

ELI STUDENT VOICES

WINNING PIECES

First Place

"Love in the Simple Present" by
Martha Lucía Ramírez Vargas

Second Place

"Looking at My Mother's Future" by
Dongun Kim

Love in the Simple Present

Martha Lucía Ramírez Vargas | RW4 | First Place

I sing to the gentle wind
And I celebrate our passionate love
In the morning the blazing sun invited us to hold our
hands together;
At night the moon tracks our shadows, as if it wishes
to gossip about our last kiss.

Open blue sky in January proposes to us to find
intuitive dreams in the clouds
We lie on the ground, as one, we let our minds fly!
In August we try to control our fantasies in the
middle of the gale
They're tied to the rope, in the firmament, only one
kite, our sight as one.

In the summer, New York, we walk side by side,
quickly
We want to catch the best memory, the deepest smile!
Stunning sun, city heat that does not discourage us
To reach our unique start, between art drawings and
skyscrapers,
In the winter, Santiago, we appreciate landscape,
white and ivory

So, in that place, we are astounded between
mountains
They unalterably join as does our endearing idyll.

On workdays, we take a sweet coffee and we start
trudging the path;
Your mind in my heart, my heart in your soul,
Slowly but surely, at the end of the day, your breeze
is my breath
On weekends, my hair in your face, intertwined
More than one witty laugh, serene oasis, reliable rest.

What do you prefer?
In the morning or at night?
In January or in August?
In summer or in winter?
On workdays or on weekends?
Maybe wherever in flexible space!

*This poem evokes memories that I have lived with my
husband Jorge and it is dedicated to him.*

Looking at My Mother's Future

Dongeun Kim | RW1 | Second Place

This picture was taken with my grandmother on last Parents' Day. She was born in 1934 in the countryside and married at a young age. Even though she didn't learn letters, she is memorizing all the details of the nearest family relatives. She is wise, loves me, and goes well with her new pink shirt. (I gave her.) Whenever I see her, I feel like I'm talking to my mom's future. Grandmother, Mom, and I have special similarities, and we love each other like everybody else. We have spent countless days talking, and we will continue to remember each other like flowers.

And I want to send this letter to my Big Flower!



What I Miss Most About Home & What I Will Miss When I Leave the ELI

Yoo Ri Kim | RW40

People call me "Yuri is such a cat mom!" Yes, I'm the mother of cats. Before I came here, I made a deal with my best friend, now who cares for my lovely babies. What I miss most about home is not food, not a family, not friends. It is a cat. Yesterday I thought that if I don't have any cats, I might have traveled more. This year I become 30. In general international age. I'm still available to get working holiday visa to Canada, or somewhere else which they do working holiday visa. It might be the last chance. Because they only allow you to get the visa until you are 31. I've lived by myself almost 6 years. This time was so lucky to have my friend to care for the cats. I want to do working holiday in Canada. I have confidence that it will be much better than my stay in Australia. I wish I could have the solution. I never thought about giving them to someone else or abandoning them ever. To take care of something is hard. It needs lots of responsibility. My first cat is 13 years old. He might not have enough time with me. I miss all my cats!

Three months have already passed. I can't believe it. Time flew so fast. I have got three months left. What I miss about ELI when I leave will be, of course, my classmates and teachers. I love to wake up to prepare to go school. To have breakfast is one of the things I most like to do in the morning. Compared with going to work, it is a totally different feeling. I am so thankful to be here. I think that this experience would be my last holiday. I will miss the sky and stars, smiling people when I walk on the street. My classmates, most of them are much younger than me. I can imagine that what they are going to be. I wish I could kick back to 20's. I will miss my favorite building in UF, taking a nap in the Auditorium, red bricks, tons of squirrels. Oh God I feel like crying, I already miss all.

Poverty in Haiti

Wanita Dantes | RW43

Every single person would like to live in a luxurious house and run the last model of car. Nevertheless, the problem is that we don't always have what we really want in life. The worst if you belong in a poor country, a country whose leaders don't want to do anything in order to ameliorate people lifestyles. Since my childhood, I haven't noted any positive change in Haiti. Day after day the level of poverty is increasing and people suffer, struggle to find something to survive. Poverty is a big issue around the world. However, it is a major problem in Haiti. So the government should go through the problem, analyze deeply these causes, effects and solutions described below and find out how to work out on it.

First of all, to understand this problem, we need to understand the causes. The main cause of poverty in Haiti is government instability. Unfortunately, this crisis is a real problem, every government throughout many years is not able to solve this issue. The businesses and officials become rich to the detriment of the rest Haitian people. After each electoral period, the Haitian society is divided in two parts: the government and the opposition. This group protests daily against the other group in order to show to the population that the leaders work for themselves and not for the population. For example, the current government released a law that every Haitian should pay taxes regularly, which is a good idea because a society can't progress if the population doesn't pay taxes. The opposing group revolts against this decision and creates troubles in the street. When this situation is like that, the weak percentage of workers can't go to their office, the street vendors and sellers are not able to do their activity, the schools are not functional. As a result, the level of poverty increase day after day and the Haitian people become more vulnerable.

Secondly, others reasons of poverty in Haiti are natural disasters and joblessness. In the first case,

there are two recent events that caused the rise of poverty in the country: The earthquake in 2010 and the Hurricane Matthew in 2017. The first one has increased the economic crisis in Haiti and created many homeless in the capital. The second destroyed many crops, houses, and life in rural areas. The parts of Haiti that the earthquake didn't touch, Hurricane Matthew devastated. Imagine this situation when a poor person lost his house and beforehand he couldn't afford enough needs to his family and with natural disasters that ravaged all of his ownership. Consequently, the population has grown in poverty.

The second one, joblessness, is a big factor that leads to poverty in the country. The Haitian government doesn't create enough job for the population. You can be a great professional, but it is very difficult to work. Some people who work can't have an adequate lifestyle because they earn almost nothing in terms of income. They can't build a house, they are renters and when they are in this kind of situation, it's really difficult to save money to build their own house because they have children to take care of. Thus, they are unable to earn enough resources to take care of themselves and their independents even when they are working.

By understanding the effects of this major issue, the solutions can be better applied. This situation results in various effects. The first one is malnutrition. Children are malnourished because their parents can't take care of them. It also affects people's behaviors, leading to crime. The level of insecurity raises in Haiti. Hungry people become violent, show bad behavior to each other, and become dangerous for the society. In the middle of the day, there are some risky areas, you are supposed to be careful and avoid walking late at the night because robbers can kill you. When they are stopped by policemen, in many cases, they explain that they have family to take care of and there is no available job for them. They are obliged to rob in order to take care their family.

("Poverty in Haiti" continued)

Some government have already tried some solutions such as free primary school, creation of food centers etc..., but none of those can't solve the problem because there is a kind of discontinuity in the system. The actual government has to use a new approach in order to address this instability that the country faces. The first way to remedy this issue is by making stable the government. It should reduce the numbers of protest in the street and thus create an environment of peace for everyone who lives in the country and also for the investors. They should go through the unsteady situation and find out the causes and how to solve them. For instance, businessmen like places where some risks are low, where they are sure they won't lose their investment. Furthermore, where there is a minimum of stability, the national and international organizations are able to realize easily their project of development.

The next logical step to remedy this problem is the reduction of unemployment. Too many young people don't have any occupation in Haiti. Work contribute a lot to the development of a growing society. The government needs to create jobs for anyone who has the ability to do something because when the majority of people work in an area, it is easier to work by collectig funds to do it. It is the same idea for the country, the government can collect more taxes in order to invest them in many ways able to contribute to the improvement of some aspects. For example, many areas are not exploited in Haiti and deserve to be keeping eyes on them. These areas are source of employment. The government should work on many ways like working on creating some factories capable of transforming fruits in order to make sustainable juice or factories that are able to recycle plastic and other kinds of garbage. The leaders need to be able to manage the wastes (outcomes of crops and food). All of these areas can provide jobs and at the same time reduce the number of jobless people in the country.

The final step in solving this problem is a good management of natural disasters. Since we cannot eliminate them. However, we are able to reduce the results they may produce in order to bring down some damages. Haiti doesn't have any urgent plan able to manage some natural disasters such as storm, cyclone, or flooding. It is clear there are some of them that are difficult even impossible to control like earthquake, thunder etc., but for those we can predict, the government ought to set some urgency plan and build some shelters. It should also implicate in the construction of the buildings in certain areas because it is not acceptable where we suppose to set some agricultural infrastructure, where we suppose to grow plants, it is there the population use to build their houses, their businesses. And moreover, when they build like that without infrastructure able to evacuate surplus water, it is easier to deal with floods often.

In summary, the causes and effects of poverty in Haiti are multiple, but all hope is not already gone because many changes are possible in order to improve this situation. The bad governance, natural disasters, unemployment wherever in the world conduct to poverty. However, some countries are better than others. So in Haiti, the context is really critical and affects the future of several generations. the insecurity create frustration and fear in the population and even international organizations are afraid to invest in Haitian economy. So cross this step to another is not easy, only a revolution can change things. But by implementing these proposed solutions, the Haitian leaders will help themselves and the population.

My Classmates

Faris Alshahrani | RW10/20

I love my classmates from Reading & Writing 10/20 class. My classmates are from many different countries. Ihab Abdel is a young man from Jordan, and he likes photography. He is friendly. Sharifah is from Saudi Arabia, and she is brave and dependable. Abdullah Alhajri is a lazy person. Abdulraman Almayouni from Kuwait, and he is a funny and helpful person. Omer Almutiri is sometimes late to come to class, but he is a hardworking person. Ali Alrashidi is also from Kuwait, and he is competitive. Salman Aloneizi is from Saudi Arabia, and he is ambitious. Ahmed Ba Tayib is from Saudi Arabia, and he loves living in city Makkah. Ahyoung Cho is from South Korea, and she is quiet. Paulo de Sa is from a beautiful country, Brazil. Andrea Ferrari and Ricardo Postiglione are from Venezuela, and they are serious people, but Andrea is shy. Danbi Noh is from South Korea, and she is polite. I am happy in this class, and I hope to study together again in next semester.

What I Miss Most About Home & What I Will Miss When I Leave the ELI

Sofia Barboza | RW40

I miss my family, my friends, my lady of service and of course my house especially my room. When I was in Venezuela, my mom or my lady of service cooked for me, washed my clothes and did all the things for me. I miss when my friends were there everyday and we drank and we had a lot of parties with a lot of people. Especially I miss when my mother was so angry with me and my friends because of the music and the disaster in the house. The strangest thing is when I fought with my brothers and my mother was so angry. I remember when my father and my mother were so angry with me because I came to the house very late. I miss everyday my house and my room. I miss my bed and

my privacy in my house, sometimes here I feel I don't have privacy and I feel alone. In conclusion I hope to come back again to home with my family and my friends and all my close people.

I will miss a lot of things. The first thing is the people of the ELI. I had 3 semesters here and they have been the best in my life. I will miss a lot my friends from Kuwait. I will miss the university and the teachers. My experience here is the best of my life and I wish I could do another semester but I can't because I will go to Santa Fe. I will remember all the days here in the ELI. In conclusion I wish to repeat these months again because it was the best and my favorite days.

Access to USA

Mohammad Farhan | RW1

I arrived at Philadelphia Airport Transit on 13/10/2017 at 1pm. Transit I was waiting at 4 pm to travel to Orlando. The weather was very nice in Philadelphia. We went to the Saboy Restaurant and I went to Nike to buy sports clothes. We went outside the airport to smoke, then we went to take off to Orlando and arrived at 7 pm. Orlando Airport was very big, My friend was waiting for us. To go to beautiful Gainesville To learn English.



The Challenging Times in My Life

Ibrahim Alkhaibari | RW60

I was born and grew up in a small village surrounding my family. I spent most of my days between school and spending time with my friends. As a child, I used to go to our farm with my father to help him and learn from him. He always used to tell me, "Take care of your mom and your siblings." I did not realize the real meaning of the responsibility until he passed. At the age of 16, I undertook my family's responsibility along with my studies. I tried to balance my time between studying for high school and taking care of my family. That was the first of many challenges I would face during my life.

Since I was living in a small village, after graduating high school I had to move to a different city for college. During my college years, I faced many obstacles. One of these obstructions was feeling homesick since I was living away from home. However, day after day, I made friends, and they helped me to overcome feeling nostalgic by encouraging and advice. Although I still missed my father who provided me instructions, in the second year at college, I met Professor Abdulrahman, who was from Syria, and after an interval of time, he became my motivator. He was always advising me with my studies. As a result, his advice pushed me to get the highest score in my chemistry department. Dr. Abdulrahman supervised the graduation project, and my research was about the chemical modification of scrap tires for the preparation of ion exchangers. I am particularly proud of this project because it addresses an issue that causes pollution – the disposal of scrap tires, which are often burnt – and instead uses them to actually reduce pollutants in water. In last year in the college, I was also a member of the student council, cooperating with the Deanship of Student Affairs to offer advice to students dealing with academic. This experience showed me that I had the ability to deal empathically with students who were experiencing difficulties in learning. After graduating, I was appointed as a

teaching assistant at the Department of Science at Qassim University, under the leadership of Professor Abdul Rahman Mallah.

I had begun the work as a teaching assistant in 2014, and I felt great pride when I received my first salary because I remembered how I had struggled a lot since my father passed, and I realized that I was on the right track. I was working as a teaching assistant at college for two years. As a teaching assistant, I learned a great deal of academic skills such as working effectively both independently and in a team environment, working under pressure and meeting deadlines, and knowledge of chemical laboratory setups such as HPLC, IR, NMR, GC, and MS. After two years of experience, I was thinking to begin a new adventure, and I decided to travel abroad to the United States where I will complete a master's degree and Ph.D. I have chosen the English Language Institute because it has a good reputation. When I had arrived in Gainesville, I began studying at the ELI. The communication was difficult because of language the differences between me, the teachers, and students who came from different parts of the world. The ELI, however, allowed me to learn new cultures and a new language, that helped me to understand the importance of diversity.

In the final analysis, obstacles assist us to find ourselves because there is no success without struggling and I believe that persistence and determination are two significant methods in which individuals impact change within character. I mention that because I still remember when I heard Ahmed Zewail won the Nobel Prize in chemistry to become the father of femtochemistry, and all the obstacles he struggled to overcome, I felt that sense of challenge has remained with me to this day, leading to my strong faith in determination and dedication.

Spending Money when You Are Student in a Different Country

Rosa Prieto | RW43

I have been living in Gainesville for two months. In these two months, I have spent around two thousand dollars and the majority of the money that I spent was in clothes, jewelry, and fast food. Before comes here, my dad told me that I had to learn how to save money because it would depend on me to have enough money for food. But I didn't listen, it went in one ear and it came out the other, and I started buying everything that seemed cute. As a result of my crazy shopping, my account was always empty and my mom was always upset with me. Because of these, we need to focus on three solutions, such as manage the money, buy in offers, and save the money in a hard to reach place.

To understand the problem, we need to understand the causes. When we arrive in a new city, in a different country, and much more developed than our own country, we think it's the paradise to buy. We see new stores, food of all the kinds, and shoes that we had never seen in our country, and as a teenager we always run the risk that if some situation come, we act and then we think. For example, I have a friend here in Gainesville that arrived two months ago. The first week, she went with friends to meet Gainesville and she spent more than \$300 dollars in clothes and food because she saw many things that she liked, as she had the money available, she bought everything that she wanted, and that was the food money for the month. At the moment of seeing something that we like too much, we don't think about any other thing than buying it. Being in a totally different country and without anyone controlling our expenses can present a serious challenge for our economic stability, despite of all the thing that we can spend.

Spending money without control can have many serious effects. Although we think that the consequences will be minimal, but they are not. The more we spend, even on insignificant things, the less we have to cover other much more important expenses. Spending compulsively is never going to end in something good and less when you are student, and you have to manage the money to cover all the bills that you have to pay. An example is a student at the university. She is addicted to buying things online. She cannot see anything online because she buys it immediately. Two weeks ago, we went to eat pizza and we told her to come, but she told us that she couldn't because she spent all the money that her mom sent her some markers online, and she didn't tell to her mother because her mother will be angry with her. Things like that happen when you manage your own money for the first time. We see everything cheap, accessible, and we think we can afford it but that is at the moment. After that you will see the consequences and it is not at all pleasant to have to go through an economic crisis and thats what we can fall into if we spend unnecessarily

The first way to remedy this problem is to start managing the money. Manage the money, if you don't want to stop shopping, is one of the best advice that you can follow because you will have control in your own money and you will know how much can you spend and how much can you not spend. Spend all the money on unnecessary things is not the problem itself, as we spend it is the problem. If you want to buy things beside the needed things and you don't want to put your economy in total danger, you have to assess your expenses. Do a budget based on how much money do you spend in food, resources, rent, resources, and extra things for yourself, with that you will see how much you spend and how much money you can save. For example, the first month I bought first of all, the necessary food but with my parents, and it was cheap, so I had extra money for me. The second month I bought alone, but instead of buying food first, which was the most important, I bought clothes, so I spent almost all the money in clothes and, then for the food was a horrible problem, I didn't have enough money to buy food, and my mom was so angry. As a result of that, I decided to do a

("Spending Money" continued)

budget and see how much money I spent on food and how much money extra money is left. Now, when I receive the money from my dad, I think before in the most important and then with the extra money that I know that I will have I buy something for myself if I want. If you do this every month is better, don't spend the money at that end of the month, you wait until the other month, and you keep saving.

Another solution is buy everything on sale. When we shop, we will see a lot of sale in every store that we visit. It doesn't matter the store, they will always have sale, so what I recommended is buy there, you will save a lot of money and you will economize more than ever. The majority of people think that if you buy things on sale is bad because if they are in discount, it is because they have some defects or they are of bad quality, but that's not true. The problem is that we buy clothes, make up, jewelry expensive, or maybe not to expensive but we can find that things cheaper in another place. An example, it is me. One month ago I was in Orlando with my mom and we went out to buy things, I was crazy about buying makeup so I told her to go to Sephora because there the makeup is very good quality. We went and I bought just two lipsticks because it was too expensive. After that, my mom went to a gift shop and I went with her, I saw a section of makeup and I got in there. The same lipstick that I bought in Sephora was there and cheaper than Sephora. I was so angry and my mom told me that that happened to me because I didn't wait to see in other stores and she was right. Now every time I go shopping I see all the stores and then decided what I want. Some of us buy things first without waiting to see another store and see other option. That's why the majority of the time we buy the most expensive things and then we see things we like more and much more cheap.

Save the money in a hard to reach place. When we know that we have the money available without anything or nobody telling us that we cannot spend

it, we spend it faster, so the best thing that we can do is save the money where you know that if you want to spend on stupid things, you will not have it. A good example of that is my mom. She used to have the money there free for any expense, and that was a bad idea, she couldn't have control on it. What she does now is that every time my dad sends her money or she receives the salary from her job, she gave her credit card to my dad and he keeps it for her, so if she need to pay something or need to buy food she tells him and he put the money in her account but just the necessary money, and it works a lot. It's a great idea because you are not going to spend money on things you don't need and even if you wanted to, you could not.

Although these solutions are complex, and will take a long time to work, we should think about all the benefits that we will have in our future with these solutions and the satisfaction that we are going to feel having a total control in our own life. Demonstrating to others and to oneself that we can have an economic stability without problems and with many rewards based on them.

As a person we have to appreciate the effort that our parents make to give us the best and take advantage of all the opportunities that are presented to us to have a better life, to study what we want, to have the work that we wished, and be able to afford any expensive that we want in our future. These are the things that have to be in our minds to make our parents proud of us because we triumphed and achieved the goals that so many of us set ourselves.

Tell the Story

Michelle Buenavida | RW52

The other day Romeo want to see his beautiful friend Rapunzel, but he didn't find her... he was finding in the stores that she usually went, the police department. Also, she went to the hospital to see if she was there, but he was so conundrum. Romeo didn't know were to go. Hours after, Romeo found Rapunzel's best friend called Maria... Beacuse Romeo was so worried about Rapunzel, he asked to Maria about the whereabouts. And she told him that she was in a high tower, and the tower doesn't have any entrance to get in.. Also, the room where Rapunzel was, was so small and dirty with rats, mold and only one small window.. When Romeo heard that he ran really fast to find Rapunzel to rescue her. To do that Romeo had a fantastic idea. It was to find 8 friends and each one will be on the shoulders of other. The last one will be Romeo... You want to know why Romeo did all this? Beacuse he wants to ask a really good question to Rapunzel... Do you want to be my girlfriend?



Photo: "Lisbon Streets"
by Magdalena Szurek

My First Class in the United States

Ihab Abdel Rahman | RW10/20

My Reading and Writing 10/20 class is very special because my classmates have different nationalities. In my class, there is a friend named Ricardo who is from Venezuela, and he is ambitious and creative. I love talking to him. There is also Andrea. She is also from Venezuela. She is very quiet in class, and I think she is very shy. She has a cheerful spirit. They are the first people I know from Latin America. There are students from middle east where I belong to, and they have full of positive energy. Also, in the class, Sharifa who is from Saudi Arabia is ambitious and creative. There are friends from Korea, Danbi and Ahyoung. They are competitive, enthusiastic, and very friendly. Although Mr. Paolo who is from Brazil is old, and he has a family, he works very hard and speaks only English, so he is a good example for us. He is a very ambitious and creative person who is always active and serious and social. Rui is from Chania. She is a mother of two children. She is very optimistic, brave, organized, and very creative. I respect every mother in this world because they have difficult work and they are tired. Also, there is someone unknown. She is very funny and ambitious. She loves her work so much, and she is serious about her work. She is elegant and optimistic. She is also very patient and friendly. Her name is my teacher Zoe. I am happy that she teaches and helps my English. Finally, I am the writer of this topic, and my name is Ihab. I am from Jordan. I am a social, ambitious, and optimistic person. One of my goals in this world is to draw a smile on everyone I meet in my life. I love my class very much! ☺

Bad Decisions Make Good Stories

Michelle Buenavida | RW52

The worst decision that I made is when I went with my friends to a survival camp called "Robinson". This camp was in the Amazonas, Venezuela. One day, with my team we did an activity where we need to find our own food for the entire day in the forest, and the boss told us that only one of 3 members of the group can find the food. Obviously... I am Michelle... a very bold girl. I volunteered. And I went alone, I was so scared. When I got inside the forest, I picked some kind of strange fruits and weird bugs that you can only find in the Amazonas. In the beginning was very scared, but this story outcome was fun because I saw beautiful trees, bugs, animals and flowers. The most important thing that I learned is not to be scared of the unknown and the new things that appear in your life.

My Classmates

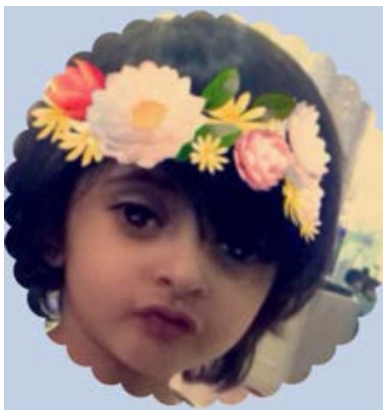
Sharifah Aldawghan | RW10/20

I love my classmates because when I have problems, they help me. Ah young who is from Korea is my best friend in this class. Danbi is very calm. Rui and Paulo have special characters because they are very patient. Ricardo and Salman are good listeners. Faris and Ihab are hardworking because they study and do their homework every day. Andrea is very shy. Ahmed is sick every day. Abdullah is a good student because he comes to class every day although he doesn't know English. Abdurrahman is a very quiet person. Ail speaks a lot. Omar is always late for the class. These are my classmates, and all of them are very good. Therefore, I love them. ☺

The Life of my Child

Abdulrahman Alanazi | RW1

I have a beautiful child. Is her name Rahif. She is 4years old, and she lives with her mother in the city of Riyadh. She likes to play in Disney land. She doesn't have a brother. I love her life so much.



Horses

Jorge Cataldo | RW1

Horse is what I like most. Every day I get up and think about them. I dream of being a career horse trainer. I told my dad and mother and they support me. They told me to choose what I liked but to dedicate time and effort that without that I will not achieve anything. I already have 1 horse and I feel happy. I am learning English because I need it because it is the first thing they ask to be a coach.



Why I Don't Want Children

Maria Fernanda Alvarado | RW43

When will you have a boyfriend? When do you marry? When will you have children? When will you have the second? ... Typical questions from parents, aunts, grandmothers and anyone who wants to get into your private life, especially Hispanic families who are usually large and traditional. It is normal to feel a little social pressure when they talk about these issues, but it is worse when you want to break the mold and say "I think I don't want children". At that moment the questions rise and go from questioning your sexuality to thinking that you are on the brink of suicide. My decision not to have children has many causes like I don't need children to be a "complete and happy" woman, the world we live in is not in the best conditions to bring more children, and my priority is my profession.

The main cause is I do not need children, I consider that we are complete beings from birth. We don't need someone who comes to complete us to achieve happiness. I am against the idea that women who do not have children live a lonely and miserable life. I don't doubt that having children should be a beautiful and happy event for many, something that is totally respectable, but it is also a huge responsibility that not everyone is willing to take on. It requires many sacrifices. You stop living for yourself to live for someone else because that someone needs you. And that's a weight I'm not ready to carry for instance, my best friend had to quit medical school for her baby, she loved her career, but she knows that caring for her son was a priority in her life. I respect and admire her decision, but I don't share it.

The world we live in is becoming more complicated, polluted and crazy that's, another reason why I don't want children. I think we humans have overpopulated and exploited this world and I don't want my future generation to suffer the consequences of what we are doing right now. It sounds pessimistic, but the truth is our governments do nothing for climate change, but instead play with

nuclear bombs as if we have another world to live for example, President Donald Trump in his twitter account published "The concept of global warming was created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive." or "Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded, should North Korea act unwisely. Hopefully Kim Jong Un will find another path!" that's the future of our planet is in the hands of selfish people, who don't think about future generations, nor suffer the consequences of their actions. For me it's irresponsible to leave my children in a world like this, that's why I prefer not to have them. I definitely don't want that for myself, neither for my children.

Another important cause is that having a child at this point of my life, is not financially viable. I think that if I can hardly afford my own life, I see impossible to afford someone else's life as they deserve. I have many expenses now, that I can't even think about having children. For example, I think of the money that I'm going to use for my postgraduate program (which is expensive) and I know that I can't add more expenses to my life. I only have money and time for myself right now. In a future, if my lifestyle allows me to have time and money to support a child, I might reconsider this decision.

Last but not least, I don't want children because they aren't my number one priority. To be a good parent, I consider that they have to go first of all, before your partner, your career, your social life even before yourself. First, I want to live for myself, I want to achieve my professional goals. For instance, a study by the SM Foundation on "Marriage and Young Couples in Spain" concludes that "77% of women give more importance to having a job than to be a mother or having a partner". I agree with that result. The role of woman has change, the work environment of woman has changed, we can be engineers or housewives or whatever we want to be, we don't all have to be mothers.

("Why I Don't Want Children" continued)

Not all people were born to be parents. I don't want to be a cliché of the "Millennial" generation that just want to travel the world without assuming any commitment or responsibility. My reasons go beyond that. I am 25 years old, my thinking is very different from what I thought 10 years ago and surely it will be 10 years later. But today this is my opinion. I do not want children because I still do not need them and I want them in my life. I think the world is very complicated and they are not my priority, these are my reasons, for many will be basic or selfish, but it is my way of thinking.

The Most Difficult Decision

Mikel Holmquist | RW42

When my parents told me about this trip I was shocked, I was in my 3rd year of engineering, the situation in Venezuela was the worst I had ever seen. In that moment, it seemed to be a bad idea, to study in another country it's a big challenge even for experienced people, and as everyone knows is not cheap, even less with the actual economy in Venezuela. It was the most difficult decision that I have ever made, to stop my career in order to improve my English and have new experiences.

Shortly after, my mom told me that I would go to The University of Florida to learn English to get cultural immersion and improve every aspect in my life.

In that moment I didn't realize what she was trying to say. However, now I understand and I can say clearly: She was trying to say "This is an opportunity to grow up, to get new experiences" as simple as that.

On the other hand, I was really excited for this trip, but to be honest I was thinking about meeting new people and vacationing in the US. As days passed, my thinking turned around 360 degrees. I stopped thinking about all of these things that would hinder me, and I started to think about my life, I actually was realizing the huge opportunity in front of me.

When I got here, the differences between this country and Venezuela were overwhelming, because I was here alone, by myself, for first time in my life.

My new life in Gainesville started really good, it was easy to me meet new friends, I was scared and trying to meet some Venezuelans or at least people from South America who speak Spanish like me. To my surprise, since I got here I just made 2 close friends from Venezuela because I tried to avoid the contact with people who speak my own language. Actually, every single day I try to spend more time speaking English than Spanish. The reason is obvious, I'm here for some reasons: meet international people, meet new cultures, and the most important of all learning English.

In this moment, I'm very happy because most of my friends are from countries like South Korea, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, China and much more. When I got here I was very shy to speak in English that it's not common to me, because I'm the most extroverted person I have ever known. Even though, I did my best and now my English had improved a lot, I'm not shy anymore, I can have conversations for more than just a few minutes, I have a lot friends even in the offices, I'm enjoying this trip and the goal is near, I just need to keep practicing and improving all the things the ELI has taught me in these months.

Finally, when this semester ends I will be sad but at the same time I will be happy, because it's time to say goodbye to all my new friends, and when I think about my decision to get here and take this risk, I can say it was the best decision ever, and wouldn't change it for anything, because now I'm proud to say: "I have a lot of good friends around the world and I'm able to understand and speak with all of them".

What have been the effects of living in the US to you personally?

Roberto Rafael Edde Verde | RW43

All the countries have different cultures and lifestyles, which their citizens are used to, and for the people in another countries look really weird or different. When you leave your house to work, study or live in a different country, your lifestyle won't be exactly the same as in the past. Your schedule, friends, foods, environment will change depending on the country where you are going. For example, my life as a student in Venezuela was really different to my life here in the US because it was a really big change to study in another country with a different culture. Living in the United States changed my personality and my lifestyle in many ways.

My first week here in Gainesville, I had to learn how to make and where to buy my own food, clean my clothes and wash my dishes. When I was in Venezuela, I didn't have to make this works so often because I was living with my mom and my dad, so I only had to do these activities like two or three times per month. Thanks to living alone in the US, I became better doing these types of work, also, I'm more responsible. Now I'm capable of making my own food, washing my clothes and dishes, while I'm studying in the UF, doing my homework, and going to the ELI activities during the week.

Another effect that living in the US had on me was in my mental maturity. Before studying in the US, my parents took care of all my needs. For example, they took me to the school, paid for my books or the materials that I needed for educational activities or school trips. Now that I'm living alone, it is my responsibility to take care of all my needs for the ELI or social activities. Here I have to take the bus daily, go to the supermarket to buy food or supplies for my apartment, pay the rent, etc. In the United States I became more mature and now I have to take care of my own needs; something that I didn't had to do when I was in Venezuela.

This is also an excellent way to learn how to solve domestic problems by your own. When you are living alone making mistakes is really common, but

each time is going to get easier fixing them. For example, if you bought food a couple of weeks ago and your groceries are already rotten, you will pay more attention of the expiration date of your food the next time. Likewise, if you need to go to any place a you miss your stop, the next time you will be careful on how much time you have wait to arrive to your destination. This will teach what problems are more common when you are living alone and the things you need to do to solve them and prevent to happen again. The information that you can get from your own mistakes is going to be really valuable for your life at the future.

The biggest effect that living in the US had in my personality was in my social relationships. In Venezuela I had my group of friends, but I only went out with some of them and not very often; also, I didn't talk with so many people like here in US because I didn't socialize very much. When I started studying in the UF, my personality was improved because right now I'm more confident and I like to meet people and socialize. This also helps me to be better speaking English because in the ELI the students are from different countries around the world, so they don't know how to talk in Spanish (at least the majority), so we can only communicate us in English.

Studying here in the United States has really changed my personality in a good way. Thanks to this big change, now I have more mental maturity to take care of my needs, I'm responsible to do my activities and be aware of my money, and more sociable with the people in the ELI than in my life when I was studying in Venezuela. Still when being in another country is very different to my old lifestyle in Venezuela, it is a really good opportunity to learn more about myself and improve every day. Sometimes you have to look for new experiences that will teach you more about yourself and give you the tools to be able of living by yourself and have a good future.

My Classmates

Danbi Noh | RW20

Let me introduce my classmates. Ihab has a knack for dealing with cameras. Sharifah is a hardworking student, so she always studies every day. Abdullah tries to work hard on everything. Abdularhman is a witty person, and he is an ambitious person. Because Omar is a responsible person, he takes great pride in his work. Because Salman is a smart classmate, he knows most of the answers. Ali is good at participating in class. Faris is good at paying attention to teachers' lecture. Ahmad looks happy every day, and he has a lot of laughter. Ahyoung is a very active person, so when she and I are sometimes together, I'm so tired because I'm not an active person. Paulo is a nice classmate, and he does homework every day. Andrea likes music, and she likes singing songs. Rui is a very busy woman because she has two children, and she has to study every day. Ricardo is an enthusiastic and very handsome man. In conclusion, I like my classmates.

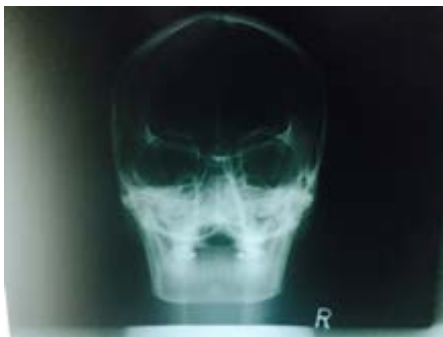
What I Miss Most About Home & What I Will Miss When I Leave the ELI

Abdallah Wazzan | RW40

There are a lot of things that I miss already about my home. A lot of things I used to do, a lot of holy days I missed and a lot of habits that I used to have. Mainly I miss my mother and my family and friends because I'm a family person. Also, I loved that my friends used to visit my house a lot of times and we would just sit and hang together and laugh. Another thing I am missing is my culture; the food we eat and the way we live is totally different than other places. But it is mainly the family and friends those are the ones I am missing the most. I think I can stay without other things but for me, it's hard to be away from family and friends. But I am a lucky man, I have my sister in the same city that I had my scholarship to and my brother is in the same country and I will visit him on my vacation. And also, people here are so friendly so I am making new friends every day, and

even the technology helped me a lot in avoiding the missing feelings, now I can see my mother whenever I want to in live video calls so I believe I am so lucky.

The ELI is a great place that helped me a lot in my life and I believe it is going to give me more benefits in the future. The things I am going to miss about the ELI: first, the friends that I have met because they will go to other places or even back to their countries. Also, I am going to miss being a part of this great place which improved my English in the most fun and logical way and used all the resources they can to achieve one goal which is to make us master English in all the ways they can and in a short period. Words can't be enough to show my thanks to everyone I have met in this great place I will never forget those beautiful days of my life.



Radiology

Young Min Kim | RW1

This picture was taken with my professor when I practiced at school. My major is when people get hurt or tested, X-rays, CT scans, MRI, or cancers are used to determine people's bones or organs. I am proud to be proud of my major and I want to graduate quickly and help patients.

Social Network Addiction

Maria F. Alvarado | RW43

We are in the age of changing, the way that we wear, dance, talk, meet new people is changing, also the distance between us are changing, with a facetime now you can talk with somebody who lives to millions of kilometers from us. We have a lot of pros with social networks, they can close people who are very far, we can find more friends, we can meet new people. However not everything is good with this social networks, some generation have seriously addictions problems with socials networks, some of them can't stay just one day without check their Instagram or their Facebook, they can't have a normal conversation without looking their phones, also everything that they do have to posted in all their socials medias. This generation Z (those born between the mid-90s and the decade of 2000) lives with their phone like a part of their body, is a depend and toxic relation. Thus, becoming a problem, the misuse of these social networks, to become an addiction.

To understand this problem, we need to understand the causes. There are many factors why most young people become addicted to social networks. The first cause is the need to be accepted. Adolescence is a problematic stage, in which being accepted by supposed friends is something important. They have to feel that they belong to the group, therefore they do the same as the group does. For example, everyone dresses in the same way, they all go to the same sites and they all use the same social networks. If the fashion is to use "SnapChat", everyone uses "SnapChat". This means that being part of the group is very important; to have many followers in their accounts, many likes, because this makes them feel part of the group. In the Los Angeles Times newspaper, they published an interesting piece of information about the age of the users and the time they spend visiting this social network: "The popular photography and video application, owned by Snap Inc., boasts of having 158 million daily users, most of them young. The vast majority are between 13 and 34 years old, and the largest segment is between 18 and 24 years old. These teenage users are very important to Snap because they are valuable to advertisers. There are also those who interact more with the application: users under 24 visit Snapchat more than 20 times a day and remain active for at least 30 minutes, while those over 25 visit it 12 times a day, for a total of 20 minutes". It is impressive the times that these young people visit social networks daily. However, for them it is normal, because everyone around them does it.

Another cause, that contributes to addiction to social networks is loneliness, which many suffer. Many of these young people lead very lonely lives, where social networks fill their emotional gaps. Many spend a lot of time in front of their computer or phone, because they don't have anyone else to talk to. Many time their parents are absent or don't dedicate enough time and, in these social networks they can write anything, find anyone (with good or bad intentions), they can even pretend to be someone else, just to fill those emotional gaps. According to Jean Twenge, professor of psychology at San Diego State University, young people who spend more time on social networks are more likely to report mental health problems than those who do activities unrelated to them. Both causes contribute to these young people falling into depression; On the one hand the lack of attention of their parents and seeking refuge in social networks, worsens their situation.

Secondly, by understanding the effects of this problem, the solutions can be better applied. One of the effects of these social networks is that they separate these young people from the real world. They are locked in their own world. They move away from their families and their true friends, they forget how to interact with other people in reality without having to go through their social networks first. This addiction distances them from their loved ones, and makes them miss out on good times, being absorbed by their cell phones. Many of the young people have a parallel reality between what they are, and what they appear to be, in their

("Social Network Addiction" continued)

social networks. They are in a continuous comparison with other people who are in their social networks, they care too much how many "likes" they have, how many followers, how many comments; comments that can be good or bad and this brings them self-esteem problems. These social networks are a window of their personal lives in the sight of many strangers who can hurt them with comments. There's even a TV show on MTV, called Catfish. Here they show people who know themselves through social networks, and usually pretending to be someone else. It is an example of how normal this situation is.

The first solution and I think the most important, can be found in the home of these young people. Parents play an important role; adolescence is a critical age, of many changes and decisions, if the parents of these young people are with them to guide and correct them, it may be less difficult for everyone. Parents have to have a lot of patience, it is not easy, but if this generation is treated with more character, they will be better people in the future. One of the best ways to solve this problem is reinforcing the self-esteem of these young people, parents have to find a way to communicate with them, and make them aware that they are worth much more than the number of "likes" they have in their photos, or the possible comments they may have, and make them aware that social networks is just another way of communicating with others, it is not something that determines how a person is, or how much that person is worth. For example, parents can talk about how they are doing at school, their friends, their expectations, ask them what they think about any topic; not just have to be sermons, or the same conversation every day. But on the contrary, be a friend more of their son.

Another possible solution is to keep these young people in activities, that interest them and they like them, and at the same time they are active. Many young people who use social networks for a long time, they have a lot of leisure time, free time in which they do not do anything, and the easiest thing is to take the cell phone or the computer and spend all day there. If this young person finds motivation in some extra activity, in addition to the school, he will be busy and will not be addicted to social networks. For instance, activities such as practicing a sport, playing an instrument, going to the gym, learning a new language. There are millions of ways to keep busy, and better use the time than using it on social networks. On the other hand, we can deal with this problem, if in schools and universities they should create campaigns to create awareness about this issue. And create some kind of group or organization that offers its support, to help overcome this problem.

In brief, the problem of addiction to social networks is a real problem. It has serious effects on the lives of young people, it can affect their mental and emotional health and is due to several causes, some linked to adolescence and the feeling of being part of the group, others to the loneliness of these young people. The good news is that everything has a solution. It is in the parents of these young people and in ourselves to create awareness, and help any person who needs it, supporting it and freeing it from that world that consumes its time. My opinion, is that social networks are not bad, but an exaggerated use of these young people, is not healthy and you have to take serious measures to stop it. And so, it is that you see this problem, in young people or adults I will try to make you aware, so that you stop that behavior.

Venezuela, the US, Cultural Misunderstanding? Nahh

Nicole Buenavida | RW41

Imagine for a few seconds about traveling to another country with different cultures and traditions than yours, and you don't know anything about their vocabulary, famous events or food. Imagine going to a restaurant in Los Angeles and asking for an arepa, you will feel uncomfortable with their answer?. Venezuela and the United States are two countries located in America, but Venezuela is in South America and the US in North America. It means that they have different customs and traditions. These countries differ in sports, measuring system and typical food.

The first important difference between Venezuela and the United States is the most popular sport. A very common sport in Venezuela is soccer, whereas, in the US, a major sport is a football. If you travel to Venezuela, you will hear many people talking about the most popular team, called "La Vinotinto", but never about football because in Venezuela people are not accustomed to playing this sport also we don't even have a football team. In contrast, American people are big fans of football. This is why they meet with friends and family just to watch a game during the game season. For example, during the "Super Bowl", people go to restaurants or to friends houses to watch a football game together. Venezuelans do the same thing but to watch a soccer game. Even though these two countries are sports fanatics, they have different preferences in what they play and watch.

Another difference between my country and the US is the measuring system they use. If you go to a supermarket, or check the temperature, or drive a car, it is important for you to know that these countries use different nomenclatures. While Venezuelans use meters, grams, and Celsius, Americans use miles,

pound and Fahrenheit. It means that they don't use metric system like in most countries in South America. So if you travel to the United States, try to know a little bit about the conversions so that you do not get confused.

Finally, the third difference is the typical food. Unlike Americans, Venezuelans do not like to eat a lot of fast food. The typical daily food a Venezuelan people is "Pabellón Criollo". It is a simple dish of shredded beef, black beans, rice, and plantains. On the other hand, Americans love all kinds of fast food, such as cheeseburger, hot dog, Philly cheese steak, nachos, pizza and others. This is because American people always are very busy and they do not have enough time to cook, while Venezuelans almost have more time to cook and more fast restaurants options with healthy food. Also, they eat different kinds of breakfast. Venezuelans eat arepas, based from cornflour filled with proteins as a side, and/or fresh fruit juices. In contrast, a "full American" is usually defined as eggs, fried potatoes, cereal, toast or pancakes, fruit juice, and coffee. As we can see, Venezuelan food is much healthier than American food.

To conclude, Venezuelans prefer soccer rather than football, that is why, they spend so much time watching the games. Americans, do not use the metric system, while Venezuelans do. People from Venezuela eat more balanced food than American people who eat a lot of junk food. Even though these two countries are located on the same continent, it could be noticed that, if you travel to any of these countries, do not forget to read a little about their customs and tradition to avoid cultural misunderstanding.

Travel with Friends

Mohammad Althaher | RW1



This photo was taken on Halloween. I went with my friends to Orlando. I traveled in my car. When we arrived we went to the restaurant for lunch. Then we went to the Volcano Bay. The weather was warm. When the sun sets, the air is cold and then we leave. It was Halloween. At 10:30 we went to Universal Orlando. We entered and watched the clowns and the zombies and some of the horror film clips. This was amazing. Then we went out and went to the hotel and in the morning we went to Gainesville. The first Halloween I attended was fantastic.

The Car

Khaled Alsubaiei | RW1



The colors of my car are red and black. I drive my car everywhere in the morning and at night. I travel to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and every country. I love to drive.

My Classmates

Ricardo Antonio Postiglione Ríos | RW10/20

My classmates from Reading Writing 10/20 are nice people. Ehab is from Jordan, but he lives in Saudi Arabia. He walks to my grammar class with me; he is a very nice person. He likes photography and music. I don't know much about Sharifa, but she seems to be a responsible and kind person. Abdullah is from Saudi Arabia, and he might be the student who struggles the most to learn English because he is very low, but I think he will understand English by December. Abdularahman is the funniest in the class for me because he always tries to learn words in Spanish, and his favorite is "Papacito". I don't know much about Omar either, but it is really funny to see our teacher Zoe's facial expression when he is late. He works in a bank. Salman always understands everything because he has a rich vocabulary skill. He likes to watch lots of movies, and I think that is a good strategy; I also believe he stays up late watching them because he always looks a little tired. What I really like about Ali is that he always gives long answers to teacher's questions, and also he always tries to learn new vocabulary with his phone translator. Faris is a responsible, organized, and funny person; he is studying English in order to get a PHD. Ahmad is a really funny person, and his new hair cut looks good on him. However, I don't know why he always wears red. I guess red is his favorite color. Just like Sharifa and Omar, I don't know anything about Ahyoung, but she seems a nice student. What I admire about Rui is that being her age with children. Before she comes to learn English, she wakes up early to take care of her family. She also studies and lives in another country, and I think it must be hard. Just like Rui, I admire Paulo a lot. He has good grades, and he tries to overcome English by himself every day. Andrea is the youngest in the class. She is only 16 years old. She struggles with English too, but I think she is getting better. I sometimes talk to Danbi in Listening and Speaking class. She seems a little shy, but I think she just needs to get to know you in order to talk more. I really like my wonderful classmates, and I think we are in the good class because we have the best teacher of the ELI. ☺

Do We Need to be Racist?

Michelle Buenavida | RW52

One of the biggest problem in the whole world is the Racism. Racism or racial discrimination to the human being it is nothing new, which was originated in the Europe of the XVIII century during the period of the Enlightenment. In 1948 since the UN approval the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all kinds of discrimination have been greater. As a result, most of the institutions worldwide have completely forbidden any type of discrimination. Racism is one of the greatest ways to underestimate the social, cultural and religious identity of a particular social group. There exist a lot of reasons why the humans still are racist such the environment that we grew up, and the way human's brain want to protect themselves; in addition, one of the biggest effects or consequences that racism brings to the human is health problems.

The biggest reason why humans are racist is because of their cultural and social environmental teaches to them. Since the human beings are kids, everything that surrounds us in one way or another affects us positively or negatively, so that for the breeding of a child, the environment and culture is very significant and important for humans lifestyle and thoughts. Jennifer Richerson said that we are not racist because our parents teach us to be like that or we are racist not because we are bad and evil, but because the environment and culture teach us to be in that way. A perfect example to see how these happened is one of the studies that Tufts University made. They demonstrate and found how a TV show on mute, only showing scenes with white and black skin was sufficient to criticize and judge them before the watchers know them. In addition, this simple example demonstrates how simple need to be the things to affect an entire community or even an entire country (Wan & Kaplan, 2017).

Another reason why humans are racist is because the human's brain most of the time affects our

judgments and this is due to something called amygdala. Humans live in a world have had the racial stereotypes it is part of them. For this reason, the amygdala that is related to the fear has the work to remember to the humans which things are dangerous and to be far from them. One study that Jennifer Kubota, a Nature Neuroscience of Race specialist, shows that human's brain feels more comfortable and non-stressful when they are with persons physically like them or when they are with the same race faces. Moreover, the studies show that the humans incline or tend to be less empathic with people that are not the same race as us. This is why they feel in some cases fear to feel unprotected or in a state of dangerous (Brooks, 2012).

In addition, there are some health consequences in our emotions and in our body when we feel that others humans discriminate against us. A study made by Kathryn Freeman Anderson in Sociological Inquiry states that when you feel that someone else is racist with you your health it is influenced, and it can lead to greater stress. In addition, The American Journal of Public Health and The Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race demonstrate and shows that when the humans feel discriminated and refused their risks to have an emotional and physical problems it is much higher. Also, the possibility to suffer stress, depression, common cold, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, breast cancer, and mortality it is more common than in persons that do not feel discriminated. All these means that it is better for your health a peaceful to be in a place that you feel good and not discriminated or rejected (Silverman, 2013).

To conclude, nowadays, the world it is full of racist people. For this reason, the UN tries to eliminate these thoughts because we are humans, and we need to respect and tolerate everyone how they are only because they are humans like us. However, some people do not have the fault when they

("Do We Need to be Racist?" continued)

discriminated other races because their culture and society teach to them to be like that. Also, some humans are like that because they feel unprotected with other people that are not like them. On the other hand, there are health consequences when we feel discriminated. In my opinion, there are not reasons to treat other humans bad and discriminate them, because we need to respect others and "Racism is a refuge for the ignorant. It seeks to divide and to destroy. It is the enemy of freedom, and deserves to be met head-on and stamped out" -Pierre Berton.

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Environmental Pollution in Kuwait

Fahad Alhusaini | RW43

Environmental pollution is a major problem facing the world. Environmental pollution occurs in two ways either naturally or by people. Many countries around the world have environmental pollution as a first problem and Kuwait is among them. Kuwait has faced environmental pollution for a long time and is still facing at present. Kuwait located in the Middle East and the Middle East is known to contain arid desert and there are not many natural manifestations. It is known that the Middle East does not face many natural problems only one problem, which is sandstorms. Sandstorms are a very common natural problem in the Middle East. Sandstorms always go through the Middle East especially in Kuwait in the summer season. Kuwait has a lot of environmental problems happen by people. People in Kuwait are the ones who can control the environmental pollution that is happening in Kuwait. Kuwait has many environmental problems including air, water, soil, and other problems. Kuwait has not even tried to solve the problem of environmental pollution for unknown reasons. Kuwait government have many solutions that can solve environmental pollution like develop laws to preserve the cleanliness of beaches and sea, use of recycling and purifying equipment, and publication of all instructions to preserve the environment citizens.

The first cause of air pollution problem is when Iraq invaded Kuwait. The Iraqi invasion has had many effects, including the burning of oil wells and the bombing of many places as a result of these heinous acts, the polluted fumes rose to the sky and polluted the fresh air and this was the cause of the spread of many diseases between elderly and young people. Another cause is that Air pollution in Kuwait accounts for a large proportion of car exhaust. There are a large number of cars driving around Kuwait daily and it is known that car exhausts produce harmful carbon dioxide naturally because of traffic jams and when there are many cars, the impact of exhausts is greater. As a result, the air is heavily polluted.

Kuwait suffers from the problem of water pollution, which is especially the seas. There are many things that affects the purity of seawater in Kuwait such as human waste, factories waste, and other causes. A lot of people go to the beach every weekend and always bring with them food and other things but the annoying thing is that people always leave their waste on the beach and the sea and leave the place and whenever they

("Environmental Pollution" continued)

come every weekend, waste increases and the sea is polluted. In addition, factories in Kuwait contribute to pollution of the sea with carelessness by throwing industrial wastes, radioactive materials, and chemical compounds. These wastes pollute the seas and destroy marine life because when the pollution of the sea gives another color to the sea, which prevents the arrival of sunlight in the sea to help marine organisms to live.

Another problem is soil pollution in Kuwait. There are many reasons that cause soil pollution. For example, oil, chemicals, and pesticides. Due to the Iraqi invasion soil got polluted in Kuwait because the Iraqi army burned all oil wells and after that oil lakes became in all the soil in Kuwait. At present, the soil is not suitable for agriculture. Furthermore, chemicals cause soil poisoning leading to poisoning of plants and animals. Additionally, spraying pesticides on crops lead to soil corruption. Many farmers use pesticides to remove weeds and pests but they do not know that pesticides lead to soil poisoning.

The first way to remedy environmental pollution is to raising awareness among citizens that pollution is a big problem and they should cooperate to eliminate pollution by educating people in public places, stop all industrial activities affecting the environment, change the place of the factories and make them away from inhabited areas, recycle all waste and not burn it, and cultivate the largest number of trees that absorb pollutants and produce pure air. These solutions will help clean air and eliminate pollution. For example, in Japan, they always publish videos on how to preserve the environment in all schools and universities. This solution helped make Japan one of the cleanest countries in the world.

The next logical step to solve environment pollution is to develop laws not to dump waste on the beach and sea, so no one will throw on the beach or sea because he will get a ticket and will pay a huge sum. In addition, put a trash cans all over the beach is a great idea because it encourages people to throw garbage in its proper place and also does not take them too hard because there is a trash cans located everywhere in the beach. In instance, landfill is good solution factories waste so factories do not need to throw waste on the sea and they can throw it below ground and away from any water source.

The final step in solving environment pollution is to stop spraying pesticides on crops, dispose of all waste properly, cultivate plants at each point in the desert to restore soil life after the Iraqi invasion that seriously damaged the soil, irrigation plants with healthy water to ensure that plants are not damaged, and secure and maintain good natural pastures for their important role in helping plants derive their strength.

In conclusion, as we can see Kuwait is one of the countries that has environmental pollution. There are many causes made Kuwait from the worst countries in environmental pollution the main cause is the Iraqi invasion which made Kuwait polluted so badly. Moreover, the waste of citizens that polluted the beaches and waste factories that polluted the sea and made it strange. I think the Environment Department in Kuwait will use all available solutions to solve the environment pollution problem and Kuwait will be no more polluted.

How is My Live Changed?

Abdullah Hafiz | RW43

In this time, we always changed our live. If we change our surroundings or our location a lot of things it's going to be happen or changed. A lot of people like change them life and also a lot of people don't like change. Some people think that the changed whole our life is easy but that it's not true. My life changed before one year when I came to U.S. Really, I feel like I'm new person in this world because I went far a way for my family and my friends. Sametime it's good thing to do it but sometime not.

The first thing changed was money. Before I came to U.S I lived with my family and in my country Kingdom of Saudi Arabia my parents help me for all thing but now I live alone and now I should know how can I save the money until the end of month, and how I can buy a good car with a good price, and also where can I live with a good house, comfortable, and great price to save your money and I can't buy anything I wanted just what do I need. Now I care more about the money and how I can save the money.

The second effect was food. Before I came here, I can't cook. I didn't know about cooking or how to make the food. When I lived with my family, I didn't need to cook or go to the supermarket to buy anything because my parents they did that, but here I should do that by myself because if I don't do that no

one will do that for me. For example, if I didn't buy milk or any food I didn't find anything in my refrigeration. Now I cook and I buy food for myself.

The third effect was care. In the normal life my mother cleans the house and take care about me and my brothers and sisters but now I should do it that with myself. For example, if I sick and I need care or some medication I didn't find anyone to help me like in the past when my mother take care about me. Now I care more about my self

The last point, when I lived in my country with my family I don't care about find new friends and if they good or bad because I have family and I'm always with them but when I'm came here really, I care to find a good friend because I will be with them most my time and if they are bad person or the always do bad things maybe they make me into problems in the future.

In the end. It is not easy to live alone or far away from my family or in different country has different culture because this is the first time for me without any one from my family. Whole my life I lived with me family and I don't know how I can do a lot of things but when I'm came here to U.S all this changed. Now I can do a lot of things with myself without any help. Also, now I can depend on myself to do whole things.

Day Like a Present

Dongeun Kim | RW1

This picture was taken with my friends on my last birthday. The place is 'Hwa-seong Fortress', in Suwon, South Korea. It's where I graduated from high school. It was built in 1796 by King Jeong-jo, and kept intact and registered in UNESCO World Heritage in 1997. People fly kites, ride skateboards, and enjoy walking here. Above all, I like talking a walk while watching at night. I was happy to spend my birthday with good friends in a nice place. I think it is so wonderful to travel around where I live.



Having Low English Skills but Starting a University Program Soon

Marisela Rodriguez | RW43

I am planning to start my Master program next year, but it will not be good with my present level of English. For this reason, I have to improve my skills. I think that if I do not have a higher level of English I will not take advantage of the Master as I want. I started an English program to improve my English as a second language; also, this program includes tools to learn how to study, read, and write as American universities structure requirements. In the past, I was focusing on my job, my family, and enjoying my life. Because of these, I did not have time to study English for my future. Today, I need better English skills like: fast and quickly understanding, strong writing abilities, and fluent listening and speaking skills to study a Master degree program. I need to focus on three solutions: Finding a good program to improve my English skills as soon as possible, focusing the most of my time studying, and practicing English as much as I can.

The main reason why I have to start English course to improve my English skills is because my level of English is intermediate. To apply to a MBA or any other Master degree, it is important to have some skills such as reading and comprehension, writing, fluent speaking with strong vocabulary, and grammar knowledge to write correctly. These causes were enough motivation for me to find a perfect program to cover all my necessity of. Improving English skills are not just to participate in a Master program; to apply in an MBA, it is necessary to obtain a high score for some test to complete application requirements such as GRE and TOEFL. If I do not get scores that I need, I will not be able to do a master degree.

If I do not improve my English skills before starting any university programs results in some consequences. I can waste a lot of money because I will not obtain good grades to pass the program. Also, I will not learn almost anything because I do not have abilities to understand classes, books, and

assignments. Consequently, I will lose my time, and not obtain any benefits in my work career as a professional. The effects of doing an MBA with a low English proficiency is not recommended if I want to take advantage of this opportunity.

The first way to remedy this problem is find a good program to improve my English skills as soon as possible. This program should have very strong package that include preparation for academic learning. Because of this requirement, I found ELI. It has high English proficiency teachers. Also, they have an excellent academics programs to help students like me. They focus their program to help students with high level and prepared to the university. With this preparation, I will be ready to develop my MBA faster and with good understanding of the content. Also, I have to obtain high scores at the university; with good scores I will find an excellent job as soon as possible. Most of the recognized and renown companies hunt professionals with good grades and excellent work performance, so be prepared will be the best tool that I can have to grow. For example, in the past I have some friends who did an MBA program, when they finished it, they found in their current job better positions; they obtained good grades and strong abilities in their careers.

Another way to directly address this problem is focusing most of my time studying English. Studying does not just mean reading and been at home learning, it also includes going out and interact with people. This is another reason that I selected Gainesville to study; Gainesville has an excellent environment to practice. I can find around people who speak only English, which is beneficial to get my goal. The program at the ELI also offers many activities to motivate their students. Those activities include having fun and studying at the same time. Having friends with different maternal language is the best way to study and improve English speaking abilities. Another way to study is reading as much as

("Having Low English Skills" continued)

I can for example, I try to read news and interesting books in English. This is an excellent tool to see slangs and idioms that English speakers use daily.

Finally, practicing English as much as I can it could be the most important and effective solution. All that we learn in our life include practice and experience. These practices include dedication and big efforts. Learning a new language is not the exception, it should include constant endeavor to be useful. To practice, we have to find our goals, then it is important to make a plan where we point out our best possibilities, and then we do the action the plan. For example, I needed to start my English development practicing; then I found the best place to study, I meet people who do not speak my own language, and possible books and papers to read; after that I started to use all my alternatives at the

same time to get better my skills. If I do not practice all learned lessons, it will be impossible to keep all in my mind for a long term of time.

In brief, these solutions are not complex. I just need to make an effort and to focus on all my goals. With this, I will be successful. Be focused on discovering the best English program to improve my English abilities in reading, writing, listening, speaking and grammar; putting all my efforts of my time studying, and taking advantage of any opportunities; and practicing with any singular event that I can find on my way will provide me a lot of opportunities to learn and be better every day. The only way is doing my best and not forget my principal objective that includes improving my English to develop my career. I have to be confident by myself to aim all my purposes.

Standardized Tests: The Measure of Academic Success

Ribert Francois | RW51

Created in the middle of the 19th century (U.S. Congress, 1992), standardized tests are become a feature of American education (Hutt, 2017). From pre-K through grade 12, DeNisco and Walker (2017) say that the average student takes 112 mandated standardized tests. While some researchers consistently believe that standardized tests are pertinent in students' evaluation and reliable to be a good indicator for college outcomes, there is ample reason to be skeptical about the potential results they often produce because these tests seem to be so far off at measuring the quality of schooling.

First of all, standardized tests create unnecessary and severe stress and sometimes cause negatives attitudes toward schooling. They can also be intimidating. According to DeNisco and Walker (2017), standardized tests are very stressful and participate in decreasing the quality of the education children receive. Every year across the United States, students are nervously waiting for their scores (Sheffer, 2014). This happens even though the students are well prepared to take the tests. Even the brightest student can experience testing anxieties. Now, instead of spending time on teaching students what matters the most, teachers prefer preparing them for reading, writing, and math. Therefore, less time is spent on other subjects, such as science, social studies, and so on.

What is more, standardized tests are not objective and cannot show in reality what a person is capable of. This is one of the biggest limitations of standardized tests. They seem to be what Sheffer (2014) called "A trip up a blind alley". They claim to measure a student's abilities, but the reality is far from that. For example, the same student can take the same test twice in a short period of time and have different scores. This happens because the test-makers do not exactly know what the situation of the test-takers is. Any personal issues during a test day can distract a student from making a good score. Consequently, his performance during

("Standardized Tests" continued)

this short test time will reflect a year of hard work. Another example could be related to the guessing phenomenon in test rooms. How could a test really be objective for a good guesser? In fact, standardized tests have opted for multiple-choice questions. The problem with them is that these types of questions do not measure deep thinking skills. In a multiple-choice question with three possible choices, if a student can eliminate an incorrect answer or two, he can get the question correct without knowing how to process.

Some people say that standardized tests are useful because classroom-graded assessments are subjectively scored and unreliable as the College Board Communications (2017) says that subjectivity carries bias. Moreover, standardized tests were created to democratize access to higher education and to give all students a chance to go to college. It would be delirious to leave students' grade only at the hands of teachers. However, Koretz stated in the Fall 2002 edition of the Journal of Human Resources that results can differ markedly across tests due to subjective decisions made during test design and administration: "simply changing the relative weight of algebra and geometry in NAEP (the National Assessment of Educational Progress) altered the gap between black and white students". Moreover, these tests strip students of their identity, personality, and ambitions. The test-makers have no idea about the test-takers, and what they are capable of.

To conclude, there are plenty of reasons to worry about standardized tests. They do not produce all these good effects as presented by some researchers. They are not objective and create unnecessary stress and negative attitudes toward schooling. These bad effects are even enough to ask for their outlawry. A test in which students vomit and/or cry according to Sacramento Bee (2002), how could it be a good thing?

How to help the international students how started their career to soon with low English Skills

Roberto Edde Verde | RW43

Studying in a different country to pursue your professional career, obtain a degree, or study in a university program is not an easy task. This decision is an important step if you are looking for better opportunities for studying outside of your country that will provide you advantages in your professional life or if you are looking for a better quality of life in another place. For example, some students can go to the US to study for a short period of time and then go back to their countries and use what they learned in their works. On the other hand, some students can also go to study their careers in the U.S. but finally they stay over here because the jobs opportunities are better. Both situations happen very often because people is always looking for what can be better for them, but if they are to hurry to begin their studies maybe they will not think about the obstacles they

can find. If they do not have enough knowledge about the language, it will make harder or even impossible to them to finish their studies. This problem is very common in the U.S. because here the opportunities for both work and study are really good, so some new students come without the necessary English skills to be able to understand their classes affecting their academic performance. The first way to remedy this situation is following some advices that would prevent the new students of facing this problem.

The first way to help the international students that came to the U.S. to study too soon is giving them information about how are the studies in the U.S. They need to know if the regular classes have some different aspects than in their home countries and if the level of English they have will be enough to

("Having Low English Skills" continued)

understand the classes during their careers. If they don't have the English skills that are needed for their classes is going to be harder for them. This students will have to do a harder work to understand the lectures and to have a good academic performance. For example, my roommate started to study his career in Santa Fe College, but he began his classes without having enough preparation in math. As a result, he cannot understand completely he is making a harder work, spending more hours studying to pass the classes. For that reason, the international students should talk to someone who can assist them, like a friend or familiar living in the U.S or professionals whose work is to help people that want to study in the U.S.

In addition, a recommendation for the students that are having problems studying in the U.S. is to look for advices of others international students with experience living in the U.S. because some of them could have faced a similar situation. As a result, they probably will know how to advice you what could be a very valuable information. Likewise, maybe they can also teach you what are the most common problems for the international students and give recommendations to avoid this problem. Also, if these students have been living here for a long time probably they already got used to the lifestyle on the U.S. what qualify them to advice wisely about how to help the new international students that are having problems in their careers.

The second way the international students could improve their situation is looking for help asking their classmates and teachers. The different academic rules and vocabularies that can be found between U.S. and their home countries can affect their performance in class. Maybe the level of English that these students have is good enough to live in the US; being able to speak, listen, read and write in English without any troubles, but they are not aware of the academic rules that the United States teachers uses that can be different to the rules in their own

countries. For example, I have a friend that lived on Tampa for two years so he knows how to write and speak in English, but he was not aware of the rules to write an essay or a summary correctly and as a consequence he had bad grades in his tests. To solve this problem the new international students should look for people used to this type vocabulary. Their teachers would answer about any doubt in the assignments or explanations on the class. If they don't look for help they could miss important information that could by fundamental in their careers.

The third advice if how the international students could improve their grades in their classes. Without either a good level of English or knowledge about the U.S. academic vocabulary, it will be really hard for these international students to have good grades in their classes what would give them a lot of pressure and stress. Some of these students could get depressed or stressed for their bad performance and as a result could made them try to quit to their studies. Not all the students can take this decision because maybe they do not have neither the money or the time to continue their career in another place. To prevent this problem to happen, these students should talk to counselors or advisors of the college or university where they are in order to find a solution. Also, they can go to English programs like the ELI where the classes they will take are according to their English Skills.

The last way that the new international students with low English skills could improve is having particular classes of the topics where they feel they need to improve. They need to polish their English skills because it is really important studying at the U.S., especially at the university or college when the vocabulary and the essays are harder; also, that would affect their curriculum because having a great performance in class will make them stand out, giving them more opportunities their professional lives.

("Having Low English Skills" continued)

To prevent having any trouble starting the studies of a career in the U.S. these students must be prepared and aware of how are the classes in the country and if their knowledge of English is enough to understand the classes. Likewise, the students that are having these problems while they are studying in the U.S. have to remember that they are not alone. They are neither the first nor the last person facing this issue, so there will be some people willing to help them to overcome this situation. With the pass of the time and with some effort, these new international students can get used to the life here and with the help their classmates they can improve their academic performance and English Skills.



My Wonderful Brothers

Khadija Alanazi | RW1

I have three brothers living in a big House, and I love them very much. The oldest brother name is Osam. He is a teacher and, he is not married. The second brother's name is Yosef. He is working as a policeman. He is not married. The youngest brother's name is Omer. He is not working, and he is not married. All my brothers live in Saudi Arabia. Osam's birthday is Oct.21,1993. Omer's birthday is Feb.23,1986. Yosef's birthday is Dec.2,1995. I love my brothers so much, and wish them a happy life.

My Classmates

Cho AhYoung | RW10/20

My classmates from in Reading & Writing 10/ 20 class are good students, and I like them for many reasons. First of all, Paulo is a romantic and hardworking person because he eats lunch with his wife every day, and he studies hard. Ricardo seems like a cold person, but he's a very warm person. Also, he is handsome. Andrea is pretty and very shy, and she is interested in becoming a model. Salmon is humorous and funny, and he also likes to go outside. Faris is clam, and he studies hard.

Abdullah is very cute, and he has nice sunglasses. I think those glasses look good on him. I think Abdullահrahman likes coffee very much because he drinks Starbucks coffee every morning. Omar is usually late to class, but he has a nice smile. Ali is very talkative, and he is active in participating in class. Ahmad looks fashionable. Danbi is quiet but responsible. Rui is a superwoman because she does so many things.

Sharifah likes romantic movies, and she is a very lovely lady. Ihab likes taking pictures. They are all different but very nice. For these reasons, I love my classmates. We are awesome! ☺

Vegetable Consumption and Meat Consumption

Wanita Dantes | RW43

Food and nutrients are important to stay strong and have a good health. Certain think healthy requires a balanced food and that must contain the three food groups: proteins, lipids, carbohydrates; no matter what you eat. Many reports, articles, and authors share opinions about what a good food have to have in terms of nutrients that our body need for a best functioning of the vital organs. Many nutritionists revealed that vegetable consumption is better than meat consumption. Some of vegetable and meat foods are similar based on almost the same nutrients they provide. However, they differ in terms of nutrient quality and taste.

First of all, many of them (vegetable and meat) are both source of carbohydrates, lipids and proteins. For instance, soybean is a vegetable that is rich in proteins called vegetable proteins and provide energy and fats. Likewise, beef can furnish these same nutrient groups. When you are hungry and you need something to eat, whatever the kind of food you find, after you feel better because this food gives at your body what it needs for proper functioning of organism.

The first difference is that meat and vegetable don't afford same quality of nutrients. Meat 'lipids are saturated. In contrast, vegetable 'lipids provide unsaturated fats and are easier than meat 'lipids for the digestion. Furthermore, saturated fats increase level of cholesterol in the blood and rise risks of heart disease by creating blood clots in the arteries. In contrast, animal proteins are more absorbable than plant proteins by the human body. Moreover, animal proteins are complete cause they contain all of nine amino acids that the organism human is not able to manufacture. Whereas, except soy protein, all plant proteins are incomplete.

Another difference is that meat consumption provide more rejoicing than vegetable consumption in terms of taste. However, vegetables contain fibers that permit a best digestion. Many people prefer meats taste than vegetable taste. For example, my mother in law always says "the flesh nourishes the body" in order to show her meat preference. But a vegetarian diet can be better if it is rich in fiber because fiber can bring down level of cholesterol and may help in the control of the weight. And normally meats are poor in fiber and are less healthy than vegetable.

Finally, they differ in term of market prices. Generally, vegetables are cheaper than meat by the fact meat provide more proteins and the best quality than some vegetables. So these are more affordable based in term of their cost. For example, in my country (Haiti), there is an slang that said "Beans are poor proteins" because poor can't have access to animal proteins, they are not able to consume them regularly. Another instance, the price of 1.5 lbs of meat beef is three times the price of the same quantity of beans. Therefore, it is easier to consume vegetables than meat based on their price.

The similarities and differences are great between vegetable and meat consumption. Consumption of one or other depend of the person, it's a choice. But a balance between both is the best. However, if you are a vegetarian, it is better to consume proteins from soybean or concoction of proteins plant like peanut butter on wheat bread or rice and beans.

Read Self Help Books

Rosa Prieto | RW43

Reading is one of the best exercises for the human mind. Not only because it helps to have a better development of our vocabulary. It can help us to open our minds and expand our knowledge. Books are a great tool, they help us to get through tough time such as depression. Usually when most humans have a problem, no matter how small, they make it a huge concern, often we get into a spiral of stress and anxiety. Self-help books are effective to increase self-confidence, learn how to control your emotions, how to express your emotions, and to integrate into society without fear.

The majority of people have problems with their self-esteem, even when they are adults and have their own life. For each person is a challenge to continue their way and going through any wall, it doesn't matter how strong it is this. Self-help books are helpful for the people with problems about themselves, people who think that just them have issues and for the people that doesn't feel any love about their own life. For example, I used to have a classmate in my high school. She always was crying and sad, every time you tried to talk with her, she answered with bad words. One day her mom talked with us and told us that she had problems with her self-esteem, she wished to be someone better, for that reason she was angry all the time. Then all her classmates and the teachers recommend her the self-help books, as a help for herself. One month later she was different, more friendly, lovely and even the way she used to look change. These books gave her advice and steps, such as do different activities to do every day, write good things about herself, and don't think in negative things.

Another effect of self-help books is learning how to control your emotions. Some kind of people have problems to control their feelings and because that have horrible reactions, such as violence behavior, nervous crisis, and several healthy problems. I have a friend In Venezuela, she had several issues to control

her feelings. When she was involved in a problem, all their emotions get out of control and then she fainted. Her parents visited a lot of doctors trying to find the solution for her fainted. A doctor told her that she should read self-help books, because the problem it was not about health, it was about her mind, her fear controls her. She bought all the self-help books that she found and then her reactions in any kind of tense situations. Self-help books have advice about how to put all your emotions into a box and control them, which means controlling yourself until you feel better.

Many people with self-esteem problems, stress, anger or anxiety have a rough time integrating into society, being in a party, talking to people, joining his friends or just being friendly with others. My cousin was that kind of person, would not let him share with the family, his friends, or his girlfriend, and when he wanted to do it, he couldn't because he didn't know how to behave around the people. The self-help books did a great job with him, he starts to read about how to control the anxiety he felt when he was around a social circle and how to avoid feeling it, so he starts to practice exercises that the book recommended was grabbing more confidence and to integrate into any sharing that we had. These books talk a lot about how it is good for everyone's life to share with your family and with your friends because it is a good way to receive and give affection, no matter how small your social circle is or your family, the love that you breathe between these is the best medicine to calm any anxiety that we feel inside us.

Last and the most important effect that have the self-help books is that with these books you learn how to express your emotions, which is the most important, because when you express your emotions and how you feel about something or someone, you will feel calm and relief with yourself. An example of this is my cousin, because he had many family problems in the past, he became very closed and

("Read Self Help Books" continued)

reserved, so most of the time he was stressed, angry, and bitter. My family was worried about him, so my mom talks with a friend, who knows a lot about this, and she told her that my mom should buy some self-help books, because it is not only the advice, read give peace to his mind because distract him from his inner anger, so he did it. At the beginning he rejected the idea of reading a book, but after so much insistence, he accepted. Like 4 months letter he was so different, he talked with everybody, smile more often, and you could have a conversation with him for more than 5 minutes without receiving bad answers, the change was radical because all the steps and advices that these books have and he follow each one of them and put them into practice, then he was

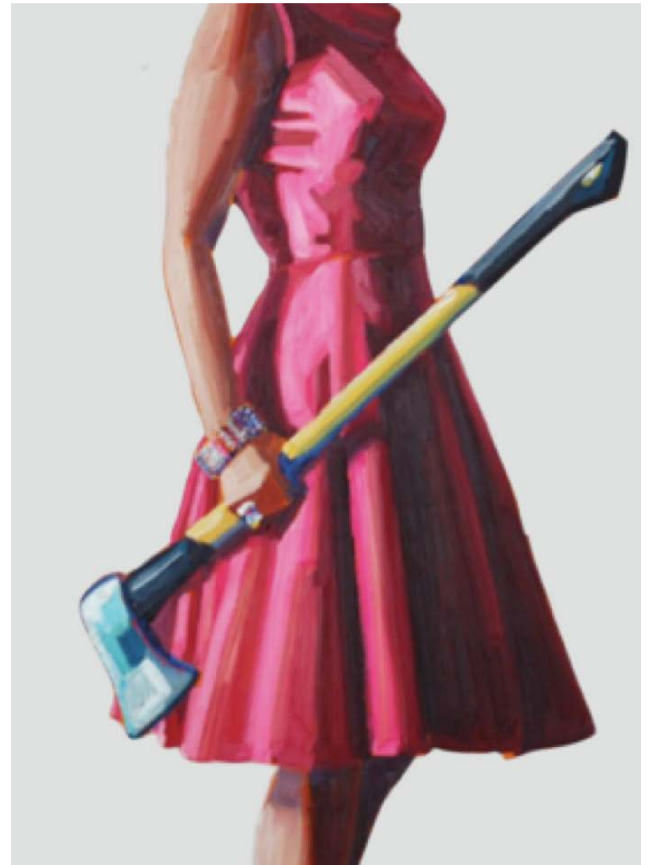
more in peace with himself. Being able to be without any stress and anger leads us to a total state of ecstasy, to feel like in a cloud of happiness, as we don't have anything to worry about.

Self-help books not only have tips and steps that you should follow, also have stories, stories that make us feel as if it were ours, make us feel in the skin of the other person, and give us relief because there is a lot of people with problems similar to ours. Self-help books have been a great tool for people with problems for all kinds. We should read more because that make us feel at peace with ourselves, making us forget about the problems at least for a moment and giving us peace of mind.

Tell the Story

Michelle Buenavida | RW52

On the night of Christmas, Yasmin went to a party with her best friend Andreina. While they were walking to the party, Andreina suddenly saw Yasmin' boyfriend hugging other girl. Andreina didn't say anything to Yasmin because Andreina knows that Yasmin was so excited to go to the party and she didn't want to ruin the day. Then they arrived to the party, but before, they stopped at Bass Pro Shops and Andreina bought and ax in case of emergency, and she invented a fake story to Yasmin why she needed the ax. In the party, Andreina saw another time Yasmin' boyfriend with the same girl, but this time in a room. This time Andreina didn't have more options but to say to Yasmin the truth. When Yasmin heard that, she took Andreina's ax to face Daniel (Yasmin's boyfriend). In the time came.... Yasmin saw Daniel, and the first thing that Yasmin wanted to do was kill Daniel, but Daniel stopped her and said all the truth. "You know why she is here with me? She is the planner of our engagement, and this night I was thinking to ask you if you want to marry me. I love you so much and you are my entire life." In that moment Yasmin dropped the ax to the floor and started to cry...Then she said sorry.



Painting: "Pink Study"
by Kelly Reemsten

What Causes Lying?

Tong Wu | RW51

Research has shown that people lie one to two times per day on average (Bhattacharjee, 2017). Telling lies will not only cause problems in a relationship, but also trigger stress and sometimes affect people's health negatively (Haupt, 2012). Since lying has so many bad effects to us, why do people still chose to lie? There are three main motivations for lying.

First and foremost, people lie to get benefit from the results of lying. Telling lies can sometimes bring people what they want to have in an easy way. Ryan Lochte, for instance, told audiences that he was robbed at a gas station in order to cover up the truth that he damaged something and was confronted by armed security guards (Bhattacharjee, 2017). This lie helped Ryan, who was an American swimmer during the 2016 Summer Olympics, to keep a positive impression to his fans and supporters more easily than telling audiences what actually happened. Another example is that many people who tend to cheat on their resumes before sending them to HR for an interview. Usually job seekers will put fake experiences that they have never done but could easily attract employers' attention onto their resumes. These job seekers believe lies like this can help them get a job offer faster. Thus, getting what people want faster and more easily is one of the reasons that cause lying.

The second motivation for lying is for liars to avoid doing things they do not want to do, such as punishment. Students who forgot to do their homework would lie to their teacher that they left their already completed homework at home; workers who made a mistake on their project might lie to their supervisor that it was someone else ruined their work; criminals who stole money from someone would tell a justice they had never taken anything from others. In these cases, students, workers, and criminals are being dishonest for avoiding any possible punishment they do not want to experience.

There is also a kind of lie that are harmless and are used to protect someone's feelings. This kind of lie is what we call White Lies. On one hand, white lies can help to protect ourselves. For example, when we are very anxious about something but are still trying to pretend we are strong enough to face the problem, we usually tell people around us that we are fine and do not need any help. In this time, we are telling a lie to others, just for protecting our feelings and not being embarrassed. On the other hand, telling white lies can protect other people's feelings as well. Teachers usually come across a situation that they praise a student on his good behavior or when the student shows any improvement on their grade. Not matter whether the student deserves this praise or not, teachers are still willing to give those positive commons to students just because those small white lies can help students build up self-confidence and improve more.

As was discussed in previous paragraphs, there are three main reasons which make people choose lying rather than being honest: to get benefit from lying, to avoid punishment, and to protect people's feelings. Some of the lies will have positive results as white lies do, but some lies will cause problems in our life. To make a better living environment for both others and ourselves, we should learn when to lie and when not to lie, and make the correct decisions every day.

K-1 Training

Young Min Kim | RW1



This picture was taken with my subordinates when I went out of training. I took charge of the K-1 grenade launcher and lived in the mountains during training. At this time, our team placed second among 200 teams, and all of the shooting drills were hit. And we served as a teaching assistant to train the reserve forces.

My Country Brazil

Paulo Sérgio de Sá Góes | RW10/20

Brazil is a fantastic country. It is the biggest country in Latin America. The population is above two hundred million habitants, and Brazilians are helpful and friendly people. Brazil is the fifth largest country and the eighth economy in the world. My country has different cultures and landscapes. Several races live in relative harmony because democracy is reality. It is one nation, and our official language is Portuguese. There are many kinds of landscapes, such as, wonderful beaches, huge forests, and big swamps. However, Brazil has many problems. The principal of them is the politics corruption, because all society loses. While the population works hard, the politicians steal public money. I love my country, and I hope it has a great future. God bless Brazil!

Field Trip

Ali Alharbi | RW1

At nine thirty, we all went out the classroom with the teacher. We went to the university library, and the teacher was leading us. On the way to the library, my class mate and I disagreed and went to the right and the rest continued on the road. Then they arrived at the library. We eventually arrived to the library but we were late because we went to Starbucks. When we got to the library the rest of class were writing. I turned to the right and i saw Khaled buying a book and they put the receipt in the bag.



("Effects to Live in USA" continued)

Moving to another city always shocks. Where ever you plan to move is hard, even if you go to your dream place. I decided to move the USA few months ago to obtain an MBA. Maybe somebody ask; why an MBA? Studies always open doors, obtain a master could bring me a lot of opportunities to develop my career, and also it could help to find a better job. It has left many effects on me, such as: adjusting to a new life, finding new friends, speaking a new language, and living without my family.

First at all, move to USA contribute to adjusting to a new life. For most of the people fit in a new place is not easy. I had had discovered USA culture and abide their rules; all those things are very different as Venezuela is. In USA, people do not say hello with a hug and cheek kiss. In Venezuela this is a habit. Venezuelans are warm people. Talk close each other is our custom. As a result, it is a new balance that I have to learn. Americans respect their personal space.

Weather can also contribute to adjust to a new life. Consequently, I need to buy my clothes regarding weather, I do not know what is appropriate to wear in winter. We do not have winter in Venezuela. Additionally, meeting the new city is another experience. Now I have to use GPS to go to the supermarket, university, cinemas, mall, etc.

Finding new friends is another result of moving to USA. Meeting new people is a rule when you move. Any person cannot live alone, everyone should have friends. I did not have friends here in Gainesville, so I had to meet new friends. I have met a lot of people in classes, and in my residence too. I knew some good people. We can have a dinner together, most of them are from another country also. On the other hand, as a result of my movement, thanks to the technology I am close to my all friends, we can talk every day if we want, and be updated of any changes in our life. Today I have a different view

A Message from the Editor

I hope you enjoy reading this edition. To all of the students who contributed your writing, thank you for sharing your amazing work with us! Also, thanks to Megan Forbes and the University of Florida Bookstore for arranging gift certificates for the winners, to the ELI instructors for supporting their students, and to our wonderful judges: Elia Guldán, Patrick Klager, Thomas Dolce, Victoria Shelly, Tom Ratican, and Olga Moody for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone and keep writing!

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