



ELI STUDENT VOICES

A Message from the Editor



Thank you to all who contributed to this edition of the ELI Student Voices. First of all, thank you to all the students who wrote and were brave enough to share their wonderful writing pieces with us. Thank you to all the ELI teachers who encouraged, helped, and supported the students to develop and polish their writing skills.

Also, thanks to Megan Forbes and the University of Florida Bookstore for arranging prizes for the winners and to our judges: Thomas Dolce, Victoria Dolce, Jane Keeler, Patrick Klager, Debbie Sakalla, and Jennifer Vann who took time to read the submissions and select the winning pieces.

Have fun reading this edition and keep writing!

-Olga Moody

Winning Pieces

First Place

“The man in front of the Show Window,” by Sumin Hwang

Second Place

“Distance,” by Jiho Lee

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<https://twitter.com/UF/status/1499201004046372870/photo/1>

First Place

Sumin Hwang

RW 42

The man in front of the Show Window

-A Mystery story

On a rainy night, a man was standing in front of a brand clothing store's show window. Everyone who was walking past him while he was standing in front of the closed store. They just went past him thinking he was be an employee there because he was wearing clothes of that brand, and holding a plethora of papers with his costumes and beautiful clothing drawn on them. However, he was not an employee of the store.

Actually, the man was a fashion designer. He was very competent and creative. He even exhibited his works at a design contest hosted by the world's most famous brand. Unfortunately, he didn't win the prize in the contest. The more awful situation is that the brand released his work as if they were their costumes and clothing. The brand plagiarized his work! He was so angry that he immediately sued the company. However, the company was too potent and unbeatable. He was so susceptible that the company just robbed his designs. That's why he was looking at his works in front of the show window every night in anger. Afterward, he bought all of the clothes that he designed. He cut the labels on them and wrote down his name.

A few days later, he was in front of the show window again, but that day, a woman passed by and talked to him. She was the CEO of a rival brand, and she knew his story about the other company stealing from him. So, she approached him and asked him to work with her. She promised him to get his designs back. The man trusted her and accepted her offer. After that day, the man tried his best to design amazing clothes, and she released his work. A few years later, the man became a world-famous designer, and her brand went beyond the brand that stole the man's works. The man was able to publicize the brand's crime and regain his work. He could get his revenge with a good deal of effort and meeting an authoritative counselor.

Second Place

Jiho Lee

RW 60

Distance

At the beginning, everything was like fantasy. Whenever she went somewhere, he was there, and they talked a lot. They studied together, exercised together, watched movies together, and cooked for each other. Step by step, they realized that they like each other and one day, he spoke it to her. She said same words. It seemed like perfect. However, they faced a problem. In the middle of the conversation, she started to talk about it.

“So, you will move to another city in 2 weeks, then what should we do?”

He didn’t answer because there was no good answer. She asked him about his future, and they shared their plans, but both were so different. He cried a little. They stopped talking about depressing subject, and just enjoyed their time.

When he left, she cried and he promised that they will see each other again soon. They called and texted a lot. He tried to do fun things together online. However, he changed gradually. She tried to call him and talk about it, but his response was so mean. As she was told, he was so busy because he was hanging out. Seemingly, he has time for everything, but not for her.

At the end, she stopped talking.

Sijung (Jenny) Kim**RW42****My biggest inspiration of UF-Journal**

It is hard for some people to adapt to a new environment. It is just different how much time they need. In my case, I am timid and shy, so it takes a very long time to adapt to the new environment. I was very worried when I first came to Gainesville. I could realize that I was really nervous and worried by looking at the assignment I submitted at the beginning. I am still timid and shy, but these days, I find myself enjoying going around with good friends more than at first. There was something that made me adapt quickly, and that was that my friends didn't say empty words.

There are so many empty words like "how are you?" in Korea. For example, let's have a meal, let's have a drink, let's meet next time, you're really good at it. There's a lot more than this. When I hear these words, I need to think about whether they are true or not. I was disappointed by these words, but I also used it a lot, so I passed it casually. I thought my American friends were saying empty words, too. Even if my friends complimented me or asked me to play with them, I heard it in one ear and dropped it in the other. But it wasn't long before I realized they meant what they said. When I said, "Let's hang out together one day!", they said "When?" I was really surprised to hear that answer right away. At that moment all the empty words I said went through my head. I reflected on myself a lot. From now on, I vowed not to say empty words. Strangely, everything they meant what they said. They cheered me up when I was so upset that I wasn't good at English. Also, they helped me make a lot of friends by inviting me to a house party. I am so thankful not only to my UF friends but also to my ELI friends. For me, as a person who is not confident, they often supported and helped me to challenge something.

Thanks to the sincere hearts of these friends, I was permeating this life without realizing it. I am doing so well now. In fact, it's so warm that I still wonder if it's really true, but I want to believe it's not. I'm sure they meant it. I was able to make really precious memories that could not be changed with money. Thanks to these good memories, I decided to extend the summer semester here although Gainesville is called ghost town during the summer vacation. No matter what anyone says, I'm sure I'll make a fun semester. I want to thank them once again. I realized this opportunity properly that people's sincere words have tremendous power. These words inspired me and allowed me to adapt well to America. I hope that power will continue until next summer semester.

Alvaro Herrera Fernandez

RW 52

The key to get a scholarship

What is needed to get a scholarship? Achieving small goals in life brings us closer to our personal success. My name is Alvaro Herrera, and I was the winner of the JC Casagrande Peace Scholarship in Fall. In addition, I was also nominated for the spring semester. But it was not easy to obtain this small achievement. With this short text I hope to tell you about my experience and some things that helped me achieve it. There are many things that helped me get the scholarship, such as excelling in studies, getting involved in the community, having social relationships.

To stand out in your studies is an essential quality to get the scholarship. First, having a great class attendance will help you with your studies. Just by going and attending in class many of the contents will be assimilated. In addition, the interest in the subject has to be part of the student and sharing knowledge with your classmates will help you achieve better results. But not only with the attendance you have the perfection in the studies. Secondly, studying and doing homework will help you assimilate knowledge. Reviewing what was explained in class will strengthen you in the subject. Doing your homework will help you use that knowledge and improve your mistakes. Studies is only the first step. The road to success has many steps.

Getting involved with the community is another fundamental characteristic. Going to the activities of the ELI is a good way to increase your social relationships and get to know the culture. From Monday to Friday, different activities are carried out for all likes in different locations. In addition, on weekends activities with greater interest in different aspects such as culture, volunteering, travel, etc. I tried to go to all the activities on the weekend and some during the week when I had time. Volunteering or working will help you become more involved in the culture and community. In my case, I was volunteering for a high school team and for a non-profit water polo club. It was an amazing experience that helped develop my English and my interest in the people of the city. I discovered many new places and people. The development of activities inside and outside the university will help you grow as a person.

But the most important step is social relations. Having a family that supports and helps you increases your chances of success. Being so far away it is very difficult for your family to help you on a day-to-day basis. I was lucky to be able to live here with a family. Which has treated me and helped me like another son. They help you understand the culture, the knowledge, and above all they support you in your decisions. Friends and teammates pave the way for success. During these months I have played with the university team. With them I have shared training

sessions, tournaments, trips, parties and many other good times. Having some neighbors with whom to share the weekends will create unbreakable ties. They have helped me in many things and have behaved like true friends. Family and friends are the treasure that will give you value in your life.

As you have seen, being excellent in your studies, being involved in the community and having social relationships will give you a good chance of getting a scholarship at ELI. Studying the knowledge and doing the homework will increase your knowledge contributing to your success. Carrying out different university and extra-university activities will create greater resources in your abilities towards success. Social relationships in the different areas of life will give you the last push towards your goal.

I am convinced that there are thousands of other ways to obtain a scholarship. I'm sure I've been wrong many times to get it. But what I do not regret is the experiences lived. The scholarship is like life, you have to take small steps to achieve your goal and be proud if you gave your best. What are you waiting for to be the next winner of the scholarship?

Su Jin Park

RW42

Resilience

Sometimes I feel lonely for no reason. I don't know why. I think I was left alone in this world at that time. And that feeling makes me spiritless. Make me hate to do anything. But I think there will be times when everyone feels like this. And there will be different ways to overcome those feelings. My way is not to try to overcome the moment.

I felt worse when I tried to overcome that feeling. That's why I recommend you deeply immersed in that feeling. I sleep all day, turn off my phone, and space out. I think about it a lot at night, so I'm going for a walk. If you are deeply immersed in that feeling, you will get better at some point. Resilience does not come out all at once. It happens slowly over time.

Emotions are like the weather. That's why even if you try to get it in your hand, you won't get caught, and it's too vast to say you're fully understand. Sometimes it rains, rises, and is dark all day in the clouds. We hope it doesn't rain, but in areas where it doesn't rain, they have rain calling ceremony. It's natural that the weather changes as it rains and the sun rises.

This is resilience.

Juhee Hong, Kanghee Kim, and Jeesu Yun

RW30

A Man Lives in The Unknown Place

There is a man who lives in the unknown place. This place seems like an island; However, it is not on the sea but on the air. It has only one house and one tree. It is completely blocked from the outside world. In this place, a man has lived for about two years. Two years ago,



A man was looking around Instagram and saw a post says, "if you live in an unknown place for several years, you will be able to get enormous wealth." He was attracted to this post since he was stuck in debt. He decided to participate in this challenge and got in touch with someone who posted it. Someone said, "if you live in this place for 10 years, we will give you \$10 billion." He accepted the challenge and has lived in that place for 2 years. Can this man hold out in this place for the next 8 years?

Kanghee Kim

RW 30

The place I want to visit is St. Augustine. Built in 1565 by Spanish explorers, it is the first European city in the US. The city still preserves the appearance of that time. First, I want to visit Castillo de San Marcos. It's a fortress built by Spain and has a unique shape. It is located beside the water, so the landscape is very beautiful. Second, I want to go to the Lightner Museum. There are various lights on display. If it is okay, I want to take a picture under the light. For these reasons, I want to visit St. Augustine, a city that still has its old appearance.

Abdulaziz Abdulaziz**RW 30****Why I Move to Another Country**

There are several reasons that made me move to another country. First of all, I can develop myself by learning something new. I can learn English speaking since I need to use the English language in my job and all people in my downtown speak two languages, Arabic and English. In other words, if I don't develop myself in English, there is no job for me in this country. In addition, I like to learn another culture and my children have USA citizenship. Most importantly, to teach them American culture. For example, in the future if they want to live in USA, they know about the culture. Finally, I can make a master's degree. I think if I finish the master's degree I can find a good job and good salary. When I find a good salary, I can make another new idea. Really, I need to move to another country and change my live.

Antonio Nohra Gitens**Joshua Arroyo Arcos****RW 31****People and Fish**

People and fish are not the same species, but they are similar in several ways. First of all, both fishes and people have contact with water every day. Fish live in aquatic habitats like rivers, oceans, lakes, and streams. Likewise, people have contact to water every day. They need to drink water to be alive, and they usually take a shower or a bath at least once a day. Second of all, people and fish need to eat to be alive; for example, people eat different kinds of vegetables and meats. Similarly, fish eat things like plants, worms or shrimp. Finally, fish and people have skeletons that are alike in many ways. To give an example, their faces are similarly structured, with two eyes above their mouth. Another thing they have in common is they both have closed circulatory systems. All in all, when we talk about fish and people, we believe that they have nothing in common, but the truth is that they have more similarities than we think.

Seokhyeon (Sean) Sim**RW42****My first impressions of Gainesville, Florida and now**

People may agree with the fact that a first impression has a crucial role and remains for long time. This works not only in relationships between people, but also for people and specific places. That happened to me when I just arrived at the airport of Gainesville. This is my story about my first impressions of Gainesville, Florida.

For ELI students, I have a question. What was your first impression of Gainesville? My first impression was “green” at that time. I came from Incheon, Korea, which has many



skyscrapers and buildings including Incheon International Airport. Before I arrived in Gainesville, I traveled to a few big cities, such as LA and Atlanta, so I was surprised when I saw the landscape in the airplane heading to Gainesville. All I could see was huge and wide green forest. After that, I came out the airport with my friends and

instructors, who were very kind and funny, and I thought, “Is this Gainesville? This is not the place that I expected. I think something went wrong. And it is so hot!” But now I changed my mind while I was studying at the ELI.

My impression now is that Gainesville is the most beautiful city in Florida, and I love to spend time sightseeing. Now the negative impression that I had has become the most attractive factor that Gainesville has! Gainesville has perfect weather to hang out with ELI friends and many places that I haven’t seen before. For example, I went to Ginnie Springs, which has crystal color water. Then, my ELI friends and I snorkeled, swam, and floated on the water with big rubber tube. It was so fun and enjoyable! Not only springs, but Gainesville also has a fabulous lake, called “Lake Alice.” Every morning I pass the road next to the lake. I’m fascinated with the landscape. Now I really love Gainesville and I’m sad to leave here soon.

Luz P. Morales**Daliana Rodriguez****RW 31****Similarities: women and dogs**

Women and dogs aren't same species, but they have many similarities. First of all, both women and dogs are mammals. They carry babies and give milk to the new born babies. Second of all, women are as friendly as dogs. They enjoy spending time together, and they like to communicate to each other. Finally, women and dogs are alike because they can play. Women play different sports and games. For example, they can play such sports as: soccer, basketball, and volleyball. Likewise, dogs can play and fetch the ball. Dogs also play with children in the park and at home. All in all, although women are people and dogs are animals, they both give life and take care of her owns babies, communicate and play.

Morales, Gabriel**RW 20****Reading and Writing**

I like all classes that I take but Reading and Writing is my favorite class. This is my favorite class for many reasons. For example, I think that the teacher Zoe is very patient with the students. She also answers all our questions. In this class, I also learn about grammar, and I improve my listening and speaking. I believe in this class because I know that the teacher Zoe tries that we learn. When I don't understand something, the teacher explains me calmly. She doesn't get angry if I need her to repeat when I don't understand. Also, my classmates are very nice. They are from different countries, and they have different cultures. My classmates are from Saudi, China, Angola, Panama, Venezuela, and Cuba. I sit next to Dayana. She is from Cuba like me. I always learn about different cultures. Although we have different cultures, different customs, different ways of thinking, we are all the same. For all those reasons, Reading and Writing is my favorite class.

Francesco Solari**Sumin Mun****RW 31****Chickens and Children**

Chickens and children are similar in several ways. First of all, when chickens and children are young, their mothers should feed them. When chickens are young, they can't hunt their food. Therefore, their mothers need to feed them. Similarly, newborn babies don't have teeth, and they can't eat food by themselves. Their mothers also feed them. Second of all, chickens make most people happy because they are delicious. In the same way, children make their parents smile because they are so cute. Finally, chickens and children are sometimes hard to control. Chickens can walk anywhere, so people put a fence around their yard to keep them inside. Likewise, children don't listen to their parents and break their rules. In conclusion, many people say chickens and children don't have any similarities, but they have a lot in common.

Manal Almalki**RW 30****Travel To Study**

Travel to study is a rich experience. For me, there are many reasons to travel with my family to study in America. First of all, I need to study a doctorate to get the promotion and this is a requirement for all university member. In addition, all my family members are now studying in American schools and are learning the English language. This is useful for them in the future as the English language has become necessity in all fields such as airport, hospitals, schools and tourism...etc. Last but not least, travel for study is an opportunity to learn about the culture of people. Since we started studying, we have made many friends from different countries of the world. For example, we have friends from Venezuela, Brazil, Korea, China, Colombia and Kazakhstan. These are some of the reasons and benefits for travel to study.

Mariana Alfonzo**RW 51****Narrative Essay: "Tell the story of an event that changed your worldview"**

Without a doubt, one of the experiences that changed my perspective on life was coming to move here to the United States, because when I came, I was not used to making my own food. When I was in Venezuela, I depended on my mom, my dad, or caretaker who cooked for me, or the person who "took care of me," so to speak. Apart from when I lived in Venezuela, I never had to take care of paying rent, electricity or any Utilities that are paid in my house. The third thing that changed my perspective on life was taking the bus.

Firstly, cooking was undoubtedly something that was not usual for me. Cooking, in fact, seemed somehow "dangerous" and even more boring to me. But since I got here, I realized that it's easy. Also, from that, you can cook to your liking. Since I started cooking, which I have been doing little by little, I have realized that it is very easy to cook, you just must be aware of time, so that you don't burn the food too bad.

Another thing that changes how I see the world, is to pay the rent and the utilities. As I mention earlier, all this is taken care of by my parents, I never had the opportunity to do it, nor was it that I had offered to learn. I learn how to pay my bills, also, I should not spend too much water and electricity.

The last thing is taking the bus to go to school or college. When I was in Venezuela, I went to school in my mom's or dad's car. I never took the bus, because the school didn't have one, and because it is easier to go to the school in my family car. But when I got here, I realized that there are many people who take the bus every day to go to their jobs or school, that people take the bus because they don't have a car. So, I am very grateful that I had or can go to college by car, that my family has one, which people do not have one.

To conclude, moving to another country, it opened my eyes and realized that I must start fending for myself and that it is necessary to learn to do things as simple as cooking, paying the rent, and taking the bus to go to the college. Also, I am very lucky to be able to study in a country like the United States and be able to do many things that others do not have, such as the opportunity to eat.

Luis Dimas**RW 30****Moving to Gainesville**

There are many reasons for moving to Gainesville. The first reason is to study English. This language is very important. It is the global language. Gainesville has a very good university (UF). Its university is number one in Florida and number seven in United States. At UF there are many job options. Many students work here. The people speak English. It is good since people who do not know how to speak this language can put it into practice. Also, the students can choose their preferred career to study since Gainesville has UF and Santa Fe College. In Gainesville you can make good friends and meet people from many countries. Finally, if you want to learn English, study for a career and be a successful person, this city is a very good option.

Gonzalez Perez, Omar**RW 20****My Classmates of Reading and Writing Class**

My classmates are responsible and Kind. We share almost all classes. They are good students. My classmates always do their homework. When I see them, they practice English with other people. My classmates are respectful. We all respect each other's opinion and our cultures. They always respect the teacher. My classmates are friendly. They smile when I look at them. When someone doesn't understand, they help them. I think that all my classmates are excellent and nice students.

Vicky Rincon**Natalia Oropeza****Cesar Rojas****RW31****CATS AND MEN**

Cats and men are similar in some ways. First of all, both cats and men are lazy. Cats usually sleep a lot and part of their time remain seated or lying down, and when men are at home, they want to sleep all the time. Second of all, cats are as sweet as men. Both love spending time together. Cats want to cuddle while someone reads a book, or someone does homework. Likewise, men like to receive affection from their pets or their family. Finally, men like to do the same activities as cats. They like to play with the ball, sunbathe, go fishing and watch TV. As can be seen, they could probably live very happily together.

Yue, Hua**RW 10****My class**

I have a wonderful class. I have a perfect teacher. When I have a trouble to understand, my teacher always tries to help me. My friend had a birthday last February, so I wanted to give a guinea pig to my friend, but I didn't know where to get a guinea pig. I asked the teacher. After school, the teacher drove me to the pet store. This teacher is always kind to people, and that always makes us smile. I have excellent classmates. My classmates are polite and very friendly to everyone. If I'm bored, I have fun with my classmates. My classroom is very beautiful. It is always clean. There are many beautiful trees outside. I love my teacher, classmates, and the classroom.

Nathalia Avendano Ruiz**RW42****How has your life has changed since you moved to Gainesville?**

Moving to Gainesville and studying English at the University of Florida has had a significant impact on my life. Since I moved to Gainesville months ago my daily routine has changed notoriously. Back in my country, I used to have a completely distinct routine, being in a new city with new tasks has been a great but demanding experience. For example, I used to live with my parents in my hometown. Since I moved to Gainesville, I have had to adapt myself to a new environment. For instance, I have a different transportation method, a new language and culture, and also new living conditions by myself.

All my life, I used to transport myself by car for any situation. My parents took me to school or to any activity I had to attend. A great advantage that students in Gainesville have is that they can use public transportation for free and it is not essential to have a car to attend classes or anywhere you want to go. In my case, since I moved to Gainesville I have had to adapt to transport by bus or walking since I don't have a car. Taking into account that this was a completely new experience for me since I had never taken the bus before, because in Venezuela, where I used to live, public transport is not an efficient method of transportation, and walking is not safe, either during the day or at night for warding off of violence and insecurity.

Another big but great effect that UF and Gainesville have had on my life has been the learning, development, and implementation of a new language in my daily life. Studying and communicating in another language different than mine has been a great challenge for me

because before I moved here, I felt insecure and susceptible even to ordering a cup of coffee in Starbucks. After all, back in my country all my classes and activities were in Spanish, and I only took English classes twice a week and we rarely practiced communication skills. The practice and intensive study of English has boosted all aspects of my English skills. Having daily contact and communicating with people who speak a different language than mine has improved in a big way my listening skills because each person has a mixed accent, tends to speak fast, or uses words and slang that I had never heard before, and this had help me amplify my knowledge and vocabulary.

Finally, another significant impact of Gainesville on my daily life is living by myself for the first time, this has brought a plethora of responsibilities to my life that I was not previously accustomed to. Managing money, cooking, washing my clothes, and doing the market are some examples of everyday multiple tasks that my parents used to undertake, and now all depend on me. Moving alone, away from my country and my parents, has been a great chance for me since I have learned to take care of myself and be more responsible for my decisions, and although not everything has been easy, this experience has been a very advantage lifestyle change that helped me thrive personally and emotionally.

Overall, Gainesville has changed my life in all aspects but positively, I learned how to take and move by public transport, I have improved my English skills and learned many facts about American culture, and for me, one of the biggest effects of Gainesville in my lifestyle is my blossom, this process has made my growth in all aspects of my life, making me an independent and responsible person and I love it, I'm so buoyant of being here and intrigued about learning new lessons and possibilities to be successful in life.

Kanghee Kim

RW 30

Why did I choose my major?

My major is Oriental Language and Literature and there are several reasons why I chose this major. First, I was interested in Chinese and Japanese. When I was young, I liked to watch Chinese dramas and Japanese animation. So I wanted to speak with the same language that the characters use. Second, there were many multicultural families in my hometown. Most of the multicultural families were Chinese, Thanks to them, I made many Chinese friends. Chinese was needed to talk more effectively with those friends. It was difficult to become fluent only studying on my own, so I chose my major for these reasons.

Alsharif Gayda**RW 10****My class**

My class is perfect. I like my class because I have many good friends, and my teacher is a charming person. My teacher always tries to do her best to help us. My classroom is organized very well. There is a large blackboard and large windows overlook the main street. The class room is large and beautiful. The number of students in class is eleven students. All of them are cute, funny, and likable. Sarah, Nora, Yue, and Eugenia are my best friends, and I like to go out with them to drink coffee after our class. We are from different countries and cultures, so it helps me to improve and strengthen English language. I'm so pleased because I belong to this class.

Faria, Stella**RW 20****Reading and Writing Class**

My reading and writing class is excellent for me because my teacher is an excellent teacher, and there are so many good students. My teacher explains the class very well. When she speaks, it sounds like music to me because I can understand. This class has helped me to develop new skills to understand the reading. Although it is difficult for me, I managed to improve my reading. I think the reading and writing is very important, so I always attend class. In this class, I have also learned a lot of new vocabulary, and that helps me to improve my grammar. I also learn so much about writing. Now, I know how to rubrics, and I always use it. Another reason I love my class is that my classmates are excellent, intelligent, and kind. In conclusion, my reading and writing class is excellent for me because I understand the class well and the teacher and classmates help me to improve every day.

Alshammari, Sarah**RW 10****My Class**

I love my class so much because there are many good people. I have a beautiful friend Gaida. She is from Saudi Arabia, and she has two children. Yue is also my friend. She is from China, and I speak with her in English every day. I come to class early and every day because I can talk to my friends. My reading and writing teacher is Zoe. She doesn't like when students are late for class. Students in class are from different countries. I am happy to come to class because I like to talk to my teacher. We love our teacher Zoe so much and this class.

Eun Hye Lee**RW 30/40**

I have been in Gainesville and the UF ELI for three weeks, so I want to share my life here with friends.

First, the ELI life has been exciting as well as challenging. Since I got the Gator 1 card, I could ride RTS buses without charge which gave me a big convenience. I found two pleasant places to study in free time, which are the Reitz union building and the Library Common in the Newell hall that is across the Hub. On the other hand, it is a little difficult to balance between doing homework and preparing tests, and participating CIP activities such as Valley ball games, the Talent show, and the Gators night.

Second, the Botanic Garden and Spring Festival gave me impressive memories. There were variable vendors, and I bought a jar of jalapeno pickle, Gyros, and sweet popcorn. Because that place was so attractive, I went there again on the next day. On Sunday, there were many kinds of amateur performances such as African music, Brass band, Country songs, and small Orchestra. When the orchestra played Jewish or Greek music (I don't know exactly what the music was), some guests had folk dances voluntarily as well I joined them.

Third, I saw alligators on last Saturday eventually. On March 26, I and my friend visited the Sweetwater Wetlands Park where many gators were enjoying the sunshine. In addition, we watched a snake eating a large frog in a swamp. While the nature was inspiring me, however, I had sunburn in both arms.

My life in Gainesville and the ELI has been much different in contrast to that in Korea. It will be a gift in my life.

Emma Minaya**RW61**

The Use Of Black And White In Music Video To Embrace Imperfections

In Céline Dion's music track, *Imperfections*, the Canadian singer, also known for the famous song *My heart will go on* (Titanic), sings a song about recognizing her imperfections and working on them to be able to give herself to her someone (CelineDion, 2019). Throughout each verse she highlights the fact that she has scars to hide and the fact she can't hold someone else's heart when she is fixing hers therefore, they should give up the idea of being saved by her. In verse 9, she shows need of knowing if the person will be able to love them the way she loves them and the fact that for her to be able to trust them, she still needs to work on

trusting herself. The whole video is in black and white, lasts 3:55 minutes and from the start it shows water in movement, and in the next scenes Celine appears wearing a long black and white gown in a room with spotlights behind and in front of her while she moves her arms in slow motion flapping her arms as if she is imitating the movements of the wings of birds or posing elegantly, and slowly transitioning to strip off her fancy clothes, removing her make-up slowly in front of the mirror and at the end she submerges herself in the water we saw at the beginning of the video. Through the use of black and white in the music video and references to embracing imperfections in the lyrics, we can see that the video for imperfections is showing the process of overcoming loss and imperfections.

In 2016, Celine's life partner René Angélil died after a long battle against throat cancer at the age of 73. He was her manager before he became her husband. They wed in 1994 and had three children: René Charles (20 years old), and twins Nelson and Eddy (11 years old). According to Today Show (2022), she hasn't dated with anyone up until now but she's not close to that possibility some time in the future.

There are crucial scenes that show her not only as a vulnerable woman but also allow us to appreciate her natural beauty, sometime with few pieces of clothing and without make-up. We can see her removing her make-up slowly in front of the mirror looking at herself in a very somber expression, from minute 1:42 to 2:24 of the video and then again from minute 3:45 to 3:47. Here we see a strikingly vulnerable side of her transitioning from a highly famous artist, always well dressed and with elaborate makeup, to the woman who is willing to strip off all the layers of fashion and beauty standards that the art world sets for public figures, especially women, in front of the cameras, until there's nothing left to show but herself (minute 3:49 to 3:55). She's looks directly at the camera, showing her wrinkles, aged skin, a bit tired, with expression lines on her face and still looking naturally beautiful, a message to the viewer that she's embracing her years, experiences and imperfections. However, we could infer the struggle she's going through for the loss of her husband when we see her dressed in the black gown, moving her arms upwards from the back of her body in a very slow pace movement, sometimes covering her face with her arms and then looking to the camera with a very serious expression on her face, with no signs of happiness.

A pattern of struggle appears again from minute 0:41 to 0:45 when she hugs herself loving her imperfections and at the same time protecting her integrity from the social pressure.

Afterwards, Celine caress her face lovingly with her eyes closed and also starts moving and stretching her arms to the front of her body, with her eyes looking forward, singing "I have my own imperfections" with great determination in her face and exposing parts of her body which she shows them gracefully with her hands without fear or shame, embracing her imperfections fearlessly.

A possible reason why the whole video is in black and white is to preserve the essence of the struggle she's going through and to take us as viewers into a dreamlike scenario, as if we are seeing everything from inside of her mind. The music industry has been filming black and white videos for a long time in which we can appreciate how the use of this theme helps them emphasize the struggle that the artist is going through. If we go back to 2003, Evanescence rock band interprets *My Immortal*, which is about the spirit of the singer's dead loved one staying with her until she lets him go and moves forward with her life; In 2013, the artist Hozier in the song *Take me to Church* sings about the struggle of discrimination and homosexuality; In 1991, the band Metallica in the song *The Unforgiven* sings about the struggle of the person who finds himself battling against those who try to subjugate him. All this music videos and over two hundred more produced by the music industry throughout every generation uses the black and white theme as a way to portray the struggle and pain the artist is going through.

At the beginning of the video everything Celine appears wearing posing elegantly with different gowns, and slowly she transitions to strip off her fancy clothes as if within the layers of pain, she's fighting to get back up again, heal her heart and the deep wounds that the loss of her husband left on her, not only as his wife, but also the manager of her artistic career and the father of their three children. Therefore, the somber aspect that the black and white theme creates in the music track video seems to accentuate her mourning heart and the profound pain, depression, and struggle that the ones who stay feel after the passing of a significant other.

Then, she seems to be giving herself the chance to love again, but before doing it, she needs to put herself, her feelings together again. In verse 6: "I can't hold your heart when I'm fixing mine" She chose to put herself in the right place first, healed and ready to love again, before giving herself to someone again. That's why she says "I got my own set of scars to hide," which we could infer that she doesn't necessarily wants to share those wounded parts of herself that are destined for her to work through and learn from, wounds that because of the loss might be too exposed and makes her feel more vulnerable than usual.

It's striking how throughout the whole song, she keeps continuously asking someone to stop being a burden in her life when she says "So give it up, give it up, I ain't gonna save you, Give it up, give it up now," as if she is also struggling with a new relationship that instead of adding up to her life, is asking of her to save him, to be taken care of. She doesn't want the role of the savior in what we could infer is a new relationship with that new significant other. She's imploring him to give up on trying to make her do a job that isn't hers to do. She is determined to save the best of her and of the relationship with her children. Her plate is full with many lives to take care of, nurture and love, and it looks like she doesn't need and doesn't want to save this new someone.

A mother's request to a new love in her life is to see that her significant other get love her children as his own. In Verse 9, she says, "They're part of me, and you are, too" we see the utmost request a devoted mother will always ask to her new someone, "And I don't really want to choose; Can you love them the way that I love you?" to accept her children in his life the way she is taking him in hers and of her children's. She won't allow him to get in between her children and her. She won't lose her children to any new partner she may have in her lifetime because "They make me who I am today; and they won't ever go away." She seems to feel a lot of uncertainty with him: Will he love them the way she loves him? She has given a part of her heart to him already, but she will never give away or negotiate the part in her heart that belongs to her children.

Trust is a value that in order to build it needs from us and the ones we love daily dedication and consistency. In verse 10, she expresses the struggle she's going through in not trusting him yet "Before I can trust you (before I can trust you)." Not necessarily because he isn't trustworthy, but because she needs to put her pieces together again, "I need to learn to trust myself (I need, I need)," to find her own identity since the woman she used to be was very entangled to her late husband. Now she is in the process of carving her true Self in an extraordinarily challenging yet beautiful reality.

In this video we see Celine as the artist and the woman who has struggled over the loss of her husband and the new reality she has to face with her three kids as widow, single mother and a woman willing to love again. The music video was filmed using a black and white theme to accentuate the struggle and pain of the artist, commonly used throughout generations in the music industry.

In conclusion, we can observe that the video for *Imperfections* is illustrating the process of overcoming loss and imperfections by the usage of black and white in the music video and allusions to embracing imperfections in the lyrics. Being a woman in her 50's all by herself with her children, those whom help her cope with the absence of her late great true love, embracing the possibilities of love again under an entirely new perspective, who feels summoned by life to strengthen her character, her hopes, and dreams to become a fearless Celine.

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Abdulaziz Abdulaziz, Marangelys Acevedo Nieves, Zuhur Aloufi, Maria Cuore

RW 30

Time Machine

A lot of things happened if we have time machine. First of all, world time machine we have the opportunity or possibility of time travel to the past or future. But we think that all people would decide the past to live moments that we could not or improve things. The future is uncertain we cannot know what will happen. In addition, we like to visit the middle ages. We are very excited to watch how the humans rode on the horses and used swords to fight. Also, we can bring back the sweet moment in our live. For example, the first graduation school or the day when your parents gave the toys you like. Finally, we would like to visit deferent place because like to know new culture, gastronomy and people. For all these reasons we can have time machine.

Jiho Lee

RW 60

< Life >

There is a cliff where no one knows what is behind the cloud. A man got off the boat and started to climb it. The weather was very hot and humid. Several times, he wanted to stop, but he already spent all of his money to come here, so there wasn't another option. He was thinking why he ended up here when he rested a while. The reason is because there is nothing to lose anymore.

He lost his mother a year ago. After the funeral, he couldn't find the purpose of his life, so he started traveling. Actually, he didn't expect anything good because he thought himself unlucky. However, he found happiness in Thailand. He met Yuni, a beautiful and wise woman, and they became closer. They traveled together for 4 weeks, and he loved and trusted her more and more. The only thing he was worried about was that falling in love while traveling might be fake, but the problem happened in an unexpected way.

One day, he accidentally saw a text message she got from her boyfriend. She has a boyfriend from her country. At first, he couldn't do anything but cry. She woke up to the sound of crying. She hugged him and asked why he was crying, but he couldn't answer. He left her, and hung about street. It started raining, so he sheltered himself under the roof of a convenience store, and that was the moment when he found a poster of the cliff. He started to climb again to the top where no one ever knows what will happen next.

Anas Baalayan**RW42**

Alula

The history of our earth is one of the topics that makes people feel impressed about what our ancestors did back in time. When we rediscover old civilization or cities, we can notice a lot of interesting facts about it, fascinating natural sights, and incredible tourist adventures. In my country Saudi Arabia we have a distinctive location, which is in the middle of the old world. There are many historical sites around the kingdom. Alula is one of these places. It's considered virgin land because it has been neglected formerly for many decades, but thanks to the new Saudi 2030 vision which helped to give this place the attention that it deserves. Alula now is a tourist site that has many interesting historical facts, amazing attractions, and distinguished activities.

Alula is located in the northwest of the kingdom and is one of the oldest cities in the Arabian Peninsula. The ancient city was a crossroad for the silk road and the incense road. The city was a culture and trade center throughout history. Some of the Alula antiquities go back up to 900 BCE like the ancient north Arabian Kingdom scripts in the stone. Moreover, between 100 BCE and 106 CE, there is undefeatable scientific evidence that the spectacular curved tombs in the Nabatian kingdom period were the same civilization as what's in Petra, Jordan. This site is called Hegra, recently it has been recorded as the first Saudi Arabian UNESCO world heritage site.

Tourists when they travel around the world usually look for attractions, something to make the experience more stunning and unforgettable whether it is a natural site or a civilized structure. Well, Alula has the world's largest living museum, a museum in the open air. For example, the elephant rock, when you look at it you may think it's a handmade craft. But no, it's made by the natural force by wind and water eroding the stone. Also, in the open air another rock's shape looks like a dancing rock or face rock. Moreover, the arts on the walls are unique because they contained drawings and carved symbolized stories of love, trading, traveling, and pilgrim trips.

At the moment, the Saudi government has given Alula a potent role in the kingdom's 2030 vision. Besides that, they targeted up to two million visitors in 2035. To do so The Royal Commission for Alula (RCA) has been planning to fill the schedule over the year with unique events for all the family members. Such as Alula Art festival is been host between February and March where you can find five distinct squares containing art, gathering spots, local shops and restaurants. In addition, if you like sky adventures there are seasons for that, with the fabulous view and the fascinating landscape of Alula the visitors can try helicopter tours, Hot air balloons, stargazing, and vintage aircraft tour.

To sum up, my father told me once “history always takes us to the past but in meantime it helps us to build our future”. Alula is the new land of wandering by its heritage and the planned future. With its location, historical facts, astonishing sights, and tourism activity, I promise all my friends at ELI that your experience will be unforgettable. You can find more information on the official website (experiencealula.com)

Alanoud Alhejaili

RW 52

The Secrets of Happiness

Have you ever asked yourself if you are happy in your life? Why do you think so? What is the concept of happiness in your opinion? And what are the criteria for happiness and its causes? Happiness is a psychological and emotional state represented in the feeling of comfort, joy, pleasure, and contentment. All people feel it and its levels vary according to the different life of the individual, his environment, and the influences around him. It is also considered a state of mental, intellectual, spiritual, and physical balance. In the political map “World Happiness Report,” published in Dreamstime, an online royalty-free images provider, the details illustrate the world’s rates and levels of happiness depending on scale, borders, and countries. The happiest countries are the developed countries, such as Finland, Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland, and Norway, which are the top five happiest countries. The reasons for this are the living, economic, and social situation, and because they are rich countries. Happiness is linked to many factors and causes that affect the life of the individual and society. In the talk “The Happy Secret to Better Work,” which was presented to a local audience at TEDxBloomington, Shawn Achor explains that happiness is linked and related to the way people think. Positive thinking increases intelligence, creativity, and energy, which lead people to a feeling of happiness. Also, he advises not to postpone thinking about happiness for a later time because this postpones and delays achievements in life. Thinking about happiness helps in achieving positive and wonderful things in life. Also, it helps in expanding cognitive awareness. However, happiness is not just limited and restricted to positive thinking. Many other causes and factors affect happiness, such as money, social connections, genes, and hormones.

The first factor that affects happiness is money. In the video “How to Buy Happiness,” presented in TEDxBloomington by Michael Norton, he talks about the relationship between money and happiness. The speaker mentioned that despite what was mentioned by some religious and self-development books that money does not buy happiness, he believes that money buys happiness if it is spent in different ways than usual. An experiment was conducted at the University of British Columbia to find out the effect of money on people by spending it in

different ways. People were provided with envelopes containing different amounts of money, like \$5 and \$20. Some of them were directed to spend it on themselves and some of them on other people. As a consequence, people who spent money on themselves did not feel anything and their happiness did not change, while people who spent money on others felt very happy no matter how much money was spent. To make sure that this experience does not depend only on wealthy people and countries, a survey was given in Uganda and Canada that presents the extent of happiness and its effects on different cultures. They found that a Canadian woman made a gift to her mother, and she felt good just because of it. On the other hand, a Ugandan woman gave her friend some money to help him treat his sick son, and she was happy not just for her giving, but because she saved the lives of others, as this is a real urgent need. And these two examples show that giving money to others makes us feel happy, regardless of different motives. In addition to these, Michael Norton presents a map of the world showing the ratio of happy countries and their positive correlation with donating money and spending it on others. This ratio represented most of the world's countries and indicated them in green, which reflects the positive correlation with donating money. In contrast, a country in red reflects the negative correlation with spending money on others, which is the Central African Republic. Thus, spending money on others makes you a happy person, and donating money also makes our countries and people happier.

The second factor is social connections. According to the article “Are We Happier When We Spend More Time with Others?” [by Esteban Ortiz-Ospina](#). The author explained that a group of Harvard researchers conducted a most famous research program to track many people's lives to understand the factors that affect their health and happiness. The research findings have been summarized by Robert Waldinger, the Director of the Harvard Study of Adult Development, one of the most comprehensive longitudinal studies in history. The main result was that social connections are the most important factor in happiness and health. Social connections and making new relationships help live a longer and happier life than isolation and living alone. Based on a large cross-country research project called The World Value Survey (WVS), data was collected from hundreds of people about their time with their friends and how that affects their life and happiness. After comparing the level of happiness of socially interacting people and those who are isolated, it was noted that there is indeed a direct relationship between happiness and social connections in different societies. Also, the data has shown from the World Valued Survey that people who regularly interact with friends and society are happier than those who rarely spend time with social connections. As a consequence, it makes sense to find that healthy social connections are important for happiness, human wellbeing, and life satisfaction.

The third factor is genes. In the video “Is Happiness Genetics?” given at a TEDx event by Mady Kung, she talks about the correlation between happiness and genetics. She describes that

happiness is highly genetic. Research studies have been conducted on identical and non-identical twins. DNA analysis showed that the chromosomes and alleles that we inherit from our parents are short and long versions. Sometimes they come as two long ones, and sometimes two short ones. The people who have the long ones are more likely to be satisfied than people who have the short ones. Also, she mentions the unique personality; we make the individual basis of ourselves by choosing how we act and respond to life. The article “Study Finds Gene that Predicts Happiness in Women,” written by Anne DeLotto Baier, explains a new study about a gene that appeared and how it affects the happiness of men and women, and why women are often happier than men. “This is the first happiness gene for women,” lead author Henian Chen, MD, Ph.D., associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, USF College of Public Health, said. Scientists and institutes determined that the function of the MAOA gene is to organize enzymes and hormones responsible for feeling good. The low-expression version of the gene Monoamine Oxidase A (MAOA) stimulates higher levels of monoamine enzyme, which promotes feelings of happiness and boosts mood. MAOA gene is correlated with increased happiness in women but not with happiness in men. The DNA of a group of men and women was analyzed to find MAOA genetic variation. The researchers' results indicated that women with the low-expression version of MAOA were happier than women with no copies of that gene. Also, women with two copies were higher on the happiness scale than those with one copy. On the other hand, many men who had a copy of the MAOA gene reported the same level of happiness as those without it. Men were not affected by this gene because of the testosterone hormone found in them in larger amounts than in women. According to suggestions and research studies, men are not affected by the MAOA gene due to the testosterone hormone that cancels out the positive effect of the MAOA gene in men. For this reason, genetics can shape our behaviors and determine our life outcomes.

The fourth factor is hormones. Based on the article “How to Hack Your Hormones for a Better Mood,” written by Crystal Raypole, who works on Healthline, she is previously worked as a writer and editor for “Good Therapy.” The author explains that hormones are chemicals created by many glands in the body. It is found in the bloodstream and plays important functions in bodily processes. The most important function is helping regulate mood, positive feelings, and boost happiness. She called these hormones “happy hormones,” such as endorphin, dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin. When exercising, the body releases endorphins, which act as an analgesic to counteract the sensation of pain, causing feelings of happiness and pleasure. Also, the dopamine hormone is important for the brain reward system, and it is associated with learning and various achievements in life. It is released when receiving appreciation for any work that a person feels proud of, which increases the level of happiness. Helping others and giving boosts feelings of satisfaction and well-being, releasing the serotonin hormone that helps boost mood and regulate life. The most interesting hormone is the oxytocin hormone. It is called the “love hormone,” an important and basic hormone secreted

when approaching people, shaking hands, and cuddling. Its levels increase in physical affection and emotional aspects of life. This hormone helps increase bonding, empathy, contentment, satisfaction, and happiness. As a consequence, hormones are primarily and essentially responsible for creating those feel-good emotions and sensations. They boost our feelings of well-being and regulate our lifestyle choices.

In conclusion, money, social connections, genes, and hormones are some of the most important factors affecting happiness and life satisfaction levels. Certainly, it is not possible to control all these factors by ourselves, such as genes, but we can control all the reasons that help in enhancing, activating, and increasing the levels of happiness, such as educational and professional pursuits, gaining achievements, socializing with society, making relationships, and other means of encouraging and motivating causes of happiness. There are many ways to achieve happiness and well-being, contentment, and peace of mind, but that depends on your way as an individual to live this life. In other words, it is important to understand and be aware that happiness is a decision and a choice, so choose for yourself what you want.

Eun Hye (Grace) Lee

RW 30/40

I has been in Gainesville and the UF ELI for three weeks, so I want to share my experience with friends and colleagues.

The ELI life has been not also exciting but also challenging. I found two wonderful places to study during breaktime, which are the Reitz union building and the Learning Commons that is in the opposite building of the Hub. So far, however, it is a little difficult to balance between doing homework and preparing tests, and participating the CIP activities such as valley ball games, Gator nights, and the Talent show. Cooking is also challenging for me because I have never cooked in Korea.



Fig. 1. Several dishes I made. From left side, Bibimbap with soybean paste, cabbage pizza, and Boiled tofu with red pepper paste.

I went the Botanic Garden and the Spring Festival on March 19 and 20 consecutively, which gave me impressive memories. There were many beautiful gardens and variable vendors, so I bought a jar of jalapeño pickles, Gyros (Greek sandwich), and sweet popcorn. On Sunday, there were many amateur performances including African music, Brass band music, the Country songs, and small orchestra playing. When the orchestra played Jewish or Greek music (I don't know exactly what the music was), some guests had folk dances voluntarily and I joined them too.



Fig. 2. Peoples in the botanic garden having folk dance with the playing of orchestra.

Finally, I saw alligators last Saturday. On March 26, I and my friend visited the Sweetwater Wetlands Park where many gators were enjoying the sunshine in an edge of lake. Also, we watched a snake eating a big frog in a swamp. Because the sunlight was very strong, I had sunburn in both arms only in a few hours.



Fig. 3. An alligator enjoying the sunshine in edge of lake.

The life in Gainesville and the ELI must be unforgettable memories in my life and 'm ready to enjoy them.

Natalia dos Santos Ramos**Rw30/40**

The English Language Institute offers real english. The ELI is a program with excellent teaching. With intensive english, The program Teaches real, formal and informal english. With the aid of a language partner, learning becomes even more practical. The campus offers comfort and convenience. You can find restaurants and snack bars. There is also a book store and study spaces. There are several forms of entertainment and learning such as: The newspaper written by university students, whose subject is the weekly events and schedules. For fun, There are also events like the famous Gator Night. The ELI is essential for anyone who wants to learn English.

Mariana Douaihy El Douwaihi**RW42**

My Inspiration

My grandfather is my inspiration since I was a little girl because when I was younger, I heard a story about his travels and how he came to Venezuela when he was 15 years old without his parents. After the Second War, his grandfather convinced the father of my grandfather to send him to Venezuela to prevent him from becoming wrapped in political problems. In particular, he became my inspiration for the reasons that he started a new life without his family and the knowledge about how to create and develop his life by himself.

He arrived at El Pao, Bolivar a state of Venezuela with 100\$, where he began to live and worked with an uncle that he had a few years in the country working in the area of trade. Venezuela at this moment had many opportunities. Due to this, he could build economic independence and then had a chance to have his own family and give them the best future that he could.

A day as yesterday he had one year that he has gone and when I came to the US and I saw my quality of life, every day I said thanks because if he didn't work as he made year than a year, my father wouldn't have many options to give me excellent opportunities of life. In summary, he is my hero, wherever he is.

Huldar, Ismat**RW 10****Our class**

I love my Reading and Writing class. Our class has a good group of student. They are from different countries. For example, there are five Saudi students, and one student is from China. Two are from Cuba, and one student is from Venezuela. One student is from Panama, and one student is from Angola. They are wonderful. The most beautiful thing about my class is that Mrs. Zoe is my teacher, and she is one of the best teachers at ELI. My Reading and Writing 10/20 classroom is a wonderful class, so every day I'm excited to learn something new, and I don't have any absent in this class.

Maria Gabriela Parada**RW61****The Important message gave in the Short Film All Too Well**

In the short film *All Too Well* from 2021, the American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift, who is often inspired by her personal life and has received widespread media coverage and critical praise, relates the story of all the highs and lows in a young couple's relationship who are going through different chapters in their lives. The short film and the lyrics of the song relates the hard time they are going through in their relationship because of all the fights and because they don't feel in the same page with each other. The lyrics of the song expresses the hurt feelings of the girl, who is trying to tell the boy the way she felt during the relationship and then when the relationship ended, how hard it was for her to get through all the pain she felt. The short film shows all the pain the girl was going through and how in some way she knew the relationship shouldn't keep going even though she couldn't notice, because of the strong attachment she had for her boyfriend. People who are going through a similar situation can find comfort and connection with the short film *All Too Well*, finding the reality of when it's time to let go a relationship that it's not right for you.

The actions of the short film give a sad vibe, showing different scenes of care but also others with a lot of fights. In one scene, the couple is having a discussion where the girl is asking for attention from the boy, and while this is happening, he is telling her different things to hurt her feelings, like she is just acting dramatic and childish. Throughout this scene, we can see the facial expressions that both of them have, what indicates the situation they are going through, showing signs of worry in the girl's face, and an expression of disagreement in the boy face, expressing he is not happy with the relationship. In this moment, when the couple is having a

strong fight, the girl realized that the way they are with each other is wrong, knowing that is not the way she should be treated.

In addition, the lyrics of the song gives a message by relating the story, developing with the video, narrating what we can see in the visuals. Swift explains the story by telling all the hurt and pain the girl felt and how hard it was for her to get through that chapter of the breakup, and also try to accept that even though she missed her partner, it was not the right thing for both to be together. The choice of the lyrics in the third verse of the song saying " And I know its not long gone and the magics not here no more, and I might be okay, but I'm not fine at all," indicates how the magic in the relationship got lost, and even though the girl think it's the best for both, she is not fine at all, and how hard it is for her to be strong and recover from the breakup. In this verse of the song, the singer realized it's time to let go the relationship because they are not good for each other anymore.

The strong message the short film has is what made it very popular, showing the reality of some relationships, giving the audience the confidence to feel identified, feeling connection and comfort with the lyrics and the visuals showed. It is interesting how Taylor Swift connected the visuals with the lyrics so perfectly, as she usually does in the songs she writes and compose, opening with her audience by telling and relating her true life stories and transforming them in a way that people feel identified with her throughout the music. In *All Too Well* we can see one scene where the girl left her red scarf in the boy sister's house, and while this is happening the singer is relating it in the lyrics of the song, this is an example of how Taylor connects the lyrics and the video, and by doing this the audience can really understand and feel the connection with what she is trying say and show throughout the lyrics and the video

All the aspects showed in the short film *All Too Well* relates the story of this toxic and not healthy relationship, and all the moments the couple went through during that chapter. It is important to mention, that this type of short film is good to be released, because it shows the situation some people can be going through and how you can accept when its time to let go a person, relationship or environment that is not being good for you.

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Alexis Mejia Rivero, Ana Gabriela Moraes Nina, Karen Pedrera Gago

RW 30

My experience with humans

Hello, my name is Dixe and I'm an alien. I came to the Earth six years ago and I'm adopted by humans. In my first days here, I learned about feelings and how the people can be. For example, some humans can be friendly, and others can be rude, they have different ways to interact with others. Also, they live in a group they call "family". Family is the people with you can trust and you can be loved by them and sometimes they include people who were not born into that family, like me, adopting. I went to school, it is a place when they learn about another humans, cultures, places and math. In addition, in the school you can have "friends", they are people who have the same "interests" (it's when you like the same things that the other person) and they help you when you need, and this help can be good words to listen or love. Finally, I can eat the food in the Earth, the food is amazing, like burger, ice cream and pizza. In conclusion, I am really happy to be here in these years, for this experience and for my human family.

Marangelys Acevedo Nieves

GM20

Prepositional Poem

Through the beautiful and perfect eyes of Puerto Rico
Between the salty and delicious lips of you
On the shiny and powerful shoulders of body
lies
our shy future.

Through the island eye of nature
Below its mountain, forest drop tears.
On top of Puerto Rico island, smell flower air
Rests
a
coqui (tipical frog)
Through the sea eyes of nature
Below its sunset, skydrop eyelash
On top of sea soft water skin
Rests
A
fish

Eugenia Fransisco**GM20****Prepositional Poem**

Through the eyes of Angola.
Between the lips of sages.
On the shoulders of false wails lies.
Our future.

Through the exciting eyes of Angola.
Between the mighty of lips of Luanda.
On the hopeful shoulder of people lies.
Our valuable future.

Gabriel**GM20****Prepositional Poem**

I want to live in countryside
For enjoy of the trees
And the song of the birds.

I loved to live in my country
I love the beautiful people of my country
I miss to walk at its street

Sthella Faria**GM20****Prepositional Poem**

The birds go looking for warmth,
the leaves fall and change color,
the day is shorter and the sun doesn't heat up much,
the mushrooms are delicious.

Its beauty and its riches, have no comparison.
Longed for country of gold chest
With beautiful memories,
Of beautiful joys.

Dayana**GM20****Prepositional Poem**

Through the dark eyes of nature
Below its deserts lips
On its empty tree tops
Sleeps a bird.

Through the river and nature
Below the blue sky
On it's beautiful people
Can you find my nostalgia?

Luis Dimas**GM20****Prepositional Poem**

Through the sea eyes of nature
Below its summer, sun drop light
On top of the sun hard sky floor
Rests
a
turtle.

Though the Venezuela eye of nature
Below its river, mountain drop leaf
On top of Venezuela, soft water skin
Rest
a
turpial (Quail Bird)

Through the eyes of Venezuela
Between the lips of communism
On the shoulder of dictatorship
lies
our future

Through the beautiful eyes of Venezuela
Between the closed lip of government
On the horrible shoulders of dictators
lies
our dark future

Through the wonderful and peaceful of Venezuela
Between the hot and beautiful lips of beaches
On the salty and gritty shoulders of vacation
lies our tropical and warm
future

Alexis Mesia

GM20

Prepositional Poem

In my house has a cat
the cat is on the table
the table is yellow
Like a caramelo

Through of my eyes
You can see my life
My culture inside me
All the places there I go
My history belong me

Through the beautiful eyes of Bolivia
Between the closed lips of communism
On the horrible shoulders of dictators
Lies
Our dark future

Though the wonderful and peaceful eyes of Bolivia
Between the hot and beautiful lips of beaches
on the salty and gritty shoulders of vacation
lies our tropical and warm
future.

Karen Pedera**GM 20****Prepositional Poem**

Through the beautiful eyes of Cuba
Between the closed lips of government
On the horrible shoulders of dictators
lies
our dark future

Through the beautiful eyes of Cuba
Between the closed lips of government
On the horrible shoulders of dictators
Lies
Our dark future

Through the wonderful and peaceful of Cuba
Between the hot and beautiful lips of beaches
On the salty and gritty shoulders of vacation
Lies our tropical and warm future

Through the Caribbean Sea eyes of nature
Below it's the hot island
On its palm tree
You see Cuba

Through the summer eyes of nature
Bellow its hot head
On top of the body
Sits a Sun.

Sultan**GM20****Prepositional Poem**

Through the strangers faces
On this new land.
Standing between my Small family
Start a new adventure

Suji Jung**RW42**

This is my first time in the United States. I've been to other countries quite a bit, but I was nervous because I saw a lot of information about the difficulty of entering the United States. And also before I came here, I had been under a plethora of stress from finishing my semester in Korea and preparing for the ELI program. I was confused because the procedures I had to prepare to enter the United States were complicated and there were many things to prepare. But the process of entering here went quite smoothly.

On the first day I came to the U.S, arriving in Gainesville in the middle of the night, I was so tired that I completely fainted. It wasn't until the next day that I found the luggage damaged. There was no serious damage, but the edge of the luggage was broken. I was embarrassed because it was my first time experiencing damage to luggage. My luggage seemed vulnerable but I didn't expect it to break so easily. I looked up related matters on the airline's website and was relieved that it said I could register within seven days of flight. But after that, every evening, I almost passed out before I thought that my first ELI preparation period and my hectic days were repeated and I had to apply for luggage reimbursement. I didn't have enough energy and time to think about it.

Eventually, I left an inquiry on the 8th day, and I got a feedback that I couldn't accept because that day was the eighth day after the flight. It was such a waste of time I missed, and the damage to the new luggage was so angry. But the counselor told me how I can directly contact the central baggage claim center of the headquarters. As they informed me, I left an inquiry about the baggage delay and later informed them that the luggage had been damaged. The work process in the U.S. took longer than I thought, so it took almost three months to get a refund after a long wait.

The ending was good, but it took a long time and I was stressed out, so I felt that I had to do it right away instead of delaying what I had to do.

David Lee

RW 51

Three years ago, my mother gave me a gift. It was a book called The secret.

In short, the key point of this book is that “thinking always becomes reality.” But I couldn’t believe this because my thinking sometimes had not become reality in my entire life. I wanted to be a rich today, I wanted to get a new car tomorrow, I wanted to go to the space, but why did not these situations happen if my thinking becomes reality? Because the book is too unrealistic, I gave up reading.

But after a few months, a turning point happened to me. My boss lectured me about the same subject. I was so frightened. He was a real rich, he controlled whether or not my wishes would come true. “Just try, you have nothing to lose,” he said. I determined that I would believe the myth if my wishes became(were/are) realized. My first wish was to earn 100 dollars by the next day. My second wish was to fall in love with someone before I finish my military-duty. After that, I read The Secret again and again, maybe more than 20 times. The first wish was realized, so I wondered. But the second was not. I was so frustrated. Suddenly, my teacher sent a text message to me. “Sow a thought reap an action, sow an action reap a habit, sow a habit reap a character, sow a character reap a destiny-by William James.” I wondered again, it was like God is coming to me.

I realized what the problem was. The problem was my behavior. My self-conscious did not believe my wish because it was literally fantasy. And the book and my teacher suggested the same things, “You must believe what you want and must act to accomplish something.” According to them, I had to be ready to love at first. At that time, I did not love myself, so I tried to love myself until I actually love myself. I cleaned my room every day, I tried to think positively every time, and I told myself that I am good enough person even though I did not agree with it. After nine months, my second wish was realized. It was two weeks before my military-duty ended. While I was playing the League of Legends to enjoy my vacation, my phone rang. The stranger’s phone number was really similar to mine. She tried to just a joke. Soon, we knew that we had many things in common. We talked together and it was fun. Since January 9th, we have fallen in love.

Some people said that The Secret is just a joke. But in sense of my personal experiences, it changed my entire life because it gave me a huge hope.

If my mother did not give a gift to me, if my mother gave another book, how would my life have gone?

Seoyeon Yang, Maria Robles Peredo

RW 31

Schools and hospitals

Schools and hospitals have some differences, but they have similarity in many ways. First of all, both schools and hospitals are building that provide security. For example, all schools have all of the security for students and teaches. Similarly, hospitals are special place to treat sick people and make them feel safe. Second, schools are as useful as hospitals. Students learn many thing for life and hospitals are very useful for treating curing sick people. Finally, because many people spend of the time of those places and feel comfortable, schools are the same place as hospitals. Students can make friends and have a good time until students go back home. Likewise, Hospitals feel comfortable because that place have doctors for people. In conclusion, schools and hospitals are place very important for your life.

Minhyuk Son

RW42

The first impression of Florida was a radically peaceful city. At that time, the weather in Korea was winter, but Florida was so warm compared to Korea that it was like a vacation place. In Korea, the assumption of Florida was not a place to study but a place to play. In fact, the city of Gainesville was unfamiliar to me. Although America is one of my bucket list wherever overall USA. But There were both good and bad points in the first impression: tips at restaurants, not wearing masks, and many people laughing on the street.

First, it was very awkward to tip at a restaurant. I rarely tip in Korea. Most people don't give unless they're in a very good mood, but the U.S. seemed to give 15% basically. In fact, I didn't understand at first, but I understood after hearing a story. Service staffs should be tipped because the minimum wage is lower, and tips are essential for efficient employment. I cope with tips perfectly now.

The second impression was that people do not wear masks. In Korea, everyone indoors and outdoors wears a mask, but was not in the United States. In fact, I didn't understand at first, but the situation in the U.S. and Korea were completely different. Korea was a little bit free from Covid because there were a few people living in a small city while the U.S. lived on a large land. Of course, many people used it indoors. I also felt that it was individualism rather than community-ism through this.

There was a lot of people who are on the street with laughing. In Korea, I didn't see many people laughing while waiting for the crosswalk signal. However, Americans seemed happier and more smiling than Koreans. So that I also feel good. Most of Korean mobile phone or I often walk to see the bottom of the United States was different. However, I could feel the gap between rich and poor on the street. I was a little scared because there were more homeless people than Korea.

Impressions of a new place are very diverse. Also, in South Korea and the United States, much is different. I had a lot to learn and a lot to gain. What I learned in the most ethnically mixed country in the world seemed to be very helpful in life. In a little while, I will leave the United States, but I think it is an unforgettable memory with an achievement.

Seung-Eun Kim

RW42

These days, Korea is in the spring season. There are cherry blossoms, forsythia, and other flowers blooming. Every spring, there is a place I go. That place is Gyeongbokgung Palace, and when you go there in spring, you can see beautiful cherry blossoms and a wonderful Korean traditional palace.

Gyeongbokgung is in Seoul, and this is one of the most famous and popular places in Seoul. It was built in 1395, and even now, its architecture is unbelievable, and its scenery looks like the picture, too. So, whenever I go there, I feel peaceful and holy.

In Gyeongbokgung, you can wear Hanbok, Korean traditional clothes, too. It looks really nice and beautiful. Many Koreans go to Gyeongbokgung and wear Hanbok, too. You can borrow Hanbok at Gyeongbokgung!

If you go to Gyeongbokgung, you can learn Korean history. I can recommend you to go to Gyeongbokgung if you have a chance.

Victoria Pineda Vasconcelos

RW30/40

ELI

Last Saturday the ELI's spring B we visited botanical garden Kanapaha it was a very nice experience with a perfect weather. we saw most amazing flowers like cooking plants. they smelled delicious that was my favorite part also there were a lot shops and I bought a beautiful Terrarium. many flowers were going bloom anytime. we take many photos in the Bambus with LA's and Giota. By the way, there was greek food and I ate spinach pie. It was a very diverse experience.

Francisco, Eugenia**RW 20****My lovely reading and writing class**

Being a student in my reading and writing class is an amazing experience. When I am in class, I feel comfortable. The teacher makes me feel confident and motivate. My classmates are united. We help each other every time. We joke a lot. Ismat is my funniest classmate. When he shows his homework to the teacher, he asks the teacher to give him a smiley face. Gabriel says some fun things in class every day. Gayda and Stella are very kind. They help me. The first month, we couldn't write in English, and we didn't know many words. However, now we can write and understand. I am very proud of our improvement and for the respect we have each other. Definitely, this is the best class.

Fabrizio Marchand**RW 30/40****Peruvian Food**

Peruvian food is one of the main reasons why tourists visit Peru; there are three regions: Jungle, Coast and Mountain range. Each one of these regions has their characteristic dish. When I visited Amazonas, which is located in the jungle of Peru, many natives recommended me to try Purmute. This is a traditional Amazonas dish prepared with black and white beans dressed with cilantro and boiled corn, it was delicious. Probably the most famous dish in Peru is located on the Coast in the department of Lima. Ceviche is prepared with fish, boiled potato, sweet potato and corn, dressed with lemon, salt and red chili. In the region of Mountain range, in many rural departments there is a traditional dish called Pachamanca. This is prepared with many kinds of meats like: lamb, cow, chicken, etc. To prepare this you need to dig a hole in the ground, put the meat inside the hole and cover it with hot rocks. Finally, these are the most famous dishes in each region. I can say that Peru has plenty of dishes, with all colors and flavors that you can imagine, so if you travel to Peru you must try all the dishes you can.

Jose Justiniano Cascales**RW42****My high school exchange to Germany**

In 2019, my whole class and I were in Germany for an exchange and to have one of our best experiences. We went from September 2019 to January 2020. We were more than 70 Bolivians in Germany. Germany is a small country with one of the best public transportation systems and from one corner to another it took less than 8 hours. So all my friends were near to me. On this exchange I had a lot of funny experience. I traveled every weekend to a city on Germany I visited more than 16 cities. One time I traveled to Milan (Italy) with my exchange father and it is a beautiful city.

My class organized a meeting every month in the best cities in Germany. The first one was in Dusseldorf on Halloween. We went to clubs and discos because there in Germany it is legal to drink beer, wine and champagne at the age of 16. We had a lot of fun and one of our best experiences. The next month we went to Hamburg, where we all slept in the same hostel. We had a lot of fun visiting the port and also going to the Reeperbahn, a place where the people are totally crazy and where there are a lots of clubs. Finally we went to Köln, a beautiful city with a big lake, nice bridges, and also a big church. There we were near to have problem with the police because the things went a little bit crazy but all were okay.

At the end of the exchange in December we went on a tour to many places in Europe starting in Frankfurt then going to France, Italy, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Monaco and Spain. This tour was 16 days long and the whole class was in a big bus traveling around Europe. The tour was very fun and interesting because in the day we were to museums and monumental buildings and in the night we went to discos and clubs. Our time to sleep was in the morning on the bus. This travel was one of the biggest experience of my life but also was very, very, very tiring. When I came home after all that, I slept more than 20 hours in row.

Eugenia Silva Iluffi**RW42**

Visiting the South of Chile

One of the greatest tourist attractions in the world is located in the south of Chile. In 1978, the Unesco declared The Paine Towers (Torres del Paine) as a Biosphere Reserve. Among its



The Paine Towers

recognitions, it is in an edition of the National Geographic. The Paine towers were chosen as the fifth most beautiful place in the world and in the year 2013 was selected as the eighth wonder of the world, after receiving more than five million votes in the contest held by

the site Virtual tourist. The south of Chile has the most beautiful landscapes that we can imagine, with scenery that dazzles. The amount of places to travel and tour transform this area into one of the strongest prominent tourist areas in Chile. The south of Chile combines imposing landscapes with extensive green areas, where volcanoes, lakes, rivers, and glaciers predominate. In addition to the landscape, the gastronomy in the area makes it an unmissable place and the locals are characterized by being very attentive and cordial, with those who visit the south of Chile.

**Trekking in The Paine Towers**

To reach the south of Chile and have an unforgettable experience, we must travel along the Carretera Austral, highway, which starts in Puerto Montt in the Lake District and ends in Balmaceda. The landscapes seem to be taken from a movie for their clarity and beauty, with the Andes Mountain range in the background. When the route of the southern highway ends, Patagonia begins with a great variety of geographical landmarks, such as the Paine towers, formed by a mass of molten rocks of the earth, with its origin in the grey lake which today we know as the Paine massif, where the most impressive landscape blossoms that nature can offer us. The landscape of southern Chile allows you to practice all kinds of extreme sports, such as canopy climbing, skydiving, and rafting, as well as other not so extreme sports such as skiing in the snowy mountains of Chillan and Corralco or hiking on ice or trekking in the towers of Paine.

When tourists visit these areas, they can also enjoy a plethora of food choices of the south. For example, the typical dishes like the caldillo that is prepared by incorporating the typical fish of the area. One of the best known is the caldillo de Congrio and the pastel de jaivas the biggest attraction of the Creole gastronomy, is prepared based on crabs, seasonings and grated cheese. Of course, all over Chile we find meat, cheese or seafood empanadas, corn cakes, and typical Chilean sweets, and not least one of the best wines in the world are found in Chile, which is one of the largest exporters of wine in the world.



Ice walk in The Park Paine Towers

Finally, the hospitality of the locals is distinctive. They are special for their kindness, joy and passivity, which really impresses the guests. In the south we can find different types of people, such as, the muleteers are an important part of the landscape, dedicated to land transport, which due to the complexity of the area are essential in moving animals from one place to another. The fishermen, who offer their products by the sea, and even some have already settled with comfortable premises to serve tourists. The majesty of the place is clearly reflected in the peaceful and friendly character of the locals. It seems that the word “stress” does not exist in the area. As a part of the lyrics of the national anthem says, honoring the beauty of the place, the south of Chile, "is the happy copy of Eden": a complete harmony.

Certainly, as a Chilean I feel very proud of my country and it is a great joy to describe the places and landscapes that for those of us who live in the capital it is a dream to be able to return to them, whether in the winter or summer holidays, it is always an unforgettable experience because of the beauty and tranquility. That is why, as the title of a Chilean program says, I recommend Chile.

Rafting in The Rivers, Maipo, Claro, Futaleufu y Trancura



The eyes of Caburgua



Jooyeon Oh**RW42**

Differences between the US and Korea

It has been 4 months since I came to the US. The United States and Korea have many similarities like food, clothes style. But there are also many differences. I would like to explain the differences between the US and Korea that I felt after living for 4 months: culture asking for age, individualism, speed of life.

One of differences between the US and Korea is culture asking for age. Korea has a culture of revealing your age after meeting a new person. There is a hierarchical relationship based on age, and people are defined based on age. So, when I am in Korea, I often have to feel how old I am. But In the US, It is rude to ask each other's age at the beginning of each other's age, and it doesn't matter each other's age. It is forbidden to ask a company applicant for their age, which is in contrast to Korea, where they write their age on the application form.

Another thing is individualism. In Korea, when there is a meeting such as a meal or drink, the group becomes the center. In other words, the concept of "members" is a strong gathering of people who know each other. If it's your birthday and you're having dinner with your friends, meet separately from other groups, such as high school friend's gatherings or close work colleague's meetings. In the United States, on the other hand, these gatherings are person-centered. So, rather than the concept of a member, "me" becomes the center. So, when I gather with my friends on my birthday, I call my close friends whether they know each other or not, and people who do not know each other gather and hang out. This is also consistent with the American party culture, where people hang out with unspecified people.

The last is speed of life. Life in Korea is often fast and frantic. Not to mention office workers, businesspeople are very busy living, there are many people to meet and meetings, and there are many events to take care of on the weekends. On the other hand, life in America is slow. Most people leave work early, and there are not many meetings or appointments in the evening or on weekends. Although it is different for each person, fast life is so dynamic and slow life is so boring, so there is an expression that America is a boring paradise and Korea is a fun hell.

Korea has many similarities to the United State because it has been greatly influenced by the United States. However, if you look closely, people's personalities, culture, etc. are different. But this is natural. This is because we have grown up in different countries in terms of location, size, and even eating habits. We must accept each other's differences and live with respect for each other.

Veronica Lima Bornas**RW30/40****My First Week at the ELI**

My first week was difficult cause it was the first time that I live alone, and I didn't know anyone. But as the days went by, everything changed for the better. In ELI, I met a lot of people from different countries. and amazing traditions. Because we don't speak the same language, we need to speak in English to connect and make friends.

I start to do news experiences an visit new places. I learn how live alone, and how paid lease. I visit a Kanapaha Botanical gardens, visit go to saw a Talent Show and saw International Mixer.

I make experiences and do good memories thing that I never do. This last month was the most memorable in my life.

Nayeong Kim**RW42****The Story from My Workplace**

Before coming to Gainesville, I never imagined I'd start working here. Because I'm not good at speaking English, I didn't have confidence in starting a job here. However, My Airpods made me work here. One day after I went to the Matherly Lock-in, I was looking for my AirPods to call my mom, but there was no AirPods. The AirPods had disappeared. I looked and looked for the AirPods around the area with my friends, but I couldn't find them. As a poor international student, I got a job to buy a new ones.

The process of finding a job was not easy. I couldn't speak English well or listen well, so it was hard to even do an interview. Finally, I got a job at Panda Express. I learned the work from imitating coworkers because I couldn't understand what the managers said or wanted. So when I was having a hard situation, other coworkers usually helped me kindly.

The real problem happened when other friends were not around. Orange chicken, which is one of Panda Express's favorite menu items is very sticky. I'm not strong enough to serve it quickly. The manager got frustrated with me, and he shouted at me. "Nayeong, Speed up!" I was very surprised to see him shouting, I asked again. "Sorry, what?" He said again. "Nayeong, speed up! Nayeong, speed up!" When he said, "speed up," I understood "speak up", and I shouted. "OKAY! I'LL SPEAK UP! HEY! GIVE ME ORANGE CHICKEN!" He looked really upset at my shouting, and he came right next to me and served the orange chicken himself faster than I could do it.

After that situation, I realized I misunderstood, so I really wanted to leave at that moment. I was so embarrassed and thought I needed to study English harder. There were many times when I had a hard time due to language differences while working, but it was an experience that made me realize how important language is. Even though it was frustrating and embarrassing, there is a good ending. Finally, I can buy new AirPods now because I worked hard. If there are friends who want to work, I want to encourage them that they can do it. I know they can do it because I did it.

Haeyeon Choi

RW61

How *See you again* memorialize Paul Walker?

In March 2015, the music video *See you again* was released as a part of the Furious 7 soundtrack on Wiz Khalifa's YouTube channel. Wiz Khalifa performs a rap part and this song features Charlie Puth, a singer-songwriter. *See you again* has recorded 5.4 billion YouTube views since its release. This song received 3 nominations and was the best selling-song of 2015 worldwide. The reason this song is so popular is because of the story it tells. The song has a theme of friendship and longing and was created to commemorate Paul Walker, the main character of *The Fast and Furious* franchise, who died in a car accident without being able to complete filming *Furious 7*. *See you again* represents the feeling of missing Paul Walker and memorializes him through the editing, the lyrics, and the symbols.

This music video is special because it consists of two videos. In one video, the two artists appear and the other one is composed of parts of the movie. In most music videos, there is usually only one kind of video that artists appear. However, this music video was edited by alternating the two videos. It inserts the scenes from the movie with Paul Walker. By using a visual effect that is fading in and out, the director is showing that this was intended, which reminds people of the moments with him in the movie. This indicates that this whole music video represents many people's longings for him.

In the lyrics of this song, there are interesting parts. At first, the overall lyrics are about longing for a friend, memories with him, and a strong friendship with him. In the rap part, we can see this section:

All the planes we flew, good things we been through

That I'd be standing right here talking to you

'Bout another path, I know we loved to hit the road and laugh

...

Everything I went through, you were standing there by my side

Through this section in the lyrics that is mainly about the retrospection of Paul Walker, the songwriter successfully shows how much people are missing him directly. In particular, the expression in these lyrics “we loved to hit the road” refers to the memories of driving and spending time with Paul Walker in the movie. Second, the rap part of the lyrics was written from the standpoint of a friend who was gone, and the singing part was written from the standpoint of a friend who remains in this world. This line in the rap part, “And that line is what we reached, so remember me when I'm gone” is interpreted as conveying what Paul wants to say to the people left. This singing part ‘It's been a long day without you, my friend’ shows the bitter and sad hearts of friends who have lost their love. Every single word or phrase in the lyrics represents the longing of the friend, especially Paul Walker.

Many symbols in this music video are used to leave a lasting impression about him on people. From 3:20 to the end, there is a scene from the ending of the movie where Paul Walker and Vin Diesel are driving their own cars and then going different ways. This scene implies that Paul Walker cannot be with his friends anymore rather on his own journey. The other scene where the two laugh also demonstrates that they will see each other in the future. In addition, the “car” is the most important symbol that brings to mind Paul Walker. There is also a touching detail. The car that Paul was driving in 2001's *The Fast and the Furious* (the first series) is a Toyota Supra. The car of the same model that he drove in the first film appears in the final scene of *The Fast and Furious 7*. This indicates respect for him and that people would remember every little detail related to him. Through the symbols, we can be aware that this video represents the feeling of missing Paul Walker sincerely.

See you again is a tribute to actor Paul Walker. In this music video, every aspect reminds people of him. Through the editing method using visual effects, the lyrics express sincerity about him and the symbols, this evokes sympathy for Walker from his fans. It seems that this music video always stays in people's minds and makes them remember him.

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GIOTA PANAGIOTOU**RW 30/40****Kanapaha Botanical Gardens**

ELLs program gave to the new entry students, the opportunity to participate in the spring garden festival. This is an annual celebration taken place at the Kanapaha Botanical Garden. The festival offering a variety of plants, exotic flowers, products related to garden, handcrafted arts, that could buy, especially for garden decoration. Also, there was a wide variety of herbs either for cooking nor for decoration. We had the opportunity to smell them and enjoy the different scents of each plant. Moreover, there was a large variety of food trucks available, such as Greek and Mexican food. Fresh and delicious smoothies made in front of your eyes with exotic fruits with great flavor. Last but not least, we had the opportunity to meet students who already study at U.F. Also, small talks and interesting conversation began with our classmates and had the chance to meet each other better and took great photos altogether. People from all over the world in a sphere was a really exciting experience. Kanapaha botanical garden festival was an activity that no one should have missed



Ernesto Ramirez**RW60****The real message of the song Patria y Vida**

There are many myths about what the reality of Cuba is. Cuba is a country with the potential to be a wonderful and developed place. Unfortunately, it is under a strict regime that has kept the whole country in the 1960s. However, not all Cubans have been quieted by the government's shadow. A group of Cuban artists led by Yotuel, a Cuban singer, have composed a song that has become an anthem for all the Cubans who want to see our country free. On July 11 of last year, Cuban people began to protest against the government with a song as a symbol. The song is called Patria y Vida or "Homeland and Life" in English (Lima Cuadra, 2021). The song was winner of "Song of the Year" award in the 2021 Latin Grammy's, showing to the world the need of a free Cuba. The song is a message to the Cuban government saying that the time for a political change has arrived; that was shown by the title, images in the video, and the lyrics in the Patria y Vida video.

The title has a background in the history of Cuba, so, why "Homeland and Life"? Yotuel and his colleagues use the song as a way to show the world the reality of Cuba. Also, they want to say that it's time to stop the suffering of the Cuban people. This phrase is the opposite of another phrase said by Fidel Castro at the beginning of the Cuban Revolution: "Homeland or Death". They chose Castro's phrase because it is the most famous phrase in Cuba in political events. In addition, Castro always ended his speech with that phrase. They also chose "life" instead of "death", because life represents hope, prosperity, and a better economic situation for the Cuban people. Cubans have been suffering for more than 60 years under the oppression of a communist regime. The title shows the necessity of a political change in Cuba. Also, it represents the artists feelings for their country and how they feel the situation in Cuba. Cuba isn't the country that the government sells to the world, with democracy and freedom. It is true that the health and education is free in my country, but we pay a higher price for that. We have homelessness, poverty, families without anything to eat or feed their children. That's why as a Cuban I want to see a real change in my country. The title is the desire of all Cubans, freedom.

On the other hand, we can interpret some images on the video. At the beginning of the video, we can see an image of Jose Marti, Cuban national hero, burning and changing into George Washington's face on the dollar bill. That represents the transition in the Cuban currency nowadays. How is that a problem? Cubans are paid in the national currency, but the products in the stores are sold in another. Therefore, most people cannot get the supply there. Only some people with other income can afford it. Besides, the transition of the Cuban peso to dollar triggered an inflation on the price of everything. On the other hand, at second 0.56 they say "exchanging Che Guevara and Marti for foreign currency", to refer to the same change of

currency. It is one of the reasons why the singers look so angry during the whole video, to show their disagreement with the government and its laws.

The lyrics are the most powerful weapon of this song. At minute 1:14 they say "It has been 60 years blocking dominoes". Domino is a typical game in Cuba, every Cuban knows how to play it. The artists used this phrase to symbolize the lack of freedom in our country and to show that has been more than 60 years under the oppression of the government. One of the rules of this game is when it is blocked you cannot play anymore and the winner is whoever has the lowest piece. That's why they say "you five-nine, me double two" referring to the government which has a higher piece, so, they will end up losing the game at the end. Another very important phrase in this song is at minute 1:30 "my people demand freedom not more doctrines" which is the goal of the song. No more doctrines because the government always says the same boring words "it is the fault of American government." With those words they have been cheating the Cuban people for years. They have just been living on the power like kings and people like their slaves, and to end that, this song was written as the beginning of the change.

Patria y Vida is the engine that moves all Cuban who want to see a free country. Its deep meaning has gotten to each Cuban heart, but also to the heart of many Latin people around the world who suffer the same pain for their countries. The title, the images, and the lyrics were used by Yotuel and his team as a weapon to fight against a government which has enslaved our island. In a near future, we will have our country free.

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Martina Fabris Guedes

RW 30/40

ELI

ELI promote many activities for students. The first activity that I went is a "Welcome picnic." The picnic had a lot of good foods, and I won other students play money games, like a board games, UNO and others games. And in the picnic was possible to meet many diferents people. The other activity that I participated on last friday is a campus tour. I and Alexis saw a lot of diferents places in the UF campus, and saw mony Alexis's friends on the tour. Alexis got me much important informations. The next activity that I participated is meet my conversation partner. Sofia and I went to cafeteria in The Hub. We told about yours country, and I learned about Sofia's culture. ELI premove a good moments and experiences in Gainesville.

John Watson**RW 61****Why does Order 66 scene from *Star Wars* give strong emotion?**

In “*Star Wars Episode III*,” there is an order that made a great impact to the history of its story (Lucas, 2005). First of all, *Star Wars* is a science fiction movie that is now famous all over the world. *Star Wars’* Episode I to III (1999-2005) is about a war between the Republic and the Confederacy military. Both of them have powerful soldiers called Jedi Knight in addition to their armies. In Episode III, the collapse of Republic army is shown in particular. “Order 66” is conducted by President Palpatine (also known as Darth Sidious), who was the top of the Republic. The order was sent to all of the troops commanding to execute their own Jedi, who were their commanders until right before the order. When these troops had created, since they are all clones of humans, they had been secretly implanted a chip to obey all the commands from the Palpatine. Because of that, all of the troops proceeded to execute the Jedi without any doubt except a very few that managed to take out the chip. After Palpatine’s word around 1:30 in the video, “Execute order 66,” Commander Cody, who first gave an order to his platoon to attack a Jedi, showed a little confusion for a second before giving the command to his platoon but ended up obeying the order, saying “Yes, my lord.” The confusion can be seen even though he had a helmet on, which covers the entire head. Considering he gave the Jedi’s lost weapon, a light saber, back to the Jedi a moment before the order, he did not even doubt that the Jedi was his trustworthy boss.

At the end of the scene of Order 66, there is a scene of many Jedi being killed in a row in various different warfare with little dialogue but with sorrowful music. The last scene was made in a hazier color than other scenes with a dramatic lighting that audiences feel strong emotion. Those Jedi and troops cooperated and fought through a long war, so there must have been a strong reliance between them. However, those troops didn’t give any hesitation to execute their Jedi in the scene. The atmosphere of the last scene of Order 66 scene in episode III of *Star Wars*, the little dialogue, and the music gives the audience strong emotion.

The atmosphere of the execution scene symbolizes clone troops’ empty hearts and Jedi’s shock at being betrayed by their own troops all of a sudden. That inside of the troops’ hearts, there must be an emotion that they are feeling, but hidden by the order. The hazy color’s cloudy inspiration is symbolizing the order as a cover of the troops’ true emotion. That they cannot do what they really want to do because of the chip. It gives the audience sense of emptiness for poor troops. The dramatic lighting reflects the immediate collapse of the reliance and disappointment between Jedi and troops. By expressing these aspects by the atmosphere of the scene, the scene gives audience strong emotion.

After Palpatine start the execution, the scene doesn't have much dialogue. The scene feels very quiet, even though there are constant sound of gun fire by troops and droids, the main weapons of the Confederacy Army. The little dialogue, however, emphasizes its sadness even more. The indescribable sadness is expressed by quietude of the scene. *Star Wars* is also famous for its great orchestra music. Every important scene has an amazing soundtrack such as the "Imperial March," known as Darth Vader theme. After the execution starts, the music emphasizes its indescribable sadness. The music starts at the scene of Jedi being executed in a row. The song has no lyrics, and smooth changes of pitches of every sound for the entire music. That allows audience to focus on the scene, not the music itself. The music is doing a great job as a setoff for such a tragic scene, which helps audience to feel strong emotion. Although the music is the main audio that audience will hear in the scene, the music seems to be a setoff, and the scene feels quiet because of the little dialogue.

In the end, the scene seems to have many aspects that gives the audience strong emotion. The Order 66 scene is obviously a sad scene because lots of characters died there. But the atmosphere, the little dialogue, and the music makes the Order 66 scene one of the most unique scenes in the whole series of *Star Wars*. The atmosphere symbolizes the Republic army and the Jedi's emotion, the little dialogue expresses the scene's sadness utilizing silence, and the music is doing a great setoff to maximize audiences' emotion. These aspects made the Order 66 scene very unique scene in a great movie.

References

Lucas, G. (Director). (2005). *Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith* [Film]. Lucasfilm Ltd.
The scene of Order 66: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdbpryNN7H0&t>

Natalia dos Santos Ramos

RW 30/40

The English Language Institute offers real english. The ELI is a program with excellent teaching. With intensive english, The program Teaches real, formal and informal english. With the aid of a language partner, learning becomes even more pratical. The campus offers comfort and convenience. You can find restaurants and snack bars. There is also a book store and study spaces. There are several forms of entertainment and learning such as: The newspaper written by university students, whose subject is the weekly events and schedules. For fun, There are also events like the famous Gator Night. The ELI is essential for anyone who wants to learn English.

Daliana Rodriguez
RW 31



Puerto Rico



Puerto Rico is a wonderful place to visit and enjoy by your own or with your family. The island of Puerto Rico is very popular tourist and tropical weather. First at all, it has a delicious Latin food in many different restaurants and food truck where you can able to found variety of food. Likewise, Piñones you can eat “piononos”, “alcapurrias”, “ceviche”, “bacalaitos” and rice with

crab. Another place is Guavate where you can find fresh pork, leather pork, plantain, sweet plantain, sweet potato, pork blood sausage, rice with beans, “pasteles”, pickled plantain and potato salad. Caribbean Latin seafood from Naguabo “mofongo” with shrimp with garlic or creole sause, variety of fried fish, meat, pork, chicken or octopus. Another place for entertainment are: the “Escambron” beach in San Juan, see white-sand beaches and Playa Sucia, the lighthouse “Los Morrillos” and natural salt ponds in the town of Cabo Rojo, “El Yunque” rainforest waterfall, the monster adventure park zipline at Toro Verde, Old San Juan, military forts “El Morro”, Bioluminescent bay night kayaking in bio-bay Lagoon San Juan or Fajardo. The most important is the people. They are friendly, sociable and hard workers. In conclusion, Puerto Rico is a good place to visit, good weather, different diversity of restaurants for eat Caribbean Latin food, entertainment and warmth of the people in Puerto Rico.



Credit to: Migdalia Melendez



“El Yunque”



“Mountains from Puerto Rico”

Credit to: <https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/travel/2020/01/what-do-san-juan>



Jinoh Yoo**RW61****What historical messages does the *Mr. Sunshine* give to us?**

The Korean TV series *Mr. Sunshine* is a historical drama that was broadcasted in 2018. The manuscript was written by the famous Korean writer, Kim Eunsook, and the director of the series is Lee Eungbok. It's a historical series about the history of Korea from the late 19th century to the early 20th century. There are 5 main characters in the series. Two of them were born in Joseon, which was an old kingdom that existed in the Korean peninsula, but they aren't citizens of Joseon. One of them is American, and another one is Japanese. Also, four of the main characters can speak multiple languages. From the late 19th century to the early 20th century, Joseon continued to be threatened by imperialist powers. People who ruled Joseon tried to reform the society in Joseon, but that didn't work well. Although many people fought against the Japanese empire, Joseon society was filled with all kinds of contradictions and absurdities. Eventually, Joseon was collapsed by the Japanese Empire in 1910. The scenes, characters, and the dialogues inside of *Mr. Sunshine* show us messages that are important for protecting the nation and emphasizing the importance of citizens, and those messages are really helpful when a country is in a huge crisis.

We can see absurdities and contradictions inside of Joseon's society through two main characters' lives. Although *Mr. Sunshine* shows loyal army soldiers who tried to protect their country, the nation they want to protect is filled with contradictions and absurdities. It shows the cruelty that Japanese people did to Koreans, but it also shows the Joseon society filled with contradictions. The two main characters in this series, Yujin and Dongmae, were both born in Joseon. Yujin was born as a slave and Dongmae was born as a butcher. Slaves and butchers weren't treated as humans at that time. Yujin and Dongmae escaped from Joseon to be treated as a human. Yujin went to the U.S. and became a marine officer. When Yujin was a young boy, Yujin's owner tried to sell Yujin's mother to another person and his father refused to be separated from her wife, so he killed Yujin's father. His father was killed by his owner, and his mother died herself to protect Yujin. Yujin's owner said that slaves are just properties. Dongmae went to Japan and became a killer who was hired by the government. His parents were butchers. At that time, butchers were treated like animals. His mother forced out Dongmae from home to protect her son. He became an orphan when he was a young boy. Yujin and Dongmae's lives show contradictions and absurdities that Joseon's society had in the late 19th century. At that time, the Joseon society had an old feudal system, and the Joseon society was dominated by a solid status system. Considering that the United States had the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, and the feudal system disappeared in Europe at the end of the Middle Ages, long before that, you can see how slowly Joseon was socially developed at

that time. Biologically, Yujin and Dongmae were definitely born human, but the treatment they received in Joseon never received the basic things that were guaranteed as human beings. They came back to Joseon for different reasons, but both of them have anger against Joseon. Both of them change their thoughts after they came to Joseon, but their entire life tells us that Joseon had so many social problems at that time.

The dialogues which the characters said imply one of the most important messages in the show. In episode 11, Yujin asked Esin "Who is living in Joseon that you want to protect? Can slaves live in that Joseon? Can butchers live in that Joseon?". This short sentence asks us "Is it right to protect the country that is filled with contradictions and absurdities?". At that time, people who ruled Joseon were incompetent and tried to keep old traditions that were not helpful to protect Joseon from imperialist powers. In the series, Yujin is despised by noble people because of the inborn status that he had before he escaped from Joseon. Although the status system was demolished in episode 1, the ideology that had ruled Joseon for almost 500 years merely didn't change until Yujin came back to Joseon. In the 16th episode, catcher Seung-gu answered, "I can break it down with my own hands only when the country remains," when asked why he was engaged in righteous army activities even though his goal is a traitor. I think this line is the answer to the message the drama wants to continue to convey. Even if the country is full of all kinds of absurdities and contradictions, it is the member who lives inside who can eventually solve the problem.

In the two battle scenes, we can see the importance of the people who can be easily ignored within a country. In the first episode, the battle appeared in that episode. In the scene, the Joseon army fought against the American troops which had invaded Joseon. Ordinary people were dispatched to the garrison to protect the fortress. Joseon soldiers' weapons are not as good as American soldiers'. Their canons couldn't reach the American warships. The gun they used was an old-fashioned rifle that takes a long time to load a bullet. Joseon soldiers were completely overwhelmed by the force of the U.S. Navy, but they didn't fall back. Joseon's rulers almost abandoned them when they fought against the American soldiers, but they didn't run away. Despite the fact that there were many casualties, those who were taken prisoner in battle were treated as defeated soldiers and were not credited with protecting the country. Nevertheless, because they fought bravely, the U.S. Navy realized that Joseon was a country that was difficult to cause to surrender easily. Eventually, the U.S. Navy withdrew without much benefit. A similar incident happens in episode 22. In episode 22, the Japanese Empire dispersed the military troops of Joseon. Many soldiers were killed when they resisted the Japanese army. Although Joseon hadn't had military force until it collapsed, people organized loyal armies and had kept fighting against the Japanese army. At the same time as the disbandment of the army, Japan pressured the emperor to recede. The emperor and ruling class of Joseon had no choice but to look at the process of disbanding the army. However, the soldiers who were disbanded

at the time refused the order of dissolution and resisted to the end, and their resistance further encouraged the righteous army movement. This righteous army uprising developed into an independent military movement after the fall of Joseon, causing difficulties to the Japanese government during Japanese rule. These two incidences show us that when the nation is in danger, normal citizens are the people who protect their country. In other words, normal citizens are the most important members that compose a nation.

The two battle scenes and the two quotes in the series make us think about how to respond to the crisis when the country is in crisis. This historical series shows one of the most miserable eras in Korean history. Eventually, Joseon collapsed and the Japanese Empire ruled the Korean peninsula for 36years. However, those messages are still valid today. We have to learn from the old history if we don't want to get a similar situation. There are still many countries in the world that are suffering from internal strife such as Venezuela and Ukraine. Maybe this TV series can give a discussion for those countries – Do we have to protect our nation? And who are the most important members which compose the nation?

Reference

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