars have been caused by the greed of a king? How many deaths are caused today by the greed of a robber? Understanding that greed is a great source of pain is easy, but what about love? Well, both emotions are capable of blurring reason; a man blinded by love is as dangerous as a man blinded by greed. After all, wasn't love what ruined the great city of Troy? The story I'm going to tell you now, my dear reader, discusses those two emotions. As you can predict, it's not a story that ends with "and they lived happily ever after". In fact, there is no happy ending in this one.

As usual, the pivot of this tragedy is a very beautiful woman, and her name is Myra. For two years she had been in a relationship with Alex, an ambitious man from Chicago. They would probably have gotten married, if Myra hadn't discovered he had a lover. He was a person who could love, but he was not a guy who could be praised for his morals or ethics.

Six months passed and she met another guy, Don, a wealthy English man and heir to the fortunes of one of those old industrial families. He fell in love with Myra and they started dating. She thought she was also in love with him, but it was just one of those desperate passions we have while trying to forget a great love.

In the blink of an eye they got engaged and both seemed to be happy. Unfortunately, Alex decided to contact Myra again and Don noticed something was wrong. She decided to go to Chicago and settle things with Alex. However, as soon as she saw him, she realized that she was still in love with him. They spent five days together, like in the old days, until Alex suddenly broke up with her. Disoriented, she decided to go back to Don and pretend nothing had happened. As I said before, Alex was a man of doubtful morals, and this characteristic of his was the reason behind the break up. Two days before he met Myra, at the end of February, he received a call from Don and they arranged a meeting. At that meeting, Don tried to bribe Alex and offered him 10 million dollars if he would leave Myra once and for all. Alex loved Myra, but there were two things that he loved even more than her, himself and money. That's why he broke up with her and 2 days later he received the 10 million.

In March, Myra realized she was pregnant, but never told Don that the father was Alex. Some months passed and in August she decided to tell Alex the truth and arranged a meeting. Unfortunately for her, Alex didn't receive the news well. He offered her 1 million dollars in exchange for not recognizing his fatherhood. Devastated she accepted the money.

In September, she arranged a meeting with her friend Ken in New York and told him the whole story. Of course, Ken was amazed, but it was so complicated that he decided not to get involved.

Thinking he was the father, Don sent Myra to London, the city where he lived, to have the baby. Unfortunately he was to be in China until December making business agreements. When he came back, they moved together and set a date for the wedding, May 11th. In March, Myra went to New York to visit some friends and ended up meeting Alex. He had already spent half of the money and was talking about getting back again. This time, however, Myra refused and told him she was going to get married in two months. Two days later, she deposited 2 million dollars in a bank account that she had opened for her child in case something bad were to happen.

In May Myra married Don in London. Time passed but they were not very happy. In fact, Don was a little bit strange, in Myra's opinion. She didn't know this, but Alex, regretting his past decisions, told Don he was the real father. In the beginning Don didn't believe but now the shadow of doubt was too big to be hidden. Secretly, he arranged for a DNA test and waited for the result.

The result came and Don was furious as he entered his home. Blinded by anger, he threw Myra from the balcony. A few hours later, filled with regret, he got the baby and fled to Paris. One month later, in August, Alex, with the help of alcohol, threw himself under a train. One month later, the police found Don in Paris and he was arrested. The baby stayed with government authorities until December when Ken finally got authorization to adopt the baby.

What Really Happened: A Tragic Story

Livia Rocha
RW 4

Myra, a beautiful blond girl who lived in New York City, was in Chicago for vacation when she met Alex, a young man who used to work in a local restaurant. They started to hang out and immediately fell in love. Everything was going fine when Myra became pregnant a few months later. When that happened, they realized that the money Alex earned by working at the restaurant was not sufficient to provide the baby a comfortable life.

They were very desperate about that when Don, the Chief Executive Officer of a very famous company in the United States, made Alex a proposal. He knew about Myra's pregnancy and, once he had loved her for many years, he was willing to assume responsibility for the baby and marry Myra. So, Alex and Don met each other for dinner and Don started trying to convince Alex to leave Myra alone. Alex tried to refuse the proposal, but Don offered him US\$10 million as proof that the baby would be taken care of very well and his future would be safe. After that, Alex accepted the proposal and disappeared from Myra's life.

Myra was now at a terrible moment in her life. She was pregnant, the baby's father had disappeared and she was feeling alone and unsafe. To make matters worse, her ex-boyfriend, Ken, who was cocaine addicted, started to follow her and ask her for money. She was in panic when she decided to move to London, where she had some friends, to escape from Ken and give birth to the baby there.

By the end of December 2011, when the baby was 1 month old, she finally met Don, who had been trying to find her all of that time. He proposed marriage to her and, in the light of the circumstances, she realized that she didn't have any other option than to accept it. That could solve all of her problems, considering that Don was very

rich and money, at that time, was her biggest problem. However, she was wrong.

After they got married in May, 2012, Ken discovered that she had become very rich and started to follow her again. He was continuously asking her for more and more money but she always refused to give it to him. So, in July of the same year, Ken was out of his mind and decided to kill her. He knew she would be alone at home, so he entered her apartment and pushed her out the window.

Alex heard the story on television. He couldn't believe that such a horrible thing like that had happened with the love of his life. He regretted leaving her. He wanted so much to be with her and protect her and he felt really guilty. After thirty days of suffering and feelings of depression, he just could not stand the pain and threw himself under a train in London.

Ken, however, was not finished yet. Don was still depressed about his wife's death when Ken, who still needed money, decided to take advantage of the situation he had created. Two months after killing Myra, he followed Don and had him arrested. Once Myra's son was orphaned, he presented himself to the judge as a very close friend of the family and adopted the baby in December, 2012 so that he could take the inheritance.

What Really Happened: A Strange Story

Marawan Alhazel
RW 4

Myra was a gorgeous, spoiled and greedy girl. After her graduation, she decided to visit her father in Chicago because she had not met him since he had separated from her mother ten years previously. Because she did not like staying with her mother-in-law, her father booked her a suite in one of the best hotels in Chicago.

One day while she was leaving the hotel, she met with two of her classmates from the university, Alex and Don. After they had had a chat, Don invited them to dinner, that night in February, at a seafood restaurant. While they were having lunch, they met Ken, a close friend of Don since elementary school.

Don and Myra continued to meet and soon they both fell deeply in love. As soon as they started dating, Myra got pregnant. After that, Don and Myra started to argue a lot about having the baby. In fact, Don was from a well-known family in Chicago and was already married to a well-known politician's daughter and it would be a scandal if the media were to hear about it, so he tried to persuade Myra to get rid of the baby.

In March, Don gave Alex 10 million dollars and asked him to give it to Myra and try to convince her to have an abortion.

In August, Alex spoke to Myra and gave her only 1 million dollars. They planned to go to London and run off with the money after he told Don that Myra was going to get rid of the baby in a hospital in London, as he suggested, so that no one would suspect.

In August 2011, Myra and Alex went to New York in order to deposit the money in a secret bank account and stayed there until the end of September. In September, in New York, Myra met Ken at a restaurant and talked about her pregnancy issue with Don. After that, Myra decided to run off to London because she knew that Ken would definitely tell Don that he had met Myra in New York and she did not

want to have an abortion because she had to be in London by that time.

In November, Myra delivered the baby in London. A month later, Don followed Myra to London and pretended that he had changed his mind and wanted her to keep the baby, but she did not have to tell anybody about the baby. He also told her he wanted to marry her and that they should not tell anyone except their close friend Alex and Ken as witnesses.

In March, she went back to New York to deposit the money in her secret account at the same bank and to meet with Alex. She told him about her marriage and that she just wanted to get more money from Don.

At the same time, Don was planning to get rid of both Myra and Alex at the same time because he knew that Myra was cheating on him with Alex. Therefore he convinced Alex to kill Myra and in return he would give him another 10 million dollars.

Alex was still in contact with Myra even after she got married. In July, Alex arranged to meet Myra at London's tower and had coffee together as usual. After chatting for a while, Alex asked Myra to have a look out on the porch at his new Ferrari car and while she was leaning on the fence, he pushed her out, so she fell and died. The police arrested Alex and soon he was released because there was not enough evidence to convict him and it appeared to be a suicide.

After that time Alex blamed himself for killing Myra, felt regret and got depressed. Therefore, he threw himself under a train in London, in August of the same year.

In September 2012, Don was arrested by Interpol in Paris and sent to jail because he was convicted of planning to kill both Myra and his wife in London.

Finally, the baby was adopted by Ken because he was the biological father of the baby and because he had been dating Myra before she met Don. The two of them had planned to swindle the rich Don and, by the way, the secret bank account was for KEN also!!!!

The Tragedy of Lovers

Minsang Kim
RW 4

Alex, Don and Ken were best friends. Alex was an active and humorous man. Don was a rich and attractive man. Ken was an intelligent and gentle man. Also, there was a beautiful and charming lady named Myra. She was the beginning of the tragedy. All three men loved Myra. She was stunningly beautiful and scandalous. She liked each man for his merits.

When Myra first met Ken, she liked his intelligence. They met a few times and they slept together. She became pregnant, but they didn't know about it at that time. Soon after, Ken introduced her to Alex and Don. He told them, however, that they were just friends.

The men and Myra had dinner together. Myra got a good feeling from Alex. Ken and Don left a little early because of work. Myra and Alex, meanwhile, drank and talked for many hours. That night she fell in love with Alex. They became lovers. Don, however, loved Myra at first sight. He couldn't get her out of his mind. He thought about her all the time. His family had a lot of money. He decided to give Alex \$10 million to break up with Myra. Alex still loved Myra very much

but he really needed the money for his family. So, he decided to leave Myra.

After Alex's leaving, Don met Myra often and he bought everything she wanted. Don knew Myra was pregnant but it didn't matter to him. Don believed that Myra was his destiny. Myra ended up having the baby in London in November, 2011. After having the baby, Don took care of Myra very well. Finally, Myra also loved Don. They got married in London, in May 2012, but their happy life didn't last long. Myra realized that she still really loved Alex, and Don knew it too.

One day in July 2012, Don and Myra had a fight because of Alex. Don was really upset. He was out of control and he ended up pushing her off the building. She fell to the ground and died. Alex heard about this news on TV and became so full of sadness. During a late August night in London, he drank too much and went to the railroad tracks, threw himself under a train and committed suicide.

In September, a witness told police that he saw Don push his wife off the building. Don was hiding in Paris, but the police found him and arrested him. Ken knew all about Alex, Don and Myra's stories. He wanted to see Myra's baby, so he found out where the baby was and went there. When he saw the baby, he knew the baby was his son. Ken then adopted the baby in Paris in December 2012.

What Really Happened: A Tragic Story

Yujin Jung
RW 4
Spring B, 2013

This tragic story goes back to January, 2011 in Chicago. Myra checked into a cheap hotel in Chicago to stay with Alex. Myra and Alex loved each other from the bottom of their hearts. Both of them were poor and Myra was even in heavy debt because she had to pay the medical bills for her sick mother who had been in the hospital for a long time. Now, Myra's mother was dead and she was all alone except for Alex. Myra had never met her father, and Ken was her unknown biological father. Ken used to work as a CIA secret agent and he had to keep away from his family to protect them. Ken had been around Myra all the time, but she had never noticed it. Don was a rich and corrupt politician and he was obsessed with Myra, who was an attractive lady and 30 years younger than him.

Since Alex was always desperate for money, Don decided to take advantage of this. On a heavy snowy day in February, 2011, Don met Alex in a shabby diner and suggested to him that he leave Myra for good for 10 million dollars. At first, Alex was annoyed by this outrageous offer, but in view of his bad financial circumstances, he couldn't help but accept it. He thought he would be able to bring Myra back to himself someday with this huge amount of money. Ken, Myra's father, happened to witness Alex and Don getting together in the diner, and was determined to investigate what was happening between his daughter's lover and the famous politician.

In the meanwhile, Myra knew she had gotten pregnant, and was planning to surprise Alex on his birthday on March 20. As soon as Alex received the money from Don during the week following their confidential contact, Alex left a short letter for Myra where he mentioned that she should stay in the same hotel until June, 2011, or else she would get him into big trouble. He also said that he would meet her again in New York City someday.

Myra was such a naïve lady that she did what she was told to do. She stayed in Chicago for another three months, taking care of herself and looking forward to seeing Alex in New York. In July 2011, Myra flew to New York, but she met Alex in August. Alex was surprised to see that Myra was pregnant, but he couldn't get back to her because Don was keeping track of them. He told Myra a lie, that he had inherited a large amount of money from his uncle and he wasn't in love with her anymore. A few days later, Alex sent Myra a one million dollar check and didn't respond to Myra's attempts to reach him.

Having been dumped by her true lover, Myra was devastated and didn't know what to do next with the baby in her womb. Ken disguised himself as Alex's secretary and met Myra in a restaurant. Ken didn't want to show up as her father all of sudden to shock her again. Ken advised her to go to London where some distant relatives of her mother were located, and to give birth to her baby there. Ken persuaded Myra that Alex might change his mind when he saw his baby later. So, poor Myra flew to London, and her baby girl was born in November.

Don had a plan to allure Myra. Don pretended to be in London by chance and approached Myra in December. Don pretended that he was a nice gentleman and innocent Myra completely fell for the trick. Myra thought Don could be a good husband and a father for her daughter and accepted Don's proposal.

Before getting married to Don, Myra decided to meet Alex for the last time and flew back to New York in March, 2012. Now she didn't have any feelings for him and she claimed the entire custody of her baby and two million dollars for the fostering fee. Alex still loved Myra but had to keep the contract with Don. With the money Myra got from Alex, she paid back all her debt to a New York bank, and then returned to London.

Don and Myra finally had their wedding ceremony in London in May 2012. Ken watched his daughter's tragic wedding from afar, very worried. Soon after the marriage, Don turned out to be a villain. He treated Myra and her baby badly and even harassed them. Myra got depressed, and missed Alex so much. Don began to doubt that Myra might see Alex.

One day while her baby was taking a nap, Myra went up to the roof of the apartment building. She just needed some fresh air to refresh her mind and senses. She felt like she was walking in a heavy foggy forest. She was at a loss about her future. She even wondered if she should run away from Dan and go back to Alex with the baby. She was so absorbed in her thoughts that she didn't notice that someone was sneaking up behind her back. The man hit her on the head with a stick and pushed her hard off the building, and Myra fell to the ground and died. It was in July 2012.

Alex heard of Myra's unexpected death a few days later. He began to think if he hadn't been greedy, he and Myra would be together with their baby girl. However, it was too late. Myra would never be together with him. Alex flew to London to attend her funeral. It was a rainy day, and only a few people were there including Ken and Myra's daughter, Kate. Kate was the spitting image of her mother, and she reminded Alex of Myra even more. His heart was so broken that he threw himself under a train and killed himself just after the funeral.

In the meanwhile, Don had gone to Paris to hide from the police. This lunatic of a man didn't feel guilty about what he had done thus far, but he just didn't want to be in prison. Ken, a former CIA agent, found him in a pub near the Eiffel Tower and had him arrested. Ken decided to come out as Kate's grandfather and adopted her in

December. He wished this tragic family history would not hurt anyone in the future, any more than Kate, and he promised himself that he would be there to protect his granddaughter.

The Eight Magical Tips to Make Your Wife Crazy in Love with You

Bin Masoud, Waleed
RW 2

If you want to make your wife crazy in love with you, you have to follow this advice. First, on your first day after the wedding, you have to show her you like her, her beautiful face and her wonderful body. Second, you have to be romantic with her. You have to give her some gifts and some romantic messages every month or two. Make her see how romantic you are. Third, there must be mutual respect between you while you are talking. You have to talk with her genially and tactfully, but when you have a problem, you have to be cool, and behave with appropriate disposition for the situation. Fourth, you should have small party at the same date of your wedding each month or two, and a big party each year as a kind of change of routine. Fifth, let her feel how much you love her with beautiful words, because all women love to hear that, which makes any woman feel very happy. Sixth, you have to praise any good thing she does for you, however simple, such as, cooking, house cleaning, gifts, smiles and if she wears nice clothes. Seventh, women love the leading man, so do not be spineless. Eighth, you have to be honest with her, but not in everything. You have to use some white lies so as not to hurt her feelings. When you follow all these tips, you will make her feel that, she is the most beautiful woman in your eyes, she is the queen of your world. When she feels like that, she will be crazy in love with you. All of the above points are from my humble experience of five years. I have more, but I do not have the space to mention them.

Mysterious Eyes

Guadalupe del Rosario Soria Fernández
RW 4

Mysterious eyes,
deep, profound charm.
The entire history of ancient peoples
captured in them,
captivating us.
Through them you can lose in time.
Through them you may lose yourself

but you will never forget

in time

them.

My Parents, My Family, My Treasure

Maria Saraullo
RW49

Those people will be with you all the time
In the good moments and the bad moments
You can trust on them
They are called parents.

You need to care like you treasure
Because you don't know when you will lose your gold
They are the people
Then you can't forget

Dream

Jaebum Choi
RW49

It is already in there,
All you have before you give up.
No one knows where,
If you never give up,
It will be near.

You should make some effort
Don't just follow it, pursue it.
It is one of the most difficult.
You can change it.
But don't give up and lose your mind.

My Best Day

Abdullah Alsubaie
RW49

My best day was on the second of May
When I decided to go and stay away
I have taken the long way, I have taken the highway
The treasure of my life that day
Make the change in my way.

My Family

Anas Ashri
RW49

I am happy with my family
We are eating together daily

I have a good wife
With a good life

We love each other
Like kids with the mother

We are going to school every day
As the same way

I go to my kids to pick them up
After the class time is up

My First Look

Tariq Alaqil
RW49

One day when I saw her
It was in the subway station
I felt like I know her
I tried to make conversation
but it was crowded around her.

I imagined how I could invite her
I planned to see what she could do on the playstation

Who We Love

Jasser Alharbi
RW49

I meet them in my dream
I cannot stop, think, they have my name
You should follow me don't stop at all
If you stop thinking, I will blame

We start with them all our goal
They love us don't hit the wall

The Book

Mohammed Abuong
RW49

The book is very useful
Many people can read it
It can befriend of people
Can read it any time.

To carry the book is very light
But inside it is heavy
In trip in train or anywhere

Read book feed you mind

Everything you need on it
It's a sea of information
Don't forget the details
When you tell a story

My Unique Treasure

For Elsi Manrique
by Adriana Rodriguez
RW49

I will always have a treasure
It makes my life a big moment
Just be with it, is pleasure
It will always be part of me.

My Mother

Yahya Almmari
RW49

As long as I live,
I will never forget you.
Without you, my life is fake,
I'm just living because of you.

My Treasure

Genesis Aular
RW49

When I had a hurt
I met my mom
and I felt like a boom
she was the cure

A difference in my pressure
I felt when I saw her
she is my treasure
my only owner

my only darling,
the most valuable
the most beautiful garland
I saw her when I was amble

My Baby

Arianna Monico
RW49

You could fight with him
You could love him
They rise with you
And are the best in our life.

Silly jokes
That make me laugh
But at the same time,
He is a buzzing fly.

My Life

Guadalupe Soria
RW4

I was born in the capital city of Salta, province of Salta, Argentina, in January 1981. My parents, my grandfather on my father's side and my grandparents on my mother's side were also born in Argentina. My grandmother on my father's side, however, was born in Bolivia at the beginning of the 20th century. My grandfather on my mother's side is a descendant of the so called 'coyas', people who have their roots in Inca civilization. My great grandfather Soria was born in Spain in the late 1800's. Hence, I am Argentinian with roots in Spain and in South America, a good example of a 'criollo'.

I attended elementary school in the city of Salta, as well as high school. In high school, I first went to a military naval academy for girls, which was closed when I was in my third year by a decree of the president in power at that time. Thus, I finished high school at a regular institution. I then went to the private university in Salta. I started studying economics. By the end of the second year, my family was not able to afford it, so I quit the university and the next year I started studying to be an English-Spanish translator. That was also when I met my ex-husband. During that first year in college, I noticed that the Navy was recruiting women to be officers for the first time. Having great memories from the naval academy and wanting to continue in military life, I joined the Navy in 2002 and went to live in Buenos Aires, where the Navy School is located. I studied there for three and a half years. It was a great, interesting, unforgettable experience but after three years, I realized that I preferred not to serve in the military, so I quit and returned to Salta at the beginning of 2005.

Once in Salta, I started working at a theater as a receptionist and I went back to college to study to be an English teacher. In 2006 my first daughter was born. In 2007 I got married and started working at a call center. In 2008 I was fired from the call center and started working as an English teacher at a private English institute. In 2010 my second daughter was born. Once that occurred, however, a crisis in my marriage started. We finally separated six months ago. However, we maintain a good relationship.

Last year was the first time I started to work as a public employee of the province, as a teacher, and I had this great opportunity to come here to Florida with a scholarship to finish my preparation. In my free time I like taking my children to the park, sailing, reading, meeting my friends and dancing. I go to the fitness center every day if possible and I go running twice a week. I am very interested in the folklore of my country and I am preparing to do research on the folkloric music of Salta and how the lyrics are related to changes in the idiosyncrasies of the people through the years. I am still studying to be a teacher (certification) and this research is one of the fields in which I have to be examined.

I am a curious person, always wanting to learn from others and their cultures and customs. I have also taken some courses in French and joined a choir in which I sing songs in Portuguese. It seems as if I have been occupied all the time perhaps, but I really enjoy each activity. I strongly believe in making the most of life, because each moment happens only once in a lifetime.

Autobiography of Daniela Diaz

Daniela Díaz
RW 4

I was born in La Rioja, Argentina in August, 1970. My parents are from Salta, a province in the North of Argentina. My father used to work in the Army, so we had to move to different cities in my country. My mother is a housewife and the best grandmother that my children could have.

I spent my childhood in different cities. During my first eight years, I lived in the place where I was born and then my family and I had to move to Santa Cruz, a province in the South of Argentina. In that province we lived in two different cities: Río Gallegos, which is the Capital, and Piedra Buena, which is a little city near the Perito Moreno Glaciers. In Piedra Buena, I finished elementary school and started high school.

In 1987, my family and I moved to Salta, the place where I am living now. There I finished high school and in 2004 I obtained my degree as a Speech Therapist. I worked for a few years until I got married to Pablo Escobar. We had four children: Santiago, Facundo, Lautaro and a little princess named Milagros. They are thirteen, twelve, eleven and eight years old. I think that what I love most in my life is to be a mother. Now, though, I am divorced and live with my children and my parents.

While I was working as a speech therapist, I realized that not only did I have an excellent rapport and good results with my patients, but that I like teaching also. Therefore, I started a program at the Catholic University of Salta in 2008 to become a teacher.

In 2011, I started teaching at different levels in different institutions. I am a little shy, but when I am in front of my students I always give my best and I am an enthusiastic teacher. It is not only what you can teach that makes me love my profession but also what you can learn.

Last year, the government of Salta created the Language Institute of Salta (Instituto Salteño de Idiomas). I teach there and at the end of the year two teachers and nine students were selected for a scholarship to improve their English language proficiency at the University of Florida ELI in the United States. This is the first time that I have travelled

abroad and everything is new for me, a great experience from which I want to learn a lot mainly to later pass on to my students.

My Life

Yujin Jung
RW 4

I was born in Seoul, South Korea in August 1977. My parents wished to have their first baby earlier, but somehow I was born in the third year of their marriage. So I guess you could say I was the apple of their eye.

My mother was an elementary school teacher and my grandmothers took turns taking care of me until I was about 6 years old. In the meantime my two younger sisters were born and my paternal grandmother refused to live with us anymore and went back to her home. My mother had a hard time getting a good babysitter and finally she decided to have me and my sisters move to my maternal grandmother's. So, we all grew up with grandparents, two uncles and an aunt. We stayed for during weekdays at my grandmother's, attending the nearby elementary school and kindergarten, and we spent every weekend at our house which was a 30-minute drive from my grandmother's.

When I became 10 years old and my youngest sister was old enough to go to kindergarten, we all moved to our house again. I attended the elementary school where my mother was a teacher and she was my teacher so that we could be together after school. I remember that even though it was convenient in some ways, it was also uncomfortable because every child in our grade knew my mother was the teacher and made crazy assumptions about my getting any benefits from her. On the contrary, my 3rd year homeroom teacher didn't like my mother, and I was sometimes in awkward situations because of this, and I remember this was the worst school year in my life.

After school I went to a music institute near the school to play the piano five days a week. I also learned calligraphy, which has helped me to have good handwriting. I assume my mother chose these time-consuming after school activities because she needed somewhere for us to spend time before she was off from work.

Two years after that, my family moved to a new apartment in the west part of Seoul. I finished all my education there and also got married there. I don't like to look back much on my middle school and high school years because I was sleepy and tired all the time from studying all day long. In any case, I was a hard-working student and I went to a woman's university with a good reputation and long history in Seoul.

In the second year of college, I had an opportunity to study in the States as an exchange student for one year. I attended Beaver College near Philadelphia and it was the first time that I had ever been away from home and my family. I lived in the dormitory with an American roommate and for some time I experienced what American college life is like. Also, I met a lot of American and international friends there and learned to be an independent adult. It was really a fun time in my life and I wish I could see some of those friends again.

After one year staying abroad, I went back to my school and studied hard to become a teacher just like my mother. I had to pass a very competitive national exam for teachers-to-be and I narrowly

made it. My parents were so proud of me because teachers are considered the best female jobs in Korea. They have less working hours compared to other professional jobs and have paid vacations in the spring, summer and winter. Also, teachers hired by the government get a pension after working more than 20 years.

However, I was not satisfied with my job. I had to teach 24 hours a week for the first two years and struggling with young kids all day made me exhausted and frustrated. In the summer of 2001, I met my husband who was a graduate student at UF, and we got married in the winter of the same year. I was so happy to quit my job and to go to the States with him.

Now we have two children, Julia and Paul, and I couldn't be happier as a wife, mother, and student. It is quite a challenge for me to return to school as a student at my age, but I will do my best not to waste any time and money. Most of all, I hope this academic and cultural experience will be helpful in some way for my future.

Food and Colombia

Maria Alejandra Villalobos
RW 43

One of my favorite topics of discussion is definitely food. I have heard from many people that math is known as a "universal" language because it is the same no matter where in the world one is. To me, that is also true with food. I believe food has the ability to connect people from different cultures and even the power to bring them together through sharing and tasting different flavors, textures, colors, smells, and everything else that makes our senses tingle when we are presented with a delicious plate of food also, food is like art if depends in the art and the person that perceives the work of art. The capital of Colombia is Bogota, and Colombia is near Ecuador, Venezuela, Panamá and Brazil. The native language is Spanish but in San Andres island and in some places in the Amazonas the people speak different languages. Colombia has great food; we have a larger diversity of fruits than other countries. For example, lulo is a round fruit that is green or yellow and it has a strong taste but at the same time sweet. Our typical plate is delicious like the bandeja paisa, which is from Medellin. Food has different ways to be appreciated like how to make it; appearance and taste of bandeja paisa make them very appealing.

To make bandeja paisa you need rice, a can of red beans, plantains, one avocado, one egg, a sausage, and some ground beef. First, you need to put one cup of rice, two cups of water, and a little bit of salt in a pot then wait until the rice is dry and then put it on low temperature for 25 minutes. To make the plantains you need a plantain, make delicate slices and fry them in a pot with oil; wait until the plantain slices have a sweet, brown color. To make the ground beef, first put salt and pepper on it and mix it, then put it on the grill. Break the egg on a pot with hot oil and cook it to make a perfect beautiful fried egg, then cut the avocado in slices and put some salt on it. Then set the sausage in a pot to warm it. When everything is cooked, take a black ceramic plate and serve it all. Do not forget to open the can of beans and warm it first and then served it with the others things.

Bandeja paisa seems like a perfect lunch. It has a perfect fried egg on the white rice; near the rice is the ground beef, brown and tanned. On the right hand side of the beef are the beans. The beans are not the

black beans that the Cuban food uses. There are the beans that are red and bigger and the taste is stronger and softer. Near the beans is a piece of avocado. The avocado is green apple and the shell is a dark green and the avocado has a white delicate pinch of salt on it. On the left hand side of the avocado are the tanned plantain slices with a mix of colors - orange, yellow and black and a sausage that looks crunchy. When everything is on the plate the only thing you thought is that you want to eat it. Bandeja paisa is served on a black oval ceramic plate which is a little bit thicker than a normal plate. All these things served on that black plate has a strong smell, and also there is a tiny tendril of smoke going out of the food showing that the food is really hot and fresh. The only thing you wish is to take a fork and start eating it.

The taste of the bandeja paisa is salty, sweet, and full of flavor. The tastes of the beans are creamy and sweet. The beans and the rice are the perfect combination because the rice is thick and dry, so the sauce of the beans makes the rice juicier. It feels like there is a party in the mouth. The avocado at first tastes salty because of the salt, but then it turns a little bit sweet as when you chew it, the sausage is crunchy, and it tastes like bacon, the plantain slices are sweet, crunchy, caramelized, hot, and when I tasted it I feel like I am in the heaven of food. The ground beef taste a little bit of pepper, and salt, the texture is soft and is fantastic; my tongue can feels the spicy of the pepper, but is that spicy that only gives flavor not like the one that stings the tongue.

Finally, bandeja paisa has different ways to describe it, so the person that see it can start describing it when the person has all the ingredients, then how he or she make it, how all he or she senses feel it such as how you see it, taste and how is it smell. I still remembered the last bandeja paisa I ate. It was in my grandmother's house, she cooked it and it was delicious, all my family was celebrating my father's birthday. It was a fantastic day and I still remember the last comment that my grandmother said when we were living, "The food is not only food, the food is a way to people, countries and most importantly to gather families."

Stop Marketing Junk Food to Children

Dévorá Canedo
RW 60

Why do junk food companies focus advertising on children? Over the last decades, prominent junk food companies such as Mc Donald's, Burger King, Kellogg's, Frito Lay, Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Wonka, and M&M's have well- identified children as their target market in order to not only sell their products, but also build a solid foundation for their business. In addition, obesity is a current public health problem that has dramatically increased its rates especially in younger generations because of junk food's consumption. Many food and beverage companies spend billions of dollars per year attracting kids to junk food; nevertheless, the effect on kid's diet and health is negative. In fact, childhood obesity and children's exploitation are two reasons why junk food companies should stop advertising to children.

Nowadays, the number of children who are obese is a matter of public concern. According to the Institute of Medicine – Washington D.C., over the last decade, childhood obesity has

tripled over its rate. Statistics revealed that more than 9 million children are obese and 15% are at risk for becoming obese. But what is the relationship between marketing, junk food, and obesity? The majority of junk food advertisements promote products that are basically high on starch, sugar, salts and fats which make them low on nutritional value. For example, one serving of Cheetos snacks (28.0 g) contains 130 calories, 19g. carbohydrates, 5g. total fat ,and 2g. protein. Moreover, children are exposed to this massive and aggressive marketing during TV programs especially on prime time. For instance, Doritos snacks, Trix cereals, M&M's, and Twix sweets have many different commercials that are displayed frequently during television programs heavily viewed by children on Disney channel, Discovery Kids, Nickelodeon, and Cartoon Network.

Television is the best promotional resource for media marketing. Junk food industry considers children and youth a huge target market force because of their vulnerability to ads messages. According to a group called Stop Commercial Exploitation of Children Coalition (SCEC), over the last years, marketers have been attempting to not only use kids for junk food commercials, but also own children's minds because it is more important to teach kids how to influence their parents' purchases than to appeal directly to parents. In addition, children don't have the capability to distinguish advertising from reality and it persuades them to consume either high-calorie or lo-nutrient products. For example, Mc Donald's and Burger King promote "Happy Meal" and "Kids Meal" which come with a toy from either Walt Disney or Dream Works most recent movies. These two commercials have the following pattern: first they show images and characters from the brand- new movie children have to see, then comes the fast food movie toy that kids have to get, and finally with the toy comes a happy meal packed with calories and fat. Although this is a happy deal for marketers, it is an unhealthy one for children. The Mc Donald's Chicken nugget- Happy Meal has 510 calories, 22 g. sugar and 23g. fat. Burger King's cheese burger - Kids Meal has 580 calories, 27 g. sugar, and 21 g. fat. Statistics revealed that 40 % of children ask to go to junk food restaurants every week, 15 % ask to go there every day, and 80 % of parents have taken their children at least once in a week to eat junk food.

Some people argue that junk food companies should not stop advertising their products during children TV programs because kids have been exposed to junk food commercials for years. Besides, they think that childhood obesity is the parents fault because healthy eating starts at home. However, this claim shows ignorance. People who are against stopping junk food advertisement during children's TV programs don't realize that kids nowadays are bombarded with marketing every time they are watching TV. Most of the food advertisements are for fast food, breakfast cereals, snacks and candies that are high in sugar, salt and fat and nutritionally inadequate for a healthy diet. In addition, children have been exploited by marketers due to children's vulnerabilities and difficulties distinguishing healthy products. As a result, studies and statistics show an exorbitant increment on childhood obesity rates.

In conclusion, while junk food advertising industry is taking advantage of children's lack of nutrition knowledge and vulnerability, children and youth worldwide are consuming unhealthy products that they watch on TV commercials every day. There are many well-documented studies and statistics that revealed the direct relationship between junk food marketing and childhood obesity. Junk food industry should stop marketing to children; otherwise, higher obesity rates will be registered and new health problems will appear in the near future. If this massive junk food marketing attack is not either stopped or banned by authorities, at least a proposal of protection to children from inappropriate junk food and drink advertising during television programs should be created.

Breakfast and Arepas

Carlha Thompson
RW43

As we all know, breakfast is the most important meal of the day, but I think that not everyone knows the reason of that. It is the most important because after a lot of hours sleeping, we will recover energy eating a good and complete breakfast. Moreover, breakfast helps to accelerate the metabolism and people can burn more calories if they have an accelerated metabolism. In Venezuela, usually we eat a big breakfast; a typical and famous breakfast is Arepas. We eat Arepas with ham and cheese, fried eggs or sometimes with "perico" which is scrambled eggs with tomato and little pieces of ham, and we add to the Arepas fried plantains and we drink orange juice. For me, arepa with perico is the most delicious breakfast in the whole world.

Arepas has a lot of history. It was staples of a group of indigenous from Venezuela called Timoto Cuicas. With the colonization by the Spanish, the arepa became very famous and it was spread into the rest of the region. The name "Arepas" come from the word EREPA, the name that the indigenous give to corn bread. Arepas were originally made with fresh corn. Today is usually made arepas using precooked white corn flour that is called "Harina pan". The arepa represent Venezuelans' daily bread.

To prepare an Arepa, we need to have a plastic bowl, water, salt and of course, Harina pan. Mix the Harina pan with water and a little bit of salt. One cup of flour per person is enough; add a cup of water per cup of flour. Add a touch of salt and then mix the ingredients until it forms soft dough. When the dough is ready, knead until mixed well. After that some people leave the dough resting no more than 5 minutes. Then, take a piece of dough as big as you want; make a very well rounded ball. And then with your hands, press the small dough ball until is flattened and rounded. To cook the arepa, we can made it fried putting some oil into a pan and than putting the arepa into the pan until the arepa turns gold, or we can roast it by spraying the pan with a little of oil and putting into the pan the arepa and cooked both sides until the arepa is toasted and a little inflated.

The appearance of the Arepa is very common. It is rounded and white, looks like a new moon, and sometimes it is tiny or thick. The texture it's very crunchy, salty and delicious. When I eat an arepa, I feel like flying directly to Venezuela because this flavor reminds me of my breakfast in my home. There are a lot of kinds of flavors for Arepas; we can try a lot of different experiences eating all the different sides that we can eat together with the arepa. For example, one of the famous is "Reina Pepiada" which is the arepa filled with avocado and chicken salad; every Venezuelan loves this kind of arepa.

Now as we know, breakfast is the most important meal of the day, although not everyone eats. In Venezuela, the arepa has so much more history, but the most important thing about it, is that in Venezuela, the arepa is the daily bread and it's very nutritive for everyone. In my opinion, everyone needs to eat breakfast, because it is essential to recover energy and make the body function very early to have an excellent day. In Venezuela to recover energy, almost every family has the tradition to eat breakfast every morning. It is usual that those families, choose to eat arepas with a lot of sides, and that is a good way to start a day. My recommendation to people who don't eat breakfast, is that if they want to be healthy people, they need to have a good nutrition eating all meals of the day, especially breakfast and they will see the difference between eating breakfast and not eating breakfast. Good food means more energy, an accelerated metabolism and sympathetic humor for the rest of a day.

The Influence of Stress on Someone with Diabetes

Daniela Diaz
RW 4

People can not only be affected by stress in different ways but they also react differently to the stressful situations they encounter. Those who are healthy have a compensatory mechanism that helps them reduce the impact of stress in their lives. However, the effect of stress on people who suffer from a disease like diabetes can have a serious impact on their health. This is something that we do not think about unless we know someone who has this problem. My sister suffers from diabetes, so I am in the group of people who take time to think about the stressors that seriously affect her life and the way she has to deal with them in order to have a better quality of life. The way my sister works, runs around all day and her unhealthy life style are stressors that can damage her health considerably.

Working too many hours a day has a direct influence on the level of stress that can affect someone's life. My sister is a teacher and she works in different places. Teachers have to plan and prepare material for classes and grade homework and tests. That means a lot of work when you have different groups of students. Accomplishing that is very stressful and it is known that stress has a direct influence on the level of sugar that we have in the blood. Diabetic people do not have the correct mechanism to compensate

for the increase of sugar which is very risky for them. Working fewer hours per day could be the solution; however, it is not as simple as it seems. Each person knows about her or his needs and the connection between those needs and the money a person needs to earn. Thus, stress has a direct connection to jobs and the number of hours people work to earn enough money.

Running around all day long trying to balance personal and working tasks is another cause of the rising level of stress. Working in different places not only means having a lot of work but also going from one place to another and that takes time. Time in the case of my sister has to be balanced with her personal duties like taking her daughter to school and fulfilling all of what it means to have an organized house. Running around all the time with a limited amount of time obviously stresses people. Stress hormones like epinephrine and cortisol raise blood sugar levels and that can lead to cardiovascular diseases and an increase in the risks of a heart attack. Setting priorities and learning to manage time more effectively can help to avoid stress. All in all, tasks at home and at different work places mean running around all day and that can be very stressful with dangerous consequences for diabetic people.

An unhealthy lifestyle reduces the possibilities for coping with stress in a proper way. Running around all day and having several jobs are things that do not allow people to exercise or eat properly. A healthy diet gives elements to the body for functioning properly. This fact becomes more serious in a person who suffers from any disease, but it is particularly important in someone with diabetes. Sugar levels have a direct connection to what we eat that is why eating properly is so important for a diabetic person whose body does not always have insulin to control blood sugar. Exercising frequently also improves health by giving more possibilities to cope with stressful situations. In other words, improving our life style, eating properly and exercising frequently are ways of helping the body cope with stressful situations.

In conclusion, stress is present in all people's lives but healthy people can cope with it in a better way. Those who suffer from a disease like diabetes need to be aware that running around all day, working too many hours and having an unhealthy lifestyle are stressors that can seriously affect quality of life. Being aware is not enough. People who suffer from diabetes have to be determined to make changes and they have to commit to doing it.

Poor Health in Venezuela

Holbert Veliz
RW 43

Poor health is a trending topic in the world. Many countries have the same questions. Do we have an effective medical system? What should we improve? What can we do to stop common diseases? Venezuela isn't different. They are looking forward to improve their medical system but in a slow way. They are implementing the same Cuba's model of medicine trying to improve their medical system. The government doesn't give enough money for research, equipment, and medical supplies in

their own country. Venezuela is located in South America with her capital Caracas, and it's formed by 24 states. This country has diverse weather and different diversity on animals and vegetation. It is one of the most violent and dangerous countries in the world. Furthermore, even when people believe that Venezuela is one of the richest countries, it's not like that. People tend to leave their education without thinking in their future. Uninformed people are a big problem. People who don't know what is good and bad for them are more able to get a disease. If they don't keep studying, they probably won't have a good job and enough money to pay for their medicaments if they get sick. Therefore, Venezuela government uses the money for less important things than improving the medical system, or focusing on the prevention of most common diseases. Poor health in Venezuela is caused by an inadequate sanitation, poor nutrition, and limited sources of medicine. These three factors cause the most common diseases in this country.

Public health system doctors believe that inadequate sanitation could be the first factor of poor health in Venezuela. Dirty water accumulates many bacterias that can cause diseases such as diarrhea, dengue, and others. Water goes through many processes of purification, but in Venezuela the water is very contaminated. That means that after all these processes applied to purify the water, it will still be dirty. People need a good filter to complement the process, have potable water, avoid being affected, and get sick. Wealthy people can afford one, but poor people can't buy a good filter for their homes. Moreover, poor people use enormous water tanks to accumulate water for their homes. Usually these tanks don't have a cap to cover or close them and then insects go into the tank contaminating the water. Insects like mosquitoes land in the water and start to reproduce leaving many eggs there. When mosquitoes are born, they are infected and if they bite humans they can cause a disease called dengue. Furthermore, poor people also drink this water and they can get diarrhea or another illness. Because of dirty water people have poor health, clean water is essential to live and have a healthy life.

Another factor that causes poor health is nutrition. A balanced diet is necessary to have a healthy life. Doctors recommend following a balanced diet to be healthy. Venezuelan people don't have the culture of following a diet. They eat whatever they want and can. Moreover, to have a balanced diet people need to eat certain basic products, but due to political issues in Venezuela the food is limited and they won't find many things that they need to follow their diet. On the other hand, Venezuela is one of the most violent and stressed countries of the world. That means that people usually are mad or stressed. People usually arrive home stressed and they disregard cooking something healthy, and they probably will take the easiest thing that they can prepare. Furthermore, people don't see that this affect their healthy in many different ways. Underestimating unhealthy food can cause a lot of diseases like obesity, cardiovascular diseases and others. Unhealthy food causes poor nutrition. Therefore, eating unhealthy food is one factor that causes obesity and also cardiovascular diseases.

Limited sources of medicine are also another factor of poor health. The public health system is overcrowded and private

hospitals and clinics don't have sufficient equipment and qualified personnel to attend the population. Hence, many sick people were affected; they could get worst because of the lack of organization on hospitals and clinics. Certainly, the lack of organization makes the public health system a disaster. Additionally, medical supplies are in short amount and the prices are high due to the currency exchange control. For example, people with cancer have been affected because they can't find the medicine needed for the chemotherapy. Clinics are very expensive in Venezuela. Moreover, clinics require insurance, and not all the people pay for it in Venezuela. Considering these factors poor people are the most affected because they have limited access to the public system. Otherwise, due to the high prices of medicine they can't afford a private doctor and medicine, resulting on a serious health problem. The government is implementing a preventive approach using the same Cuba's model of medicine, but it has not had the expected results.

Thus, people have to pay more attention to the little things that can cause diseases. They have to get informed about what things they can do and if these things are good for them. Therefore, inadequate sanitation, poor nutrition, and limited sources of medicine are the most common causes of poor health in Venezuela. The government should give more money to improve their medical system. This money has to be used to improve the sanitation, hospitals, medicine, and alimentation. Also they have to do campaigns to inform people how to prevent diseases. Furthermore, doctors have to be more aware about their profession and try to improve the organization on clinics and hospitals. Also, people have to start to be conscious about these water tanks, eliminating them; it only affects them in a negative way. One solution could be changing or cleaning pipes every 6 months or buying a good filter; asking for economical help from the government if they don't have the money. If everyone mentioned before contribute, the public medical system will improve.

Poor Health in Venezuela

Nicole Bardawil
RW43

Venezuela is located in South America, bounded on the north with Caribbean sea, south to Brazil, east with Guyana (Current Reclamation Zone) and to the west by Colombia. The Venezuela capital is Caracas. In terms of the climate, Venezuela has a tropical climate with two seasons: rainy and arid. Y has a very broad hydrography, vegetation and relief are varied. In Venezuela nutrition the typical dish is "pabellon" this dish has: rice, beef, beans and plantains. In Venezuela have a lot of poverty therefore the nutrition is not the best. In Venezuela a lot of children die or get sick by poor nutrition. Poor health in Venezuela is caused by: lack of doctors with experience, cost and lack of services.

The health in Venezuela is cheap; when someone needs go to the doctor and don't have money to pay because they don't have

work or other reason; it's not a problem in Venezuela because, when someone is a doctor in Venezuela the government forces someone to work in two places: in a hospital, and if someone wants in a clinic. The doctors were worked in two places by the government. In a hospital to visit a doctor is very cheap and sometimes free because this place is most of all for people who don't have sufficient resources because don't have a work or pay less money in their job, but people prefer to go to a clinic because it has a lot of machines to operate, and a lot of doctors with experience in the most illnesses like: appendicitis, tonsillitis, heart diseases, and other although always is more expensive than the hospital.

Second factor, in Venezuela doesn't have a doctor with experience because the president Chavez creates missions that allow people to graduate in a few years like 3 or 5 years, and not in the years that should be done for this career which are minimum 10 years. For example, if someone wants to be a doctor this missions can do that someone be a doctor in a few years or months. People are going to be doctors in a few years by the mission and this would cause enormous problems like any person could be seen by a doctor without enough experience because don't have the many years for elaboration of this career. Mission's graduates become doctors basic and austere, without much experience, they have not worked arduous to get the career.

Another factor can be: lack of efficient because when someone goes to the doctor someone has to wait for a lot of time to attend. If someone's in a hurry or need quick attention, just have to wait because they have neither the machines nor sufficient staff, nor the rooms for the patients and this is a fatal problem to the patients. The patients are going to attended by the doctor when patients have a lot of money and can pay for those services. In cause of this when the doctors treated you, they're not very amiable to you and tend to serve you as quickly as possible.

Venezuela should stop creating missions and basic graduate doctors, more doctors specializing in missing branch, some cost down to good medical care and because not all people have money in Venezuela and the most of population is poverty. Venezuela should provide good medical care accompanied affordable for everyone. And also try to provide better facilities and equipment for the treatment of major diseases and discovery.

“Better Health for Everyone: Health Care in Two Worlds” Summary

Miguel Da Costa
RW43

The article “Better Health for Everyone: Health Care in two worlds” first is about “One earth – Two worlds of health”. Many patients demand that the health care system is so expensive and that some drugs are not available immediately. Many people are infected every year in the world by some virus or bacterium. In spite of that there are rich countries, both poor countries and wealthy countries are infected by some illnesses. In the wealthy

countries the health care system is so expensive because there are many treatments for the patients, there are many drugs and vaccines available to protect the health of the people and finally the cost in the wealthy countries increased every year so quickly; many people think that the health care should be made accessible to the poorer people. Second, “Cost and priorities: Meeting health care needs in poorer nations.” The poorest nations there are some important problems such as HIV/AIDS, second CVD, illnesses of the heart and circulatory system, we have seen the emphasize for the crisis in the poorest countries and the wealthy countries should make more vaccine – preventable diseases and better treatments maybe the doctors should make better the diagnose system and technological advances, and finally both of them poorer nations and wealthier nations are important for the health care system.

The Next Trip

Adnan Marafi,
LS 62
(from GM 5 Fall B Final Exam)

There was a time long ago when I was very confused. Everything seemed frustrating, and I couldn't keep a focused mind for a moment. The black abyss was staring right into my soul, and its darkness descended upon me. Black clouds were even gathering above me where they completely blotted out the sun. The matter at hand was very grave. I was in a bookstore, and I had to choose between two pencil brands. “This one has a pink butt eraser! But the other has a polished finish,” my thoughts battled. Then it occurred to me that I should be categorizing features by their importance. “I should choose the brand with the eraser for its functionality, not the other brand for its looks,” another useful lesson in life we should all be aware of; especially when choosing a partner. I eventually chose the pretty pencil brand. I horribly fell for their devious marketing scheme when I shouldn't have! Oh well, you win some and you lose some. I shouldn't torture myself and feel guilty about it!

My Teenage Father and Me

Mario Curbelo
RW53

When my father was a teenager, he had to walk to the school every morning and get up by himself; sometimes my grandmother could take him to the school because she was a teacher and also could bring him back home, but when grandma couldn't he had to walk. On the other hand, my mother always took me to the school and picked me up there. As a result, I didn't have to walk to my house any single day. If my father wanted to buy something he had to do the household chores such as taking out the trash, moving the lawn, etc.; in that way he could earn the money to buy what he wanted. In contrast, I asked my father if he could give me some money; if he said yes he gave some; if he said no I had better not ask twice. My father and I are very different as we grew up in different generations. The differences we

can highlight are entertainment, educational opportunities and communications ways.

The first difference is the entertainment. As the technology has been improving, teenagers today have TVs in their own bedroom; just like me and my brothers. In addition, teenagers often have computers in their bedrooms and video consoles. On the contrary, in my father's generation there was only a TV per family and the whole family watched the same thing. For example, my father told me that he watched the first launch to the moon with his mom and dad and his brother and younger sister; moreover, many families of my father's generation probably watched the same thing in the same way as my father.

The second difference is the educational opportunity. When my father was a teenager my grandfather did not send him to the U.S.A. to study English; however, he studied English in Venezuela because there was in my father's high school time an American academy where he could learn English very well. On the other hand, I could not learn English in an American academy in Venezuela. However, I had the opportunity to come to the United States, more specifically to Gainesville, FL to study English because my father always has wanted I learn English by the teaching of an American professor.

The last difference is communications. As we talked before, the technology has been improving through the years. Now my generation uses the smartphones to communicate with my parents miles away. For example, I use my phone, my computer to communicate with my parents, my family and my friend; even if they are very far away like in Venezuela, I can communicate with them seven days a week, twenty four hours a day. Unlike my generation, my father's generation did not have all this advanced technology; they had to communicate by letter and this often took by minimum a week to let the other person know if the sender is ok.

The dissimilarities we could distinguish between my father's generation and my generation were entertainment, educational opportunities and communications. Through the years the families has been more disunited; as a result, they has been acquiring TVs because every member of the family watch what he or she wants in their bedroom

My Father-in-law and His Heart Attack

Yujin Jung
RW 4

My father-in-law was a veteran of the Korean War. He passed away in January, 2005 because of a heart attack. He was 73 years old at that time. As I read the articles in the textbook, I was reminded of him a lot because there were a few terms discussed and research that might be able to account for his medical problems. I heard that he was drafted into the army at the age of 17, instead of his older brothers, and that he was injured by a bullet which nearly went through his pelvis. As far as I remember, he did not care much about his health in spite of all the concerns in the family. It may be because he was already in his seventies when I got married, but after I read the articles in the textbook, I came to understand that he might have suffered not only from post-traumatic stress disorder but other stress throughout his life. In this

essay, I will explain what my father-in-law's stressors could have been specifically and what his unhealthful behaviors were. Then I will discuss what lifestyle changes he could have adopted to stay healthier.

The main stressors that were most likely to cause my father-in-law to suffer his medical problems were his experiences in the Korean War and his profession as an accountant. My father-in-law was on the battlefield for about two years. He was a young student in South Korea and at first he was forced to be a soldier in the North Korean People's Army. He had to run away from it and he was shot near the bottom of his side, and he was then discharged from military service. To cope with the horror and nervous breakdown he faced on the battlefield, he started to smoke and drink. After graduating from a university, he became a public officer in the Ministry of National Defense. As an economics and accounting major, he usually managed financial affairs. Since Korea is still a divided country, a large portion of the government budget is assigned to national defense, and he was in charge of planning the national defense budget. He often overworked himself, and dealing with the numbers and having to be exact and accurate in his work made him undergo a lot of stress.

Although his job made heavy psychological demands, my father-in-law seemed to make even heavier psychological demands on himself. Unlike my mother-in-law, he had more of a sequential type of personality. He liked to have things around him organized and arranged neatly and he was the kind of person who planned things beforehand and prepared for emergencies. He left behind several notebooks and planners which are full of memos of every tiny detail with neat handwriting. His job at work plus his meticulous personality must have driven him to be more perfect, and this way of life over a long period of time must have affected his health.

In addition to that, my father-in-law was usually a reticent man and did not talk much. According to the reading in the textbook titled "Heart Disease," men have a higher risk of heart disease than women because men do not express their emotions as openly as women and they bury them inside. He was a reserved man and he did not let his emotions show outwardly. This may eventually have caused damage to his health.

Because of his personality and the pressure from work, he had been a heavy smoker, and he loved drinking any kind of alcohol. His unhealthful behaviors led to diabetes, high blood pressure and a hepatic coma several times in his last years. Even after several hospitalizations, he did not give up smoking and drinking, which made all the family even more worried.

His appetite for meat also accelerated the onset of his illness. My father-in-law enjoyed eating meat throughout his life. According to the textbook reading "Heart Disease", if the coronary arteries become narrowed enough or blocked by a fatty substance called plaque in the walls, the person may suffer a heart attack. My father-in-law knew the facts about animal fat and the danger of heart disease, but he did not give up eating delicious meat. Clearly, aside from his personality, there were life style changes that my father-in-law could have made so that he could have led a long healthy life. First of all, he should have stopped smoking and

drinking or at least tried to reduce it. He also should have cut down on the animal fat in his diet and should have been more of a vegetarian.

My father-in-law's sudden death because of a heart attack was not due to just one risky health behavior. In fact, psychological factors such as post-traumatic stress, distress from his work, personality factors including being introverted and meticulous, and behavioral factors such as heavy drinking and smoking and an unhealthy diet all ultimately contributed to what caused him to die of heart disease. Still, if he had adopted a healthier lifestyle, he could have lived much longer and become a good grandfather for my children.

There is no Love in the World Stronger than a Parent's one!

Nataliya Ostarova
RW 50

Normal weekdays in a mid sized town somewhere in Europe. An ordinary family, which consists of only two people – a middle-aged man and his son. Nothing special happened to them. Everything was normal. Grey routine ran day by day. The boy goes to school everyday; he is an average sixteen-year-old student without any special, but really hard working and kind person. He loves the same things as his peers; dreams about perfect life somewhere close to the sea or the ocean. He is trying to prove to his father that he is not a drag for him. Of course it is hard... really hard when you are not gifted by any chance, when you can't be a football player and run mile after mile without fatigue, or play a guitar like Bob Marley, or sing songs like Elvis Presley. It's unbelievable, but he never gives up! May be it is his special talent or power; you can call it as you want, because this guy is an amazing optimist! More than that, he can see good things in everything in this world. Is it raining outside? He will find something beautiful in it, and you will definitely believe! It doesn't matter what's going on around, the moment or a little thing – this is important here and now. Feelings, small gestures, insignificant and unobtrusive things for others are a huge part of the life without which he can't exist! His dad loves him more than anything in his life! He is ready to do the impossible for his son!

I think that it's important to mention that his wife and mom of our artistic guy didn't leave them or just disappear from their life. She died from some heart disease. Nobody could do anything; it happened overnight, they lost her once and forever. The man couldn't stop crying for months. The pain, which he has inside, is impossible to describe or to feel because she was the first and the only woman he ever loved, the one who melted the ice of his then-teenage heart, and sparked a fire there. Even after a year he can't stop thinking about her. He doesn't need anything, he is still living in the past, but his teenage, and as we already know optimistic son doesn't let him to lose heart, and completely shut out of the world. For this year he aged some; of course he does not look quite as old, but gray hair is clearly noticeable through his jet-black head. His eyes do not shine like before. even when he is fleetingly happy because of anything, you can see the sadness in his imaginary smile. Now he lives only for his son! It

shouldn't be that hard, you can think, but the pain and memories, which he has in his mind and heart, are pushing him to struggle with it everyday and every single moment.

Once the boy asked him what would he give him for his 18th birthday? The man stared at the boy and then said: "There is still time before this moment. ...my dear... live and enjoy the life, my darling...". It was an unusual dialog that they ever had. The guy didn't pay much attention to this, so they never returned to this topic anymore. A month passed since the guy turned 17, the weather was amazing; the sun shone brightly as ever, the grass was green, and gentle chirping of birds mellifluous all those who was on the street at that moment. Perfect day for the beginning of the summer. The family, which we already know, started to plan their vacation...life began to be adjusted...but the pain that the boy started to feel more and more in the heart haunted by his father...They decided to go to the hospital just to check what's happen and how to reduce this wretched pain. Unfortunately for his father, the doctor said that the boy must stay in the hospital for further treatment. Of course, our optimist was not discouraged, he reassured his father and one certainly believed in the best. Time passed, but the boy had remained in the hospital. He was getting worse and worse. One day he asked his father, "Tell me Daddy, I'm going to die?" But the man did not answer...he just looked at his son's eyes full of hope and love, and only bitter tears were running down his already wrinkled cheeks. After that meeting, the father didn't visit him anymore. A year has passed. The boy was offended by his father, because he didn't come to him! Even after difficult heart surgery, his father did not visit him! "How can he do that with me?" thought the boy. But the pleasure finally to leave the hospital outshone sad thoughts in his head. He hurried home full of joy and happiness ... Hurry back to see HIM, the person he loved more than anything else!

He opened the door... he called his father.... "Daddy, I'm home! Dad, well, where are you? 'Dad, I'm finally healthy, I am here!" But no one answered Only heavy silence weighed on the boy's ears ... He did not give up checked all the rooms, but still did not notice the presence of father out there.... so, he got to his room He saw the envelope on the table, on which there was only one inscription "to my dear little son". Apparently this envelope lay on the table for a long time, because lifting it, the boy noticed a pretty big layer of dust there ... "Hmmm why didn't daddy clean it? He loves cleanliness and order!" - the boy thought...killed by his interest, the guy opened the envelope ... there was a letter ... a letter for him...the letter was written by the accurate father's handwriting... it was only a few lines there.... «Son, do you remember the time, when you asked me what would I give you for your 18th birthday? I did not give you a precise answer, because I was afraid that you will not live up to this point ... I did not tell you, but the disease because of which our mom had died, was with you too.... it was slowly, but surely killing you. A time when you felt the pain was a signal, that it will happen very soon I could not continue to live with the fact that I will never see you againliving in a world without our mom was really painful for me...you know it..... and I couldn't handle with the fact that I will lose you! I took this decision because the best that could have happened in my life has occurred, and you're still very young, you didn't have enough time to enjoy life so I gave you my heart Happy birthday, my dear! Remember, I will always love you»

After reading the letter to the end, he could not even move... only crocodile tears rolled from his eyes... his body was numb, and the lump

stuck in his throat.... a wild pain of loss pierced his body, which dropped him on his knees... his open mouth silently betraying no sound ... Hours passed after he recovered himself on the floor of the room ... Now he is alone... ALONE in this world ... what should he do? Where to go? He has only the headache because of all these questions...

...It was an extremely hard time for him... but he didn't give up...he started to live his new life by trying to reach everything he could in the memory of his parents...

Teenagers Before and Now

Irene Molina
RW 53

When we are discussing how things have changed between generations we might not find a big difference here in America, but if we compare one generation with another in a different country like Venezuela we should find more significant changes. Let's take for example a young girl named Irene Molina; she is from Venezuela and she is 17 years old. According to what she has heard from her parents, her teenage years have been different from her parent's teen years. For example, the household chores, the rules of the house when she wants to go out with her friends, and finally, what is socially correct to do nowadays.

Irene Molina spent 13 years of her life only studying hard and being responsible at school, but when she reached the age of 14 her parents start giving her some obligations in the house because she was an "adult". Wash the dishes, clean her room and take out the trash are the primary ones. When she first realized what she had to do she complained in several opportunities with her mom; however, her mom explained to her that the household chores she was required to do were pretty simple. When her mother was 12 years old she already had to do her laundry, clean her bedroom, take out the trash, and help her grandmother to clean the kitchen; when she was 17 years old she lived on her own in another city studying her career and taking care of herself. In something so simple we can see how traditions have changed over the years and what is more surprising is the fact that this will continue to happen.

Moreover, she needs to follow some specific rules when she wants to go out with her friends which are pretty simple compared to what her mother needed to do when she wanted to spend some quality time with her group of friends. Preferably, Irene asks for permission to go to a party; not because her parents don't let her go out, but because her parents might have planned something to do previously. On the other hand, her mother needed to ask for permission several days before the party and also she needed to say the time when the party was going to end; in the case it was too late it was hardly impossible Irene's grandparents allowed Maria (Irene's mother) to go. What is the reason? In Maria's teen years, ladies of that age were not supposed to be out of the house until late without their fathers because it was "dangerous." Nowadays, women can be out until late even though people have realized that danger has increased over the years. It is difficult to explain the

reason of this confusing change; why if there is more danger, can women be out until late without their parents? The only answer we can share is that today society has changed, and there are more things teens can do according to what is socially correct to do.

Like some general rules of the house have changed because of the society evolution, what you can do in public have also changed. When Maria was a teenage girl, she was not supposed to hug her (boys) friends much less give them a kiss on the cheek in public because that was saved only for couples, and of course in that time young girls were not allowed to have boyfriends because they were too young. Therefore, it was frowned upon by society. Actually, here in The United States people who are very friendly in public are not often seen which is funny because this generation behaves the same way as the generation from Irene's mother on what it was socially correct to do. While today in Venezuela, it is perfectly fine to hug and give a kiss to your friends. For example, when Venezuelans say hi to each other it is polite to give a kiss on the cheek and if you don't accept the kiss, people may think you are a hard person to be with.

Although traditions have changed from one generation to another it is something that we can't stop. Why is this? Because we can't stop time, which is the factor that allows things to change whether it is something as simple as the rules parents give to their children, or what they can or cannot do in front of other people. Today, we might be able to be friendly with others while tomorrow we might not. Societies have their own transition time, and they are also influenced by others. As a result, change happens. Do not be afraid of it, because it is what makes us all humans and not machines that will always do the same.

My Mother and Her Former Bad Habit

Guadalupe Soria
RW 4

I really enjoy one or two cigarettes at a meeting with friends, or perhaps sharing one during a great conversation with someone. I find this kind of 'group therapy' relaxing. What I really cannot understand is why some people smoke one cigarette after another. I think that custom is disgusting. Moreover, I find it worse if the person who smokes is a physician, especially a pediatrician. That was the case of my mother more than ten years ago. She used to smoke a lot when I was a child. No matter what the moment or the economic constraints, she always used to find the resources to have a pack of those filthy things in her bag. She did not care about her own health. My mother smoked a lot because she worked under pressure and she was going through a hard moment in her personal life and that caused her to be even more anxious and thinner from not eating day after day.

Being a pediatrician specialized in intensive therapy is a demanding and stressful job. My mother not only dealt with sick kids but with those on the verge of death. Fifteen years ago, when she started smoking, she was one of a limited number of doctors with this specialization in our province. She started being offered

work in many clinics and hospitals, jobs that she accepted. Moreover, at the public hospital she also took numerous hours of night duty. Many children have died in her sight, and that may have led her to start smoking, as a mean of catharsis, apparently. In addition, she also needed to do something that took her away from her marriage problems. My parents were having arguments every day. I can remember the great presence of sadness in my mother's face. Besides, she was upset with everything and with everybody all day long, and that anger included us, her children. So, sometimes, she would go to the backyard to have her special moment with the thin, filthy, white stick full of smoke.

I do not know when, but she was obsessed with the vice, and started smoking one cigarette after the other. I remember that when I looked at her, I did not like that woman that I saw, one who was more and more anxious for a cigarette and who was losing weight. I remember my brother and I telling her to stop it because she was a doctor. I remember her bad temper at that time. Suddenly, though, that behavior stopped. She quit smoking cigarettes. After many years I think I realize what might have happened: she stopped being manipulated by cigarettes because she made the decisions that she needed. She resigned from some jobs at the clinics and she talked seriously with my father.

Having problems and not knowing how to deal with them should not lead us to find a bad habit as a de-stressor. What we should do instead, before being obsessed with any crutch, is relax and think clearly, and realize that the most important people are ourselves and those who we love. If we ourselves are happy, the people we relate to will also be happy.

My Bedroom in Saudi Arabia (K.S.A.)

Nouf Althubaity
RW10

My bedroom in my country is very large and beautiful. There are two red walls and two white walls. There is a large bed, closet, dresser, night table, carpet, sofa, and lamps. I have a soft bed and soft pillows. In my bedroom there are flowers in a vase. On the dresser, there are photos of me and photos of my husband. There is a scented oil which makes my bedroom smell good. My bedroom is nice and comfortable.

My Bedroom

Denise Khoury
RW10

My bedroom is comfortable. It has two beds, a nightstand, eight pillows, a dresser, a closet, a TV, a table, and a restroom. My bedroom is big. My bed has sheets, a blanket and a bedspread. My bedroom has a bookcase, also. It is very important for my husband and me to put our books over there. We like to read books every

night. From my bedroom windows, I see a beautiful forest. My bedroom is very good.

My Bedroom

Juan David Cardona Villalobos
RW10

My bedroom is a good place for my soul. It reflects my soul and my process with music. It is my favorite space because this is where I make my music. My bedroom is perfect for me. It is cozy and comfortable. It has many devices I need for my music performance. There is a keyboard, Launchpad, Roland SPD-SX, cymbals and a nanoPAD controller. In my bedroom I feel excited and happy. I sometimes am surprised because every day there is a different atmosphere in my room. I have moved from my country, Colombia, to another country, Argentina. Then I moved to the United States, to Gainesville. So I have moved my "musical" machines to these different places with me. I try to move my studio with me because I always want my bedroom to be called "My Home Studio."

My Bedroom

Njood Al Qahtani
RW10

My bedroom is a comfortable place in my home. It is a good place for relaxation and sleep at night. The walls are yellow. There is a big window. Also, there is a beautiful garden and pink flowers at the window. There are two red curtains on the windows. I have a king size bed and a small night table next to it. Also, I have a big mirror in my bedroom. There is in my bedroom a small green sofa and brown coffee table. There is a big white carpet. I have a small photo of my son on the coffee table. It is the best room in my home and a comfortable resting place for me all of the time.

My Bedroom

Sada Campoare
RW10

I like to spend a lot of time in my bedroom. My bedroom is very large. It has a king size white bed, a big sofa, a big television and a desk. First, my bed is very comfortable so I can sleep in it easily. Second, I use my desk every day. I do my homework and hit the books when i have a test because learning is very important. Finally, my sofa is the best for me. It is near my window. From the window, I can see a pond of the Enclave, my apartment complex. That's very beautiful. In conclusion, my bedroom is a wonderful place to spend my time.

My Bedroom

Aisbeth Martinez Campos
RW10

I love my bedroom. It is comfortable, big and light. Its walls are orange and beige. It has two large windows with yellow curtains. The floor has beige tiles. I like to watch TV and sit on a black puffy chair near my single bed. My bed is soft and it has a beautiful orange comforter and four pillows because I like to sleep with many pillows. My bedroom also has a big brown wood closet. Its color is the same as my bed. It has many partitions for my dresses, jeans, shoes, blouses, etc. Next to my bed is a night table. It is also brown wood. On the night table there are photos of my beautiful family and classmates from high school. My favorite books are next to the photos. I love to read a little at night and to see the photos in the morning. My bedroom has a brown wood dresser with a big mirror, and four big drawers and one little drawer under the mirror. Between the dresser and my bed there is an orange rug. I love to stand there to comb my hair and to put on my makeup. Sometimes my precious big dog sleeps on the rug. I enjoy myself and I rest in my bedroom. It is perfect for me.

Interesting ELI Activities

Dohyeon Kim
RW10

English is a necessity in the world. We can have wonderful careers if we know English. There are many English programs in the United States to learn English. The University of Florida (UF) English Language Institute (ELI) is a good place to learn English. The ELI program has two parts. The two parts are regular classes and activities out of class. I think it is good chance because the students can learn better English skills.

The first part of the ELI program is class at UF. Everyone knows about these kinds of classes. They are grammar, listening/speaking, and reading/writing. Even if the classes are basic, I think they are good for us. They give us basic skills. Also, some teachers' classes are funny and some teachers advise the students how to study. The campus classes at UF go from beginning to high levels.

Outside of classes are activities. Its name is the Cultural Immersion Program (CIP). It has Coffee Talk and Volleyball. Coffee talk is talking about free topics, so we can use what we have learned in the English classes. Also we make friends from many other counties, so sometimes we learn other cultures. Volleyball is a sport and it makes a type of friendship, too. If we want to play volleyball and understand the game, we have to explain it in English. We have to learn what other people are saying in English. These activities outside of classes attract students, so many people join in.

In conclusion, I think the ELI program (in classes and in the CIP) give us English skills. It helps us to achieve our goals and make our English better. We learn all the world cultures. The ELI gives us our great chance for a good future life.

The Leader of Saudi Arabia

Asma Abdulrahman
RW 43

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided. And remember the favor of Allah upon you - when you were enemies and He brought your hearts together and you became, by His favor, brothers." [Al-Quran, chapter 1.] Since August first, 2005, which was the beginning of King Abdullah leadership of Saudi Arabia, he started by saying this verse from Al-Quran in every speech, which means all Saudi people are like one family they have the same religion and emotions they should to take care of each other; he is the big brother for them because they need his support and help. Also, he needs them to give him advice and helping to boost social and economic situation in Saudi Arabia. King Abdullah Ben Abdulaziz is the sixth King of Saudi Arabia after his father and old brothers. King Abdullah has very interesting characteristics, great accomplishments for saudi women, and local and global attitudes, which make all people in Saudi Arabia, love and cherish him.

Firstly, King Abdullah has many wonderful characters. He is modest and very friendly; all the people in Saudi Arabia cherish him because he always respects them and considers them his family. I never forget when he was sick and Saudi people were anxious and always asked about him, he answered by saying: "whenever Saudi people are fine I am fine". In addition, every week he has a specific time to listen to public problems after that he solves their problems. Moreover, he is known for his love of horses. He established many equestrian clubs in different cities. In addition, people like him when he talks because he is a faithful speaker and he uses short and powerful words. As a best medication from fatal diseases his smiling and advice can make people relax.

On the other hand, King Abdullah follows the Islamic laws which depend on Al-Quran and Al-Sunnah. For this reason, he has many local and global attitudes. For example, he is eager to take care about Masjid Al _Haram and help all people especially poor people. As a result of that, he laid the foundation stone for the largest ever expansion of masjid al-Haram, which is the holy place for all Muslims; it was named the King Abdullah Expansion. The new project is being implemented on a 4, 00,000 square meter area. It will add an additional prayer space for 2.2 million worshippers. The new expansion will help tackle the enormous number of pilgrims and prayers by facilitating their movement at masjid al Haram during the peak seasons of Ramadan and the Haj. Moreover, he gives the Saudi people who don't have jobs about six hundred dollars monthly to help them until they find jobs. , King Abdullah gives scholarships to the students, who want to

complete their studying in many countries, which is about 7,000 students annually. On the other hand, King Abdullah is eager to help other countries such as poor African countries. For example, in 2011 he donated eight million dollars to Somalia as a result of starvation there, he likes a lofty palm which always gives its benefits for others.

King Abdullah always emphasizes the importance of women's role in society. As a Saudi woman, I am proud of King Abdullah, especially when he said "women are our mothers, sisters, and daughters they are the half of our society, woman is the sun which gives us power and warmth." As a result of the value of women in Saudi society King Abdullah chose 30 Saudi women to participate in the state of council to solve community problems. In 2007, he established Princess Nora Bint Abdulrahman University which is the largest women's university in the world. It is composed of 32 colleges across the Riyadh region, Spread over eight million square meters and costing over 5.6 billion dollar build and expected to host up to 40,000 students. On campus there is a metro to transport students and staff between many other academic and administrative institutions on the campus

Finally, King Abdullah did many things for development Saudi Arabia. Actually I cherish him so much and I could not imagine Saudi Arabia without him. Saudis are lucky to have a King like King Abdullah they thank Allah for this great blessing .

Arabic and English

Abdullah Alsubaie
RW49

I still remember when I came to United States of America. I could not use my native language. I started to learn English and I saw that there are many similarities and differences between the Arabic language and the English language.

The Arabic language and the English language are alike in many ways. First of all, English has parts of speech such as subject, noun, and verb. Like English, the Arabic language has parts of speech. Also, there are some words that have the same meaning in both languages such as "camel " and " sandal." If you hear them in Arabic or English, you could understand. Another similarity is in Arabic, there are some kinds of accents between groups of people. Like Arabic, English has different kinds of regional accents.

There are also many differences between Arabic and English. The two languages have different rules for writing. For example, if you want to start writing in Arabic, you have to start from right to left. Unlike Arabic, if you write in English, you have to start from left to right. Also, grammar is different between Arabic and English. The Arabic language starts with the verb and the subject comes after the verb, but in English, you must put the subject before the verb. Another different is the words between Arabic and English are completely different in pronunciation, writing, and shape.

In conclusion, Arabic and English have differences and similarities in grammar, vocabulary, accent, and rules. In my opinion, language is one of the most important things in our life. I think in the

future, Arabic and English are going to be closer languages because many Arabic people speak English as the second language.

English vs. Spanish

Arianna Monaco
RW 49

"The limits of my language mean the limit of my world." These words of Ludwig Wittgenstein apply to a large number of Latin American people whose native language is Spanish. They are trying to learn English to expand their world. One way to expand that knowledge is to find differences and similarities between these languages.

There are many similarities between English and Spanish. For example, we find some vocabulary in English that is almost the same as Spanish like International/Internacional or Different/Diferente. For that reason, learning English is easy for Latin people because we recognize some words. Another similarity that these languages have is communication because American and Latin teenagers when speak with an old person (parents, teachers, etc.) they are very polite and they try to be very careful for show respect. Also in English and Spanish both languages have the same idioms in some cases like: "Cat got your tongue" / "Un Gato se comio tu lengua?" or "A taste of your own medicine" / "Una cucharada de tu propia medicina".

On the other hand, we find many differences between English and Spanish. Even though they have almost the same vocabulary, the pronunciation is completely different. Words like culture/cultura are hard to pronounce for Latin people because they tend to confuse the English with Spanish. Certain rules for writing are different too. In English, people use more periods to make shorter sentences. However, in Spanish we use commas to connect two sentences, and also we make a pause when we see it. Humor and jokes are very controversial and different in English and Spanish. Latin American people are usually ruder with their jokes than North Americans because of the different cultures. For example, here in America when someone falls down in the street or in a restaurant, nobody laughs at that person and everyone tries to help him, but in Latin America many people laugh and make jokes about a person who falls down.

There are both similarities and differences between English and Spanish. It is important to look at this because it can open your world. It is not difficult to learn, just do it.

English and Spanish

Adriana Rodriguez
RW 49

My native language is always better than English because I like to communicate perfectly without problems. However, English and Spanish have some similarities and differences. A comparison

between Spanish and English shows surprising similarities and differences.

Both languages have the same word “similar” written in the same way in vocabulary, but it has a different pronunciation. For example, the word “similar” has the same spelling in both languages, but it is pronounced in a different way. English and Spanish have a particular letter, the letter “H”. This is written in the same way in both vocabularies, but when people pronounced this letter, it is different in each language. In Spanish the letter “H” does not have sound. For example, the word “Hotel” is pronounced “Otel” in Spanish. It is a silent letter; however, the letter “H” in English has sound. An example in English is, the same word “Hotel” is pronounced with “J” sound, this word sound, like, “Jotel”.

Another difference between the languages is English and Spanish have the same words with different meanings. For example, English has the word “Idiom,” but it has a different meaning than in Spanish. In Spanish, the word “Idioma” refers to the word “language,” while in English, “Idiom” refers to phrases that have a specific meaning.

In conclusion, a comparison between English and Spanish shows surprising similarities and differences. Both are very important but I will always prefer Spanish, because it’s my native language. However, English can open more doors than other languages can.

Differences and Similarities Between Spanish and English

Genesis Aular
RW49

When I was a child, I wanted to learn English, so I decided to investigate the differences and similarities between English and Spanish, which is my native language. I found that there are several differences and similarities between the two languages.

There are many striking similarities between Spanish and English. For example, both languages have the same intonations when you ask a question or when you express something. The way that you raise or lower your tone of voice is absolutely the same. Another example of similarities is the idioms that we use such as “Two heads think better than one”. Finally, the most important similarity for me is variation within the individual. That refers to the way that you talk with a person. In both languages you change the way that you talk depending on this person. For example, if you are talking with your boss you have to be more respectful than if you are talking with a friend.

Just as there are a lot of similarities, there are also a lot of differences too. The first one and the most visible one is in grammar. In Spanish you say the object first and then the adjective, “the house is white,” while in English you put the adjective first and then the object, “the white house”. The second difference is in the pronunciation. In Spanish, there are some letters that are pronounced differently than in English. One example is the letter

“h”. The letter “h” in Spanish is silent while in English you have to pronounce it. For Spanish speakers, the letter “h” in English sound likes a “j” in Spanish. The third and the last difference between English and Spanish is the humor. In Spanish, people have jokes called “chistes”. “Chistes” are usually silly sentences that make us laugh, while in English the humor is more about making fun of someone or something.

In conclusion, Spanish and English are alike in some ways and different in other ways. In my opinion, it is easy for Spanish speakers to control the differences between English and Spanish. This way they can learn how to speak English very quickly. Thanks to that in the future there will be more bilingual people.

Korean vs. English

Jaebum Choi
RW 49

If you try to learn another language, first, you had better know what the differences and similarities are between your language and the language that you want to learn. The language is affected by its own culture. Some countries that are located nearby have similar language structure due to similar culture and influence each other. However, I’m from Korea far away from English cultures. When I study English, it is hard to understand. The comparison between Korean and English reveals some similarities and differences that can help me understand.

First of all, there are some similarities and differences in vocabulary. Both languages have alphabets. The Korean alphabet, called “Hangul”, has 14 vowels and 10 consonants. English also has an alphabet; however, it has 6 vowels and 20 consonants. Thus, both Koreans and English speakers make vocabulary by combining letters of their alphabet.. Both languages use phonograms, a written character that represents a certain sound. It means that we don’t need to memorize different new meanings of symbols like in the Chinese language. One difference between Korean and English is the organization of symbols. When English combines the vocabulary, it is only possible to put the alphabet left to right. However, when Koreans combine the vocabulary, it can be combined left to right and top to bottom such as “책” is the alphabet that is combined “ㅈ”, “ㅊ”, “ㅊ”.

The Korean and English grammar also has interesting similarities and differences. Both languages have parts of speech such as noun, pronoun, adjective, and adverb. Also, when we describe the noun, the order is the adverb describes the adjective and the adjective describes the noun. Therefore, the order is adverb, adjective, and noun. Basically, when we write a book, both languages start from left to right. The difference is that when we see a whole sentence, the sentence structure is in a different order.

There are several differences in pronunciation and intonation. Korean does not have “R” sound that is in English. English does not have “ㅈㅈ” sound that is in Korean. English has more intonation rules than Korean.

Actually, there are many similarities and differences between English and Korean. I thought that there would be only a few similarities and many differences. Although Korea is far from America, I found more similarities than I expected.

Arabic and English

Jasser Alharbi
RW 49

When I was a child, I thought learning the English language was impossible because English seemed to be a difficult strange language. However, these days, I find the English Language is similar to Arabic, which is my first language. There are several differences and similarities between Arabic and English in three significant aspects: grammar, writing, and body language.

One similarity between Arabic and English grammar is that they both need a subject, a verb, and an object. In addition, some people make contractions as slang. For example, in English, they say "I'm gonna" instead of "I'm going to." Likewise, Arabic also uses contractions as slang. For example, people use " جايدك " instead of " انا ايك ذاهب انا ", which means "I am going to see you." In writing, both languages use letters while other languages use symbols such as the Chinese language. Arabic and English have the same method of writing, which means you have to have a hook, topic sentence, thesis statement, body paragraphs, and conclusion. Moreover, they have the same strategy of body language. For example, you can understand the meaning of something from the body language without listening, and it is similar between Arabic and English because some languages do not have body language, which makes it difficult to understand especially if it is your second language.

On the other hand, there are several differences between the Arabic and English languages. In Arabic grammar, you should use different pronouns for man and woman; whereas in English, they use the same pronoun "you" for talking to men and women. Another difference between Arabic and English is in using adjectives. In Arabic, you should put the adjective after the noun, while in English you use the adjective before the noun. There are some clear and obvious differences when writing the two languages. In Arabic writing begins on the right and moves to the left, unlike English, which starts on the left and moves to the right. Finally, there are different ways to use body language in Arabic and English because each nation has different ways to mention something by the body language. For example, women in Arabic countries cannot show their body language as much as English women because they have to cover their bodies which force them to use only their eyes or hands; whereas English women can use all their body as body language.

Arabic and English languages have similarities and differences as in any language. We find interesting comparisons in grammar, writing, and body language. They are both good language and really useful, but I prefer Arabic because it is my first language, and I can understand it very well.

Spanish and English

Maria Andrea Saraullo
RW 49

Imagine that you start to talk English with rules of your native language; maybe all the sentences will not make sense. You need to be careful with the pronunciation, grammar, and especially the punctuation. In some cases, you will find notable similarities, and sometimes, you will find differences in languages like English and Spanish.

The written language can be very similar in Spanish and English. For example, the words "no", "idea," and "sofa" are the same in both languages. Also many words in English and Spanish share a Latin base word like "Communication" and "difference." However, there are also major differences in writing. In Spanish, you can normally separate the sentences with a comma (,), semi colon (;), and a period (.). However, when you want to separate sentences that don't have any relationship you only can put a period in English.

Some of the big differences between English and Spanish grammar are the prepositions "at," "in, and "on." In Spanish, you only use "En". In Spanish you can create sentences without a subject, something that you cannot do in English. Another difference is in Spanish the article tells us the gender of the subject unlike the English articles. Spanish verbs have more tenses than English verbs because we just fix the verb without adding another auxiliary verb.

There are interesting differences in the pronunciation of the two languages. In English pronunciation, you have to know the high sounds only by hearing the word, but in Spanish in some cases you can look up for the accent that the word has making easier for you to note it. Another difference in pronunciation is in the vowel sounds. In Spanish, the language does not have a distinction between short and long vowels. They often give all vowel sounds out too much and confuse duos of small and long English vowel sounds like "ship" and "sheep" both in meaning and pronunciation.

Spanish and English have so many differences and similarities like in the written language, grammar, and pronunciation. In fact, it is more difficult for Spanish speakers to learn the pronunciation of the English speakers. All in all, you can note that some of the roots of English come from Latin because there are so many equalities between Spanish and English.

Not my Nightmare!

Khalid A. ALhazzani
RW 60

Who do you think is the greatest creature in this planet? When I was young, I thought humans were superior to animals due to the fact that they are able to communicate and they would help each other

when they needed help. Beside, they built incredible civilizations in ancient Egypt, Rome, and Iraq. Their ideas and ambitions germinated and slowly grew into modern technological civilization as we can see today. They were able to touch the clouds by building skyscrapers. Roads, hospitals, schools, and universities were built to be a witness of their astounded intelligence. They harnessed their astonished intellectual power to cure life-threatening diseases that had slayed millions of their species such as plague, malaria, leprosy...etc. They have invented medicines to mitigate the pain and diminish suffering. I thought they would not hurt each other. As I grew up, however, I started to scrutinize them. Their ravishingly beautiful picture was scorched by their actions and their obsession to wars. They contradicted themselves by destroying what they built and killing what they tried to save. I could not find a period of 20 years without a war. World War I and World War II, Iraq-Iran War, Israel-Arab War, Bosnian War, Afghanistan War, Iraq War, gulf War II, gulf War III, Israel-Lebanon War are a brief illustration of human tendency to continuously battle and sabotage. They never learned that wars do not bring any thing except devastation and pain. In this world, two opposite powers fight each other; there are evil and righteousness. It is a disgrace that we either support the evil or turn a blind eye to it. In Syria, for instance, the whole world keeps silent and is too passive toward the Syrian uprising. In fact, this silence is a sign of agreement with what brutal Syrian regime has done. Children and women are tortured, raped, and slaughtered by our hands. It seems that no one cares, or even pretends to care about them. The Syrian nightmare is a nightmare of the whole world and everyone should feel as guilty as they were committing these massacres. What the world needs to move is a little bit of humanity; otherwise, we should reconsider who the greatest creature is.

... To the brave people who scarify their lives for the freedom and sovereignty, we're sorry, we could not help you simply because we're coward!

A Street that's More Than a Street

Geraldine Silva
RW 43

My favorite street in Colombia is a street in a park of Bogota that is the capital of the country. The park is located in the north of the city. The name of the park where that street is located is Usaquen. Usaquen Park is a public, historical, and cultural space where tourists, artists, and others arrive, to use the park to give life, animation, and tradition. Around there are different constructions that evoke the architecture of that time. Usaquen Park is very crowded because there is the mayoralty, many stores, famous restaurants, bars and enormous and beautiful church. The Santa Barbara church was built in the late sixteenth century. Today it is one of the most popular religious centers for young couples who choose to marry in this temple. That street is different from others, unique in Bogota very popular and characteristic.

The material of the street is brick, some of those bricks are grey and the others are burgundy. The other streets in Colombia are pavement. The government care and clean this park a lot. The

park is located in an important and main sector of the city. Usaquen is an old park that was founded in 1953. In the middle of the street is the church. The church has small entrance with a semi-circle in the top. The church has a tall tower with a clock and bells on the top. The color of the church is light yellow and the other half is white. Next to the church are several old white houses that look like a school. Those houses have a couple of windows. The facade of the houses is old, but inside the houses, there are very fancy, expensive and very decorated restaurants, bars and stores where you can find all the things that you want like on the Fifth Avenue in New York. In the middle of the park there is a big, white water fountain built of marble. Inside the fountain there are coins that the people throw to make a wish. Around the park, there are many flowers and many trees planted such as eucalyptus. It is like a jungle in the middle of the city.

At night, the park is illuminated and the people walk even in the cold weather that characterizes Bogota. Usually, the people wear jacket, pant, scarves, glove, and hats. On that street, there are not lights and signals, and the cars go in one direction. One of the ways to go to the park is by car but it is difficult to find a parking. Another way to go there is by bus and taxi, which that are cheap and easy to take. Another way to go to the park is walking if you live near the park. That street has many people and cars all the time. The park is visited by the elderly, adults and children. Anyone can go to the park rich: people, poor people, foreigners and residents just to walk, to shopp or to celebrate a special occasion such as birthdays, masses, anniversaries, weddings, Christmas, and New Year. Many people choose this park to spend time whit their family. Sometimes some street vendors go there and sell food such as corn on the cob, steak, potatoes, ice cream, mango, candies and also souvenirs, like at a street fair. There is a variety of things that the people can do, shop and eat.

A main characteristic of the park is the strong smell. The reason for that smell is because around the park there are several different types of restaurants and all those smells mingle and create a new strong smell. That situation is interesting in one way because when the visitors go there, they get hungry and goes to eat in the restaurants or buy food on the street. The smell is not bad like garbage, but is like a rare meal with many different ingredients. The noise is another particular characteristic of the park because as all the Latin Americans we talk very loudly and the noise at night is because of the music of the bars and restaurants. The only quiet and peaceful place is inside the church, where you can feel blessed and the peace of the heaven or like the movie safe heaven. Inside the church there are many paintings and images of God and the Virgin Mary. The church is a good place for catholic people to thing, pray, and gives thanks.

Some of the things on the park are visible such as the architecture, restaurants, church, street vendors, people and the others thing are invisible as the good feelings that the people feel being there and the beautiful memories that the visitors of the park take when they go there. I am a good example of that because my family and I celebrate the mass of my daddy in the church every august 16, which is the most important day of the year for me. We also go there in special occasions such as the birthday of any

member of my family or on Christmas to share with each other. Love, friends, family, freedom, happiness, and health are invisible and very essential for me and I can feel and find it when I go there. The people who go to visit the park may find those things too. "The most essential and important things are invisible" said the little prince -by Alain de saint Exupery. Those are the most important reasons why this park and street are very important for me. I don't feel or see those things just as they really are; it has a different meaning for me and I hope for the other people who will go there too.

Showing love for Teachers by 65 new Vocabulary Words

Amal Abdulrahman
RW50

"A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning." - Brad Henry

Even though my first current class in spring 2013 starts early at 7:25 AM and I felt exhaustion at the beginning because I should have begun a master's degree, I am so glad that I have learned in level 50 new useful keys in: reading and writing, listening and speaking, grammar, TOEFL from amazing teachers. Ms. Jane teaches me in reading and writing class, and I love being in her class as well as other teachers' classes. Her surgery was irritating to me, especially because it reminded me of my mother's surgeries when she gave birth to my youngest brother. She has some of my mother's characters and I always compare between them because of their talking and thinking about other people. Therefore, I decided to use all 65 vocabularies that I have learned in Ms. Jane's class until spring break to write this essay; moreover, I use some new writing to focus specifically about Ms. Jane.

Many studies seem to suggest that there are strong links between both successfully, optimistic students and their teachers' strategies. That are tangible in Ms. Jane's class, likewise many teachers whom I am so glad being one of their students even in the current semester or in last semesters. Ms. Jane's strategies evidence that she is a bright star in the control group of good teachers. Her teaching strategies, interesting stories, and lovely ways to describe her students collectively induced their abilities to achieve the class's objectives easily. From her stories, I inferred that she could administer everything skillfully. She has expert ways of coping with every student separately, and that helps them to read and write superiorly. For example, I have realized the importance of using colors to recognize new vocabulary after she required vocabulary cards to do homework, which is exactly as the importance of colors to recognize charts. Besides that, I also learned how to cite and take notes by using mind mapping as well as in speaking class.

Depending on what I knew about Ms. Jane's, my predictability helps me to decline my worry about her by two ways. A simple table and a graph. I made a table to organize my time in spring break. It's similar to the periodic table, Mendeleev table, because

both of them have verticals and horizontals. In contrast, I didn't arranged elements, but I arranged what I want to do every day including my prayers for her. I also have promised to sacrifice money when she gets well. That is because she is an important teacher for me as one of her students as much as the important of alarm reaction for a body to face problems. In addition, I made a graph to show the relationship between my stress and my stressful from the beginning of spring semester until spring break. Obviously, one of the main stresses which had the highest amount was because of her surgery. It really calmed down after I had heard that her surgery went well.

Many things have happened or changed since the beginning of spring semester due to Ms. Jane's. Randomly assigned was used to organize new variables which either increase or decrease because of her. For examples, she raises her students' hopes by her encouragements which reminded me of my mother. My respect and love for her skyrocket. My predictability to have a good score either in TOEFL or in IELTS heightens. My reading speed increases. However, there are many things which have decreased in different rates. My bothersome feeling about studying this semester at the ELI is reduced by many causes like her stories. Also my mistakes in writing have declined which were my problems in IELTS test.

Because of Ms. Jane's and my reading and writing teachers who had taught me before spring semester 2013, I could use reading and writing strategies better. For instance, I used writing strategies to write the longest presentation in my speaking class which I should have made it shorter, but I was so happy when I was writing that much. When I write this presentation, I started with a hook to catch attentions. Then I organized the thesis statement which has the topic sentence and main ideas. After that I wrote every idea in a paragraph with supporting sentences and details. Finally, I wrote a restatement and an authors' opinion to make the article complete. Not only that but also I have learned how to use parallel structure. For example, I really liked studying level 50 because I have learned how to use many punctuation correctly in Ms. Jane's class, summarize accurately in TOEFL class, present perfectly in speaking class, realize new rules easily in grammar class. In addition, to be skilled in English you should know and do writing strategies. Generally you should Preview any article to have and predict a quick idea about it. After that, skim then scan it to understand your readings, like answering questions quickly. Otherwise, skim for extensive reading like reading newspapers, or scan for an intensive reading such as reading novels.

Honestly, when Ms. Jane told her students about her surgery, I was affected more because I reminded of my mother's surgeries and Sara's daughter. My precious mom was in an operating room for seven hours to do two surgeries. I believe in her courageous, but at that instant I hated everything and I was ready to lose my life just in order to see and hug her; to me it seemed to be seven years. Plus likewise, I remind the doughty friend Sara who has a daughter with Down's syndrome. She has changed a lot lately after she knew about her daughter's disease. Before she got married, she was a careless girl; in contrast, after she got married huge variables startled

her at the beginning of her new lifestyle. Surges of responsibilities faced her especially when she had known about her daughter's disease. Apparently, everyone from her family said, "that disease was encountered." At the first two days, she had traumatic and aggressive feeling; she just cried, couldn't believe, and asked "why me?" However, her resistance changed to be contentment. The adaptation of living with her husband in addition to her daughter was not a piece of cake. She strived and became discerning just from the problems. Which means problems seem to be the best induced to show our powers, intellects, and capabilities. Last time I have met her she said, "Once you have a forewarned disease you should exert yourself to see the positive side, and if you believe in yourself that means you are one of the strongest in the world because that will minimize your problems. Not only that but also your brain structures will send single to face it strongly." I agree with her, moreover, several researches have demonstrated that.

Optimistically, you have chances to shape and control your lifestyle, yet you perfectly can shape it depending in your successful experiences which could be also onerousness experiences. I realized that when I was reclining on a sofa and thinking to write about Ms. Jane because of her surgery. Fortunately, our world is hardy and capable to be packed of love from everyone; we don't have to strive in order to achieve that however; our positive feeling for others, which doesn't cost anything, can demonstrate that. There are not controlling ways for that; just show others really how important they are, and how much your heart could love.

King Fahad Al-Saud

Turky Asar
RW 43

Saudi Arabia is located in western Asia. The capital and largest city in Saudi Arabia is Riyadh. The area of Saudi is about 2,149,690 km². Saudi Arabia started in 1926 under the leadership of King Abdul Aziz Al-Saud. The kingdom has a stable political and economic situation, and its economy depends on oil. Saudi has the second largest reserves of oil in the world. The population is approximately 28,376,355 and 19,405,685 of them are citizens. The official language is Arabic and it has monarchy. The kingdom of Saudi Arabia is divided administratively into 13 regions and each one of them has a number of cities. Also, the legislation is based on the Quran and Sunnah. The leaders after the kingdom of Saudi Arabia's founder 'king Abdul Aziz' are his sons and they are King Saud, King Faisal, King Khalid, King Fahad and finally King Abdullah. King Fahad became King on June 13, 1982 and died in August 1, 2005. King Fahad has special character or personality and attitudes, and he did a lot of accomplishments.

King Fahad was characterized by a set of qualities that made him trustworthy of his father's and all the people. King Fahad was born in The Riyadh city in 1921. Since his childhood was calm and he had listened to all people well because these, King Fahad sit with his father, his old brothers and officials in the governing council. In addition, King Fahad had an early genius, so he

participated in political issues from an early age. For example, he was a member of the delegation who represented the kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the opening of the United Nations in 1945. Also, King Fahad was loved, tolerant and nice with others. On the other hand, he was firm with the issues of country.

King Fahad was not only a leader who manages a country, but also he was a man was characterized by a lot of humanitarian attitudes that show his humility and generosity. For example of these humanitarian attitudes are king Fahad after listening to the problem of an Arabic man who suffered a financial hardship in Britain, the king ordered to help him and gave the man sum of money and provided work to the man in Saudi Arabia. Another example, King Fahad was inspecting the conditions of people who live in desert. For example, when he was in the desert on a rainy and so cold day, he noted from a distance a small weak house, so he ordered some men to go to the house and explore who is inside it. After that, they found an elderly woman, her son's wife and three children. This family was afraid of a wind and heavy rains after father of this family left them to sell some sheep, and to bring some supplies for his family, so the King ordered to build new houses for them. Also, the King Fahad provided what they need of food, clothes and blankets. Furthermore, he ordered some soldier to stay next to the family until their father returns.

King Fahad had a set of achievements and business. One of them, issuing regulation in Saudi Arabia, the most important of them are the basic law, the system of new areas, the shura council and the council of Ministers, all of these for regulate the affairs of country, the expansion of infrastructure projects, and strengthen the international relations. Second, the Holy Mosques was expanded in the cities Mecca and Medina to accommodate the larger numbers of Muslims during prayers. For instance, the total area of the expansion of the Mosque in Mecca is 208,000 m² and for area around the Mosque is 40,000 m², whereas expansion for the Prophet's Mosque is 98,500 m² and for area around the Mosque is 235,000 m². Also, Saudi Arabia are controlling all phases of the oil industry starting from exploration to production stages to refining and manufacturing of petroleum derivative and the end distribution and marketing of products in global markets. In addition, the Kingdom has succeeded in discovering more oil and has emerged as a producer of petrochemicals and wheat. Also, Saudi has achieved self sufficiency of dairy products, and the kingdom ranked the first among the countries of the world in the production of dates, because output reached more than 500,000 tons per year.

King Fahad was the last King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before King Abdullah. Also, he had some qualities that made him a world leader. In addition, his achievements and attitudes helped to put Saudi Arabia in a prominent place and made Saudi Arabia has a strong economy and political position which led to increasing citizen's income and their welfare.

Who is Muhammad (pbuh)?

Asma Abdulrahman

Who is Muhammad, [May peace and blessings be upon him] ?

- * Which you do not know about Muhammad [peace be upon him]
- * The last prophet Muhammad [peace be upon him] .
- * He was born in Makkah on Monday 12th Rabi al Awwal .
- * He was born an orphan .
- * He was brought up by his grandfather.
- * His uncle Abu Talib took care of him .
- * He was an example of perfect character.
- * He lived a very simple life.
- * He was known as Al-Sadiq and Al-Amin which means he was honest and sincere.
- * He is the one who defended the rights of all humanity 1400 years ago.
- * He defended men, women, and children rights.
- * He commanded and fostered the love between relatives and neighbors.
- * He was fair in his dealings with all people whether they are friends or enemies.
- * He was injured by Quraish but he completed his duty.
- * He established a coexistence relationship between Muslims and Non-Muslims.
- * He organized the relationship between the members of the family putting duties on sons and daughters towards the parents.
- * He fought injustice called for justice, love, unity, and cooperation for the good.
- * He called for helping the needy, visiting the patients, love, and exchanging advises between people.
- * He prohibited (by orders from God) bad manners such as sifting, lying, torturing and murdering.
- * He is the one who changed our lives and manners to the best.
- * A Muslim does not steal.
- * A Muslim does not lie.
- * A Muslim does not drink alcohol.
- * A Muslim does not commit adultery.
- * A Muslim does not cheat.
- * A Muslim does not kill innocent people.
- * A Muslim does not harm his neighbors.
- * A Muslim obeys his parents and helps them.
- * A Muslim is kind to young and elderly people, to women and to weak people.
- * A Muslim doesn't torture humans or even animals, and does not harm trees.
- * A Muslim loves his wife and takes care of his children and show mercy towards them until the last day of his life.
- * A Muslim's relationship towards his children never stops even when they become adults.
- * He is * Muhammad* (PBUH)

Did you know why all Muslims love Muhammad (PBUH)?

So, all Muslims must follow him and other people at least should respect him.

After that, which you heard before was wrong.. This is the truth about Muhammad (PBUH).

Do you feel different?

That is why all Muslims feel him in their hearts!

Facts about The Prophet Mohammad

Mohammad Dahl

RW 50

Have you ever read about the Prophet Mohammad? George Bernard Shaw said in *The Genuine Islam*, "I believe that if a man like him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world he would succeed in solving its problems in a way that would bring it the much needed peace and happiness: I have prophesied about the faith of Muhammad that it would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today" (Zahoor and Haq, 1997). Prophet Mohammad was born in 570 A.D. in Macca, and lived 63 years. When he was 40 years old, he received his first revelation from God and became a prophet and messenger. This essay focuses on some of facts about the Prophet Mohammad, including: Mohammad as a prophet to believers of the prophets who came before him, Mohammad as a prophet to his followers, and to the whole world. If you know these facts, it is good for you to review the information below. On the other hand, if you have no idea about the Prophet Mohammad, you ought to read the following paragraphs.

First, the Prophet Mohammad was sent to the believers of the prophets who came before him, which are called in the Quran "People of the Scripture," and mostly refers to the Jews and the Christians. The Quran told Muslims that People of the Scripture informed about the Prophet Mohammad by their scriptures, and they ought to believe him, so they can get benefits of this believing. The following verses explain this fact. God said in the Quran, as translated from Arabic to English:

"O you who were given the Scripture, believe in what We have revealed, confirming that which is with you ... " Chapter 4, Verse 47.

"Those [People of the Scripture] who follow the Messenger [Mohammad], the unlettered prophet [who can neither read nor write], whom they find him written in what they have in the Torah and the Gospel, who [Mohammad] enjoins upon them what is right, and forbids them what is wrong, and makes lawful for them the good things, and prohibits for them the evil, and relieves them of their burden and the shackles which were upon them ... " Chapter 7, Verse 157.

In addition, the Quran describes the Prophet Mohammad and his relationship to his followers, otherwise known as Muslims. The Quran, in Chapter 9, Verse 128, addresses Prophet Mohammad's followers directly as follows:

"There has certainly come to you a Messenger from among yourselves [i.e. whom you know well]. Grievous to him is what you suffer; [he is] concerned over you, and to the believers is kind and merciful."

Furthermore, the Prophet Mohammad is considered the seal of the prophets and messengers. While Prophet Mohammad's predecessors were sent to their own nations and tribes, he was sent to all of humanity. Those who do not know the Prophet Mohammad may doubt this fact, but exploring his life reveals that

the sending of Prophet Mohammad is mercy to all. Chapter 21, Verse 107 of the Quran says:

"We sent you [O Mohammad] not but as a mercy for the mankind, jinn, and all that exists."

Finally, the most significant thing about the Prophet Mohammad is that he was sent as a mercy not only to his followers, but also to all. The great Indian leader, Mahatma Gandhi, imply that When he finished the second part of the Prophet Mohammad's biography, he felt he needed to know more about this great personality ... he wanted to know the best of the life of one who holds an undisputed sway over the hearts of millions of people. (Zahoor and Haq, 1997). Michael Hart, who wrote *The 100, A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons In History*, said, "My choice of Muhammad to lead the list of the world's most influential persons may surprise some readers and may be questioned by others, but he was the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the secular and religious level" (Zahoor and Haq, 1997). You ought to read the Quran and what the famous people said about the Prophet Mohammad to know the greatness of this man.

References

The Holy Quran. *Translation of the meanings of The Noble Quran in The English Language*. Available from: http://ar.islamway.net/SF/quran/data/The_Holy_Quran_English.pdf

Zahoor, A, and Haq, Z. (1997). *Quotations From Famous People*. Available from: <http://www.cyberistan.org/islamic/quote1.html#shaw>

Changes in the United States Because of the Immigrants

Geraldinne Silva
RW 43

The emigration from Mexico to the United States is a common issue these days. The immigrants are people from other country that come into another country, in this case from Mexico to the United States of America. Annually, about 390 thousand Mexicans emigrate to the U.S.A, some of them emigrate temporary and the others emigrate permanently to pursue "the American dream" that is find a better life that they had in Mexico. The Mexicans emigrate their country because the situation about security political and labor issue has been difficult in Mexico, but some of them came to the United States legally with visa, but the others are force to pursue that dream illegally crossing the border between Mexico and the U.S, and many of them do not reach this dream and die trying. Some states of the United States such as California, Texas, Florida, New York, Washington, and Nuevo Mexico are populated largely by Mexicans .The immigration from Mexico cause some effects in the social, educational, and economic areas in the United States.

The social area in the U.S.A is affected because the Mexicans bring with them costumes, language, food, and many more things. The Mexicans food is being introduced in the Americans culture because they are adopting the way that they eat and cook. For example, the Mexican food now is part of the Americans home. Some of that food is tortilla, beans, spicy sausages, and avocado. On the other hand, socially the United States is affected because of the hostility. The Mexicans that are immigrants in the united stated live in neighborhood around people who are from the same ethnic of them. For that reason, the hostility increase in some states that are populated by Mexicans .the crimes such as robberies and murders in the U.S now is more common and sometimes the guiltier are immigrants. Another aspect that affects the United States due to the immigrants is the cultural and ethnic diversity. Both Mexican and Americans are adopting new cultures and customs such a listening, dance Mexican music, and watch Mexican novel that recognized for the drama. Also, the Mexicans are taking costumes from Americans.

Moreover the educational area in the United States is significantly affected. These day Americans are taking classes to learn Spanish since they are in elementary school and vice versa. Many people are choosing Spanish as their second language and also as career. The universities in the U.S are implemented institutes to teach English to some temporary immigrants who only came to study and also to permanents immigrant who need English to survive and life their new lives. Some reasons because the Mexicans emigrate to the united states is because they want to study a career and be professionals in the U.S to find a better job that they had in Mexico, but some of them do not are affluent and the others are poor. The affluent people can transact the American visa and persist it many times if the visa is denied to them. In contrast the poor people do not have enough money to do the same thing and they have to cross the border between Mexico and United States illegally. Therefore, they sometimes don't have the opportunity to study, and they work in blue collar jobs such as factory jobs.

The most important issue that Mexicans immigrants affect is the economy. The poor Mexicans work in blue collar jobs where the income is very small and also they are illegals in the United States for that they can't work in better jobs. In contrast, the rich Mexicans immigrate to looking to expand or start businesses such as Mexican restaurants clubs and markets and others are famous singer, actors and artist not only from Mexico such as Celia Cruz, Julio Cesar Chavez, Bruce lee, and Jackie Chan that are very affluent, and they leave Mexico to improve their life and find better options to work. They are available to do that because they have the American visa and they life legally in the United States. The immigrants are helping a little bit the economic crises in the United States in the recent years. The affluent Mexican immigrants are also benefited because some of the reasons to emigrate are the insecurity and the economy in Mexico.

Leave a country it is not an easy decision, the people who leave their country have to think about it many times, many months and years ago, but there are some strong reasons to do it. After the decision is taken, they have to face several hardships

trying to come into the host country, try to survival there and accustom to a new live. Being an immigrant not only affects them, it also affects in good and sometimes bad way the host country. The immigration continues increasing and I think that in a few years' developing countries as united stated will have a large percentage of inhabitants from different ethnics and the diversity cultural will be bigger than now. As Franklin D. Roosevelt said "remember, remember always, that all us, and you and I specially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionist".

The American Wars

Ceren Yildirim
American Culture and History

Did you know that 663,283 Americans died in America's early wars? After people found the American continent, they started building their new lives in this "New World," but it would not be easy. They had to fight for their liberty, new lands, and to change the wrong things, slavery and equality for women etc, in this "New World". Three different wars, the Revolutionary War, the Mexican-American War, and the Civil War, were all fought to secure these issues.

One very important war was the Revolutionary War. In this war, Americans fought against the British. It was an important war because after this war ended, Americans had won their liberty. They were lucky because they had good leaders, such as George Washington and John Adams. In early times, some people, who were known as Patriots, wanted their freedom, but at the same time there were others, known as Loyalists, who wanted to live under the King. Loyalists thought the Americans could not win the war, and it was just a waste of time and money. One major cause of the war was that the British government wanted money from the colonists, so they created and imposed high taxes on the colonists. It was hard to pay these taxes, and even if the Americans colonists paid the taxes, they still had no representation in parliament. One pivotal event happened on March 5, 1770, when a small group of people were making fun of British soldiers in Boston. Accidentally, one of the British soldiers' gun fired, and five colonists died when all the smoke cleared. This event was called the Boston Massacre, and it became a symbol for Patriot movement for independence. Later, in 1775 the Revolutionary War began. Finally, in 1783, after more than 25,000 people died, the Treaty of Paris was signed in France, and Revolutionary War ended. The thirteen colonies became thirteen states, and Americans gained their freedom from England.

A second important war in early America was the Mexican-American War. There were two basic causes of this war. First, Americans wanted to expand their land from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Second, after Texas became a state, there was a conflict between the two countries. The U.S established a border, but Mexico established their own , different border. There was contested land between the two countries. Before the war, President Polk offered to purchase California for \$25 million. The

Mexican government refused it because they did not want to sell half of their country to their most dangerous neighbor. In 1846, the war began. The American army was more powerful than the Mexican army. On September 14, 1847 the American army entered Mexico City. After that, the Mexican government finally agreed to sell half of their territory. On February 2, 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, and the U.S paid \$15 million for the new lands. As a result, the U.S extended its territory to the Pacific Ocean. However, 13,283 people died because of the Americans' desire to expand their territory, and today many historians do not look at the war in a favorable manner.

A third major and important war was the American Civil War, the most deadly war in American history. It pitted the central North against the South; brother against brother. The cause of Civil War was cotton, which was known as white gold. In the South, there were a lot of cotton plantations. Cotton was an important mainstay in the South. Their economy depended on the cotton industry. However, these cotton plantations needed slaves. Black people were forced to work on cotton farms. At the same time, the North was becoming more and more industrialized, and slavery had been outlawed. Meanwhile, Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860. Southerners did not want Lincoln to be president because he was known as an abolitionist. After, Lincoln became president, the South declared their independence. Later, Lincoln decided to fight against the South because his first aim was to preserve the Union. In 1861, Civil War between the North and the South broke out. The civil war was the first war after the Industrial Revolution. A new type of bullet was produced, and new types of weapons were used. The new types of weapons were 8 times faster to reload than traditional weapons. The industrialized North had extensive railways, which was their biggest advantage because they could easily travel long distances in a short time. In addition, the North built a telegraph network, which was the country's first communication system. Lincoln often used this telegraph system to run the war. In 1864, from Atlanta to the coastal city of Savannah, everything was destroyed. Finally, in 1865, the South surrendered and rejoined the Union. Then the nation was one again, and has remained one country ever since. After the Civil War, 625,000 people were dead. Also, 4 million slaves gained their freedom, and the country began to heal its wounds and move forward.

In conclusion, building a new nation was bloody. Americans not only fought against their enemies, but they also fought against each other: in total, 663,283 Americans died in these wars. However, they gained their independence, expanded their country to the Pacific Ocean, and created an equal and free society. The journey to be a "more perfect Union" continues to this day.

The United States History in the 1800s

Ruqayyah Althubyani
US History and Culture

The United States of America has had such an honorable history that has become one of the most powerful nations in the world today. This great nation has passed through diverse historical phases that have contributed to its foundation. There were many distinguished figures who participated in creating such a great history. This essay will focus on three well-known stages of American history: the Louisiana Purchase, the Expedition of Lewis and Clark, and the growth of industrialization.

The Louisiana Purchase is a significant phase in American history. The Louisiana Purchase was one of the cheapest land deals in history, and it is considered one the greatest deals ever made. Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte of France schemed to get Louisiana from Spain to obstruct the growth of the United States. Napoleon's scheme came to nothing due to the fact the French troops failed to control the revolution of slaves and free blacks in the French colony of Saint-Dominque, which is known today as Haiti. Because France lost control of St. Dominque, Napoleon didn't need Louisiana anymore. The United States originally wanted to own New Orleans, and for two main reasons. The first reason was that that area was very important for their trade through the Mississippi River. The second reason was that many Americans already lived in that land. The United States found out that Louisiana had become a French Territory. In 1801, President Jefferson sent Robert Livingston to purchase New Orleans from the French. At the beginning, Napoleon refused to sell the territory to the Americans. Consequently, Jefferson sent James Monroe to negotiate a deal with the French. However, Napoleon agreed to sell not only New Orleans but also the Louisiana territory several days before Monroe's arrival to France. Eventually, the United States purchased the entire Louisiana Territory for \$15 million. Thus, the size of the United States almost doubled, which led to the Expedition of Lewis and Clark to explore and map the new US territory.

Because Thomas Jefferson was so curious to discover what life looked like in the new land that the US had just purchased from France, he decided to send his secretary, Meriwether Lewis, who was intelligent and educated, to explore it. Lewis requested to have William Clark join the expedition. Clark was known as a great draftsman. Lewis and Clerk traveled with a small group of people called the Corps of Discovery, and they started their journey into the unknown. It was believed that there was a river that connected the Missouri River and the Pacific Ocean. Their expedition started from St. Louis and headed west until they reached the Pacific Ocean. This hazardous journey lasted from May, 1804 to September, 1806. They came across many rivers and also they met many Indian tribes who gave them important information about the land in which they were traveling. They returned to St. Louis in September, 1806 with maps and abundant information about this huge territory. Hence, this expedition changed many aspects of life

in the United States, and people started to move to the West. During the time of the adventures of Lewis and Clark, many factories developed and the industrialization prospered in the Northwest.

In the early 1800s, most people in America worked on farms. They relied on handcrafts to make what they needed like clothes, shoes, and furniture. Although, manufacturing flourished in the 1700, it was still home-centered at that time. However, the need for more high- quality goods increased greatly. As a consequence, the owners of workshops hired people to help them do their work. In 1790, Sam Slater, who was an English mechanic, constructed a water-powered textile mill in Rhode Island. His machines produced immense amounts of high quality cloth. Not only did the demand for cloth skyrocket, but so did the need for the construction of new cloth textile mills in New England. Then, a factory town named Lowell was built in Massachusetts by a group of businessmen. The system that was used in this town helped to create capitalism. Women were responsible for operating many machines. When their wages were cut, these women led a strike for the mill workers. They didn't succeed in that strike, because the managers substituted these women with new immigrants from Europe who would accept any wage. After the strike, there was a rapid increase in the number of factories. As a result, farmers left their farms and moved to cities to work in factories to earn more money. The American economy grew rapidly and became prosperous, which led to the need for more workers. Thus, the American society started to turn from agricultural and home-centered to more industrialized, particularly in the Northeast.

In conclusion, the profits of the Louisiana Purchase, the benefits of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and the prosperity of factories during the turn of the century and beyond were three great stages in the history of the Unites States. These three stages contributed in making the United States one of the most developed countries in the world.

Do You Think Beheading is an Acceptable Method of Execution?

Huei-Fang Chin
RW 40

I don't think beheading is an acceptable method of execution because it's cruel. There are many methods to punish a person who has committed a crime. Some people think the criminal should be punished by death penalty. We still can choose a way that is not cruel instead of beheading; for example, we can choose gunshot or chemical injection instead of beheading. I think beheading is a punishment people used in the old period. In ancient China, they used beheading as a punishment. Now people in China don't accept beheading anymore since they started to think about whether these punishment methods are ethical or not. We considered beheading to be not only cruel for humans but also for animals. In labs, we need experimental animals like mice to do the research. We sacrificed mice by beheading in the past, but now we

started to use poison to sacrifice mice. If we sacrifice mice by an ethical method, why we don't punish people in an ethical way?

Beheading

Abulrahman
RW40

Beheading is one of the punishments that the government does for the criminals. In my opinion, some times beheading is acceptable and some times not. It's acceptable because people will be more respectable because they don't want to get that punishment, so the crimes will be less. It's not acceptable, I think, because no one wants to see some of his family having his head cut. Finally, am not agree with that punishment.

How to Burn a Music CD

Kezhou Wu
RW40

It's easy to make a music CD by yourself. It just needs a few steps. First of all, you must have a disc-carving machine or CD writer, an empty CD which can be burned, software such as Nero 10 and some songs which you want to burn. These are all the things you should have before you burn your CD. Next, put an empty CD into the machine and open the software in the computer. You can use Nero 9 or 10, it's easy to use and easy to find a free version on the website. Then you should follow the instruction of the software. It may tell you to choose the type of burning and you should choose "music CD". After you choose, it may let you to add the music. To click the start button, it begins to burn. The form of the music should be "mp3" or "wav". Then to wait for a few minutes, you will obtain a new CD make by yourself. It's not complex, isn't it?

How to Drive in Qatar

Khalaf Al-kaabi
RW40

Following the traffic rules in Qatar is harder for young people than old people. There are a few things that you have to know if you intend to avoid getting tickets. The first thing you have to know is the traffic law, so you have to read some of the traffic rules in the Ministry of Interior website. Do not worry about driving in Qatar because it is similar to the U.S.A. After that, when you are driving around the country, pay attention and keep you eyes on the road and the traffic signs and the traffic lights. Next, you have to pay attention to the traffic light and try not to cross the walking line if it is red because if you do that you will have to pay \$1,600 for your ticket. Third, you have to keep your eyes on the traffic signs and try not to drive more than the speed limit because in my country there are a lot of radar cameras everywhere. Finally, if you

like speed and you want to break the rules you have to keep the radar location in your mind so you can drive fast until you arrive at the radar point and then slow down you car. That's everything you have to know about driving in Qatar.

How to Germinate a Plant

Rosa Andrea Ponce de Leon
RW 40

To germinate a plant is very easy and enjoyable. You only have to follow these shorts steps. First, you have to choose a seed; it can be an orange, tomato or whatever you want. Then, you need a pot, fertilizer, some water and some soil. After that, put the soil in the pot and add some water, but not too much! Next, put the seed in the soil and cover it with some soil. Then irrigate some water with fertilizer and put the pot outside where the sun could reach it. At this point, you have to wait for a few days. Finally, you will see your little plant alive.

Facts How to make an Arepa

Gabriela Angulo
RW40

First of all, the arepa is one of the most popular dishes in Venezuela, and it's so easy to prepare. There are a few steps that you can follow. First, you need to make the dough (mixture) and for that you have to add a little bit of sugar, salt, water, and the flour of the dough in a bowl. Then, you have to mix them for 5 or 10 minutes (until you feel that the dough absorbs the water). The second step is to give the form of the dough with your hand and put it in a pot for 10 or 15 minutes. And the third and last step is to add anything you want inside your arepa, like jam, cheese, butter, meat, tuna and so on. That's how you can make a delicious arepa.

Facts They Live Under the Same Sky

Saerdan Huojiahemaiti
RW 40

Americans are far away from those Turkic nations, but dramatically and surprisingly they're similar somehow.

American and Turkic people don't smoke a lot because they care about their health so much. Both of them are good-looking, which is because they are mixed. They have their own favorite sports; Americans like American football and Turkic people are crazy about soccer. In daily life they both like to talk about political things and give their own opinions, acting like they themselves are the president.

Anyway, there is the biggest ocean between them; there must be some differences. In daily life, Americans prefer sweet food

while Turkic people love spicy. Turkic people always behave like they are rude and uneducated but on the contrary they are kind, friendly and polite. But Americans do much better on this, they always say words like “excuse me”, “please”, “thank you”, and “have a good day/night”.

Soccer in Saudi Arabia

Salman al-kahtani
RW40

I know the prejudice is just a part of being human. It starts from the family and ends as a general idea in the society. However, in my country we have prejudice about football (soccer) about only two teams. The first team is called AL-NASSER, which means “victory.” The second team is called AL-HELAL, which means “crescent.” When the match draws closer fans of both teams start a strong debate about who will be the winner. However, all this prejudice ends very fast after the game finishes.

Women in Taiwan

Huei-Fang Chin
RW40

Many people in the world have prejudices against women. In Taiwan, some people, especially old people, think women have to stay at home and do housework after they get married. The reason is women in the past were responsible for taking care of children and men in the past were responsible for making money and supporting their family. Now, both men and women have the same opportunity to have an education, so many women have their own careers and they have the ability to make money. After they get married, some of them still want to have their own job. Sadly, they have to do housework by themselves after work since their husband or their parents-in-law have prejudice against them. Some parents also determine if you are qualified to marry their son or not according to your cooking ability. The prejudice also cause women can't get fair treatment on their career. They might be forced to give up their jobs or positions after they get married or have kids. In addition, married women hardly find a job or hardly get promotion. The prejudice is not fair to women and brings a lot of pressure to women. Now, people with the prejudice are fewer than in the past. Hopefully, the prejudice won't exist in the future.

Alberto Fujimori

Rosa Andrea Ponce de Leon
RW40

In Peru there was a president named Alberto Fujimori, who killed many terrorists and is in jail now. There are some people who still love him and they are called “fujimoristas”. Some people say than the fujimoristas are killers. But I think that the terrorists are the real killers and Fujimori finished the terror in Peru; it was a bad way to do so, but maybe it was the only way. I hope he will be out the jail soon; he is really old and sick. To the current president, Ollanta Humala, Fujimori is a killer, so nobody knows what will happen with Fujimori. Meanwhile, the terrorism again begins to emerge in Peru.

The Cause of Korean Division and Korean Unification

Nayong Baek
RW42

Do you know how many countries are divided at this time? After Germany was reunified in 1990, Korea is the only country that was divided in the world. After I came to the U.S., many friends who are from other countries asked me many times about the cause of the division of Korea. On all such occasions, I didn't give them any answer well because even I don't know this topic well. I also wondered why Korea was divided? Is it possible to unify South and North Korea? The division of Korea into South and North was caused by one main factor which led to two opposing opinions about unification of South and North Korea.

After the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on the Japan, Japan surrendered, unconditionally, and World War II ended. At that time, Korea was Japan's colony. After World War II ended, Korea gained independence from Japanese imperialism automatically. Also, at that time the Cold War ensued. The Soviet Union wanted to spread communism to Korea, but the U.S. wanted to block it. Eventually, the U.S. occupied Korea south of the 38th parallel, and the Soviet Union occupied Korea north of the 38th parallel. Then the Soviet Union and the U.S. insisted that Korea needed trusteeship because they thought Koreans couldn't rule their country by themselves, but Korea opposed it. Many Koreans thought it is the same as being colonized. Finally, trusteeship wasn't realized because the Soviet Union and the U.S. wanted to rule Korea base on their own ideology. Neither changed their own opinion to the last. The U.S. thought this situation wasn't solved through negotiations with the Soviet Union, so they informed the UN of this situation. The UN held a general assembly, and then they passed a resolution about the US occupied Korea's and the Soviet Union occupied Korea's general elections to establish two independent governments in Korea. However, the Soviet Union opposed this resolution by insisting that the population of North Korea is less than South Korea's. Each Korea's politicians tried to figure out this problem, but they couldn't. Finally, only South Korea held elections on May 10th, 1948. Then, on August 15th, 1948, only South Korea established a government. After South Korea set a government, North Korea established their government on September 9th, 1948. Finally, Korea was divided.

There are two opposing opinions about the unification of South Korea and North Korea. People who agree with reunification insist on these things. First, reunification will bring about economic benefit. Now Korea spends a lot on national defense because the Korean War hasn't ended, but is in abeyance. If Korea is reunified, Korea can spend a lot of money for economic development instead of national defense. Also, if South Korea's developed skill and capital join with North Korea's underground resources, Korea's economy will be stronger than now. Second, many Korean families were separated from each other against their will. According to integrated information system for separated families which is run by the Korean Unification Ministry, about 128,000 people have applied for the reunion of their separated families, but 42.5% of those people died. Korea should unify as soon as possible for them. Last and the important reason is South Korea and North Korea have the same ethnicity. Even if Korea has been divided for 64 years, we are the Korean people. It is essential that one ethnic group has one country.

People who against reunification insist on these things. First, South Korean's tax burden will increased. If Korea is reunified, South Koreans will have to support over 20 million North Koreans. South Korean will spend an astronomical amount. According to research outsourced by the Korean Unification Ministry in 2011, it would cost South Korea an estimated total of 371.5 trillion won to 1,253.5 trillion won if unification occurred by 2020. Second, it is possible that problems getting a job will appear. If Korea is reunified, many North Koreans will move to South Korea because South Korea is already urbanized, so South Korea has more jobs than North Korea. The problem is that maybe North Koreans are cheaper to hire, so many employers will hire more North Koreans than South Koreans. This means South Koreans might lose their job after reunification. The most difficult problem is political problem. South Koreans want politicians who from South Korea. Also, North Koreans want politicians who from North Korea. This situation will make a new regionalism, and even internal division.

In my opinion about unification, although unification has a lot of benefits, we need more time to prepare to unify. Unification makes Korea's economic better than now. However, nobody feels sure about it. Also, if we spend an astronomical amount to unify, it will be hard to recover economically. For example, after Germany was reunified, they have suffered economically for 20 years even though at that time West Germany was the world's second largest economy. Also, even if South Korea and North Korea have same ethnicity, there are big differences between South and North Korea such as ideology, politics, and an economic standard. Unification is like an assignment that Korea has to figure out one day. However, if Korea doesn't prepare enough before unification, unification will make matters worse.

In conclusion, unification is not easy. People who agree with reunification and people who are against reunification try to narrow their differences. Also, if Korea wants benefits after unification, Korea has to prevent negative effects before unification. Therefore, South and North Korea should open their minds and they try to trust each other.

Regional President of the Regional Government of Madre de Dios - Peru

Ronald Mendoza
RW 40

Before the Regional President took power, he was a fake journalist and he never studied. He lied to many people, saying that Madre de Dios will have more work and opportunity for everybody. He promised that his government would delete corruption but when he arrived to the government, he forgot all his promises. He began to bring his family to the government (even though this is prohibited), he used the money of the government to travel, and to build his huge house. There were protests about miners, farmers, etc. The Education Minister didn't work for almost two months because the teachers didn't have a salary. In the first year, he built only one block of road.

Life is a Gift

Amal Abdulrahman
RW 50

"Giving gift as that will lead to increase your love for one another"
Prophet Mohammed (pbuh)

One of my favorite hobbies is giving gifts. Giving a gift is a good manner in Islamic culture as well as many cultures, and it is mentioned in Quran and Hadith (sayings of Prophet Mohammed). A gift is a simple way which leads to increase love, show cordiality, and decline hate and aversion between people. Not only that but also it seems to be the honest way which could express different emotions like: loving, appreciating, and thanking.

A gift has strong effects anytime and anywhere on people in general, either on men or women. Moreover, it leaves a beautiful reminder even with people whom disagree with. It is more effective when it is unexpected. For this reason, a gift shouldn't be given just in a particular occasion or for specific people. Furthermore, it shouldn't be evaluated by its price; however, it should be evaluated by its purport. I have realized gifts effective several times. One of them, when I earned the first place in the high school because of my parents' gift which were their special prayers for me. The most amazing result about gifts is when a moment of unruly anger modifies in a few seconds to gleesome, contentment, and hugging.

Many aspects should be considered to choose the best gift. Obviously, a gift which is chosen for whomever receives it is different depending on relationships and occasions. Due to that women's gifts are different than men's gifts, elderly people's gifts are different than children's gifts, and teachers' gifts are different than unlettered people's gifts. On the other hand, gifts seem to be similar for almost all people in specific occasions, like: getting well, birthday, and commencement. In addition, many countries' gifts

are exchanged in different opportunities, such as: Eid al Fitr (which is after the fast month), wedding, residence. For example, when a family resides in a new house, people visit and some of them bring furniture like a painting or wall clock.

A gift is prohibited in Islamic religion if it is given because of benefits not because of honest emotions. In this situation, the gift is considered a bribe and it must be refused. For example, if a student gave his teacher a gift to improve his score, it is prohibited because other students will be oppressed.

Fortunately, a gift doesn't have to be expensive because it often expresses good emotions; even if it is either cheap or just words, it still demonstrates affections. For instance, I still have the card that I was given by my closest friend when I met her at the first semester of my job as a teacher assistant. The card for me is the best gift that I could have been given to decline my anger at that moment. In addition, smiling is considered the easiest gift which doesn't cost money. Moreover, smiling has positive effects on both who sends and receives this type of gifts.

Apparently, a gift is an amazing expression of love, loyalty, and serenity. Not only that but also it is a key to start new relationships and strong friendships. Over and above, it is the secret which can

solve hatred and rancor. Sometimes in a quiet moment, people may think about how life is going too fast. Wherefore, we don't have enough time for violence or hate. Collectively, we are like passengers in this life, we were born and we will die. That should increase our love for others as much as we. Hence, we should always follow our positive feelings and show others our feelings for them even if we sometimes feel that we are strange because of my favorite hobbies.

Thanks from the Editor

Thank you for sharing your writing with everyone. I hope you enjoy reading your fellow students' writing. Also thanks to Megan Forbes and the University of Florida Bookstore for arranging the gift certificates, to the Reading/Writing, Advanced Informal English, US Culture and History, and Grammar for Writing instructors for supporting their students in their writing, and to Matt Goode, Debbie Kellermann, Emily Kirby, Valentina Komaniecka, Tom Ratican, and Maya Shastri for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone!

Melina Jimenez



English Language Institute
PO Box 117051
315 Norman Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611-7051, USA
Phone: (352) 392-2070
Fax: (352) 392-3744
StudyEnglish@eli.ufl.edu
www.eli.ufl.edu
www.facebook.com/UFLELI