

ELI STUDENT VOICES

WINNING PIECES

First Place

“Wh- Questions”

by Martha Lucia Ramirez Vargas

Second Place

“What do you Know about Gatherings?” by Anwar Alsharaf

Wh- Questions

Martha Lucia Ramirez Vargas | RW1 | First Place

Where?

My love is inside me, it stays in my heart.
Now I do not see it, but it waits for me.
And I am waiting for it.

What?

It is strong.
It is carved in stone.
Does our love support all?
The time passes slowly.
Each drop distills with patience,
Until it becomes fine wine

How?

Some think of it as a chemical reaction.
Others say it is important to share the sky and ground,
The sea and the fire.
When families gather together.
He has to be a successful man, she must be a dutiful daughter.
But it is more important that when our eyes meet,
Our complicit gaze tell all, yet nothing.
At that place, there is a strange blend of peace and quiet smiles.

Which?

With childhood innocence, not knowing the real meaning of the word.
Or in young love, with that first kiss, we fly with passion, perhaps irresponsibly.
Or when responsibilities point us towards our more mature years.
Our love is rare in this fleeting world, old-fashioned in style.
We are so different but have found our intersection through a deep sigh.
This love grows over all ages,
Includes long conversations, hidden dates, questions without answers,
And is sometimes even carefree

Whose?

Definitely this love, our love, is mine; is yours; is ours!
As such a fire surrounds us, each moment is the best!

This poem is written in a Spanish, Mario Benedetti, style, and is dedicated to my husband, Jorge.

What Do You Know About Gatherings?

Anwar Alsharaf | RW63 | Second Place

Culture is different from one country to another. I noticed that a lot of people don't know much about my culture. That is why I would like to inform you about an important thing in not just Kuwaiti culture but Arab culture generally which is family gatherings. I am going to enrich your knowledge and give you a background about them based on my real life experience.

From the first day of your birth till the last breath you take, you have to go to every family gathering. Every weekend there is a gathering from both parents' sides. Which means that the two days of the weekend are spent on gatherings. Every member of the family must come which is become a gathering for nearly 30 or 40 people. As you grow up, it becomes a routine that you are used to and got sick from doing it. Seeing the same people, same faces, same stories, same lunch, same dinner, everything is just the same way. The sad thing is that you cannot miss any of them for any reason, you are just not allowed to. If you do, every member of the family will hate and reproach you. There are no excuses for not attending the gathering unless you have a serious disease or you are going to die. I remember saying to my mother that I have a hard exam and need to study for it, but her respond was always to bring my book and study there. How do I suppose to study with the chatting noise and baby screams? Sometimes, I think taking some rest sleeping from the social gathering is a good idea, but it is almost impossible when they interrupt your sleep and enter the room every five minutes without considering your need to relax and have a quiet time. Imagine having to do these gatherings over and over again every weekend.

However, you will be surprised if I tell you that this is the best thing I have ever done in my life, and I overwhelmingly miss these gatherings especially after coming to the US and living here away from my family for a while. I was so blind, I didn't realize all the joy in the faces of these people every time they see

me and say hello. I didn't notice their care about me and that they wanted to hear all my worries to make me feel much better after supporting and encouraging me. They were there celebrating every occasion I have been through in my life since I was born: all my birthdays till now, my first time walking, all my achievements that I made, my graduation. They even made a big celebration wishing me all the best before I come here. They want to show me that in every step I take in my life, they will always be there for me and that they got my back If I needed any help. What is more motivating than knowing that every member of your family is praying for your future success? Now, after realizing their important role in my life of making it brighter and less stressful for me, I will attend every gathering for the rest of my life. Actually, I can't wait to go back and thank these precious people for loving me the way I am and making me feel like home when I am around them.

Finally, for you, I really hope after reading this, that I gave you a purpose to appreciate people who have always been around you whether if they are your family or friends. Also, don't be late and hesitate to tell them how much you love spending time with them and how much you feel comfortable talking to them. Following on to the most important thing from this, which is to go and have more gatherings.

Lack of Food in Ciudad Guayana

Joel Bolivar | RW49

Ciudad Guayana was the capital of Venezuela for many years, located in the south of the country. Now Ciudad Guayana is one of the most important cities in Venezuela because it's corporations produce gold and aluminum it is even the city with the best rivers in Venezuela. However, this city has been suffering the lack of food as the other cities in that country. The only way to solve this problem is by filling in the grocery stores with enough food for the whole population.

The main reason why there is a lack of food in Ciudad Guayana is because the government fails with the companies inside and outside that produce food for Venezuela. Many companies which work to produce food broke their relationship with Venezuela for breach of contract. The government which steal all the Venezuelan money doesn't pay to this companies and they stop to producing items for this country. Now those companies produce less and the distribution for the different states is not enough for all the population, for example. Maltin Polar is a company that produces food for the country. This company has problem with it production because the government doesn't give it the resources for it production and now Maltin Polar produces less items than before.

The lack of food results in fatal consequences for Ciudad Guayana. One of them is the violence between the population to find food as the people don't have food. People must make lines for hours to buy food and it create stress for the people. When the

food runs out and there are people who made the line and they did not get food, they start to fight and steal the food from the other persons; in Farmatodo, which is a grocery store where the people make lines to buy food, and a man tried to steal the food from an old man, but the old man had a gun and he shot him and killed the man.

One possible solution is the government should comply with the company contract. Companies are not producing food because the government owes them money. Venezuela is a country that produces a lot of money with oil well because it produces the best petroleum around the world, so a country with the best petroleum cannot have its population without food. The reason for which the population doesn't have food is because while the government is stealing all the money, they don't pay its debts. As a result, the companies don't have the resources to produce food for the country. Maltin Polar is the company which produced "Harina Pan" the item most consumed by the Venezuelan and the "Malta" that is a black drink that the Venezuelan consumed a lot too, but now they don't produce those products anymore because of the debts that the government has with them since 2014. Thus, Venezuelan cannot consume those products by government fault.

Some groups have proposed a possible remedy for the lack of food: more resources for farms that produce livestock. Many Venezuelans live because they work at farms with animals and they produce food. Then they distribute the food to local groceries. In Ciudad Guayana. There are many farms that

don't have enough resources to produce enough food for all the city. For this reason, the government of this country should help farms and give them more resources for a bigger production than they have now. In Ciudad Guayana. There are various farms that work with chicken and pork, and they produce food for few groceries because they don't have the resources for produce food for all the city, so if the government invests in the farms they could produce more for the population. In this way, the government can decrease the lack of food in the country including Ciudad Guayana.

Another possible solution is to stop the black market of food. In Venezuela, the food that is scarce is often found for a regulated price, but there are people who buy these products for a cheap price and then they sell it for a high price. Because of the inflation, the people cannot pay that price, so they don't eat. These people who are at fault are named "Bachaqueros". These people say that is a job to buy cheap food and then sell it for a high price. The government has to stop these people who are doing this crime. because of them and the government the other people cannot eat. For example, in each grocery store there are bachaqueros who sell products for a high price and they get money for that. These people have to go to the jail or pay a big ticket because of this crime. By doing this the government can stop this crime in all the country.

To conclude, the Venezuela government has issues with the companies which produce food for the country. For this reason, these companies produce less. Because the

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("Ciudad Guayana" continued)

people don't have food, they have to steal food from the other people. The first solution is the government has to comply with its contracts with the companies that produce food and gives them enough resources to has a good production. Giving the farms more resources to produce food and filling in the grocery stores is another solution, and finally stop the black market of food that means stop the bachaqueros who sell food a high price. In my opinion the government has to deal whit this problem and solve it, because they are making a crisis inside the country, the Venezuelan are hungry and they want to eat, you should give them food.

Effects of Video Games on Children and Teens

Sofia Gonzalez Rosselot | RW44

When we are kids we love the fantasy, games and fun. Video games are the perfect combination of this. Video games are electronic game that involve interaction with the user and are most used for children and teens. But when they spend too much time playing video games, this has many negative effects of video games on children and teens. The three negative effects are relationship problems, health problems and increased violence.

The first effect of video games is relationship problems. When children or teens spend two hours or more daily, they start to have socializing problems: they don't spend time with their friends and maybe don't socialize with their parents. Also, they don't want to speak with anyone or maybe they just want to talk about video games. other socializing problem are at the school, where they don't want to participate in their class, or sport

teams or just they don't want to speak whit their classmates. Clearly, one of the effects of video games in children and teens is socialize problems.

The second effect of videos games is health problems. When video games start to be an addiction, they don't sleep the necessary hours that they need. Also, they start to feel bad with headaches and eyestrain. Another problem is that they don't do exercise, and this is so important because maybe the kid or teen has obesity. Also, they will start to have problems to pay attention when a person wants to talk with them or in the school. Definitely, an effect of video games is health problems.

Finally, the third effect of video games is increased violence. When the children or teens spend too much time playing video games that are violent, they will imitate that and

they will do more violent things, because they see that as normal. They will want firearms, fighting and maybe start having an obsession with money. Also, many of these violent video games say bad words and maybe they will get a rude attitude with people. As these examples, an effect of video games is increased violence.

To sum up, the three negative effects of video games on children and teens are relationship problems, health problems and increased violence. Children and teens need to be active with sports, socializing with friends and doing their hobbies. They can play video games but not too much because that affects them. Also, the parent need to make rules about video games, like only play educational video games or just without violence, and what hours for week they will spend playing video games.

My Photo

Eonryeong Pan | RW10/20

This is my wedding photo. We should dress in Korean traditional clothes and let my husband parents throw lots of chestnuts and jujube in a white cloth.



Race Biases in Health Care

Johanna Rondon | RW52

Doctors have a social responsibility with people since they decide to be health care professionals. Medicine is based on principles of justice and equality. They are principles known for many years. The Hippocratic Oath says "I swear to fulfill the best of my ability and judgment...I will apply to the benefit of the sick all measures which are required. Avoiding those twin traps of overtreatment and therapeutic nihilism," but there are some questions like can they do that? Are they aware about all their acts? How about their acts when they are under stress or they have unfinished assignments? The article "Hidden Bias: A primer About Stereotypes and Prejudices" says, "hidden biases can reveal themselves in action, especially when a person's effort to control behavior consciously flags under stress, distraction, relaxation or competition." Race bias is a disparity behavior toward black people compared with white people, but doctors are not always aware about this situation. The article, "Implicit Bias Among Physicians and its Prediction of Thrombolysis Decisions for Black and White Patients," explains that some biases are explicit or conscious, and other are implicit or unconscious. As a result of race bias, black patients do not feel comfortable with their doctors, sometimes they have inappropriate treatments or they have bad outcomes.

Race bias affects the doctor-patient relationship. Some doctors do not feel empathy toward black patients. It is known that a good relationship

between doctors and patients has an important role in outcomes and adherence to treatment. When the patients are not comfortable with their doctor, they do not follow the suggestions that doctors give them. For instance, they do not take their drugs, and they do not change their lifestyles. Also, when patients are not adherent to the treatment, doctors feel that their time is not appreciated by black patients. Then doctors establish stereotypes against black patients. The same article said, "physicians might believe that black patients are less likely to adhere to treatment recommendations than whites, and thus offer treatment less often."

Due to race bias, black people can have inappropriate treatments. The article "Reducing Racial Disparities in Pain Treatment: The Role of Empathy and perspective- taking" says, "in comparison to European Americans, African American experience higher levels of pain distress during illness and injury, suffer longer wait times for emergency care, and are less likely to receive palliative treatments." The reason for this is not clear, but it is common that black people claims frequently because they do not have the best treatment or because they do not have the same treatment or drugs when they are compared with white people. In some cases, there is a reasonable explanation related with metabolic differences associated to the race, but sometimes the difference is because the doctors choose the treatment without scientific rationality, leading to uncertain results.

Because of race biases, black patients can get bad outcomes.

Sometimes black patients do not obtain the best treatment for their illness although they have a clear indication for a specific and better treatment. For instance, black people have a low threshold of pain, so they need highest doses of analgesic drugs than white patients. But there is a tendency to use more analgesic drugs in white patients. Also it is easier for doctors start an opioid drug in white patients, but the situation is not the same with black people. Doctors think carefully before starting an opioid for black people because they have an association between those drugs and their risk of abuse of them. Another example is the use of thrombolysis to treat a myocardial infarction, which is more strict in its use in black patients than in white patients. Another example is the belief that pregnancy in black women is dangerous because they do not follow the prenatal checkups, and doctors forget that black women have genetic differences that raise the risk of premature birth and postpartum infections.

In conclusion, as a consequence of race biases, black patients do not feel comfortable with their doctors. Sometimes they have inappropriate treatments or they have bad outcomes from unpleasant feelings to the dead. It is necessary to admit that biases exist, and can be a real issue related with health care when doctors are not awareness about their biases. The article "Can Health Care Be Cured of Racial Bias?" says that, biases can be handled, but they cannot be removed, so it is necessary from the beginning of medical school that each person identify their biases, learn about them, work to keep them in control, and do the best for the patients.

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("Race Biases" continued)

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Homesickness

Fawaz Mahmoud | RW44

Many students around the world like travel to study abroad, and as always there are of difficulties to travel. Everything changes around them such as house, friends, food and culture. All that leads to homesickness. This is a common problem for ELI students. There is more than one solve that, but the three main solutions are: make new friends, learn new things and focus on studying.

To begin with, students in the ELI should make new friends. That means students ought to be more social and participate in the activity. As a result, students will know more friends from many countries. Or for students who have difficulties to connect with from other countries, they can be more active with other friends from other same country. For instance, on Facebook, there are a lot of clubs for each country. They can meet with students from the same country to do more activities. Clearly, spending time with friends help to forget homesickness.

In addition, students in the ELI should new things to have benefits, and not feel homesickness. In other words, students can learn new things, and explore new skills such as cooking. Many learn to cook when they travel, because

in their home the mother or the sisters usually are the cooks. For example, chef Ahmed is one of the famous cooks in Saudi Arabia. He learned to cook when he was studying abroad, and explored new skills. Over time, his skills developed, and now he is one of the popular chefs in Saudi Arabia. Students should use the extra time in something useful and explore themselves. That surely will prevent feeling homesickness.

Finally, students in the ELI should focus on studying and remember the significant goals. If students go to the school in the morning. And present to the activities in the evening, to tally there is no place for homesickness. Also, students could learn not just from the school. They can learn from out the school such as others tradition and habits. For example, in down town of Gainesville, there are activates, and students could go there to watch or even participate with the community. Spending time to study in school or out of school make students feel optimistic.

To sum up, making new friends, learning new things and focusing on studying are the three significant solutions of homesickness for ELI students. Students shouldn't stay alone because this will lead them to homesick, and the effect for that it is very negative and might be destroyed journey of studying.

English and My Mom

Daniel Coppola | RW49

Since I was a kid, my mom always talked to me in English all the time, because she studied at the University of Tampa here in Florida and I was born in Tampa as well. Back in Venezuela, she would always say that English was my native language and for this reason, she wanted me to learn it. As a result of my mom's help now I can speak English very well, but the only problem was my writing and my grammar. I didn't practice a lot with my mom. That's why I chose the US to study, because my biggest issue is that I needed to come here to improve my grammar and my writing also this where English is spoken, to have more opportunities than in my country, and also because all my family speak very good English.

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("English and My Mom" continued)

First of all, I came here to get better grammar and better writing in English because I speak fluently. For example, one time in Venezuela I was doing an English exam of grammar and everybody finished early and I was still doing the exam because it was hard for me. As a result, if I get good grammar I won't have any mistakes in my writing and if I don't have mistakes with my writing, I would be able to write many paragraphs and many essays with no problem. Also, I could express myself writing to anybody. As I said my listening and my speaking is good, due to the fact that my mom talked to me in English since I was a child. As a consequence, is going to be hard for me to learn all the themes and vocabulary that this beautiful language has.

The second reason is that The US is a beautiful country, where English is spoken in all the states. What I mean when I say I want to learn English in the US is because in Venezuela I only had my mom to talk to me in English. Know here I have many American people and my teachers that talk to me in English all the time and not only that. The quality of the teaching of the teachers will help me a lot in what I want. For example, here I can do exercises and study for the exams and all the material they give me which I did not do in Venezuela with my mom. Then to the end I will have the pleasure of returning to Venezuela with a big smile in my mouth.

The third reason is that the US is a country with a lot of opportunities. As a result, it is good to get started in a job or even in a university like I am going to do, because here the universities are well known and when I apply for any job they are going to see that I studied in a good university

like the university of Florida. Instead, in my country Venezuela there are not so many opportunities to study and incidentally that the situation of my country is not as good like the United States. For example, insecurity does not let the students go to University and also that the government of my country is very corrupt so if it is difficult to live imagine to study and that's why I came here to study in order to have a better student life.

The fourth but not the least important reason, is that my family speaks English very well. My mom and my aunt are very good with the language and it would be significant if I learn and go to a university like they did. Do to the fact that I am American I have to learn the language where I was born to achieved. If I do not improve my English, I would be leaving many opportunities aside, opportunities of work and other things. For example, English is one of the most important languages in the world and my mom, and my aunt well my little family speaks and writes very good in English, if you speak English you could have many jobs such as doctor, business man and others.

Finally, I hope that English helps me a lot in my future, I hope to improve my grammar and writing to have very good grades, and so I can graduate and start working, create a good life in this beautiful country and then live it as Should, with family, friends and people who have always been with me and giving me enough support. I can say that I am now quite dedicated to studies and I hope my closest relatives are very happy to see me and hear me say, I did it, and See my mom which is the most important thing in my world, smiling and seeing me grow up as a good son and an excellent student, I think she will be very happy of me. And you?

Three Cures for Homesickness

Mariapaula De Sousa | RW44

Feeling homesick can be one of the worst experiences in a student's life. You feel, anxious; it's very difficult to control your feelings, and a lot of times you forget your goals. But, you can resolve this problem, by keeping focused on your goals, making new friends and trying to feel comfortable with other cultures.

At first, you have to be focused on your goals. If you are in Gainesville,

it's for a reason; you can't forget waste your time. You have to make yourself proud, getting good grades and enjoying all the ELI'S activity. This is one of the best solutions because you keep your mind busy and you don't think about sadness. For example: If you go to the ELI'S activities, you can spend a great time learning and having fun. Another thing you can do is spend a lot of

time doing homework, reading to learn or studying because your days end fast and you don't have to chance to think about sadness. Keeping your mind focused is the most important thing because you are focused on really important things.

Making new friends is another solution, and at the ELI it's very easy

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("Three Cures" continued)

because you meet a lot of people and they can be feeling homesick like you. That can help you to not feel alone. For example: You can spend your Sundays in a pool with friends because Sundays are usually a family day, but if you're having fun you don't think about that. If you feel sick, a friend can spend the day taking care of you, and you will feel with company. The important thing is you don't feel alone, but you have to be really careful, because this doesn't mean you should forget your classes to go to parties with friend. You have to organize your time. For that reason, making new friends is important to overcome homesick because you feel in company.

Third, you should open your mind to new cultures. The ELI has a lot of people from different countries, and it's normal if you feel without things in common with these people. This can make you sad because you miss the

people in your country, but if you open your mind, things will be really easy. For example: If you start to talk with a Chinese person and you're Venezuelan, you can learn more about his culture and he can learn about yours. Similarly, if you understand that everybody is human, it doesn't matter where they are from, you can have a lot of things in common. When you learn this, it will be easier for you to feel comfortable, in another country with other people with different cultures because nobody think the same way.

In conclusion if you keep focused, make new friends and you learn to understand the other people, you will stop feeling homesick because you will understand you are in another country to learn and be better in your future. Also, you will understand that it doesn't matter where you are, you don't have to be alone, but for that things you have to be patient and stay positive.

The Bigger Picture

Santiago Espinosa & Oriana Diaz | RW61

There was a couple who was traveling to a place very famous for telling people what the purpose of their lives is. They had two options to go there: either by walking or by car. But since the easiest and fastest way to get there was the car, they chose that one. There was a condition if they decided to go by car: they couldn't use any kind of entertainment devices inside of the car. The woman was so bored that she just laid down and fell asleep.

The man, who was driving and could not fall asleep started to see images about his life and especially about his relationship with that woman and he realized he had made decisions the wrong way. He only made his decisions lightly, impulsively and carelessly. He had been missing the landscape, the little but important details in life, the 'bigger picture'. The woman was in the same position, but she was wasting her time sleeping. She suddenly woke up and saw the person next to her crying. She was wondering why he was crying when she started to see images, now about her life and started crying, too. The way to the place was magical because in order to tell you what the purpose of your life is, this place tells you what you have been doing wrong and right. When they arrived to the place, it was full of mirrors that make you see who you were before and who you are now, how you see yourself now that you had some time to thought about everything you should have done before. They realized they couldn't change the past; however, they could accept it. By accepting their past and their decisions, they will figure out who they are. There is nothing bad about making mistakes. What is wrong is to keep doing the same. Appreciate the bigger picture and find yourself, then you will be able to find who will walk by your side.

Inspiration of the Girl Loves Art

Yixuan Pan | RW10/20

The inspiration of the Chinese traditional painting "The Girl from Dai Nationality Loves Art" came from "Eighteen years old forever". A Chinese proverb says, "The most beautiful season for the life of a girl is at her eighteen years old." But, one of my best friends can only live in my heart forever. In her most beautiful season, she died in a motorcycle accident. She was a Dai Nationality girl while I have Mongolian blood. But, we have the same interests in Arts. Occasionally, I had a dream about her that she is dressed in the clothes from her nationality, playing a cucurbit flute, sitting on a boat...



Living Standards: Comparing Two Countries

Johnny Hwang | RW49

Choosing between living in Canada and Taiwan is not easy. Both are great countries with their own pros and cons. The following is a comparison of these countries climates, safety, and living standards.

The climate of Canada and Taiwan are quite different. In summer, both countries can get hot, Taiwan has much more sun. Sun-lovers may prefer to live here, but they must realize that exposure to this sun is dangerous. For those who like a milder summer, Canada has it. Canada also has the benefit of a true winter and great mountains for snow sports.

Regarding safety, these countries have many differences. Taiwan is home to annoy white ants. The white ants like to eat wood of decoration and Taiwan people like to live in the wood house. Therefore, it is very often happen of house collapse. Canada's wildlife is not

too threatening, but the environment can be dangerous. The many snowy mountains are inhabited by animals like wolves and moos. Winter snow and ice storms can kill, and temperatures can drop to below forty degrees Fahrenheit.

Either country provides a decent standard of living. However, housing costs are high in Taiwan. Canada, on the country, has reasonable housing rates in most places. But, if you are not planning to buy a house, health, recreation, and commercial services are pretty much equal in both countries.

The choice between the countries really depends on the lifestyle and preferences of the individual. A decision can't be made using characteristics of the country. I enjoy cold weather and moose, not hot weather and white ants. Which location I prefer is easy: Canada.

Bias and Religion

Mame Ibra Kany Mbacke | RW52

Bias is a prejudice for or against one person or a group. For centuries, bias in religion has existed everywhere around the world. People are mostly influenced by news, the media, conversation and education. Prejudices in religion are mostly negative. Because of this, a considerable number of people are suffering from these. According to the Associated Press, "Religion is the second motivation for hate crimes in 2015." Because of the media, education and conversation, crimes and discrimination have appeared as effects of bias in religion

Bias in religion is getting more and more apparent. In the past, people used to obscure their opinions or prejudice in religion, but now they are showing it to everyone without any worries. The media is the principal origin of this. In the past, there wasn't

media, so when this new phenomenon emerged all the well-hidden secrets were shown to the face of the world and then no one cares about the ethics or sensibility of his neighbor. The media have played an influential role on bias in religion. Nevertheless, the credibility of the information disclosed remains to verify. Conversation and education of the contemporary world are based in 90 percent on what we hear or watch in the news, in my opinion. The rest is the legacy left by the ancestors. According to "Hidden Bias: A primer about stereotypes and prejudices," an article, "the first step may be to admit that biases are learned early and are counter to our commitment to just treatment." It shows the strength that education has on biases. Terrible outcomes that we are seeing today are initiated by these factors listed above.

The first effect is crimes. Bias in religion has caused a considerable

amount of crimes. Millions of people have lost their life in terrible situations. Horror is seen every day when we wake up. Most of the crimes are intimidation and vandalism. People are oppressed in their daily life and they are not protected by laws in some cases because they constitute a minority in the country which calls itself a just one. According to the FBI Data in 2015, "most of hate crimes based on religion targeted Jewish people; anti-Semitic attacks were up more than 9 percent compared to 2014 and Attacks on Muslims-Americans, meanwhile, rose an eye-popping 67 percent." Solutions must be found to solve this situation. If it continues, it will cause wars as we have in Israel or India during the past years. In response to the crimes, terrorism has appeared as a powerful counter which is condemned because innocents are dying.

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("Bias and Religion" continued)

The second effect is discrimination. Discrimination is behavior that treats people unequally because of their group memberships. It is the most common way to show that you despise a group of people instead of resorting to violence. Many minority groups are discriminated in their workplace, supermarkets, schools, planes and even weddings. This situation is terrible for them and the society is observing this phenomenon without solving the problem pretending that it is the law of life. As an example, we can evoke the situation of women who wears headscarves called hijab in Arabic. They are not allowed to wear headscarves in some countries and there are laws that has banned the wearing of headscarves and it is the same governments who are shouting everywhere that they defend human rights. Sometimes people are facing harassment which are offensive mentions about person's religion or beliefs.

Another example is the discrimination of Assyrian Christians in Iraq, where tens of thousands have been forced to escape, and multiple Christian sites have been obliterated.

In sum, it is high time to step back and find a solution to these consequences and live in a harmonious way while enjoying the richness of each culture to construct a better future for our world. Bias in religion can be hidden or illustrated by the person but we don't have to permit this bias affect our decision in our daily life.

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Qualities of a Good Friend

Meg Keirsgierter | RW44

Every person can have a friend; generally, everyone has a "best friend", and having a good friend is really important but sometime hard to find. But how we can find a really good friend? A good friend needs to have several specific elements. The three important qualities of a good friend are a good sense of humor, loyalty and patience.

The first important quality of a good friend is having a good sense of humor. My friend needs to always be in good mood, for example, to stay in the joy of living in any situation, and of course my friend can feel bad and needs my help too, but I mean it is better when you try to be ok, it's better. After that, my friend needs to always make me laugh. For example, he likes have a lot of stories, a lot of imagination to make me smile. My last idea for a good friend who is having a good sense of humor is he needs to find a funny side of difficult situations. For example, if I have a bad note in grammar, he can tell me "it's fine, it's just grammar!". Definitely, having a good sense of humor is very important for a good friend.

The second important quality of a good friend is being completely loyal. My friend needs to always be sincere. For example, he needs to never betray me or reveal my secret. After that, my friend needs to have a lot of respect for me or for everyone. For example, he needs to respect my opinion but of course he doesn't need to think the same as idea. My last idea for a good friend who is completely loyal is, he needs to have your back; this is an expression for saying a friend needs to take my defense. For example, if I have a problem with someone, he can come and help me in this situation. Definitely, the loyalty is very important for a good friend.

The third and lest important quality of a good friend is patience. My friend needs to always be here for me; for example, he needs to look if everything is fine, if I need something. After that, my friend needs to take time for me. For example, if I need help on grammar or something like that, he takes time to explain everything to me. Definitely, the patience is very important in a good friend.

To sum up, a good friend should be funny, loyal and generous. We explain the important qualities of these three main idea, so for a good sense of humor, with a good mood, with a friend who always make me laugh, or finally take a funny side of difficult situation. After that we are explain the loyalty with the respect, the sincerity or the defency, and finally we are explained what is the patience for a good friend, who the friend is always here for me, and my friend take a lot of time. So, for me have a good friend is very important in the life.

Studying about Art Psychology Treatment

Hyewon (Hailey) Seo | RW49

When I studied in university, I studied Korean painting because I wanted to be a painter, but the more I studied that major, the more I felt that was not what I wanted, so I took a year off from university and I learned art psychology treatment, and volunteered in a kindergarten class at that time. It was the most exciting time because it made me interested in psychology. When I graduated from university, I acquired an art psychology treatment license. Studying art psychology treatment is my goal for four significant reasons: experience, volunteering, circumstance, and studying ELI in UF.

The first reason is the experience. I got a psychology treatment before because I suffered violence from my ex-boyfriend, and this problem changed my life. I had a social phobia that time, so I couldn't go outside. Moreover, I couldn't talk with men, even my father or younger brother. My parents couldn't stand seeing my condition, so they brought me to a clinic of psychology. When I went there the first time, I didn't say anything and ignored the psychologist. But she tried to talk with me to open my mind. My mind opened as time went by, and I talked with her more than before. When the remedy finished, my psychological condition was better than before. This experience was the first time that I wanted to study psychology to help other people like my psychologist.

This first reason is connected to the next reason: I volunteered in kindergarten class that was made for orphans because I wanted to help other people who need it, but when I volunteered in that class the first time,

I wanted to give up and regretted it because the children, who were students there, were very aggressive and unreasonable. Moreover, they didn't and couldn't understand what was right or wrong and why it was right or wrong. I didn't understand why they did incomprehensible actions, and I couldn't control them, so I wanted to figure out what was wrong, I asked the psychologist who treated me before about this problem, and she told me they also had a scar inside their mind like me before. After I talked with the psychologist, I tried to understand the children. As a result, when my volunteering finished, I was very close with them, so sometimes I visited the kindergarten to see them. This volunteering made me want to know about the psychology of people because I want to treat people who have a psychological scar.

Circumstance is the reason why I choose art psychology specifically. As I said, I studied Korean painting in university, and I became interested art psychology while I was attending painting classes because of my professors. One day, my professor saw my artwork and asked why I gave up my artwork I was really surprised when he asked that because nobody noticed that I had given up the artwork that the more I painted, the more ridiculous it looked. I asked him how he knows my psychology, and he said if I make the connection between painting and psychology when I see a painting, I understand the artist's psychology. For this reason, He knows student's psychology even though they just saw student's painting. Thus, I

thought it would make me easier to understand psychology if I studied art psychology. So this circumstance that I studied art in university led me acquired art psychology treatment license.

The overall reason for my goal is studying ELI in UF. Before I studied at the ELI in UF, I didn't think about studying psychology professionally. One day, some UF international students asked me what I'm going to do after I finish ELI, so I told them I want to study psychology. They suggested UF to me, which has Public Health major that includes art psychology treatment part, so I searched about that major, and I found that UF Public Health is still a growing major, and it also has Korean professor. I asked specific things to Korean pastor who worked with UF before, so knows variety information about many majors. However, he said that majors' process is very complicated, and hard especially for me because I didn't study psychology in university, so I must study psychology in college before I apply to UF, but I don't want to give up my final goal to I study art psychology treatment professionally, so I'm going to have that goal continuously.

Many people asked me why I didn't focus on only one goal because I achieved many different kinds of things such as studying Korean Painting in University, getting art psychology treatment license, and working on edit design. However, I think these many things are the steppingstones for my ultimate goal, which is to study art psychology treatment professionally.

Mayet Island (Death)

Baowendsom Zoungrana | RW63

The alarm signaling the end of the classes and the beginning of the summer sounded throughout the school. The four friends looked at each other, a sign that they were ready for the adventure they had planned since the last summer: to go on a last trip before the college. Luci, Mattes, John, and Melanie had been friends since nursery school. The kind of friendship we all dream about. They lived everything together, the fight, the love, and even the disappointment. Unfortunately, college was the moment of separation. Mattes is a successful football player who had been accepted into the Clemson Tigers' College. On the other hand, John was a scientist who was going to Princeton, Melanie was going to Columbia, and Luci to UF.

"Guys where do you want to go for our last trip?" asked Mattes.

"I cannot believe that all of this is finished. I know that we have to be realistic and admit that we won't be able to spend all our time together anymore" retorted Luci.

"Me either. I cannot believe, but let's enjoy our trip" said Melanie.

"Yes! Let's enjoy. I heard about a small island in the south of the Pacific - I think the name was Mayet Island - my cousin went there last summer and he had a lot of fun."

After this proposition, they all jumped on the computer to look for some pictures on the web. They were amazed by the blue of the water around this island and the activities that they could do, like bungee jumping, zip-lining, diving or even hiking.

"This place is perfect for the summer" said Melanie and they all agreed.

One week later they were in the plan for Mayet, but what they didn't know was that this island had a lot of mystery. The Mayet island was discovered during World War 2 and was inhabited by individuals originally from Ancient Arabian Peninsula, for their culture this island is sacred and must be preserved.

After doing a week of bungee jumping, zip-lining, diving and surfing, for the two-last days before returning to the country, the group decided to go for a last adventure: hiking in the forest situated on the north end of Mayet. Without taking into account the interdiction of the native population, they decided to go alone in this forest; after ten minutes of walking they arrived in front of a glade where there was some strange sign on the tree.

"I think we should return to the city, guys" said Luci, but the others did not listen to him, and that was the biggest mistakes of all their life. When they entered this glade, they triggered the curse and nothing could stop that. Mattes was the first to enter in the glade he was taken by some strange convulsion. His eye became blue like the sky, his skin white like the snow and his breath ractory.

"WHAT IS GOING ON?!" screamed Melanie.

By getting into this glade they had aroused the old garden Powwo of this sacred place who took possession of Matte and now there was no possible escape. Powwo was created by an old sacrificial witchcraft; his only task was to destroy all strangers who trod upon the sacred ground. The three friends tried to escape from the glade, but an invisible force retained them. They were ensnared, they looked at each other and then looked to Matte and they realized that they were in front of Death.

Feet on the Ground but Eyes on the Sky

Santiago Espinosa | RW61

Saga was a remarkable young man in his country; he was called "the golden boy". He was always the best. Most of the people admired him because he stood out as a leader into people's memories. It seems that his will and motivation were strong enough to help him to fulfill everything he wanted in life. Even

though he was in his comfort zone, he wanted to see new places, new people, new cultures; that's why he decided to come here to the ELI at University of Florida.

He came with a clear purpose: to transcend into people's memories. Since the very first day he knew that

this was a unique experience so he had to take advantage of all the opportunities he would have. He was doing well in classes and he knew it, everything was perfect. However, he started to notice that no one looked at him like in his country. He knew

Continued on next page...

("Feet on the Ground" continued)

exactly how people used to look at him and here he didn't see that look, that feeling in people's eyes. That's when he started to feel lost. He tried to be himself, but it seemed that without any logical explanation he couldn't be the person he was before. He became a different person, not a bad person, but not the person he used to be.

Although he didn't feel like himself, his will and motivation didn't change and he achieved excellent results in all his classes and received good comments in every activity. He started to feel valued by people, and he made his very best friends here in Gainesville. When he felt that again, for one moment, he felt like he was in the past again, he saw that same look and feeling in people's eyes. In the past he tried not to disappoint the people that believed in him. He always said "I made a promise, I will not let you down". He was sure of his words and he was sure that he wouldn't break his promise. However, it seemed not everyone thought he was a remarkable person. Some people thought he was selfish and not a good classmate. These comments had an effect on him like nothing before: capable of breaking his will and motivation.

He made a decision: he would go back to his country. It wouldn't be easy. He would have to say "bye" to all those people whom he met here in Gainesville, people with whom he had remarkable experiences who were part of his now collective life memories. He knew what he had to do, but he didn't feel strong enough to do it. At the end he didn't have any other option than to say goodbye. He said goodbye and felt shocked because his justifications that everyone was disappointed in him seemed true. But he especially disappointed himself. He was angry and the very last night he hurt the person he loved.

He went back to his country but there he felt doubtful, not sure of the path he had chosen. Every night he remembered all the lived experiences in Gainesville and felt nostalgic about them. Understanding the feeling of sorrow, after leaving behind the people with whom he shared hundreds of memories, now part of what he hopes will be the pillars of life. Acknowledging this, he felt his will and motivation were present again. It would not be easy, he recognized, but the path to the future began in Gainesville, correcting the mistakes of the past and fulfilling his mission of English fluency and to transcend into people's memories.

In coming back, he surprised many people he had met the previous semester. The first week of the semester he received a letter he had written on the first day of class last semester. During an activity about a time machine, the students wrote something they thought would be significant to them in the future. The letter stated "it's never too late to be what you might have been. Remember who are you, remember your memories and especially remember that you have to keep your feet on the ground but your eyes on the sky". In that moment, he realized that he had made the right decision. Even though the road to achieve his purpose wouldn't be easy, he would never give up. Will power now defined the pursuit of happiness defined by lived experiences, the foundation of the 'Bigger Picture'.

All of us have dreams, goals and purposes in life. However, sometimes we are too focused on that, we are too focused to fulfill what we want to achieve that we forget to see the 'bigger picture'. That's what happened to Saga. He achieved what he wanted, but he was blind because he only focused on his goal and not the journey to his goal; he didn't see 'the bigger picture'. Now he is here enjoying and seeing 'the bigger picture' every day and when he feels alone he remembers his memories. More importantly, he remembers who he is.

If you want to achieve and fulfill great achievements in life, you only need your will and motivation. Always have a clear objective and a clear purpose, but never forget about seeing the 'bigger picture'. Enjoy every day like it would be your last one because tomorrow is unknown. Be loyal to your friends and to the people you love and remind them what you feel. Never hurt the people you love, especially if they love you too. Remember to keep your feet on the ground but your eyes on the sky and never disappoint those who believe in you. This is Saga's story, this is, my history. Now look at the sky and tell me, do I transcend into your memory?

Good Effects of Video Games on Teens

Miguel Garcia | RW44

Video games have been changing the word in the last decade. Some video games have brought a lot of controversial issues over the past few years and make people feel that video games are bad. Also, parents ask the question, are video games good or bad? Because a lot of people think that they are bad for teens, a lot of research has been done to figure out if they are good or bad. As a result of the research, the most important effects of the video games that can be easy to detect are: they help to learn how to do team work, promote communication with other people and help to learn how to focus.

First, the video games help to learn how to do team work. This means that they are multiple players in different teams, so this game requires team work. For example, Call of Duty is a game that divides 16 players in two teams; when you're trying to win, the higher percentage to win keeps the team that works together, helping one another. You cannot go alone and run everywhere because if the other team works with unity, they will kill you and win. This ensures that people should work with their team to get the win and be happy. To sum up, video games that are multiple players and teams foment the team work.

Second, video games promote communication. Communication means that you should be able to "talk" with your teammates and play together. A precise example is League of Legends. Yesterday I was playing at my home and I said to myself, "remember you need to talk calmly and try to work with your team to get the win". So, when the game started, I was talking with my team and the game looked pretty good because we

had a good communication. When the game finished and we got the win, I said "thank you for been communicative and patient, if you're are always like that you will be more likely to get more wins" and all of them agreed. In conclusion, when you talk politely with your teammates, you will have a good time, improve your communication skills and also can make you win; that is what the video games promotes.

Finally, video games help to focus. Focus means to only put your attention on what you're doing. An example is FIFA; this is a soccer game that never stops and if you want to play, you need to be focused, put all your attention on the game because some research said that is almost impossible to do other things while you're playing FIFA. For example, once month per year ESports organizes a tournament that the best players all around the world participate in and only the winners are going to be those players who focus their time and concentrate. To summarize, some video games force you to be focused to play and you learn how to do it only playing.

All in all, doing team work, being able to communicate and being focused are three main positive effects that video games have on you. Most people are more likely to say that video games are bad, and are always trying to say all the bad things about them but it's good to remember that not all are black or white, they are good and bad things; they're not always going to be perfect but we need to pull out the good things and try to apply to our real life.

Qualities of a Good Friend

Jean Franco De Sousa | RW44

All people have friend but, which ones are the most important quality of a good friend? The qualities of a good friend are helpfulness, humor and honesty.

The first quality of a good friend is helpfulness. This means he can help you in a bad situation and can give you a good solution to any problem. For example, the last week my car was broken and I couldn't move around Gainesville, but my friend helped me about this problem to drive me for any ace. Another thing is he can support you in any situation. Definitely, everyone wants a friend who can help you.

The second quality of a good friend is humor. This means he can enjoy all the time. For example, when you are angry or sad, your friend does big smile in your face. He can laugh always with jokes and can do new and funny things. For example, he can go shopping, make jokes and laugh a lot. To sum up, a funny friend is the best because, the relationship has a sense of humor.

The third quality of a good friend is honesty. Your friend can say always the truth. For example, say you need an opinion about something and your friend says a lie is too bad. He can talk without lies. Similarly, if you talk with your friend and the conversation has lies, nothing is real and you cannot hide something. For example, a friend needs to know everything so he can help you but, if you hide things your friend can't help you. As these example, show honesty is the most important quality in a friend.

To sum up, the qualities of a good friend are helpfulness, humor and honesty.

Biases from the Other Side of the World

Abdulaziz Alrashed | RW52

Biases towards a concept, race, or a certain lifestyle are usually discussed by the media. Other biases on the other hand are not being discussed enough. In certain Middle Eastern territory, strange and different kinds of biases can be found. People are not only biased to color but also everything that is atypical. Instead of being biased to subjects or opinions that have a connection to them, these people are against everything except their own people and beliefs. These biases exist because people in those areas have descended from big and historical tribes, misunderstanding the collective values inherited by their ancestors, and educational levels in most situations.

Middle Eastern countries have a great number of cultures and traditions. For example, Arabian gulf countries are known as having old and prestigious tribes. Some of these tribe's descendants go back to the age of prophets. Being a member of a historical family can build a sense of pride, which can lead a person to feel more relevant than others and none of the other opinions or ideas matter. This makes any idea that will lead to a change being faced by a comment such as, "and who is this person to tell us what to do?" The reason behind this act of discrimination, according to an article by Doree Armstrong, is "favoritism" not "hostility." Armstrong also added that people do this act with an intention to help not to harm. Changing this problem is harder than it sounds. For these people, trying to discuss this issue means insulting their family history. Although it is a hard problem to fix, education and opening up to the world can be the key to reducing it.

The Middle East is a huge source of literature and good values. These big families have a heroic and a bright past. They created good rules and maintained others. These values are considered a guidebook for generations. Generosity and the sense of togetherness are examples of these values. Unfortunately, later generations are using these values for the wrong reasons. Instead of being generous because it is the right thing to do, they can be generous as a competition with other people and to show people that they are better than them. This case of competition is making those people think, "We are more generous, so only our opinions matter," or "Anyone who

doesn't have our values is a bad person who does not deserve recognition!" Even though these values were inherited from their great history, this does not mean it is the only good way to live. Being right does not always mean everyone else is wrong.

People with these problems do not represent all the tribes and historical families. Usually people who are driven by their culture to a point that makes them biased towards everything different are not well educated. These families spread in those countries, lived in big cities and had a proper education, and some lived in small villages and did not receive a valuable education. History always shows us that the more ignorant a person is, the more they believe they are better than others. This behavior best known as "The Dunning-Kruger Effect" as it was explained in an article by Mark Murphy. In the article the author defined it as "a cognitive bias whereby people who are incompetent at something are unable to recognize their own incompetence. And not only do they fail to recognize their incompetence, they're also likely to feel confident that they actually are competent." Education can be a key player to change and reduce this problem in the upcoming years.

To summarize, people in certain areas of the world such as the Middle East and especially the Arabian Gulf countries have biases towards everyone else but people who belong to the same group. Biases against anyone different can be caused by being a member of a historical family, misunderstanding family values, and weak education. The closer a person is, the more these people are biased. There is a saying in Arabic countries that goes "Me and my brother against my cousin, me and my cousin against the world." This statement means that if a person is closer by blood, I will be by their side. Although those families have great values and behaviors, their ideas are being used in a wrong way nowadays. The low level of education to a great number of those people is a great reason for misunderstanding the values and using them to treat others differently. This is a major problem because it is not towards one color, one religion, or one idea. These biases are making it impossible to make change without being attacked severely, which means it is very hard to improve the area and to be opened up to different cultures.

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Effect of Videogames on Children

Yun Gayeong | RW44

What do you do in your free time? Reading a book? Riding a bike or sleeping? I usually sleep. It makes me feel happy. Many other people spend their free time playing video games regardless of age. Especially video games get more love from children because they have many fantastic elements which cannot be experienced in reality that bring pleasure to children. However, the positive feeling of video games is temporary. It has more negative effects on children. The negative effects are stronger to children than adults. The three main negative effects of video games on children are increasing violence, risk of addiction and isolation from society.

The first negative effect of video games is increasing the violence of children. Many kinds of video games include violent elements like shooting guns, killing people or breaking something. Children concentrate hard on playing video games and spend a lot of time. If this situation continues, they cannot distinguish between reality and virtual reality. They confuse them because they embrace many things in video games in a defenseless state. Eventually they imitate the violent behavior of video games in reality. For example, in Korea one young boy who is 10 years old killed his father and said "I just imitated the game of Street of Fighter". Many people were shocked. Like this example children aren't strong enough for a division between reality and virtual reality so they cannot control themselves. In conclusion, violent video games are dangerous to children because they increase violence of children.

The second negative effect of video games is risk of addiction. I know that there are many different kinds of video games besides violent games. But are they safe for children? I think the answer is 'NO' because these kinds of games have repetitive elements and have to continue without end. Have you ever played the game of Tetris? If you have ever played the game of Tetris, you know that you lose track of the time while you are playing a game. Children cannot more control time by themselves. They can easily become addicted to video games. As a result, playing video games has a high risk of addiction on children.

The last effect of video games is that they make some children isolated from society. This effect is sum of both of the above result. Children who are addicted to video games cannot get along well with friends because their behavior becomes violent. Other friends hate their violent behavior. Children who become violent have to come back home to play a video game because they don't have friends. Moreover, a negative situation revolves on their life. They spend most of the day playing games, staying home alone and don't want to meet any other friends. They don't go to school and communicate with society. In the end, they will lose sociability gradually and be isolated from society.

In summary, playing video games makes children aggressive, be addicted to games and be isolated from society. However, there are some solutions. To solve this problem, I don't want to talk "Never play the video games!". In this situation, what should we do? The role of adult is very important. They need to set up a suitable time to play video games and the right age. It makes that children can play games more fun and safe. Enjoy your time but don't forget you have a duty to protect your life and your children.

Crime in Puerto Ordaz

Kevin Gomez | RW49

Venezuela is a country that is listed as one of the most dangerous countries in South America. Puerto Ordaz is a city In Venezuela, there is a lot of crimes and lack of security such as police and national guard. Puerto Ordaz is going through some of the

most difficult stages in all its history such as protest because of the lack of jobs, education and murders this affect more than the half of the population. The only way to solve this problem is by generating more jobs, increasing education and more strict laws.

The cause of the crime in Puerto Ordaz is the lack of jobs. the reason of this causes is because Francisco Rangel who is the governor of Puerto

Ordaz is preventing the increase the salary workers. he is closing private companies because he wanted to gain more power and take over companies, Rangel expropriate companies and a lot of people who were working at the companies had to leave or find another job but there is not much choice to do so people are starting to steal.

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("Crime in Puerto Ordaz" continued)

Second, the lack of education. The salary of a teacher is more low than an average salary and this leads to mostly all the teachers quit their job, when I used to study in high-school, we had only few teachers because a lot of teacher had to quit because the salary was awful this had affected at least 80% of the schools in Puerto Ordaz and because of this a lot of schools are closing down due to the decrease of teachers, now teacher have up to 3 jobs because the salary of every job is low.

Third, Venezuelan has been characterized because of the higher rate of deaths in South America this is because people are killing for steal also they are kidnaping specially kids because they can ask for a higher price for give them back to their parents, but sometimes the parents doesn't have enough money for recover their kids and because of this the people who are kidnaping have to kill the kids.

My first recommendation is to make the industries or small business to start a movement to make the government their mind for generate more jobs just like protest or social events in front of the government building this is a possible remedy for help to solve the problem, if people make a huge protest including small business or big industries this can push the government to help the people to find jobs.

The second possible solution is to make the laws more strict, if the government create more serious sentences for killing people this can make the rate of crime decrease, one of the laws that they should implement is that if they find a killer they should kill them or make the sentences of jail for many years or if they find somebody who did something illegal but not harmful they should put them to do social volunteer, in Venezuela doesn't have harmful laws but if they implement it this can help to make the crime decrease.

The next logical step is to encourage people like high-school student seniors or professional workers to volunteer as a teacher to low quality schools, this will help the teachers and the students to learn more about a special education for preventing them to steal or going in a bad path, also students should make a movement to the society to donate for their school needs, they should make a petition to the president to donate money or giving talks to other people for make them realized how much they need teachers or the money for the schools, this method has already been applied on other part of Venezuela and it has worked before but in my city Puerto Ordaz they should try it.

In conclusion, Puerto Ordaz is a city with a lot of problems like lack of jobs, education and murders but if they implement the solutions like implementing movements with small or big business, making the students volunteer with low quality schools and implementing more strict laws for punish the people who are stealing.

Three Solutions of Homesickness

Joohyun Lim | RW44

When we have tough days or something, we feel depressed. Students who come from other countries might feel depressed easily compared to American students since they cannot meet their family and hometown friends. Among the students who frequently feel homesick are new students at the ELI. Although most of them do not have a car, do not have enough abilities to talk with Americans, there are some options that could cure that homesickness. Students who feel homesick should do something related to their countries, participate in activities on campus and study hard.

First, students who feel homesick should do something related to their countries. There are many ways that they

can be reminded of their countries. First, we should keep in touch with family and hometown friends. We can contact them using Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc. By using these platforms, we can call them while looking at their face, and we can also look at our friends' daily life. Also, cooking countries food is effective way to remind their countries. One weakness of this solution is we might spend a lot of money to buy ingredients. Joining clubs related to their countries is also effective. For Asian students, there are Asian clubs, for Hispanic students, there are Hispanic clubs. We can make new friends in clubs and we might get the chance to eat our

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("Three Solutions" continued)

countries food in clubs. To conclude, doing something related to our countries can be helpful.

Second, students who feel homesick should participate in activities on campus. By participating in activities, we can forget our homesickness. You can search and join the club that you are interested in, like the dance club that we can see near Reitz Union, or game clubs where people enjoy playing video games like FIFA or Overwatch. Also, as an ELI student, we can participate in weekday and weekend activities. On Mondays, we can play pool or go bowling in Reitz Union, on Tuesday, we can play soccer near Norman Hall. On the weekends, we can volunteer and go somewhere with other ELI students and LA's. To sum up, doing activities on campus relieve students who are depressed or feel homesick.

Third, students who feel homesick should study hard. We came here to study, so studying hard can make us motivated. Working hard is a good way to forget tiny feelings. After class ends, go to Library West and do your

homework or prepare for a quiz instead of going home. In addition, we can see many UF students who study hard and we can be encouraged when we see them study. When we arrive at home, we can watch American dramas or TV shows instead of watching our countries' TV shows. We can learn expressions that natives usually use, listen to clear pronunciation, mimic actors' accent and tones in American TV shows. In the LA's class or after class. We can use those expressions with natives and then they will modify them or teach us something. To sum up, studying hard can make your daily life busy but efficient, and it makes you forget feelings of homesickness.

In conclusion, participating in activities and studying hard can solve homesickness problems. Doing something related to your countries, doing activities on campus and studying hard can be a solution. People can get easily depressed if they stay home and sleep all day. Go out and make new friends and join clubs. Your daily life will be exciting.

Homesickness

Juan Curbelo | RW44

Many students at the ELI feel homesick. ELI students usually are international students, and they mainly miss their country or family. For instance, in my first semester, when I went to Gainesville, I really felt homesick because, I missed my family and pets. Also, I did not feel confident about the different culture and different language. But with the time I made new friends and started to feel better. There are three solutions for students who feel homesick: they should spend time with friends, exercise and call their parents.

First, students who feel homesick should spend time with friends. This is mainly, go to

Cinemax or play video games.

For instance, when I felt homesick in my first semester. I spent time with my new friends or brothers to play soccer or video games. Therefore, I forgot what I was feeling homesick about before. To conclude, is a good idea to spend time with friends.

Second, students who feel homesick should exercise. This is mainly to run or play any sport in their free time. For instance, when I was missing my family. I played a lot of sports and did a lot of exercise, like going to the gym. When I did exercise, I forgot the world, because when the people do exercise, they are very focused and concentrated on the exercise is a good solution when you feel homesick.

Finally, students who feel homesick should call their parents. Sometimes when I was missing my parents, I called my parents by face time. Therefore, I saw my parents all time and I talked with them. But, sometimes you felt better but, other time you only feel more homesick. To conclude, it is a good solution to talk to you by face time so that you do not feel homesick.

To sum up, many ELI students feel homesick. They need a clear mind. They should keep it busy not to feel homesick in this new country for them. They need to learn about this new culture and people. I have three good solutions for students who feel homesick like spending time with friends, exercise and call their parents.

How to Look at You

Santiago Espinosa | RW61

I don't know why I can't say any word to express how much I love you
I don't know how to explain to you how you make me feel
For me winter doesn't exist, because it always feels like summer when I'm with you

With that smile, the smile that changed lives,
You looked at me
And now I feel that I will never see that smile again
I cannot stand that you no longer love me

How can I look at you
How can I look at your eyes if I know they will disappear soon
How can I look at them when I know they are not mine, not anymore.
I feel that I am dying Since destiny want to see us together

How can I tell you
That I don't want brief love
Maybe one day we'll have it, and I promise I'm waiting for that day
When my destiny connects to yours

I don't know how to be myself if you are not by my side
These next months will be eternal if you are not here

I still can't understand why you looked at me,
With that smile, the smile that changed lives,
You looked at me
And now I feel that I will never see that smile again
I cannot stand that you no longer love me

How can I look at you
How can I look at your eyes if I know they will disappear soon
How can I look at them when I know they are not mine, not anymore.
I feel that I am dying Since destiny want to see us together

How can I tell you
That I don't want brief love
Maybe one day we'll have it, and I promise I'm waiting for that day
When my destiny connects to yours

How can I forget you
If life taught me that you are first
I don't care about distance, I'll always love you
And I know that we will be together again

I will wait for you
When you're in love, time doesn't exist!
I promise you that this is not the end of our story
Destiny cannot separate us
When I look at you

How Can ELI Students Stop Feeling Homesick?

Jiwon Na | RW44

Have you ever suffered homesickness? If you feel homesick, you may unhappy. According to an expert, homesickness is "essentially an acute form of anxiety or emotional distress that results from feeling disconnected from familiar people and places out of your regular routine." So many ELI students who are away from home are missing their family and friends very much. I would like to introduce 3 ways to overcome homesickness. Students who feel homesick should spend time with new friends, enjoy their hobbies that they like in Gainesville and participate in CIP activities.

First, students who feel homesick should spend time with new friends. If you are ELI student, you can meet many international friends. All of the ELI students are from different nations. By spending time with new friends, you can learn new languages and cultures. Also, you may not feel lonely. In my case, when I first came here, I was so lonely and missed my family and friends because everything is different from my country. But soon, there was a welcome picnic so I could meet many friends. As this examples shows, spending time with new friends is good to stop feeling homesick.

Second, students who feel homesick should enjoy their hobbies in Gainesville. What do you like to do? It's up to you! For example, I like to do yoga. So, I searched the internet and found there was a yoga class in the gym. After registering for the class, I started going to the gym to do yoga. It makes me clam and energetic. Plus, you can become more health. You can enjoy anything. For example, bowling, basketball, soccer and swimming. By doing so, you will not miss your family and friends as much as before. Definitely, enjoying your hobby in Gainesville will be helpful to stop feeling homesick.

Third, students who feel homesick should participate in CIP activities. There are very diverse activities in ELI. First, there is Monday Mixer. When you go to Monday Mixer, you should bring your ID card. After that you can choose among pool and bowling. I usually play bowling with my friends. Second, you can talk at Starbucks. We can talk to each other and also paly UNO! The last one is volunteer

Continued on next page...

("Stop Feeling Homesick" continued)

work. You can have many different experiences. For example, you can take care of sick children and clean somewhere. It will be cherished memories for you. To sum up, you should go out and get special experiences in Gainesville.

To conclude, the best way to stop feeling homesick are spending time with new international friends, enjoying your hobby in Gainesville and participating in CIP activities. The first time I came to here, everything differed from my country. So, I also felt homesick. Because of CIP activities, I could overcome homesickness. Whenever you feel lonely and miss your family, you should go outside instead of staying inside. If you enjoy your new life, you will overcome homesickness soon!

The Traditional Way that the Teachers Use

Fawaz Almalki | RW49

What the benefit of giving a ball to a disabled boy? With the same logic, we can ask ourselves about the feasibility of the way that schools or universities teachers use to teach students if it does not suit with the modern standards. I have a bachelor degree which means that I have studied for 16 years. My teachers whether in school or in collage used a traditional method to apply their courses goals. For instance, in high school my teachers used the chalks to give lessons, read from books, and not give the students the abilities to participate in class; they believe if the student talk during the class that is disrespectful for the teacher and should not happened. Maybe, the teachers did not recognize the individual differences and the patterns of personalities of students. There are visual students, sensory students, and auditory students. Everyone has a different way of learning that must be considered.

Its undeniable that the government of Saudi Araba is making a huge progress in terms of petrochemical industry which is a normal result of its position in the market of petroleum, as the largest oil exporter. What abnormal is the lack of interest in education. For instance, the numbers that reported in the report of the Ministry of Finance of Saudi Arabia shows that the budget expenditure in education in 2016 was 20 % which represents a weak attention to the first factor of what makes nations devolved education. In the same report, we can see that the budget expenditure in military industries was 80 % of the government spending Because of the quick race to possess power, the government seems less interested in education. Therefore, we see that the schools and universities lacks recourses that help teachers to enhance their skills and develop the education environment.

The clear effect that you can see with your naked eyes of the lack intention in education in my country and specially in Riyadh's schools is the traditional way of teaching that used by teachers. Schools in my country completely funded by government. There is no other additional resources, only the government control the funds. Therefore, if schools ask for money they must wait for the government to approve their requests. Consequently, the teachers get nothing which unpleasantly effects the education entity. For clear illustration, the educational process required two factors to be beneficial for societies: Clear vision where the education's principles are clear to the teachers and student which is clear in my country because the Ministry of Education make schools and universities to put the education vision in every classroom. Also, educational process required financial support. To apply this clear vision you must to have a substantial financial support to build schools and universities with high technology, such as smart boards and smart curriculum that accelerates the education process. As a bird, education without its two wings; Clear vision and financial support cannot make any positive changes. Therefore, in Saudi Arabia there is clear vision for education but there is lack of financial support. This crisis can be solved if we considered three suggestions: Privatize the education, create social_ organization that focus on education matters, and apply more E - learning systems.

I believe that the first way out of this crisis is by removing the government's grip on education. It's undebatable that governments have huge recourses that rise the chances for more improvements, but what makes these advantages become a disadvantages is a disease

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("The Traditional Way" continued)

called bureaucracy. For instance, as a former teacher I used to do some paper works; printing exams papers, making brochures, and others. Most of time that I tried to use the printer it was empty of papers, and when complained to the headmaster, he said "The funds that the government should've given to the school had been delayed, and he can't do anything". Therefore, privatization is a workable solution where the companies can invest in education. Both governments and companies can get benefits of it. For instance, in October 2013 Samsung the leader company in cellphone market signed a collaboration agreement to provide technical solutions to support intelligent education in the United Arab Emirates. Thus, the government can rely on companies to provide funds and new technology to education, while companies can get advantages of this collaboration by establishing a great relationship with people. Samsung, gets benefits of liking its name with schools. When I know that Samsung is providing my sun school with technology, I will believe that the company has a moral goal. Thus, I will trust it and by its products in the long term.

Moreover, the second effective solution to address the education crisis is create social organization that focuses on education matters. Seven Forty-Eight is the number of charities and social organizations that officially work in

Saudi Arabia since 2000, 90 % of their work goes to the needy people in society. None of these organization work in education field, they provide basic needs. If we have an organization that take the charge to help schools to develop their Curriculum that would fill the gap between civil society organizations and the education process. The new organization can make cooperation with businessmen in order to supply schools with new equipment, such as, laps.

In addition, it's clear that the old style of teaching where the teacher use books, handouts, and handed out homework does not wok any more. Now, students have shown an amazing work with using technology which a great opportunity to be used by teachers. Therefore, apply more E-learning systems is an effective solution to avoid the negatives effects of old style of teaching. Most of student have cellphones, iPads, and laptops. Teachers For example, instead of using hardcover books, can use PDF or audio books which will be holed by students all time because they have it in their hands. As a result, they will be able to read more and educated themselves and built a great skills, such as Analysis and solving problems.

As you can see, the traditional way that the teachers use to teach student is a terrible problem that affecting Riyadh today. By implementing these changes, we will help a lot of people.

Comparing, Contrasting ... and Projecting City

Fernando Echeandía V. | RW33

From public space to emotional connections

The complexity paradigm holds that the systems most adaptable to their environment are those that contain a high degree of dynamism within them, that is, they are more complex. The dynamism of a system depends on the interactions between its components. Thus, more sophisticated the interactions between the components of a system, the better that system is in adapting to its environment.

The city is a very complex system whose basic component is the inhabitant. Therefore, improving the interactions between the inhabitants of a city brings benefits in optimizing the city's development and adaptability to the environment. The scope of these benefits are material and immaterial.

The materials benefits are mainly economic and social. The immaterial are basically emotional, being very important in the process of building¹ social cohesion and identity¹. Emotional connections are the main input of the immaterial and significantly support the economic dynamics of a city.

This is roughly the theoretical base that argues for an urban design that incorporates public space in order to improve cities.

According to this proposal, transforming public space, especially living spaces, is the means to achieve better interaction

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("Comparing, Contrasting" continued)

in the public sphere: participation, equity, equality and democracy. For this, the interactions must occur often and be appreciable. They must be qualitatively and quantitatively optimal. It is the basis for the resulting emotional connections to be sound and healthy, spontaneous and permanent.

Can the discourse of public space be applied to cities as diverse as Gainesville (USA) and Chiclayo (Peru)?

The connections in Gainesville

The urban form of Gainesville, perhaps by consequence of the functionalist design, is close to a weak polycentrism. This city is organized according to the logic of the automobile. Hence the more numerous interactions, happening in important intersections or main avenues, take place through these artifacts. This does not work badly since the avenues are spacious and do not generate neurotic congestion, but the car, an ancient entity of order and efficiency, consumes a lot of public space deforming the human scale of the city. In this environment the interactions are numerous but the resulting connections are distant.

The main public spaces in Gainesville are commercial spaces. In the overall design of shopping centers, the space allocated to the most personal interactions, represented by the container volume of stores, is the one that occupies less space. The greater extension of the set belongs to the car (parking). In this environment, compared to the interactions generated from cars, the interactions within shopping centers are smaller, but are of better quality. These interactions are better, but they are not optimal. Shopping centers are consumer-conditioned spaces, so interactions are not spontaneous and the resulting emotional connections are weak.

The city functions efficiently¹ and it may not be considered necessary to solve intangible problems. But this goes beyond just the immaterial. The benefits are economic and environmental. Expansion with low density is not an appropriate way of adapting to the environment. However, far from rejecting the self an intervention against the expansive tendency must assign a strategic task for it.

The connections in Chiclayo

The urban form of Chiclayo shows an incipient polycentrism with a tendency to develop disjointedly. The trend follows a pattern of social and economic disintegration - larger scale factors that have outweighed the plans - over an ancient monocentric city.

Socio-economic disruption has led, as with the economy, to the informal use of the city. In Chiclayo there is a good level of spontaneity of interactions, but these, taking place informally, are not based on trust. Human connections, then, are rendered dubious, skeptical. Informality makes human interactions somewhat unhealthy.

To redesign squares, parks or pedestrianized streets¹ is innocuous to generate the positive effects that such spaces should have (if) were the informality not liable to contaminate them once they are relaunched. If this does not happen, the relaunched space becomes "exclusive", isolating itself from the urban dynamics.

Both things happen less in newly developed shopping centers. Under a design somewhat similar to those of Gainesville give some sense of security and interactions may be less suspicious. Shopping centers, thus, turn out to be a sort of public spaces of formality.

But informality does not only affect the public space system. Almost all the systems that make up the city operate under the influence of this variable, including the private space in many circumstances.

Problems in Chiclayo, and similar cities, appear to be more complex than Gainesville-type cities.



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("Comparing, Contrasting" continued)

Compact connections

Of the little in common between the cities, the tendency to expand with low density is a possible future scenario for both. Human interactions, understood here as the basic input of urban dynamics, would not improve in an expansive and low density scenario.

To pretend to compact an entire city would be to believe that the market economy is not part of it. What is possible is to consolidate a space-area that behaves as an attracting nucleus and a generator of dynamics and activities. Something similar to an urban gravitational space structured around the socioeconomic circuit of major importance in the city.

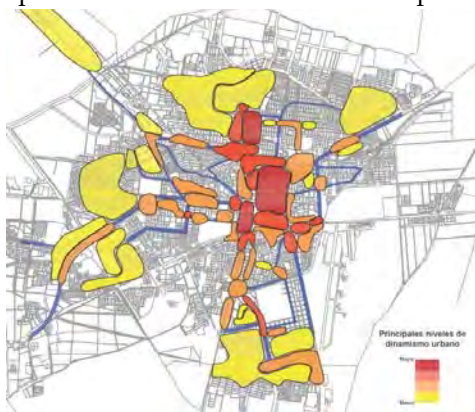
From this space can be rethought the discourse of public space in function of the specifics of each city.

To Gainesville...

The main socioeconomic circuit could be formed by the attracting hubs (shopping Centers, Historical Center, etc.) and by the interconnections between them.

The interconnection is achieved through a new mass transport system. Its infrastructure must occupy automotive road space so that the car has less space and is forced to move through alternative routes, where the degree of dynamism is lower.

The desired effect is to generate hierarchical densification according to its position with respect to the urban gravitational space. This latter could also be the point of support to configure land use according to the degree of mix and levels of dynamism. And it does not have to be too many.



Chiclayo Map of levels or degrees of urban dynamism that includes formal and informal socioeconomic dynamics.

Final reflection

The proposed intervention of public space is a very timely idea in Gainesville type cities, but in cities like Chiclayo it would only be a placebo effect or, at best, short term. The informal economy is intimately linked to physical space. The dynamics of the street is its main stage. But the tools of urban design are insufficient to transform the city and economy at the same time.

The discourse of the public space is not mistaken in any of the cases. Its goals - democracy, equity, equality and participation - are transcendental in the world of cities of the future. Only complexity requires different ways.



Gainesville. The transformation of public space, as well as its connection system, would substantially improve interactions. It would make them closer and spontaneous. A scenario of greater density would further encourage this idea. The densification complexifies the city, makes it more adaptive to its environment or environmental

To Chiclayo...

The identification of the main socioeconomic circuit must take into account the logic of informal dynamics. In the same way to encourage an urban gravitational space that serves as a structuring element towards a formal urban dynamic, where the interactions are reliable.

The challenge is to design a process that makes this space a generator of formal urban use. It would be an instructive urban area, which shows the conveniences of the formal use of the city.

For the interactions to produce reliable connections requires a new urban use. In Chiclayo, tools such as levels of informality and urban dynamism could be the basis for a new way of managing the city.

A Message from the Editor

Thank you to all of the students who contributed your writing. Thank you for sharing your amazing work with all of us! I hope you enjoy reading this edition. Also, thanks to Megan Forbes and the University of Florida Bookstore for arranging the gift certificates, to the ELI instructors for supporting their students, and to our wonderful judges: Victoria Shelly, Tiffany Frison, Melina Jimenez, Maya Shastri, Lynne Clark, Thomas Dolce, Daryl Bish, Karen Owens, Elia Guldan, Laura Jervis, and Olga Moody for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone and keep writing!

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