
ELI STUDENT VOICES

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Defending the Chaco

1st Place

Cesar Peña
R/W 60

In 1992, a couple of months before dying at the age of 77, proud of his happy and prosperous life, my grandfather called me to his house to tell me a story about the “Chaco War” between Paraguay and Bolivia. The war between these two Latin-American countries started in 1932, after warlike incidents at the border, supported, one more time by foreign interests of an empire, the British Empire. The British Empire was interested in the oil of the Chaco region and was invested in Bolivia. The government of Bolivia, encouraged by the British, claimed the Chaco region as part of Bolivian territory.

My grandfather told me that in 1932 he was seventeen years old. He had just finished high school weeks before when he was walking in the streets with his older brothers. His older brothers were going to the central plaza of Asuncion, the capital city of Paraguay, to claim to the government a strong answer to the military incidents at the border. Thousands of young people were meeting in this place when, after some hours of deliberation, the congress decided to declare the war against Bolivia. The people in the street celebrated this fact, but mothers started to cry immediately because they knew what the cost of patriotism is.

“I, as the other brave and young men of my generation, was excited about the adventure of war. All my friends and brothers were happy and ready to fight against the enemy to defend the national territory”, said my grandfather.

Running like a horse, my grandfather and his brothers went directly to the military quarter to sign and prepare to the next trip to the front line. They put their names on a piece of paper, and took a rifle, food, boots and a backpack, but they didn’t know in this moment that they were putting their names in history too. This generation understood what is honor about, and what the duty was.

“Are you afraid of going to the war?” I said.

“Never!” said my grandfather, “I only felt an incredible feeling of love for my country, my family, my culture, and I only wanted to go in that moment”.

After receiving his stuff to go to the front line without any military training, my grandfather went to his house to announce the news to his parents.

“A cool air spread all over my house that day; my older brothers and me signed the paper to go to the war. My other brothers were in medical school, and I was a seventeen-year old boy”, said my grandfather. “My mother changed her face, maybe forever, and my father, resisting his tears said that he was very proud of his sons”.

The Chaco region is a very wild region of Paraguay. It is a semiarid territory full of snakes, lizards and dangerous insects. Almost a hundred years ago it was an inhospitable area without towns, roads, and the most important thing, without water. Being amateur troops with basic or no military training, soldiers made many mistakes at the front line. They died because the lack of orientation, knowledge about medicines and cure for deceases, and they died because they committed strategic mistakes that showed their position to the enemy.

My grandfather fights during the first two years of the conflict at the front line. “Every night during war, your thoughts travel in your mind, thinking about the end of the war, the victory of the troops, and the reunion with your family after war. War is a paradox, you are fighting and many people died, but you are thinking all the time in the love of your people, death and love, it is big contradiction” said my grandfather.

“How do you survive?” I said.

“I survive because other people died. Everybody defends a position and their platoon, and many soldiers died in front of me or because they sacrifice themselves to obtain a victory. I have marks of the war in my skin, but I have the face of every friend who died in the war in my mind, and they have all my respect forever, for their sacrifice” said my grandfather.

“Young people don’t understand these things”, I said.

“I know, but today, you and I, and many generations have to pay tribute to these brave men. Without their courage, the history would have been written in a very different way”, exclaimed with a voice full of emotion.

“It is absolutely true grandpa...”, I said in a timid and embarrassed voice.

My grandfather survived the war because, as he said, others died, but also because he knew a lot of medical solutions and medicine. With the other brothers studying to be doctors he understood how to help people who are dying, how to stop people bleeding, how to relieve the suffering, and also how to cut arms or legs when a recovery is impossible. He learned all these things in his house, but he put them in practice in the worst scenario, the war.

“That is the reason I called you, to show you what the legacy of my generation was, why I love my life, my family, and my friends, why I love my country and the people of this country, because I offer my life for that I believe, and I believe in Paraguay”, he said.

“You and your generation have the duty to fight for the future of this country. This is the mission of young people know. Make me proud, make your family proud, and put your name in the history too”, he said.

“I promise you”, I said, and the conversation ended with a strong handshake.

After three years of war, with the Bolivian army weak and back to the original border, the peace treaty was signed. The price of this conflict was paid with life and suffering. More than seventy thousand Bolivians and thirty thousand Paraguayan were dead. The countries were marked with fire forever and their brave generations too. Paraguay won in the paper but finally ceded part of the territory to Bolivia. The British Empire found oil and gas in this area, and their banks charged interest for the loans. As always, some rich people got more money, and a lot of innocent people lost everything. This is the result of the war.

My grandfather died this year, with all the family close to his bed. I prefer to remember my grandfather as he was, a strong man, proud, patriotic, happy, making jokes all the time, enjoying his life and every minute that he spent with his family because every minute counted and I always remember him.

Obstructions in the Reunification of the Two Koreas

2nd Place

Sanghoon Lee

R/W 60

Abstract

In this paper, I try to identify and explain how certain factors are obstructing the reunification of North and South Korea. This paper refers to eight published articles that touch on diverse negative factors which affect the Korean reunification. There are many factors to consider, such as political interests, conflicting views of the North and the South toward the reunification, and the long-term seizure of power of the Kim family. Since both nations have such different views toward reunification, practical progress has not been made, even though there have been many reunification meetings.

Additionally, various interests of both nation's greatest leaders are involved in the reunification. These leaders all have different views about what the terms of the Korean reunification should be, yet they all agree on and hope for a reunification that will be both peaceful and gradual. Both nation's rulers and top politicians cannot help but to think how the reunification would influence their own country. Furthermore, considering the hostile nature of the Kim regime in regards to South Korea, freedom of North Koreans or any change in the North Korean system cannot be expected. The points that I mention above are the main factors that exist as obstructions in the reunification of North and South Korea, and I focus on those obstructions in this paper.

Introduction

Korea is the only divided country in the world. This nation has been divided for 60 years since they made negotiations to ceasefire in 1950. Due to the fact that both Korean nations have different ideologies, North Korea has had many problems. For example, the North has had a continuous shortage of food and many financial problems under the rule of Kim's family, the leaders of the North Korean regime. On the other hand, South Korea has been achieving a rapid economic development under its democratic principles. These economical

and social differences make it more difficult for the Korean nations to reach an agreement for the reunification because, in many ways, huge gaps have been created in language, culture, and so on. Also, the Kim's family regime has held on to their power over North Korea by increasing the size of its military and by making nuclear weapons. In addition, North Korea also provoked South Korea several times, which made the tension between the two Koreas even worse. These days, since the sinking of Cheon-an, a South Korean naval ship that is suspected to be hit by a North Korean torpedo, the relationship between the two Koreas has been more frozen than before.

Thus, it is very hard for the two Koreas to commit to, or even make a practical agreement, for the reunification since there are many obstructions that the two Koreas are facing and have to solve.

One of the obstructions is that various national and political interests are entangled in the reunification of the two Koreas. Dr. Youngho Kim (2003) shows that some great nations, such as the US, China, Russia, and Japan, play important roles in the relationship between the two Koreas. Interests of powerful rulers, national interests, and political agendas slow down the reunification of the two Koreas. Kim (2003) found that both the nation's most influential leaders want the North and the South to reunify gradually by peaceful and democratic ways. They do not want a scenario where North Korea unexpectedly collapses and they do not want the two Koreas to rapidly reunify. This finding shows that the various interests of these great leaders lean toward the reunification of the two Koreas. The U.S. is supporting a gradual reunification of the two Koreas, especially because of economic reasons. A rapid reunification or unexpected collapse of North Korea will have an influence on many economical achievements that South Korea and the US have made in the both countries. The case of Korea cannot be applied to the German unification since South Korea's economical situation is not as strong as that of West Germany, which is corroborated by the IMF financial crisis at 1997 in South Korea (Kim 2003). Besides, historically, the US and South Korea are close allies and they cooperate with each other for economical benefits. Due to those reasons, the US will provide financial assistance for the reunified Korea. The US is well conscious of their financial role in the reconstruction process of a reunified Korea and, if this process is not gradual, the US expects that their financial burden will be more costly. The US does not want to take a huge financial burden caused by a rapid reunification or unexpected collapse of North Korea. Also the US does not want the balance of power in East Asia to be disrupted. If the balance of power in East Asia is lost, one the more powerful nations in this region would gain even more power. This would threaten the position of the US as the most powerful nation and checks the power of the US in the international community. For those reasons, the US promotes a gradual reunification of the two Koreas by a peaceful way.

China has significant roles to play in the process of reunification. Nowadays, China government does not want to create tension in the international environment since China is striving for economic development. China is North Korea's closest ally, and North Korea heavily relies on China in terms of food and oil now. A rapid reunification or unexpected collapse

of North Korea will disrupt economic development of China and will be more of a burden to China since China would assist by giving huge financial aid to the reunified Korea. It would obstruct and slow down the economic development of China. In addition, there would be enormous flow into China of political refugees who do not want to live in the reunified Korea, which will cause financial problems for China since China would have to feed them. Due to those reasons, China would also want a gradual reunification of the two Koreas.

Similarly, Japan government wants a scenario of a gradual reunification even though they are reactive and careful about the reunification of Korea. Japan government does not want to take many refugees who oppose to the reunification from North Korea into Japan caused by an unexpected collapse of North Korea. Also, Japan government is supporting a gradual reunification of Korea because of the fact that Japan does not want to take the financial burden to assist the reunified Korea. Japan government would be very adaptive toward the reunification of Korea by observing the interests of the other great powers.

Finally, Russia's influence on North Korea has decreased since the Soviet Union had diplomatic relations with South Korea. Nowadays, even though Russia tries to regain its influence on North Korea by re-establishing relations with North Korea, Russia could not afford to deal with the problems of the surrounding nations because of its own economic problems. Russia wants security and peace of the two Koreas. According to the interests of the great powers, the four great powers all prefer a gradual reunification by peaceful means and democratic ways. They do not want to shift the balance of power in East Asia. Therefore, the interests of the four great powers slow down the reunification of Korea and make it more complicated.

One of the obstructive factors in the reunification of Korea is that communism of North Korea has made the peaceful reunification more difficult under the rule of the Kim regime. Byman and Lind (2010) found that the Kim regime has relied on three major tools to hold onto their power over North Korea.

First of all, the dictatorial regime of Kim's family blocks the formation or development of a challenging group. All government organizations are formed by government policies in North Korea. Besides, they prohibit people from building any independent organizations that might revolt against Kim's family. The ultimate goal of this policy is so that Kim's family can maintain power over North Korea.

Second, any ideas and all information is controlled by the Kim regime in North Korea. According to the Byman and Lind (2010), the Kim regime brainwashes all North Koreans to make them blindly follow Kim's family and the Kim regime. North Korean schools teach the people about how to worship Kim. All North Koreans should memorize significant speeches of Kim Il-Sung who was the founder and the first president of North Korea. Additionally, almost North Koreans cannot get access to foreign culture, media, internet and so on. They are not allowed to go abroad and interact with foreigners. In this environment, it is almost impossible for North Koreans to even

think of a revolution. They have no choice but to follow Kim's family.

Furthermore, it was found that the Kim regime uses force to detect anyone who is against Kim's regime (Byman and Lind 2010). Kim's family is observing North Koreans under constant military surveillance. Due to the fact that punishment is cruel for anyone who is anti-Kim's regime, most North Koreans are very cautious and modest in their speeches. Many resistance groups have been sent to political prison camps where conditions are really abysmal. Political prisoners are suffering from starvation and extreme work. In addition, the family members of resistance groups are also punished. By the three main policies that I mentioned above, the Kim regime has been maintained for about 60 years. Under the rule of the authoritarian regime, there is no doubt that it is extremely hard to make an anti-regime group or an organization for a revolution. As long as the long-term seizure of power of Kim's family continues, the reunification of Korea would not be easy.

Due to the fact that the two Koreas have contradicting views towards the reunification, practical and significant progress has not been made. In spite of the South Korea's Sunshine Policy, which would help reduce tension between the two Koreas, North Korea has made unreasonable demands on South Korea that had nothing to do with the reunification, such as demanding 500,000 kilowatts of power for North Korea. Meanwhile, South Korea was focusing on making a practical agreement for the reunification at several ministerial-level talks (Gillian Goh, 2004). North Korea has not seemed to cooperate with South Korea except for the time when there were shortages of food and financial problems. Situations where North Korea makes unreasonable demands such as the one mentioned above are a much more frequent occurrence in the relationship between the two Koreas. Basically, these different views of the two Koreas towards the reunification have made it difficult to find a middle ground. The main conflicting views of the two Koreas towards the reunification are as follows:

What form a reunified Korea should take

The reunification policy that South Korea has held is to aim for a unitary state with one central government. On the other hand, North Korea aims for a federation of nations which has two different ideologies and governments. North Korea's plan for a federation would be a reunification in name only because it would not change the way each of the nations is governed. A federation which keeps both conflicting ideologies in place would hinder the assimilation process between citizens of South and North Korea by keeping them divided (Soohyun Choi, 2009).

Difference of preconditions

South Korea has no precondition in the process of the reunification. On the other hand, North Korea has been demanding several preconditions, which mainly focus on denying South Korea's system, such as the demand for the abolition of the National Security Law which aims for security of the nation and freedom, survival of the citizens by regulating anti-state activities and the demand that South Korea not allow outside states like the USA to participate in the reunification

process. The major reason why North Korea denies South Korea's system such as the National Security Law is to make it easier to instigate South Koreans for organizing anti-state groups (Choi, 2009).

Difference of political philosophy and institutional structures

South Korea would like the reunified Korea to be a democracy that focuses on individual rights. On the other hand, North Korea would like to extend its communist system into South Korea. One example of a major disagreement over institutional structures is how government officials will be put into office. South Korea has been insisting on democratic elections that are mandated by a new constitution. In contrast, North Korea does not want to hold elections. Instead, they would prefer to have a joint meeting between leaders of the two Koreas to determine who will hold which positions in the reunified government (Choi, 2009).

☐ Differences between South and North Korean citizen participation in the reunification process and the vision for the future of Korea

South Korea would like to let all citizens from both nations have full involvement in the decisions being made as reunification progresses. However, North Korea would prefer to exclude all citizens in favor of government officials having full decisive power. South Korea has a vision of a reunified Korea that is an advanced democratic nation that guarantees freedom, welfare, and human dignity. However, North Korea does not have any long-term vision for the future of the reunified Korea (Choi, 2009).

North Korea demands South Korea to give them food and money because they are having many troubles economically and food-wise. In contrast, North Korea shows a very passive attitude about holding a joint meeting for the reunification. It would be hard to make practical progress unless the two Koreas start to see things in the same way and North Korea becomes more active towards the reunification.

Conclusion

The reunification is not only the problem of the Two Koreas. Many interests of great powers are entangled in the reunification process. Great powers are observing what is happening on the Korean Peninsula because they know that the reunification of Korea will affect their economic situations and an international environment. Additionally, the communist system of North Korea makes the reunification more difficult. Kim regime is still hostile to South Korea and does not seem to be active over the reunification. Further, it is extremely hard to expect Kim regime to be collapsed by anti-Kim regime since all citizens of North Korea are thoroughly monitored by militaries and are brainwashed to follow Kim regime. Also different reunification policies of the Two Koreas make them hard to find a middle ground. Due to the fact that the Two Koreas have totally conflicting views towards the reunification, it would take long time to narrow their difference. There are several obstructions like those mentioned above between the Two Koreas for the reunification. To be the reunified Korea, the Two Koreas both need to put a lot of effort and take one step back. If they agree to differ and try to narrow it, the Two Koreas would accomplish the peaceful reunification.

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How Do Biology and Culture Influence Gender Roles?

Lara Sanz Sanz

R/W 60

During the history, men and women have had clear and differentiate roles in the society. We don't have homogeneous skills to make the same things. This reality is due to two important items: biological and cultural influences. All began with biological facts, because in general men are stronger than women, and for this reason men had to hunt because this activity required more strength, and then this turn into a habit or custom, therefore gender roles have been influenced by biologic and cultural aspects. The point to discuss here is how these biological and cultural influences affect the roles between men and women. The restriction of biology and culture influence of the gender roles has two negative effects: the restriction to find a job, and the obligations at home. This is because that influence creates disadvantages for one or another gender.

Firstly, one of the effects of biology and culture influence in gender roles is the restrictions that both genders have when they try to find a job, in most of the cases here the restrictions are for biology aspects, and this is because some jobs require that the employees have enough strength to do it like in jobs in relation with the construction. But women are in a bigger disadvantage because they are limited by biological facts, and they cannot do anything to solve it. But it is also true that men are more affected for cultural or social restrictions. Many people believe that in others cases, the difficulty is for cultural roles. For example, there are some jobs during the

history that the women have done, such as working as secretaries or nurses, and when man tries to work in those kinds of jobs, the society thinks that this man is 'weird'. For all these reasons, the worst affected are the women, because in the case of the men, they can work in all kinds of jobs although the people think that they are weird, but in the case of the women, they don't have options, simply they cannot work in whatever they want.

On the other hand, there are obligations that men and women have at home. This is clearly a cultural topic, because the tasks at home don't require an extreme strength. But during the history the women have had to do all the housework that a house require like cleaning, washing, doing the laundry, cooking, or ironing, and the men had to do more the physical jobs. It is common to think that women have to do all these tasks because this has been the custom during long time. Another obligation that women have had, it is that women had to take care the children because 'women are more qualify to do it'; this is another aspect in which women have been more damaged. But isn't it true that men are in the same way parents that women? Men have the same responsibility with their children that the women. Both are in the same way parents, and the men are qualified too, but for them it is easier to say that women have special skills to take care them, are more sensible, etc., but the reason it is that is easier to sit down in front of the television or do others things, because kids are a huge responsibility and require to spend time with them, sometimes they are more apathy with this issue. All these cares also can be done by men and they should do it, and more in these days, which both genders have jobs out. It is true that nowadays more and more men are beginning to collaborate at home but this have to continue changing. Although sometimes, in this topic men have less opportunities than women, for example, when a couple broke their marriage, normally the custody of the kids is for the women, and in this case both are parents in the same way, why don't fathers have the same rights in this case? We can see with this example that men have disadvantage too in the home obligations.

For me, it is normal that in some aspects men and women have different roles, because we are different people, with different abilities, and qualities. But in the topics that both genders are the same and both can do it, the situation should be change because it is too unfair for the other gender, and both should have the same rights and obligations, like for example in the roles that both genders have at home.

The Wine of Valdepeñas

Natalia Fuentes Gomez

GM 32

I was born in a little town in Spain. Most of people in Spain know where my town is because it is very famous for wine. Valdepeñas is in the province of Ciudad Real, Castilla-La Mancha. Castilla-La Mancha is between the Community of Madrid and Andalucía, two hundreds kilometers from Madrid, the capital of Spain. Valdepeñas is devoted primarily to wine production.

In Valdepeñas, there are many wineries where the wine is made. First, the owners of the vineyards, where the grapes are grown, hire people to pick the grapes. After harvesting, the grapes are taken to the wineries. There, the owner of the winery pays sum of money for each kilogram of grapes. Then, the grapes are crushed and peeled to make juice. When the juice is made, it is necessary to let it stand to form the alcohol. Depends on the flavor that you want, you have to mix different kinds of grapes and add certain ingredients, such as tannins, minerals, and sugar. An important thing that makes a wine good is the place where the juice of grapes is kept and the concentration of the juice. The number of years that the wine is in the barrel designates the level of the wine such as "youth" or "reserved".

Wine making is a difficult job and takes a long time to make it. Moreover, not all places are appropriate for planting grapes because it requires a particular soil and a specific climate. I advise you to visit my town and try their delicious wines.

Alcoholism

Salman Altamimi

R/W 5

Alcoholism is a very serious problem that faces the society and it can lead to a lot of problems. A lot of alcoholics face a difficult time in their lives and families. We can get rid of this problem by following some steps.

Alcoholism can get people in a lot of problems. People can get fired because of being alcoholic. Being alcoholic can lead to a divorce or a fight in the family. It also can lead the children to drink because they learn from their parents'. Alcoholism can lead people to get violent in the street, work and home. People can cause a lot of accidents because people will be driving while they are drunk or thinking of drinking. Alcoholics are facing a lot of problems with their money because they are spending too much money on alcohol which is expensive.

To solve this problem and get rid of it, we have to follow some steps. The government should reduce or ban alcohol from the country. The bartender has a responsibility to report someone if he suspect someone is alcoholic. The ideal way to solve this problem is to educate all people about the consequences of alcoholism. People should take drug and alcoholic test before taking drivers license.

In conclusion, it's possible to solve the crisis of alcoholism. To solve this problem the government and the people should work together to end this crisis. If we neglect this serious problem we are going to face a lot of problems that we didn't even think about.

Beyond English at the ELI

Hye-Lin Lee

R/W 60

British Council said "Better English more opportunities." I agree with this quote because English can

extend my ability in many ways such as getting information in English. Not only speaking English but also speaking any other languages except their first language can give us benefits. However, English became a worldwide language nowadays; that is the reason why a lot of foreigners want and try to learn English. In addition, a lot of foreigners are heading to Australia, Canada, the UK, the US or the other countries which use English even though they need to give up something in their own countries. I came to the US because of the same reason; also, I had given up my graduation for learning English.

Before I decided to come here for over one year, I had been really anxious for almost one year because I had to give up as much as the period I decided to stay in the US. Anyway, I came here; I'm leaving few weeks later. I can't believe it passed almost sixteen months; time is flying fast. Actually, I'm counting the days I have before I leave for Korea and preparing to go home. I know I'm really excited, and I've been waiting this moment since I got homesick. Some of the ELI students are on a difficult time right now because of homesick, and I understand you guys. Some of the ELI students are frustrated right now because of their English. Thus, I want to let you know another point at the ELI which you've already gotten regardless of the period how long you've been staying here.

I know it is very transparent and boring words, but it's obviously true. You've gotten an important experience at the ELI. I don't know exactly what kinds of experience you've gotten, and it depends on your feeling. In my case, I've had such a serious time to think about myself for sixteen months. I could have time just only for me for sixteen months, and I could have chance to look at myself objectively. Because of that time, I could draw my route before I leave. The important experiences could make your life different from before. Nobody knows how the experiences affect your life and thought; moreover, anyone doesn't know how long the experiences can affect your life and thought. Everything is up to you, but you can figure out your change at some moments.

Our first goal was learning English as I know and you know; however, I believe it's impossible to get the perfect English within a short time at the ELI. Some students have gotten disappointed and will be disappointed because of your English even though you have stayed here for a long time and been higher level classes at the ELI than average people. I want to tell you the important thing that the level at the ELI is nothing of your life. Learning something from the classes is much more important than which level you are in. I want you to deal with your amazing experiences as valuable things at the ELI. Also, I hope you won't be frustrated anymore with your English. You are a pioneer of your life, and you have already overcome the frustration a little bit unconsciously. I'm proud of you and myself.

School Uniform and Hairstyle Regulation in Schools

Huijin Seo
R/W 50

In the early morning, students who wear the same school uniforms and have similar hairstyles are censored by teachers. Some of the students get a corporal punishment because they violate school regulations. This is the common morning scenery in Korean schools. There is a controversy about school uniform and hairstyle regulation in schools. Some people say that school uniform and hairstyle regulation are advantageous while the others say that it's not necessary and unjust. Although some people say that student should wear a school uniform and follow a hairstyle regulation, I think that school uniform and hairstyle regulation are wrong for several reasons.

Advocates of a school uniform and a hairstyle regulation think that it's easier to control when students wear same school uniforms and have similar hairstyles. However, advocates' idea of controlling students is unacceptable. Students go to the school for learning but not for being controlled. Schools teach and instruct their students. Students are not soldiers, and a school is not a military. School uniform and hairstyle regulation are a vestige from military regimes and the era under the rule of Japanese imperialism in Korean modern history. We should eliminate the vestige and treat students justly.

Also, advocates of a school uniform and a hairstyle regulation claim that a student should dress like a student. I disagree with this idea because a school uniform is not the only way to show character as a student. For example, one wears a school uniform and follows the regulation, but he or she doesn't care to study at all. On the other hand, the other doesn't wear a school uniform, but he or she studies hard. Who is better as a student? I think that being like a student is different from looking like a student through a mandatory appearance. Moreover, I believe that being as a free man is more important than showing a student look.

In addition, advocates of a school uniform and a hairstyle regulation say that wearing a school uniform and following hairstyle regulation reduce disharmony among the wealthy and the poor because it costs less than wearing personal clothes and having a unique hairstyle. However, it's not true because the gap between the rich and the poor is already revealed by their bags, shoes, and even school uniforms' brands. A school uniform is expensive, and students might need another one if their bodies grow. It's a big burden for the poor family. Besides school uniforms, students still need clothes for after school and the weekend.

Above all, everyone has freedom for their bodies and freedom to express themselves. Students are not an exception from these rights. They should be able to choose their clothes and hairstyle by their tastes and individualities. Far from having these freedoms, some schools even engage in excessive and thoughtless behavior such as hitting students, shaving boys' hair, or cutting a girls' hair under the guise of maintaining high

standards of discipline. It just makes more unnecessary corporal punishments and brutal treatment.

Next, students also have a right of self-determination of personal information and a right to be guaranteed anonymity. Not only a school uniform but also a name tag on it reveals a student's identity. Whether a student wants or not, one's personal information is exposed to unspecified individuals. It's an abuse of human rights, and it's dangerous because it might be abused by a criminal.

Lastly, school uniforms and hairstyle regulation force to be same with others. It develops uniformity while killing students' creativity. We should reject conformity and value diversity. Students are forced to have a community spirit by having the same look, and they learn a vertical organization culture between seniors and juniors by revealing their colored name tags. Also, students learn a fixed idea of gender by forcing to wear a pants and a skirt. It's not their choice; it already fixed by their gender. I believe that these subconscious differentiations by age or gender should be sublated in the public education field.

In conclusion, wearing a school uniform and following hairstyle regulation is not right for these reasons: freedom of body and express, right of self-determination of personal information and guaranteed of anonymity, and break the brainwashing. For these reasons, I think that school uniform and hairstyle regulation should be abolished completely.

Differences and Similarities Between Scientists and Artists

Qiang Peng
R/W 50

There are two kinds of people who are both admired by the mass, but hardly sit together. They both play irreplaceable roles in human society, but rarely show their respects for each other. They are scientists and artists. In our sub-conscious, there is a stereotype that they are totally different people. However, we can't ignore that similarities do exist between them and make them more like real humans and not machines. Both the differences and similarities define who they are.

Differences between scientists and artists are easy to find. First of all, they focus on totally different areas. Scientists are dedicated to explaining the natural world by scientific theories to boost human society. Artists, however, concentrate on finding and expressing the beauty of our world and the essences of human nature.

Secondly, it's important for scientists to be logical and rational when they are doing research because science must rely on truth and can be proven. However, artists don't need to follow any rules when they are doing a work. They can create figures entirely from imagination or reality. They can finish a work very personally, and they don't have to worry about how people feel. Take Vincent Van Gogh as an example: his work *Starry Night*, which is the expression of his own internal world, did not gain deserved appreciation for its uniqueness at the beginning, but it turned out to be a masterpiece finally.

Thirdly, scientists have to explain how they complete their achievements and how they will benefit human society. Otherwise, people will question their results and their efforts will go in vain. On the contrary, as an artist, sometimes it's better to keep silent when he completes an achievement. There are critics and audiences who will have their own opinion about the work and figure out what's the inherent meaning of the artist.

Nevertheless, despite the obvious distinguishing factors, we have to be aware of the existence of similarities between scientists and artists.

Firstly, both scientists and artists are required to have a high level of creativity for success. The spirit of innovation is the key quality for those who already made or will make big accomplishments. If Isaac Newton had lacked creativity, there would have been no Laws of Motion, which enhanced the base of Classical Mechanics and boosted modern physics. If Franz Joseph Haydn had lacked creativity, he would have been incapable of defining the layout of symphony.

Secondly, being patient is equally important for both scientists and artists. Before an outstanding success has been achieved, scientists and artists should be patient enough to stay in the laboratory or studio for a long time. Especially for some unprecedented realms of science or art, scientists and artists should not only be patient, but also be determined. A great number of scientists treat the Nobel Prize as their lifetime goal. But before they really get the prize, they have to be patient and have faultless beliefs about what they are researching; so do artists.

Thirdly, achievements of both scientists and artists benefit human society. On the one hand, the development of technology enriches our material world and improves our culture. On the other hand, the development of social cultures enriches our spiritual world and, also, exerts influence on technology. For instance, the script of the famous movie *Avatar* by James Cameron had been written 14 years ago, but at that time he couldn't make it real because the technology requirement of this movie was far beyond that era. But the director didn't just wait for the technology. Like he said, he would push the technology to make it happen. He and his team developed a lot new movie technology and eventually brought the movie onto the screen.

In summary, scientists and artists have both differences, including focusing on different area, being logical or ideal, explaining the work or not, and similarities, which are creative mind required, being patient and determined, benefiting human society. The stereotype that scientists and artists are entirely different kinds of people should be broken.

Culture and Gender Roles

Saeed Alghamdi
R/W 60

"Male or female, man or woman" is the universal argument that will never finish. The majority of organisms are created biologically as male and female for specific reasons. They generate more and more; therefore they save their species.

Human beings are the most developed creatures on the earth, so they can think, talk, and communicate with each other through different creative methods. In the case of human beings, are created as male and female for other necessary roles beside conservation of the species. Each community has specific criteria to deal with men and women. The majority of societies have strict limitations against women; however, many societies today give some rights and freedom for women. Cultures and traditions in many societies give men and women their roles; however, men and women can challenge their cultures and take new and different roles.

First, societies specify the roles of men and women according to their cultures and traditions. So men in many societies are given the important roles outside home with high volume of freedom, while the roles of women are limited inside the home. Many people believe that women should stay at home because they are created to have babies and take care of them. In some cases the husband prevents his wife working outside the home as a result of this idea. However, women show that they have the ability to do more roles than those outside home in different fields such as education, medicine, and so on. Moreover, many cultures give husbands absolute rights to control their wives' roles. Many people believe that men work and take care of their families, so they have the right to control their wives' roles and decide what they can do and what they can't do. But if this is so, what about women in our societies today who work to help their families to live, and what about men who are staying home while their wives are working. Do they have the right to control their wives' roles? Also, in many societies today as a result of living difficulties, many wives have to work beside their husbands to increase their incomes.

In addition, cultures control men and women's roles based on many traditional and religious misconceptions. Women as well as men are created with the same mental abilities, and the differences are related back to the people themselves, but not to their genders. However isn't it true that many communities consider women whether they are not smart or have less mental abilities than men? So many societies don't listen to and disregard opinions of women. But if this is true what about women who are successful in their positions. For example, the female scientists who were awarded Nobel prize in physics, chemistry, medicine, and economic sciences. Moreover, cultures give men difficult and important missions while women are given easy missions and jobs. It is often thought that women have weak body builds; so they can't work in some jobs such as construction or industry, and they are usually hired in specific occupations such as teaching and secretary. But the fact is women today work professionally at any job; for example, women have become presidents in some countries. Also, the great improvement of equipment and devices makes jobs much easier and don't need much effort.

Finally, gender roles differ from one society to another depending on culture or traditions of that society. The roles of women in some cultures are limited inside the home, but men have many roles outside home which are limited by the rules of the community. Also, many societies believe in many misconceptions about women such as, women have weak and small body builds so they can't do some jobs, and women are

less intelligent than men. Men are praised in many cultures while women undergo a lot of pressures; however, men and women should share their life, and they are created to complete each other, not to control each other. What about you, do you agree with me that gender roles are controlled by culture?

Urban and Rural Living

Reginald Toussaint

R/W 42

People live in different parts of the world and lead different types of lives. Their lifestyles vary from one region to another. Among different places where people can inhabit, urban and rural areas are the most common. Some people think it is more comfortable to live in an urban area; on the other hand, others believe living in a rural area is more pleasant. However urban and rural living can be similar or different considering some criteria: responsibility, activity, habitat, and service. In my opinion, I believe their differences are more impressive than their similarities.

In the rural area people live generally in family, and parents work hard to take care of their children. They have to provide foods, clothes, housing, and money to the family. In the same way, parents in the urban area also have to work hard for the family. They are responsible to provide all to their children. Parents in both rural and urban areas are also responsible to educate their children. Some educations are given at home, and children have to go to school to procure intellectual education.

However, in three distinct ways, the urban living and the rural living are almost opposites. First of all, their activity is very different. In the rural area, agriculture is often the principal economic activity. Agricultural products are used to feed the family and to earn some money. On the other hand, there are different economic activities in urban areas like industry, commerce and professional activity. Urban and rural areas also have different social activities. In urban living we can meet at various locations: clubs, museums, movies etc. In contrast, the rural area often has traditional social activity. Second, the habitat in rural and urban areas is very different. In urban area the houses are built near each other. They could be very tall like some apartments where several families live together. Sometimes, they are located near other buildings like shopping centers and hospitals. On the other hand, houses in rural areas are isolated. You can meet a vast area of gardens between two houses. Despite the isolation of houses in the rural area, everyone knows everyone. Finally, the relationship between the qualities of service is quite different in the two areas. In the urban area people have more opportunity. They have access to electricity, the internet, and public transportation. However, people in the rural area don't receive enough service. Most of them don't have electricity and sometimes access to the health can be very difficult. In addition, the problem of infrastructure could be very serious.

In conclusion, the two kinds of living have some similarities, but I believe their differences are more remarkable. However, both contain some advantages and some inconveniences. Regardless, the familial responsibility, the

types of activity, the habitat and the service available make of them two great places where people can live and develop a real sense of community.

How to Buy a House: Comparing Two Very Expensive Houses

Yeji Kim
R/W 42

Buying a house is one of the most important decisions in our life. Not only is this decision very expensive, but also a house is not just a thing to us. We have to make our house a home because our house is our nest where we live with family and friends together. To make a good home, when we buy a house, we should consider a lot of things such as purpose, price, location, style, size and property. If you think that your first criterion is the most expensive house, there are two houses. The house in Corona del Mar, Calif. and the house in New York City, N.Y. have similar price, while they have different location and style.

First, they are two of the most expensive houses in America. The house in California is \$75,000,000. Similarly, the house in New York is \$70,000,000 because they are beautiful, extraordinary and massive houses, and they have good location, nice view and many convenient facilities as well. Those surroundings make those houses very expensive.

However, they are located in different regions. The first one is in Corona del Mar, California. It is just 45 miles south of Los Angeles, Portobello. In addition, it is by the sea sites on three oceanfront lots facing Catalina Island. On the other hand, the second one is in New York City, New York. It is in the Upper East Side of Manhattan and also near Central Park.

Finally, they have different style and facilities. The house in California is a 22,000-square-foot residence with a lot of facilities. For instance, it includes media room, movie theater with stage and powder rooms, a mini-diner with soda/milkshake bar, a bowling alley, garaging for 16 cars, a three-story seascape grotto with two saltwater swimming pools, two spas, a tunnel water slide, a waterfall and a barbecue area. In contrast, the house in New York is a chateau-style triplex penthouse, which is on the top of the Pierre Hotel. It also includes 16 spacious rooms, five fireplaces, oak flooring, a living room that was formerly the hotel's ballroom and four terraces.

In conclusion, even though those two houses are similar in price, which is very expensive, they are different in location, style and facilities. The house in California is a well equipped residence nearby a seaside, but the house in New York is a fabulous penthouse in central city. Like this, you can make a careful decision about your house by comparing and contrasting their characteristics.

50 Years from Now

Nasil Heo
GM 51

As usual, I wake up at 7pm and check the date. It's November 17th, 2060. Next I washed my face and toasted some slices of toast with rich flavor coffee. There are thousands of food capsules at the store, but I don't like that. Although bread has less nutrition, I like chewing food and smelling food.

Grabbing the mug cup, I sit on the sofa and touch the see-through screen. Tap-tap. According to the article, China's population has increased and now it's tripled, compared to 50 years ago. I imagined that, but it's amazing. China has a considerable amount of plants and labor force. Actually, China is threatening the U.S economy.

The water conflict has been a problem over the whole world. Frequent floods and drying up rivers are the problems. Because of the shortage of water for drinking, a conflict between countries is getting worse. I've been paying for a bottle of water \$10 since ten years ago. All people know that the price of water is nonsense, but there's no way to drink water except to buy it for that price.

While the natural things have been damaged and disappeared, the technologies have developed surprisingly and remarkably. It's been possible for people to get to the other countries in 6 hours. For example, it takes just 4 hours from the U.S to Korea. Also, a tunnel was made in the bottom of the sea between Korea, Japan and China. My grandkids went to see Japan last week. I still can't believe how it takes just 15 minutes from Korea.

Another part of development is robot technology. Cleaner robot is old fashioned and "Avata", which had been movie, is real. It's called Hu-bot (human-robot). I'll see the Hu-bot Olympics this weekend with my husband. I can't wait to see it!

Discrimination Against Anti-Chavistas in Venezuela

Daniel Mendez
R/W 60

What would you think if you realize that in Venezuela thousands of people are threatened simply because they do not have the same ideology or way of thinking as the Venezuelan government? Nowadays, some Venezuelans and people around the world think that Venezuela has a dictatorial, populist and revolutionary president. These people are discriminated against by the government. Others believe that Venezuela is governed by a president who is just, equitable and focuses on mitigating inequalities. However, there is considerable discrimination against people who do not have the same ideology as the president. These people cannot get jobs at the public administration, are oppressed to prevent them from expressing their opinions or ideas, and they are treated as traitors of the homeland.

The first form of discrimination is that in which anti-chavistas cannot work at the governmental institutions or offices. It really started when some people signed up in opposition to Chavez for the purpose of revoking his power, but the result was catastrophic, chaotic, and sad for these people. They could not get enough signatures to convene a presidential referendum, but the worst thing, Chavez obtained the list which included their name, national identification number, fingerprints and other information that was necessary to identify the people who were against him. This list was called "Lista Tascón". As a consequence, these people are not able to get a job at the Public Administration, their companies cannot bid on a contract at the government, and unfortunately, they sometimes cannot obtain health, educational, and housing services or financial aid.

The second element to consider is that Venezuelans do not have freedom of speech. Since Chavez has been in power (1998 - present), a lot of negative things have happened to people who want to express opinions that in opposition to the government. These people are frightened of being imprisoned or having to find a way to seek asylum in other countries. Thus, several people in Venezuela are afraid of expressing their beliefs or ideologies on television, radio, or any media because they fear being threatened or punished. For example, there was a channel called "Radio Caracas Televisión" (RCTV) that was closed by an order from the president because he showed the point of view of the opposition.

The last consequence is people who do not follow Chavez's ideology are treated as traitors of the homeland. In many countries around the world, people have the opportunity and liberty to protest on the street. However, in Venezuela they are not allowed to do this because the government does not give the authorization, resources or provide security for a march against Chavez. For example, when they try to do it, people who support Chavez start insulting or attacking the opposition that only want peace and express their ideas. At these protests against Chavez, many people have been attacked verbally and physically. As a result, people injured and murdered.

As we have seen, Venezuela is going through a very complicated political situation. Anti-chavistas are not able to work at the public administration, publicly express their ideas in opposition to the president, and they are considered as people who do not belong to Venezuela. Do you think that you could live in a country where some of the citizens do not have the same rights and obligations as other citizens?

Coteaux and Port-a-Piment: Two Villages of Southern Haiti

Joseph Beneche

R/W 42

The people of these neighboring villages are always competing. In Haiti, they like to compare their development's level and each one wants to express his superiority. Coteaux and Port-a-Piment are two neighbor villages in the southwest of Haiti. Even though the sons of those cities can think differently I've been observing more similarities than differences between them.

First, they are similar regarding their location. Both Coteaux and Port-a-Piment are seaside villages. They are both exposed to the ocean storms in the south and protected by hills against the violent winds in the hurricane periods in the north. They offer only one way to access Les Cayes, the main city of the south department. They have the natural beauty with beaches, rivers and a wooded landscape.

Second, their economies are mainly based on the same business: fishing and agriculture. Fishermen use small ships and hooks to catch fish and generally do their activities by night. They sell their products to restaurant owners from Les Cayes. Some citizens own freezers to conserve fish for local consumption but for sure their population consumes mainly fish which is freshly caught. In agriculture, they grow bananas, which is the main production of the zone not only in quantity but also economically; maize, sorghum are also grown for the local consumption. Bananas are sold to be sent to Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes.

Finally, they are two small cities. They are both unpopulated and small regarding their area and the volume of their social and economic activities. They have about the same space and about 20,000 people each, even though nowadays, Coteaux is growing because people of the countryside are immigrating extending his area.

However, Coteaux is more modern than Port-a-Piment. One gas station and some malls have been opened in Coteaux while Port-a-Piment is still attached to the traditional business. The houses in Coteaux are new and mainly made up of cement and are asymmetrical, curvy and rounded whereas the houses of Port-a-piment are made up of woods mainly and are classical and rectangular.

Also, they are different regarding the way they work and also the work force that is used. Generally, in Port-a-Piment people pay other people from the countryside to work in agricultural fields et cetera. But in Coteaux, people generally do their duties by themselves or in association.

In conclusion, although the construction in each village, Coteaux and Port-a-Piment, and the way that people work are different, they are mainly similar for their economic activities, their location and their development level. Even though they are two small villages without all the structures generally founded in the big cities, I have thought that it is more interesting to live there enjoying the hot friendship of people and the green life.

The Role of the Entrepreneur in the Economy

Cesar Pena

R/W 60

Abstract

Many economists focus their attention in the entrepreneurs and the process of innovation. They want to understand how entrepreneurs can help the economic growth. Behind entrepreneurs exists a system that support them. In industrial countries entrepreneurs have institutions, agencies, companies and people organized in a system prepared for

develop new ventures. These conditions are different in less developed countries.

Although there are some differences between industrial and less developed countries, entrepreneurs have the similar characteristics. They are people who work with passion and commitment to succeed, to achieve their goals, to build a new business, a new product or a new service for the customers.

Entrepreneurs have the power to transform their sectors. They can also contribute to the economy because they organize their new ventures hiring well educated people, analyzing strategies and estimating risks. In this process, the economy receives the benefits of the constant activity of entrepreneurs.

The role of the entrepreneur in the economy

Introduction

The importance of people who are independent, who work with their own ideas, who want to build or establish new venture, new businesses and new products is crucial for the economy today. According to the Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy, based in the US Bureau of the Census, today the number of small firms represent 99.7 percent of all employer firms, employ half of all private sector employees, have generated 60 to 80 percent of net new jobs annually over the last decade, and create more than 50 percent of nonfarm private gross domestic product (GDP).

For many decades, economists and governments have been analyzing and discussing about economic growth and its causes. They have been explaining the economic growth as a result of investments of capital and labor mainly, in a production model. In 1934, the economist Joseph Schumpeter introduced the term “creative destruction” describing the process in which a person tries to develop new ideas and transform them in business. If this idea succeeds as a business and it has the power to innovate, eliminates competitors, and gets similar products obsolete, there is a creation of wealth, but a destruction of the previous business and products. The trade-off between them probably is negative in the short run because the new concept destroys jobs, technologies and companies, but is positive in the long run because the customer obtains a better product, the sector adopts a new technology that needs more investment and education, and managers have to design new business models to increase sales. Thus, in the long run, these processes are the catalysts for change, resulting in a new or improved business sector that is more competitive, sophisticated and strong.

According to Schumpeter (1934), entrepreneurs, have the power to transform the economic scenery and to increase the economic growth. From Schumpeter to now, many economists and governments have been trying to understand how public policies can support entrepreneurs in a systematic way, because if they achieve, the positive impact could be received in the economy of the country. So, entrepreneurs are very important today because they propel the economy by taking risks, thinking about new businesses, consolidating their ideas in business plans, raising funds in order to build the project, and managing the new company created. To answer the main question and understand the role of the entrepreneurs, it is important to define some concepts that take part of the

entrepreneur’s world. For example, the difference between entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship, creativity and innovation, new ventures, business plans, business angels and incubators.

Concepts about entrepreneurship

The first definitions of entrepreneur have been made by economists as Cantillon (1725), Jean Baptiste Say (1803), and Schumpeter (1934). Entrepreneur derives from French language and it means “to undertake”. Today, according to Kuratko & Hodgetts (2004):

“The entrepreneur is one who undertakes to organize, manage, and assume the risks of a business. It is an innovator or developer who recognizes and seizes opportunities; converts those opportunities into workable/marketable ideas; adds value through time, effort, money, or skills; assumes the risks of the competitive marketplace to implement these ideas; and realize the rewards from these efforts”. (p. 28)

Intrapreneurship is a new concept that is defined as the entrepreneurial thinking inside corporations. Thus, the business literature mentions the term corporate entrepreneurship as a synonym of intrapreneurship. Intrapreneurs work inside the structure of the companies in the same way that entrepreneurs work outside them, with similar commitment.

Entrepreneurs develop their ideas and present them in a document that summarizes the principal aspects of the new business. This document is called “Business Plan”. A strong Business Plan includes sections such as business idea description, marketing research and plan, operations, management, financial forecast, critical risks, strategies, and a schedule of implementation. This plan has to be detailed and with realistic forecast and goals because it is going to be analyzed by experts and investors.

An entrepreneur is a person who is looking for a new concept, business, product or service for customers, so the concept of innovation is the key in entrepreneurship. Cited by Kuratko & Hodgetts (2004), according to Drucker (1985) innovation is defined as a “specific function of entrepreneurship... It means by which the entrepreneur either creates new wealth-producing resources or endows existing resources with enhanced potential for creating wealth” (p. 138). Also, the entrepreneurs have the ability to “convert opportunities into marketable ideas” (Howell & Higgings, 1990, p. 138). The concept of innovation is related to another important concept for entrepreneurs: creativity. In a business context, creativity is “the generation of ideas that result in the improved efficiency or effectiveness of a system” (Matherly & Goldsmith, 1988, p. 138).

Entrepreneurs can obtain money for their project going to the venture capital market. This market has companies with experienced professionals to offer capital for start-ups and expands new ventures. However, these companies give money to new ventures being part of the business. That means that if the business succeeds, they take part of the earning. During the process of being co-owners, venture capitalists take part of the decisions about the business; specially, they take control of the

financial issues in the new venture. Business angels work in a similar way, but usually they are people not companies, they are very well informed investors that understand a lot about new venture creation and provide money for the new venture.

Another important tool for entrepreneurs is the incubator. According to Aernoudt (2004), “business incubators nurture young firms, helping them to survive, and grow during the start-up period when they are most vulnerable” (p.127). Hence, entrepreneurs can confront the challenge of trying to survive during the first years of the new venture.

Entrepreneurship process

Entrepreneurs are the main actors in a system which produces innovative products, services and businesses models. Industrial countries have some advantages in this area because they have business angels and venture finance companies that support entrepreneurs with interesting ideas. Also, industrial countries have developed framework in this field with adequate property rights, incubators and support from the governments and universities (Naude, 2009). In addition, these countries show an important increase in investment in entrepreneurship and new ventures (Schade & Siegel, 2008). However, start-up rates are different from one country to another and also in different regions of the same country (Gries & Naude, 2009).

Less developed countries have a different reality called market failure (Naude, 2009). They have incomplete systems for entrepreneurs, less capital for new ventures, and incubators with less experience. However, it is important to understand in general terms how entrepreneurs can achieve their goals in a systematic way. This system integrates entrepreneurs, existing companies, customers, government, and private investing companies, but entrepreneurs are the principal motor in the process of creation. The process consists in:

First, entrepreneurs look for an innovative idea about new products or new features for existing products. They research and learn about the topic, about the behavior and preferences of the customers in order to consolidate this information in a business plan.

Second, entrepreneurs analyze the market and competitors because they know that the competition is intense in terms of products and existing companies have large teams of people working to establish a competitive advantage. When they understand the market, entrepreneurs add this information in the businesses plan.

Third, entrepreneurs have to think about how the new company is going to support the new product. They work on organizing the structure for the company, and the production and operations processes. Also, entrepreneurs write the results of this analysis in a special section of the business plan.

Fourth, entrepreneurs have to calculate the costs and benefits about the new business. The financial part of the business plan has to mention different scenarios how much money the project needs and what are the main areas to invest. It is crucial a very detailed estimation about costs, and strong forecasts about sales because investors have to understand the risks and the numbers of the business.

Finally, entrepreneurs are ready to “sell their ideas”. They have to present the businesses plan to business angels and

venture capitalists in order to obtain money for develop their ideas. If they accomplish this goal half of the work is done.

After the process of creation, entrepreneurs have to continue with the other half of the work. They have to implement their ideas according to the business plan. Mainly in industrial countries entrepreneurs have incubators that provide technical assistance. The first two or three years of the business are critical because the new company confronts competitors and has to convince customers to buy the new products. If the new company starts to work well, an alternative for entrepreneurs is going to the financial markets to capitalize their companies with money from the public selling stocks or options.

Technology field is a good example of the process for new ventures and entrepreneurs, green businesses is the future, but they are in every field of the economy. Bill Gates from Microsoft Co., Steve Jobs from Apple Co., Michael Dell from Dell Co., and recently Mark Zuckerberg from Facebook and others from Silicon Valley, California are entrepreneurs because they star up their successful companies. All these people have in common their passion and their commitment to achieve their ventures.

Characteristics of entrepreneurs

Generally, entrepreneurs are considered people who start-up a business. According this definition, the owners of small businesses are considered entrepreneurs, but entrepreneurs are more than people who start-up a business once. Entrepreneurs is a way of life, is a permanent attitude that propel a person to learn, to research, to understand different topics, to compromise completely in the project, and to take risks. And this attitude is doing it for entrepreneurs all their life.

According to Kuratko & Hodgetts (2004), some characteristics associated with entrepreneurs are, among others: “total commitment, determination, and perseverance; drive to achieve and grow; opportunity and goal orientation; persistent problem solving; calculated risk taking and risk seeking” (p. 114). However, entrepreneurs have a down side. Entrepreneurs sometimes take much more financial risks than an average person in order to follow their own idea. Also, some entrepreneurs are so convinced about the future success of their ideas that they end up abandoning their careers. In addition to this, they usually invest all their free time in the new idea or business, putting their psychic, social and family stability at risk. The pressure to achieve their goals can sometimes cause a lot of stress in entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurs affect the economy

Entrepreneurs change their own sectors and affect the economy context. Dias & McDermott (2005) define that:

Entrepreneurs are instrumental for structural transformation. They create and organize new firms and hire workers with a minimum level of human capital. Entrepreneurs encourage workers to invest in their own education in order to move into the modern production sector. Better institutions lead to less income diversion, which creates a greater supply

of entrepreneurs, a larger demand for human capital, and faster structural transformation. (p. 299)

In this context, entrepreneurs organize the factors of production (labor, capital, technology) to achieve their goals. They manage this equation to accomplish a crucial point in the economy: the creation of value. Entrepreneurs work to innovate and manage risks of the new ventures. They demand more and more educated people and contribute to the economy with new and better products. So, an economy supported by strong institutions, as industrial countries, can receive the benefits from these very active companies Dias & McDermott (2005).

The “creative destruction” concept proposed by Schumpeter almost a century ago is tangible and more evident now because technology is growing faster and faster. The cycle of life of products is shorter than years ago and some gadgets can be obsolete in a couple of years. However, the innovation process and entrepreneurship cause sometimes a different effect. A lot new products are designed for complement existent products. Also, many new products and technologies can coexist together without competence or destruction of rivals. Cell phones have different technologies for different type of customers. There are cell phones like smart-phones, I-phones, cell phones with basic functions, and cell phones that use internet for sending the voice. This process in entrepreneurship is called “nondestructive creation” because the rivals (technologies, companies, products) survive after the introduction of an innovation and of course can produce economic growth (Hubbard, R. G., 2008).

Conclusion

Entrepreneurs have a crucial role in modern economy. In industrial economies they are supported by organized system of investors and incubators that provides capital and technical advices. In addition, they have strong institutions that protect intellectual property rights and educate people. These conditions facilitate that many entrepreneurs can try to success achieving their goals. In less developed countries the conditions are different and entrepreneurs do not have the same support. The role of entrepreneurs is critical because they organize the economic factors in order to build a project, a new business or a product that innovates the sector. The innovation process can lead to a “destructive creation” eliminating rivals products or companies, but also improving products. Additionally, the innovation process can lead to a “nondestructive creation” in which rivals products and companies complement each others. In both cases entrepreneurs lead the process.

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The Person Who Has Influenced Me the Most

Daniel Mendez
R/W 60

All human beings have different behaviors and personalities. Each person in the world has his own way of living. This is determined by our own characteristics of each one of us related to our personality, and for people in our environment that influence in our lives such as, family, neighbors, teachers, and friends. When I have to talk about who has made a difference in my life it is very difficult to do. I thank God that I have had many very important people in my life. However, if I have to choose one of them I would like to select and describe my twin brother, Ricardo. He has a lot of characteristics, which have influenced me as such sportsman, decision maker, and happy person.

He has been my shadow my whole life. He has been a big soul, because he runs next to me all of the time. He has been with me my whole life since we were in our mom’s womb. He loves to play and watch soccer. He has shown me why it is very important to play any sport, because it helps to have a healthy and pleasurable life. When he is on the field, he is like a roadrunner because he runs fast, goes wherever he wants and always kicks to the goal. He shows how not to be afraid of the opponents and to have clear goals.

Another reason, he is amazing when he has to make his own decisions. He thinks about the negative and positive consequences in detail before saying or doing something. He is like a computer because he processes information before coming up with a carefully calculated decision. It makes me be sure, because he has shown me what the principal steps are when I need to make any decision. I called him “the thinker”.

The last way he has influenced me is that he has shown me happiness. He is always happy, glad, and crazy. He often says that you only live once, and we have to enjoy every

second. He is a clown, because he makes everyone laugh. Moreover, he has been a constant companion in my life and has always supported me, and he has always believed in me and that gives me strength to achieve my goals.

In conclusion, I could say that Ricardo has been an angel who has the most influence in my life because he has taught me about sports, decision-making and happiness. He believes in me and has always been behind me in everything that I have done. I do not have one specific example because he has been a constant companion in my life and has always supported me. Without his encouragement I would feel lost. As result, he has taught me that life is so interesting because there is no one like us anywhere in the world and each one of us has strengths and weaknesses. In other words, in spite of being identical twins, we are very different and he has shown me that everyone is unique in the world.

Global Warming

Marliz Arteaga Gomez Garcia

R/W 41

Global warming is the process by which the temperature of the earth's atmosphere increases. The causes are divided into two categories: natural causes and anthropogenic (man-made) causes. However, both of them have many negative effects on the earth's atmosphere and biosphere. Among the negative effects are: a change in the global sea level, drastic changes in climate patterns and widespread extinction of flora and fauna. Therefore, this increase in temperature will likely trigger a series of events which can cause a lot of destruction on the planet. In brief, understanding the causes and effects of global warming can give us an idea of the bleak future awaiting the next generation if we don't do anything to stop these changes.

The Decline of Haitian Agricultural Sector: Government's Misconduct

Ronald Cadémus

R/W 60

Both the Green Revolution in the mid 20th century and the Fair Trade market have had big impacts on developed countries in term of food security and wealth creation. To be successful by using appropriate technology to enter the free trade market, a country needs a strong political leadership from its governors. A nation like Haiti used to be self sufficient in producing food. However, the Haitian governments of the last three decades have failed to help the farmers to be competitive on the global market. This marginalization of the Haitian farmers has led to the degradation of the agriculture in that country.

The neglect of the government causes disinterest and disinvestment in agriculture. Indeed, the Haitian politicians have not invested enough in building infrastructure that could allow those poor farmers to easily move their production to the urban areas where they can expect a better price for their

unrewarded work. This situation leads to a disinterest in farming from the producers. Meanwhile, in the middle of agricultural season, a lot of lands are empty and covered by pasture. In addition, in some areas, the arduously produced crops are wastefully sold on the local market or sometimes getting spoiled and thrown away. Can you imagine places plagued by famine, people have to get rid of foods becoming worthless that they could trade and get an income to satisfy their needs? Is not the responsibility of the government, specially the Agricultural Ministry to provide assistance to local farmers? I think the answer is yes because this is the main responsibility of this government's entity to create program to increase the national production.

Moreover, the lack of assistantship to the Haitian farmers has contributed to overpopulation. Indeed, many Haiti's rural areas are deprived of most of the basic services; name it school, hospital, electricity, theater, familial planning etc., which means there's not much social activities to be involved in. Therefore, people spend most of their time at home and this is a situation that stimulates people to have many children. In some places the average is 8 to 10 children per household. How can this influence negatively the agriculture? In fact, more people mean more pressure on the lands, causing more cuttings (deforestation), which leads to degradation, reducing the land productivity.

Haitian farmers are tired of being ignored. It is unacceptable to leave poor farmers on their own, unable to compete in the global market. A small farmer in a country in development, alone, will not be capable of making the transition toward the new technologies, and the most possible outcome is the decline of the agricultural sector. If poverty has to be reduced in Haiti, the government can no longer overlook the peasants who are, as in many countries, the pillars of the agricultural system.

My Home Country Then and Now

Pascale Saint Martin

R/W 42

It has always been said that someone who forgets his past is without a story. Most of us often think that human beings must look toward the future. That's essential, but the past represents a challenge so important. Everything can change in an area: physical view, style of life, custom, but we have to remember the past for enhancing the future. In my home country, the past has nothing in common with the present. In my opinion, they have more differences than similarities especially in the number of people, the crime rate and green management of spaces.

The first undeniable difference in the past and now resides in the population. Fifty years ago, my home country had about 900,000 inhabitants, but now the number of people is about 8,000,000. This creates many problems and increases differences in several other ways. With a small number of people, my home country was friendly. The government practiced urbanism; everything was tidy, places and routes was designed to be convenient to walking, houses was near the

business and school, and traffic was under control; in contrast, now, what a mess! Life is inconvenient and more difficult. For example, many cities are crowded and people begin to forget or destroy the sense of community. Furthermore, cars and buses make traffic horrible, and are bad for the environment.

Second, the crime rate is another big difference. Haiti was very quiet; the life was safe in the past. However, now the rate of crime is increasing. For example, people are hungry and are unemployed. As a result of the increasing of the Haitian population, we see a strengthening of the poverty. Our agriculture isn't able to feed the country. Every day, the media reports kidnapping and murder. In addition, people are afraid. They are stressed now. There are a few similarities, of course, people are never without fear. Fifty years ago, there were thieves and murderer, but now the rate has increased.

The biggest difference between the past and the present is the nature. My country was a little place with a beautiful and beaming nature. The environment was purely healthy. Everywhere, people listen to the birds' songs, and trees' murmur. However, over the year, the environment becomes a desert. Not only are people cutting down trees, destroying forests, but also earthquakes and hurricanes are destroying the environment. Moreover, this sad story continues because the government cannot or is not interested to manage parks and other natural spaces.

In conclusion, the past and the present in my home country are very different; many changes are obvious. This small country has become very crowded. The population lives with fear because there are both violence and natural disaster. With the population, the rate of crime is increasing. The environment in the past and now are very dissimilar. The present is more dangerous and inconvenient than the past. Nevertheless, we have to remember the past to build the future.

Living in a Small Town

Daniel Mendez

R/W 60

According to Lалу Parsad, "The nice part about living in a small town is that when you do not know what you are doing, someone else does" (Thinkexit.com). Human beings need to live in community, because each person has a role in society for the benefit of all. Accordingly, there are hundreds of cities around the world, but not all have the same size. It would be very interesting to describe the principal advantages and disadvantages of living in a small town such as, things to do for entertainment, public services, and number of people.

The first characteristic is things to do for entertainment. People around the world have the necessity of enjoying their lives with families and friends, doing recreational, intellectual, and sports activities. People who live in small towns are able to spend time outdoor with nature such as, camping, hiking, climbing, among other things. However, people who live a small town are not able to have a lot of options to spend their free time. For example, there are several theaters, movies, amphitheatres, country clubs, museums, malls.

In other words, someone who lives in a small city has contact with the nature, but they are not able to enjoy cultural events.

Next, the second element is public services. When people have the opportunity of living in small cities, they enjoy more detailed, personalized, and economical services. In contrast, in large cities these services are more diversified and offered as latest technology. Moreover, the public services in small cities neither are crowded nor have the best quality. They do not have the best excellence and technology such as, water, power, cable, etc.

The last characteristic is the number of people. Populations have been growing rapidly and disorganized. There are several large and small cities in all of the countries. People life in large cities have chance of meeting people everywhere and learning about different styles of life, cultures, languages, fashion; but the principal problems are: noise, crowd, stress, and contamination. On the other hand, small cities offer more healthy and peaceful life, because they do not have a stressful life, and in spite of not been able to make many friends, people have more time to share their experiences, feelings, and anecdotes with each other.

In conclusion, there are different kinds of cities in terms of styles and size. This essay shows the advantages and disadvantages of living in small cities in regard to activities to have fun time, services offered, and the amount of people that live in each city. The good thing is that depending on our lifestyle and what we are looking, each kind of city presents elements to have a way of live. So, which kind of city do you prefer to live and spend time during your whole life?

Pedernales and Anse-A-Pitre

Arthur J. Bonicet

R/W 42

What makes the difference between two cities that are located at the same geographical place? Most often, the differences between several places naturally similar come from their management. Anse-A-Pitre and Pedernales are two cities located one in Haiti and the other in the Dominican Republic, but they border each other. Both have some similarities, they are located close to the sea and flat, but I think they have more differences than their similarities.

Both Pedernales and Anse-A-Pitre have the same size, the same population and the same climate. Both Anse-A-Pitre or Pedernales measure 25 acres. They have the same population. Each one has roughly twenty thousand people (20,000). The two cities also share the same climate. Both Anse-A-Pitre and Pedernales have an average temperature of 75 degrees Fahrenheit in fall, 70 in winter, and 90 degrees in summer. The rainy season is the same for them.

However, in four different ways, Pedernales and Anse-A-pitre are almost opposites. First, in Pedernales all the streets are asphalted, whereas only the main street is asphalted in Anse-A-Pitre. Anse-A-Pitre has ten private elementary schools, one public elementary school and one public high school. Pedernales, in contrast, does not have any private school; all the schools are public. In addition, Pedernales has two community

colleges. Anse-A-Pitre has one health center that works with a few technicians (doctors and nurses) and provides a few services to the patients. Pedernales, in contrast, has an up to date hospital where work different technicians twenty-four hours a day, and the hospital provides all styles of medical care to the patients. Finally, Pedernales receives regularly 15 hours of electricity every day. Anse-A-Pitre, in contrast, receives only 3 hours.

In conclusion, these two cities have some similarities relative to their localization, but they are very different according to their development. In addition to their geographical characteristics those count for their similarities. On the other hand, the type of government is another factor that can make the difference between two points that are on the border.

Obesity in the United States

Daniel Mendez

R/W 60

The United States is one of the most powerful, richest, and most advanced countries in the world. So, is it reasonable to think that because of these characteristics this country should be a healthy country too? The unfortunate truth is that this country has a high rate of Obesity; in other words, there are a lot of people who are overweight and have awful health. The principal origins of this sad situation includes: American people generally like to eat at fast food restaurants, do not exercise, and eat food from the grocery store that has a lot of hormones and preservatives.

The first problem is American people generally like to eat at fast food restaurants. It is a reality that all human beings need to eat food every day because it has nutrients, minerals, and vitamins that are necessary to survive. In the United States, people live focused on their jobs all the time; therefore, they have created several restaurants nationwide in other to people can get their food easier and faster. The problem is, this kind of food is not healthy, because it has a very high percentage of fat and lack of proteins and minerals, for example, they often eat hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza and sodas.

The second characteristic is American people frequently do not exercise, because their time is only for working, doing errands, spending time with their families and friends, and sleeping. As a result, when they have a little time, they use it to take a rest and not for doing exercise. It does not allow Americans to have healthy bodies, because when people do not work out, they cannot lose weight and calories. In other words, they are not able to have an active and healthy body.

The last reason is much of the food from the grocery store has a lot of hormones and preservatives. The United States is an industrialized country, for this reason, it produces tons of canned, processed, precooked, and packaged foods. This kind of food needs chemicals to prolong their freshness, quality, and durability. Consequently, these elements are not natural and their body cannot process them adequately.

In conclusion, many American people have problems with their weight. It is mainly from eating junk food, not doing

exercise, and eating food with preservatives. This means that many people in the United States do not pay attention to their eating habits, what kind of foods they eat, and their activities; therefore, they become obese. To sum up, it is a big problem for them because they do not have a good quality of life and they are considered obese, unhealthy and lazy.

For Video Gamers: The Playstation3 Website versus the Xbox360 Website

Keun hyong Kim

R/W 41

When I was a high school student, one of my dreams was to have a console game. Although the price of such games was expensive for students, many of them had console games in their houses. Back then, the price of these games was about \$400. I really wanted to buy a console game but I did not have enough money to buy it then. Today, however, I am considering buying a console game because I have some money to do so. I believe that playing games actually has positive effects on people by reducing stress. So, for my dreams and health, I decided to buy a console game and find information about products through websites on the Internet. I first looked at products such as 'Nintendo', 'PlayStation3' and 'xbox360'. However, I decided against 'Nintendo' because it does not support DVD players. I then narrowed my choice to 'PlayStation3' and 'xbox360' in order to compare the two websites for these games. The 'PlayStation3' website is <http://us.playstation.com/ps3/> and the 'Xbox360' website is <http://www.xbox.com/en-US/>. After comparing both websites, I found that the 'Playstation3' website was better because of its product images, software/ hardware information and organization.

To begin with, the product images on both websites played a significant role in my choosing the 'Playstation3' website over the 'Xbox360' website. Beautiful product images attract a lot of customers. The 'Playstation3' website has many three-dimensional images and high quality photos. It gives people a lot of information about its real images and it really made me more interested in the products. By comparison, the 'Xbox360' website does not have good images to attract customers. Its images look like old ones and they are of low quality. Moreover, it does not have three-dimensional images. Thus, people cannot see the products detail. This shows how important product images are.

In addition, the software and hardware information on the two websites was clearly superior on the 'Playstation3' website because customers' first priority is information about software and hardware. The 'Playstation3' website has organized information regarding these items and provided additional information about 'Blu-ray' and real 3D games. Moreover, it was possible to find games that I might want to buy by typing some letters into the search bar and most of the games were divided by genre. It really made things convenient for me. By contrast, the 'Xbox360' website does not have these functions. Although games are divided by genre, I could not find the game that I really wanted to buy. All in all, I found the

'Playstation3' website better in the area of hardware and software information.

Finally, the 'Playstation3' website is better organized than the 'Xbox360' website. The 'Playstation3' website is divided by 'console model'. Thus, 'SONY', the maker of 'Playstation', has many different console models such as 'Playstation', 'Playstation2', 'Playstation3' and 'PSP'. It is possible to choose the console model when first arriving at the 'Playstation3' website and thus it leads website visitors immediately to whatever they might like to see. Moreover, the colors on the 'Playstation3' website are better than the 'Xbox360' website. The main color of the 'Playstation3' website is black and the 'Xbox360' website main color is gray. However, the 'Xbox360' website's color is not of high quality. This makes the 'Xbox360' website look cheap.

In conclusion, I thought that the 'Playstation3' website was better than the 'Xbox360' website for several reasons as mentioned above. The product images, software/hardware information and well-organized contents all contributed to my choice of the best website for console games. For anyone who is looking for a console game website, I firmly believe that the 'Playstation3' website is the best.

Steel Magnolias

Maria Muradas

R/W 60

Steel Magnolias is a movie about Southern women who live their life sharing experiences and bits of their great events.

The women are the main characters. This is the world through their eyes. In contrast, the men are only part of their lives and they don't have too much presence in the movie.

The relationships between the women and the men are interesting. Most of the time, it looks like they live separate lives, but when their ways cross, the women change their behavior. That is clearly in the relationship between Annelle and Sammy, and between Ousier and Owen.

At first, Annelle was a shy and insecure girl. She doubts her ability in the work. At the end, she had matured and she is secure and determined in her conversation with Sammy. Also, she is able to answer Ousier in a sarcastic way.

Second, Ousier changes her mood through her relationship with Owen, a sweet and weaker man who is capable of sweetening Ousier. They have a weird relationship, but the result is obvious at the end of the movie.

Another thing in this movie is the way of feeling the emotions. The women share every big event, good or bad, but the men live the bad things isolated, alone.

This movie reflects the different behavior about women and men, and how their interactions change them.

Why is Miley Cyrus So Popular?

Michal Dobrovodsky

R/W 41

Miley Cyrus is an American actress and singer. Why is she so popular? First, she is young and talented. However, there are many young and talented girls, so why Miley Cyrus? There can be two answers. She is better than other talented girls or maybe she is just lucky. Of course, there is hard work behind that popularity, especially work on the television series *Hannah Montana*, which was what first made Miley Cyrus popular. Finally, there is one main reason, why Miley Cyrus is so popular. Media and marketing companies know what young girls around the world want and give it to them. The result is that Miley Cyrus is popular because companies want to sell their promotional products. If Miley Cyrus didn't exist, then some other girl would be on top of the popularity scale.

Death Penalty

Khulood Alazwary

R/W 42

The revenge is an attribute in almost of the people. However, it varies from one person to another depending on his circumstances that maybe makes the revenge grow and become strong inside him or makes him peaceful and friendly. One of these circumstances is when the relative is killed by an offender's hand is known and every evidence points to him; he is guilty inevitably. Then after a period of time—numbers of years—he becomes free and enjoys the rest of his life. There the feeling of revenge grow and irritates. Therefore, I support the death penalty and I see it the best way to deter the offender, extinguish the revenge fire, and guarantee to spread safety and security inside the country.

One of the benefits that the government finds when they apply the death penalty is to deter the offender. When the offender knows the punishment of this crime is death, he will think more than a thousand times before he does what he wants to do. Therefore, the offender doesn't corrupt the country, especially the big crime like murder, or distributing drugs.

While the government deters the offender, they extinguish the revenge fire inside the chest of the dead person's relatives. However, if the government doesn't agree with this kind of penalty maybe they allow the country to become a forest. Everyone wants revenge against everyone. Then the corruption spreads more.

As a result of deter criminal, the country becomes more peaceful. The citizens are happy. Thus they can travel among the country and go out at night without any fear.

Finally, I believe that the self is expensive. In addition, murder is a violation. In conclusion, all of the religions agree with and support that who kills the self without the right then he is killed as a penalty for his crime. I believe that what god choose for the people is for their best interest.

My Dream House

Rawan Alkhalaf

R/W 60

I dreamed when I was a child to live inside a huge house made of cotton candy. A delicious cotton candy hanging in the sky like a pink cloud. With my mobile house I can go anywhere I want. It has a fuel station which uses sugar to generate the essential energy to move. Inside the house everything is made of cotton candy. It tastes so sweet. It smells like a rich creamy strawberry. Inside the house it is not too cold to freeze the sugar, and not too hot so the sugar become sticky. Some furniture is made of marshmallows, and some made of Lollipops. My bed is made of Jello with marshmallow as pillows. The only problem with my delicious house is when the rain comes. It will dissolve my sugary house. I should think of a solution to protect my sweetest house forever.

The Causes of Car Accidents

Melanie Rebolledo

R/W 40

Which causes do you think are the most frequent reasons for accidents? The research said that in these days they found a lot of car accidents. We can see that one of the causes that is most famous is talking or texting on the phone. They don't know how distracted they are, and they cannot see that a message can provoke an accident or kill someone. Another cause of accidents is alcohol or drugs. The people are not too mature to know that they shouldn't drive when they are drinking, but they are still doing that. A good plan for this problem is if you are going to drink or smoke, then ask someone who is not doing those things like you are, and ask if she doesn't mind driving you then everybody will be good and safe. Finally, a third reason for accidents is the speeding and passing other cars while speeding. It is really important that you know and follow all the rules that you have to follow when you are driving a car. The people driving must obey the traffic rules and respect the signals on the highway. In conclusion, we have to take care and be careful of everything that I have told you about in order to not cause so many accidents.

Is It Safe to Use the Car?

Abdulaziz Alnajar

R/W 40

There is some risk when using a car. Nowadays almost everybody has to use the car, so we have to know the risk for using it, and how we can reduce the risk when using it. We have to know what the main reasons for accidents. First, following the rules is the best way to avoid accidents. Moreover, following the rules gives you a clear vision of how to use the car on the street. Second, do not go to work late. If you do so, you will be under stress all the way to work, and it may cause an accident because you feel like you are in a race. Finally,

check the car every week. By checking your car regularly, you will avoid many things that effect the car on the way while you are driving. In conclusion, to avoid the risks when using the car follow the rules, do not go late to work, and check your car for defects.

The Effects of Addiction to Video Games

Cosme Jaramillo

R/W 40

Are you addicted to video games? Many people around the world have this addiction, but they don't think about the effects. The first effect of this addiction is that the people don't leave out their rooms or house, and just spend their time in front of the TV. The next effect is that some of these people commit crimes like stealing or killing other people because they think that the real life is the game. The third and least important effect is they forget their family and friends, and stay inside only playing those video games, They at the same time make other friends online with the same interests of playing video games. In conclusion, if you want a normal life don't have this addiction because all addictions have negative effects in your life and with the addiction to video games you are going to lose your family, friends and your health.

Dangerous Games

Sun Kyu Kim

R/W 40

Video or computer games seem like dangerous drugs! Addiction to these games causes not a few bad effects on people. First of all, students who are addicted to games don't try to study at all. They are only interested in their Avatar, which is the hero of the games. For this reason, these days, the test scores of students are decreasing. Another bad effect of video or computer games is an unhappy family. The more children care about games, the more the harmony of the family is declining. There is no conversation between parents and their offspring. Finally, the last bad effect of these addictive games is the increase in crime. What is the meaning of this? Actually, there are so many violent and disgusting stuffs in several games, and people who play games are always exposed to these dangerous things. Because of this, people who are addicted themselves to games are able to commit crimes in the real world. In conclusion, addiction to video or computer games can cause dangerous effects, so we have to help addicts in trouble for our lives.

Effects of Addiction to Video or Computer Games

Marie Zulema Lehm Ardaya

R/W 40

Have you thought about the effects upon your child of becoming addicted to video or computer games? Addiction to

video or computer games has effects not only in the short, but also in the long term. Between the first, and when people become addicted as youths, losing time playing has an impact on their studies at school. Also, another effect is on the socialization process of the young, because playing all the time makes them less communicative. Both circumstances described above have impact in the long term when younger people become older. Less communicative skills produce instability in the family, and can cause increased divorces. Also, addiction to video and computer games is the cause of the increase of absences at work. Those addicted to video or computer games are more frequently fired from their jobs, with negative consequences on personnel and family lives. In conclusion, addiction to video or computer games has consequences that affect not only individuals but also families lives, and the society as a whole.

The Causes of Car Accidents

Jorge Abreo

R/W 40

Car accidents happen everywhere, and do you know that one of the major reasons for deaths worldwide is from car accidents? Indeed, drunk drivers are the main cause of accidents in the world; therefore, there are many campaigns suggesting that you should not drive when you are drinking alcohol. Another cause of car accidents is the use of cell phones when you are driving, because talking and texting take away concentration. Finally, high speed and recklessness of some drivers are others causes for car accidents. For example, many drivers do not respect traffic laws, and they are dangerous to other drivers. In conclusion, there are many causes that produce car accidents, but all are preventable. People should drive carefully every time since lives are always involved.

Causes That Effect Car Accidents

Giselle Mendt

R/W 40

Have you ever had a car accident? If you haven't, you are lucky. Car accidents can happen anywhere at any time, so be careful. One reason that effects car accidents is alcohol. If you are in a party, and you are drunk, you mustn't drive. You wouldn't be in a good status to do it. The next cause is that some people don't pay attention to the traffic signs. If you are in a hurry or listening to music, you don't pay attention to those signs that are very important to prevent accidents. The last, and the most common reason is cell phones. These days a lot of people, they can be teenagers or adults, use their cell phones when they are driving. They are talking on the phone or texting. This is a very big distraction to the drivers. Finally, all these causes have the effect of causing car accidents, so you must be aware and be careful when you are driving.

The Cause of Car Accidents

Luis Atacho

R/W 40

Do you know why each day more car accidents occur? If you want to learn more about this topic; I advise that you read this paragraph. Now, I'm going to tell you some causes of car accidents. The first is people drinking because they're going partying, and then they drive to their home. Another cause is the tired people, because they leave from their work and fall asleep while driving. Finally, the young people, because they doesn't have experience driving. In conclusion, I can say that we can avoid car accidents by being more careful while driving.

The Causes of Car Accidents

Florence Bordaries

R/W 40

Have you already seen some car accidents? Do you know why these accidents happen? There are a lot of causes of car accidents, and during modern times car accidents are more frequent and cause more deaths. The most popular causes of car accidents are the consuming of alcohol or others addicting substances. Indeed, drinking or using drugs can makes the driver lose control of his car and cause really terrible accidents is the non-respecting of the driving rules. If a driver doesn't follow the rules, he can make mistakes, such as speeding, having collisions or making people be in danger. Finally, drivers have to take care if they are doing something else when they are driving. When people drive sometimes, they do some other things like talking on the phone, smoking cigarettes, or eating and that can be very dangerous because the driver can lose his attention to the road. All in all, there are many causes of car accidents and all drivers have to pay attention, follow the rules, and focus on the road when they drive.

Be Careful on the Road

Omar Contreras

R/W 40

Do you know that you can die or kill someone in a car accident? There are many reasons that can cause car accidents. The first cause is when a person is under the influence of alcohol and starts to drive. Obviously that person isn't in condition to do it. Another reason for car accidents, and one of the most common in the recent years, is driving and using the cellphone at the same time. The driver can lose his attention to the road. Finally, also when the person is driving, they are usual talking with the others passengers, and occasionally turn their head to see the person who is talking. For example, to look at the copilot can produce, the driver turns his head and is not seeing the road. In conclusion, we must be responsible and pay attention when we are driving to avoid car accidents and prevent these dangerous effects.

Causes of Car Accidents

Jeissly Montilla

R/W 40

Have you ever had a car accident? Many people have a lot of car accidents, and they don't realize how dangerous it can be. One of the most common causes of car accidents is cellphones. This is because when people are driving they care so much about their cellphones, and they are always texting or talking on the phone and that just distracts them. Another cause of car accidents is alcohol. Sometimes when people go out they drink a lot even though they are driving, and they get out of their minds. Another cause is being sleepy. When people don't sleep well or don't rest, they get tired and that makes them sleep while they are driving. In conclusion, although many people have a lot of car accidents, there are some that really think about this problem and try to do something about it.

Obituaries

(Editor's note: Students were asked to write their own death notices. These are funny.)

GM 51

Lara Sanz, has passed away so young, but nobody except her family knew her real age. She died while she practiced bungee jumping. But she didn't die while she was jumping, she died before, the cause of her death was nervousness. She is the first person that died this way. With her death she entered the Guinness World Record Book. This was the most important thing that she did in her life. Now all the bridges will have a picture with her face.

Petros Avril bought the farm Friday, Oct. 2, 2008, having lived 78 wasted years. Petros was a member of a very wealthy family. He was the only heir of the huge property that Avril's family owned. He was maybe the only person in this world who could have squandered all this money. He finally succeeded to waste everything at the age of 41. Congratulations Petros! He lived the rest of his miserable life in a hut doing nothing to earn his life back. He never created a family or cared about children. He absolutely deserved his loneliness. However he had a very good friend that followed him all his life... wine! They were inseparable! They had a great relationship! Every night they used to talk a lot in that hut. On this point I think that we have to thank Petros for his offerings to our society by doing nothing in his unimportant life. Thank you Petros, we all feel pleased!

Mr. Jack Carlsson passed away in a car accident last Monday. Mr. Jack was a funny guy and he was well loved by his family. I hope that he is in peace now and I am pretty sure that he would like to send a message to all the girls that were linked to him in any way and that message would be: "I love you all girls ;)" He never got married because he had a philosophy that many girls are of course better than one. It is

sad that he only was in this world for 35 years but he enjoyed those years as much as he could. He was always telling jokes and taking care of his family. We will never forget you Jackie! And be sure to find some girls up there! Well I guess that it is time to say good-bye. With love, your brother, Brad.

Dear brothers, **Gabriel Alemany** finally bit the dust last Saturday. The most hated person in the whole world, the new Hitler, keeled over in his house after stepping on a banana peel, slipping and hitting his head against the ground. Now we can celebrate that the biggest killer ever is already gone, and he paid for the millions of lives he took away. Even though he just bought the farm he is going to spend 32 years in jail because that is what he deserves. He is also going to be tortured in the same way he used to torture the other people. They are going to film the torture and televise it for us, so we can watch the action from our houses, and be able to enjoy his pain. In other words, you have plenty of reasons to be happy for a whole year.

Nasil Heo, beloved by her father and mother and siblings was born on January 13th, 1968 in Pusan, Korea. She passed away peacefully, October 6th, 2010. She was the luckiest person in the world. Her miracle story started as soon as she was born. When she was born, she almost died because her mother passed out during her birth.

2 years later, she grew up to be an active baby. One day, she got an electric shock because she grabbed an iron-chopstick and poked it in a wall socket. Her mother who saw that scene hit her baby by using a broom in order to save her. However, unlike what you'd expect, she got smarter as she grew.

From the electric shock, she grew up to be a genius. She had an IQ of 150 and she entered Harvard. When she was 28 years old, she became the youngest electrical engineering professor.

To celebrate her 10th anniversary with her husband, they traveled to china and they saw the Great Wall of China. When she was the highest point, she lost her balance. She rolled down 10,000 stairs. Nevertheless, when she finally stopped rolling, she had no physical wounds, she was just dead.

Andrea Rey passed away on September 23rd, 2010. Andrea was a girl of seventeen who loved to play the piano, but she didn't play it well. It was an awful sound. Every time she played it, all the people who were around her would leave her alone - even the pets. She loved to sing too, but everyone hated that terrible sound. Nobody wanted to listen to her. Even though, Andrea was a terrible musician, she thought she was great. She had her birthday party on September 21st, and she was so happy. After a great day, she fell asleep. The next day she didn't wake up. Her mom thought she was so tired, so she let her sleep. Then next day her mom called the doctor because she was worried about Andrea. The doctor said Andrea was dead, for she had fallen asleep and slept so well that she died. He said, "Death is the best way to rest."

Sun Kyu Kim kicked the bucket on January 14, 2100, and it is the same date on which he was born. The reason why

he died was food. He loved to eat anything that was very sweet, sugary, and fragrant. On January 13, He fell over, from the jelly stuck in his throat. There were so many foodstuffs in his house, that no one could enter his room. Because of this, people who wanted to pray for his death were not able to go inside. They stood in the yard, and Kim lay alone in his room, surrounded only by foods which were praying for him.

(Editor's note: In the next paragraphs, students practice using prepositions and preposition combinations.)

English in My Life

Reginald Toussaint

GM 31

When I **arrived in** Gainesville, I was very quiet. Because my English was not good, I did not want to **discuss** anything **with** anyone. I **was afraid of** making mistakes. I **was not happy about** my situation. When I was **thinking about** my situation, I realized that the best way to improve my English was to **concentrate on** my ELI classes. Since that time I have become **crazy about** English. Now I spend all of my time **in** practicing English activities like: **listening to** English music, reading stories in English, **talking to** English native speakers. I learned a lot **of language skills** in my English classes. In my listening and speaking class, I learn how to **ask** someone **about** something, **apologize to** someone **for** something, and **disagree politely with** someone **about** something. In my grammar class, I learn how to use preposition combinations correctly. My writing class helps me to perfectly use commas, semicolons and periods in my sentences. All of my classes **help** me **with** my preparation for the TOEFL and GRE tests. In conclusion, my situation today is very **different from** when I arrived here.

University of Florida

Jorge Abreo

GM 31

University of Florida is one **of the most interesting universities in the United States**. First, UF has one **of the largest campuses in this country** and also enrolls about fifty thousand students from many countries **in the world**. The students and staff are very **friendly with** everyone, and a student can **talk to** them about college. Also, if you are **curious about** their culture, and you want to **know about** it, you should **ask** your teachers or UF students **about** it. On the other hand, UF has many sports, but football is the most important; I don't **agree with** this because I am **interested in** tennis or soccer. However, the students are **crazy about** football. This situation is **similar to** other American universities. Finally, UF is not only **famous for** its good academic programs of study, but also for its great athletic competition.

My Job

Natalia Fuentes

GM 31

I am going to **speak about** my work in Spain. My job **consists of** helping people. I am a Social Worker. I have to **hear about** the people's lives. People **talk to me about** their problems, and together we **look for** ways to solve them. For a long time, I worked with battered women. They wanted to **escape from** their husbands because they beat the women. This job is very difficult because women often **depend psychologically on** their husbands. For women, it is very difficult to get to them because the men do not want their women leave them. Social Workers always have to **tell women about** the difficulties **about** how to get out of this situation, and we always **hope for** their recovery. For me, it is very important to **separate my work life from** my personal life because I am used to **listening to** very bad things about people's lives. However, social work among abused women is important and useful work.

My Conversation Partner

Ayano Saito

GM 31

I have an energetic conversation partner. Her name is April. She already **graduated from** UF with a Master's degree. Now she is a Ph.D. student at UF. She's very hardworking in her major, but she also **belongs to** the Karate club. I think this is too much hard, which is **bad for** her. However, she said, "I'm **curious about** many things. They are **good for me**." I've **listened to** the same thing in Japan. One of my Japanese friends is **similar to** her. I **wonder about** both April and my friend. When I **talked with** them, I could get a mental energy. I like April and **look forward to** our meetings.

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 Todd Allen for publicizing this issue of Student Voices, to the Reading/Writing instructors for supporting their students in their writing, and to Todd Allen, Melina Jimenez, Valentina Komaniecka, Debbie McDonald, Tom Ratican, and Robert Roberg for reading and evaluating the entries.

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