

ELI STUDENT VOICES

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Message from the Editor

Thank you to all who contributed to this edition of the *ELI Student Voices*. To the students who submitted their writing, thank you for your hard work and for having the courage to allow your work to be read by others. To ELI instructors and staff, thank you for always encouraging and supporting ELI students to develop not only as writers but also as people. To the Student Voices Judges: Iman Walford Vann, Christine Voigt, Patrick Klager, Melina Jimenez, Patricia Moon, Olga Moody, and Jen Ramos, thank you for your time and consideration in reading the submissions.

Editor, Thomas Dolce



Winning Pieces

First Place

“Grateful”

Glendy Morales Rodriguez

Second Place

“Everything Can Change”

Yamilia Morffe Tillan



FIRST PLACE

Glendy Morales Rodriguez

RW 40

Grateful

Thinking one day... how can I thank the ELI team for their effort, dedication, support, patience and teachings with all students who are from different countries that come to ELI to learn English?... I close my eyes and start to dream... Immediately, I visualized a plane with all the ELI team... Megan, Daryl, Patti, Lia, Christine, Tate, Iman, Minsang, Natalie, Jolee, and of course, all the teachers: Patrick, Zoe, Jane, Thomas, Debbie, Todd, Melina, Jen and the team of LA'S... all were there and they were ready to travel to my country Venezuela. I dreamt about showing them the best cities of my beautiful country to thank them.

First, we visited Maracaibo located in the northwest of Venezuela. I was born in this city. The weather in Maracaibo is very hot, 104 F. In Maracaibo, we visited Basilica Nuestra Senora Chiquinquirá, and after that, we took a tour of the Rafael Urdaneta Bridge. Then, we visited Carabobo street with their houses of typical colors. We also visited the Museum of the Gaita (traditional music of Maracaibo) where the ELI team could learn a little about the culture and the history of Maracaibo city. This day ended in a beautiful restaurant overlooking the bridge over Lake Maracaibo, illuminated with multicolored lights. We all enjoyed a good time and listened to typical music from Maracaibo: "GAITA ZULIANA."

That night, teacher Zoe asked: "Could we stay another day in Maracaibo? I need to take more photos. My husband and I really like this city. The people here are very happy." But the trip had to continue...

The next day, we flew to Margarita Island on the same plane. From the plane's window, all the ELI teachers saw the beauty of the island with its different turquoise blues... "Wow! That is really really beautiful!" said teacher Patrick.

Then, we landed on Margarita Island, situated on the northeastern coast of the country, in the Caribbean Sea. That day, we bought beautiful hats made by hand by artisans from Margarita Island. After that, we visited "La Restinga National Park". It is a boat trip through a large saltwater lagoon rich

in flora and fauna. In that time, teacher Debbie ask many questions about this beautiful place. Everyone else was red-cheeked from the Caribbean sun. This same day, we visited “Playa El Agua”, the best beach on the island. Megan, Daryl and Patti were the first to get onto the beach. “It’s very good here,” said Daryl... “Come everyone.”

After that, we went to the principal city on Margarita Island: Pampatar. We visited a colonial fortress in the Bay of Pampatar. For that visit, I hired some musicians so that while we were visiting the castle, they would play typical Margarita music for us. Everyone was happy, teacher Thomas dancing with Victoria, Natalie dancing with Minsang, and Lia with her husband. I was very happy to see them dancing and having fun.

After that we went to a restaurant located next to Pampatar Beach. We ate delicious seafood. That night was wonderful... we could see a beautiful sunset.

The next day from Margarita, we flew together to the Gran Sabana in state of Bolivar. The teachers couldn’t believe what they were seeing through the plane’s windows... nothing more and nothing less than the impressive tepuis, a large rock mesa that is unique to southeast Venezuela and western Guyana. Here, we flew over “Salto Angel”, the world’s tallest and uninterrupted waterfall in the world with a height of 979 meters. From the air, we can see several tepuis. After we landed, we visited one indigenous community named “PEMONES”, and we were able to share with an indigenous family... it was very interesting! That night, we stayed in a beautiful Canaima Inn, surrounded by many trees, a beautiful river, and a spectacular view. That night, a choir of Pemones children sang songs in the Pemon language while we enjoyed a delicious dinner together.

This trip was only a thought or a dream, but I don’t know, it is a way of giving thanks for the invaluable work that the amazing ELI team does in the learning process of all students. You made and make a mark in our lives. Thank you for everything you have taught us. Thank you, thank you very much!

SECOND PLACE

Yamilia Morffe Tillan

RW 60

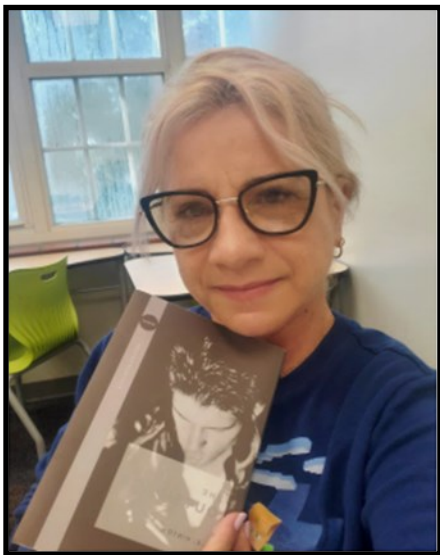
Everything Can Change

Hi there, my name is Yamilia and this is something that has happened to me this semester. If you are one of those who says “I don't like this or that,” but you never tried it before, you might change your mind. I'll tell you about my own experience. All my friends know that I'm always carrying a book in my bag and obviously reading it. Books have been helpful for me to relax, keep my mind busy and practice my language skills, especially orthography. There is nothing better when you are waiting for a delayed plane in an airport than a book. When you're really enjoying one (I mean a good one) you don't want to stop reading and your wish is to jump to the final chapter to know what happens at the end. I have felt that sensation myself. In contrast, if the book isn't interesting, you just put it away and don't open it again. Right?

I have read many books throughout my life (that's probably why I have worn reading glasses since I was in high school) and the topics vary; technology, history, adventure, science, biography, crime, but never fiction. I hate fiction in books and also in movies. Well, maybe I need to reconsider this affirmation. I'm a RW60 student and the semester was going well until my teacher came to the class one morning carrying a box with many books inside. She asked students to choose one, I thought: Wow...finally I'll read a book in English, so I was excited. Unfortunately that changed two minutes later when I noticed that the theme in all of them was FICTION.

I couldn't believe it, why did a whole box just have fiction books? It wasn't fair! I approached my teacher asking if maybe I could read a different one, but the answer was clear and determined: NO. The worst came after, when she said that we have to read the book before the term ends and write a journal about it every week. Really? It's clear that I was in trouble and





my semester would be terrible. Then I remembered my father always told me, “if you have to do something undesirable, do it quickly and finish suffering.” This advice gave me a solution and I started to read the book the same day. But, what was my surprise when I saw this phrase at the beginning of the book: “No one ever said life was easy.” It was like the book was admonishing me.

Anyway, I had no choice; the book was there and the first journal would be due soon. You won't believe what happened next. That book, my first fiction book, captivated my attention and engaged me in a fascinating story about teenagers, who are divided into two gangs, the Greasers and the Socs. The narrative, the imagery and the main character (Ponyboy) employed by the author motivated me to continue reading and made me follow the events (sometimes violent and sad) of the story, which can perfectly be real stories in many of our countries.

Do you know what happened? I have enjoyed the book and I have written four journals. I often found and watched a movie based on the book which was enjoyable too. At this moment, like a miracle I'm on page 117, which is almost the end of the book! Now I have one more topic to add to my reading list, and I'm able to give opinions about fiction. To be honest, I'm looking for the next one.

So, going back to the introduction, before you say that you don't like something, try it. Sometimes, new experiences are needed to learn that life isn't static, everything can change and only by having different perspectives can we broaden our horizons.

By the way, the book is “The Outsiders” by S.E. Hinton. It was written when she was in high school and it's winner of the Massachusetts Children's Book Award. After its publication, fans sent letters from every state and from dozens of countries, “From convicts and policemen, teachers, social workers, and of course, kids. Kids who are living lives like those in The Outsiders. Kids who can't imagine living lives like those in The Outsiders. Kids who read all the time. Ones who never before finished a book.” (Hinton. S.E,1967). Lastly, this is my message for you: **NEVER SAY NEVER**

Aaref Aljasmi

RW 20

The ELI

The ELI is a great help in improving my English. I started at the ELI on January 1, 2023, and continued in the second stage on May 22 of the same year. As time went on, I met all my teachers and classmates. My teachers are really nice and helpful, and my classmates come from all over the world.

The school building is big and comfortable, so it helps me focus on my studying. There are many things I love about the ELI, and no matter where I go, I can always find something fun to do. Teachers use different fun ways to teach, and they make learning enjoyable. They also take time to help students who need it. This is why the ELI is a great place to learn English.

In the first stage, I made kind new friends. I was happy to know them. However, I was sad when they left. I wish them success wherever they are. In the second stage, I met new friends who are really good at English, thanks to the ELI.

I want to thank the school's administration, teachers, and activity organizers for their efforts. To my friends, I wish you all improvement in English and everything else you do. Good luck to everyone, and I hope to be a student at UF, where I can finish my studies and get a Bachelor's degree in my favorite subject.

Overall, studying at the ELI is an amazing experience of learning and growth, and I'm grateful for all the knowledge and experiences it gave me.



Luisa Velasquez**RW 40**

Benefits Learning English



The English Language Institute at the University of Florida offers an intensive program for learning English in the United States for international students from different countries.

When you apply to the ELI program, it's very important to ask what are benefits of learning English? The answer is simple. Cultural immersion is the reason for improve in English by listening, speaking and practicing every day, and enjoying more activities for students learning English.

The immersion in American culture helps a student understand different contexts or situations in the real life. For example, when you buy food in the restaurant, you need to use formal or informal expressions perhaps that depends on the place.

On the other hand, the program has diverse activities for students that practice English because it's a good idea to interact with other students in different levels. For example, conversation partners, activities outside, visiting places and cities, and enjoying plays are very important to speak English.



In conclusion about the answer to "what are the benefits of learning English? By improving in speaking, practicing the new language in the American culture, and enjoying activities will complement good learning, and definitely the ELI program is amazing for you learning successful English.

Abrahan Gil**RW 60****What is the meaning of the song “Es epico”**

The song “Es epico” is one of the most famous songs of Canserbero’s repertory. The song by Tyrone Gonzales, known as Canserbero “Es Epico” (2012) is about how he killed a guy named “Carlos” because Carlos killed his brother. Canserbero got killed too by Carlos, so he went to hell, where he saw a lot of things, and he has a battle with the Devil, the idea comes from the poem “Florentino y el Diablo” famous in Venezuela, where he is from. In the poem Florentino has a “contrapunteo” against the Devil, a “contrapunteo” is like a rap battle. Canserbero ensures that the song reaches everyone that heard it, but it is famous among young people around 14 to 29 because is rap/hip hop a genre that young people like the most, a street song. Canserbero tries to persuade his audience to think about death, religion, vengeance, and people with power. He achieves the goal with his listeners through his ideas, emotional appeals, and philosophical appeals.

Canserbero starts giving the idea of him and Carlos killing each other. Canserbero did this for vengeance. I think that Canserbero tries to make his audience think that vengeance is wrong because he is just a normal guy in the song, but vengeance leads him to consume drugs and borrow a gun to revenge his brother. Vengeance can change a person completely, and make them a new one. He infers that the idea of vengeance leads people to do things that will regret after, even die.

Canserbero provides one of his ideas to make his listeners ponder about their idols and heroes. The idea is that people with power are not who we think they are, in the song, he saw Simon Bolivar, Cristobal Colon, Juan Pablo Segundo, Ghandi, Budda, and others, so why if all these people were good, they are in hell? This makes the audience think about their heroes and idols, and how they may not be how they think because they don’t know them in reality.

Also, Canserbero connects with listeners’ emotions by saying that all his actions are because of his brother, that got killed, this produces the listeners putting themselves in Canserbero’s shoes, like asking, would not everybody do the same? .he said “El corazón “tucun tucun tucun, y las balas “pacan pacan pacan” those are onomatopoeias, “tucun” for the heartbeat, and “pacan” for the bulled sound, and the connection between, giving to the listeners a suspense feeling, he repeats this a lot of time in the song, and when he won the rap battle just repeat “tucun tucun tucun” to give the idea that the heart beat won against the bullets.

Moreover, Canserbero appeal to the philosophical part of the listeners, by saying “Los miedos se van en el momento que pierdes la vida”, which basically means that you cannot feel fear when you lose your life. This makes sense because the basic fear of the human is death. Furthermore, he also said “Reyes habran muchos pero siempre tienes que ir a ti” This is so abstract, this means that can be a lot of people with more power than

you, your superiors, bosses, government, etc, but at the end, you always have to think for you, your wellbeing. Also, he mentions religion and how it can be a business, making their listeners think about what they feel about the people that control or make money thanks to their religion.

Canserbero opted to use a rude and aggressive tone, common in rap, but he sang with anger to give the audience the feeling of fury because the story is about vengeance and crime. Moreover, when he starts to have the rap battle with the Devil, he uses a deeper voice when he had to play the role of the Devil, this makes the audience can notice who is Cansebero, and who is the Devil. The listeners can feel the darkness, anger, and feelings of Canserbero thanks to the tone that he uses.

Overall, Canserbero is successful with his message, thanks to his ideas, emotions, philosophy, and tone. His message is still being delivered and will continue. A lot of people are still thinking about his lyrics, and enjoying the song, thanks to the mood and tone that Canserbero use. In my opinion, “Es epico” is the best rap song in Spanish because of all the messages that he gives in the song, and how he sings the ideas, Canserbero did a wonderful job conveying his ideas.

Euijin Han

RW 60

Steve Jobs: Great keywords from his life

In 2005, Steve Jobs delivered a speech at the Stanford commencement ceremony. As we all know, Jobs was one of the world's most famous innovators and entrepreneurs who established Apple company. Commencement speeches at prestigious universities are commonly requested by someone who graduated from the same university and accepted as personal honors for a speaker in the US. However, Jobs was quite a special case because Jobs had not graduated from any university. Nevertheless, Jobs' speech has gotten evaluations for a well instructive guideline that we can easily find out his speech has reached over 42 million views on YouTube channels. At the Stanford commencement, Jobs tried to give an instructive message about self-confidence to university graduates. He successfully accomplished this aim to show how self-confidence contributed to success through his use of word choices, personal experiences, credibility, and emotional appeals.

One way in which Jobs conveyed his message was the strategic use of language. He divided his message into 3 sections and attached a keyword that works as a subtitle in each section. In other words, he weaved one entire speech from 3 keywords; “Connecting the dots” which represents the message that we should believe in ourselves' choice, “Love and loss” which represents a message that we should find the work we love and should not be disappointed at a fail, “death” which represent a message that we should not waste limited time. In addition, he used imperative statements and some metaphorical expressions such as “You have to trust in

something”, “Don’t settle”, and “Stay hungry. Stay foolish.” at the end of each section. I think these condensed languages help the audience understand abstract notions with their representative images, therefore they can easily understand the message and remember it for a long time.

The most impactful way in which Jobs succeeded in his aim was the sufficient use of personal experiences and emotional appeals. Jobs started his speech with his college days in his graduation costume to gain attention from his audience, university graduates. Then, Jobs introduced his own stories in each small section; (1) After he had dropped out of college, he was able to learn what he really liked, (2) Even though had been fired by his company, he overcame difficulties and finally achieved great success in business. (3) Because he had been diagnosed with a critical disease (pancreatic cancer), he learned the importance of finite time. These anecdotes had different aspects which made Jobs be a great innovator. In detail, he revealed a private secret about his birth which was unknown to the public until this speech. I also roughly assumed that he was from a wealthy elite family before watching this video, but the truth was totally different. He was adopted right after birth by his parents who never graduated from college. Furthermore, he continued to focus on confessing his failure or his critical disease (pancreatic cancer) more than his success even though he had great success in his work. Being told these secret stories, we who are ordinary people come close to humane Jobs instead of keeping our distance from the great innovator, which helps us pay attention to his message. consequently, I think these human stories worked effectively for emotional appeals.

Moreover, he sometimes used authorities to support his credibility. For example, he engaged a famous rival company and their product to explain how excellent the typography he studied and realized in his product saying that.

When we were designing the first Macintosh computer, it all came back to me, and we designed it all into the Mac. It was the first computer with beautiful typography. If I had never dropped in on that single course in college, the Mac would have never had multiple typefaces or proportionally spaced fonts and since Windows just copied the Mac, it's likely that no personal computer would have them.

In this part, most of the audience laughed at Jobs’ sudden attack on a rival company, but simultaneously the audience was able to recognize Jobs’ typography was the origin of Window and it was so excellent that even rival companies adopted it directly. Likewise, he also introduced a 35-year-old book titled “The Whole Earth Catalog” and cited its word “Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish” melting it to his message, which somewhat contributed to the credibility of Jobs’ message.

I think Steve Jobs successfully conveyed his instructive message about self-development with appropriate rhetorical choices. Neither Steve Jobs was a professional writer, nor I was his earnest fan. However, being a student in ELI, I had a good opportunity to enhance my writing skills by analyzing his speech.

Ramiro Grattier

RW 60

Exploring the love and inner struggles in Gustavo Cordera's "My Sovereign"

The main idea of the song "Soy mi Soberano" by Gustavo Cordera, a moving symphony that leaves no heart untouched, tries to transmit to the audience love feelings and total commitment to a central figure in his life. Gustavo Cordera, an Argentine musician and songwriter known for his emotional and introspective lyrics, uses this song to express his love and devotion to a main person, whom he named "Soy mi Soberano". The purpose of this song is to deliver a potent emotional message to the listeners, evoking deep sentiments towards a cherished individual akin to a divine entity. In his composition "Soy mi Soberano," Gustavo Cordera achieves this objective because he uses metaphors, and his own emotional experiences to try to persuade or infer on the listeners using a different tone and mood and word choices.

At the beginning the song, the singer focuses on the contradictions and dualities that exist inside himself. He presents himself as "a dream that pretends to be real", as an enigma that has not yet been fully discovered. Through metaphors, the singer expresses that his external appearance reveals something of his true nature but does not reveal the totality of who he is. He sings, "I pretend to be real and I'm still a dream" that it is an example for duality. Also, in the song he expresses a deeper admiration and dedication to a special person. The words "Mi Soberano" refers to that person who has supreme powers over something or someone. In the song, Cordera says that his "Sovereign" is a person who has complete and powerful control about his life and emotions, and he expresses an unconditional surrender and voluntary submission to this figure. He sings, "I am my own religion, my sovereign, I teach myself" in this case, Cordera uses contradictions to express the idea. He claims to be able to do anything to his "Sovereign", even if it means sacrificing his own liberty or identity.

Continuing with the song, Cordera delves into his own emotions and internal conflicts. He says, "I am my own enemy and I care about defeat." The singer recognizes that his look reveals his vulnerability and fragility, his shell and his clothes. Cordera recognizes that his chosen outfit, his shell, becomes his vulnerability and fragility. His clothes and behavior are like manifestations of battles he wages within himself. He further expresses a series of contradictions, such as the desire to be his owner but not yet having himself. He sings, "I am what I feel, what happens to me. That is my temple, that is my home". He acknowledges that his emotions and experiences define who he is. Additionally, he mentioned the duality of pain and condemnation, poison and remedy, illness and sanity, Cordera tries to show us the deep and intense devotion to a particular person that he named "Mi Soberano", who is someone supreme and special in his life. The lyrics suggest that he is

willing to sacrifice his own liberty and to undergo any experience for the connection to his supreme. He is willing to resign his autonomy in the name of love and the connection with this supreme. Its song shows the importance of love, and the importance to share the intense feelings in the life of people.

During the song, the singer explores aspects of his identity and personality. He presents himself as someone with an intense look and humble appearance, but under the surface, he reveals a range of negative emotions. He confesses: "I am jealous, I am envious, I am angry, and I am hurt". These emotions demonstrate the complexity and internal struggles within Cordera. He also expresses the paradox of his being, saying, "On the inside I am vulnerable, on the outside self-sufficient". Furthermore, he declared, "Don't think I am humble, I just underestimate myself", this reflects his point of view indicating that he believes in himself but also he distinguishes himself from others as someone different. Throughout the song, Cordera tries to tell us that we live in a world with full competition and comparisons and that in spite of that, he seeks to find own way and be true to his authenticity.

In conclusion, the song "Soy mi Soberano" by Gustavo Cordera follows the intention of the artist to convey the deep love and unwavering commitment to a central figure in his life. However, the specific identity of this central figure remains open to interpretation, whether he refers to himself, to another important person, or to a higher being such as a divinity. Through the use of metaphors, emotional experiences, and particular words, Cordera successfully achieves his aim of delivering a powerful message about intense feelings toward someone special, which he named the supreme being. The song explores the singer's internal contradictions, vulnerabilities, and struggles, showing us a complex and introspective image of his identity. Ensuring his unconditional surrender and willingness to sacrifice for his "Sovereign," Cordera emphasizes the significance of love and the deep impact it can have on the lives of the people. Finally, "Soy mi Soberano" serves as a reminder of the importance of authentic self-expression and the pursuit of personal fulfillment in a world characterized by competition and comparison. He says we are our temple and we have to begin to change us.

Ginna Rojas Guarnizo

RW 30

Another Face of Colombia

Most of the time when I say I'm from Colombia abroad, they ask me about Pablo Escobar and Cocaine. For more than half a century, we have been stigmatized by this topic. Therefore, the purpose of this writing is to show the other face of my beloved and diverse country. I will tell you about the heritage that Colombia recognized by UNESCO. Originally, the World Heritage List included sites, structures, and monuments of great cultural value such as temples, buildings, and palaces, but in 2008, it started to identify "intangible cultural heritage" as oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, social uses, rituals and festive events, knowledge related to nature and the universe, and traditional crafts.

Of the 1121 sites actually included in the World Heritage List, Colombia participates with 9 places. Of these spots, the most famous is Cartagena de Indias, where there are Port, Fortresses, and a Group of Monuments that are washed by the Caribbean Sea and, in my opinion, share a certain air with San Agustín, Florida, and are alike in many ways. Another place to highlight is the Coffee Cultural Landscape of Colombia, unique in the world; in addition, in recent years, it inspired the Disney movie called "Encanto," Oscar Winner for Best Animated Film. This wonderful place is characterized by its architectural beauty, with houses made of cob and pleated cane for the walls and clay tiles for the roofs. Moreover, it has coffee farmers planted in the mountains.

On the list of intangible heritage, we find 13 items such as The Carnival of Barranquilla, which is considered one of the 5 most important in the world. This event, celebrated every February of each year for almost a century, concentrates Amerindian, European, and African cultures. On the other hand, in 2019, the strategy for the safeguarding of traditional crafts for the construction of peace was selected in the UNESCO Register of Good Practices.

In conclusion, Colombia is a country that has a different face from the one that is unfortunately shown in "narconovelas" and Netflix series. It is a country of thriving people who have conquered the hearts of thousands of foreigners who have visited places and participated in events following what was declared as cultural heritage of humanity by UNESCO.

Jorge Salazar

RW 60

What Quique Wolff does in “El poema del fútbol” to make it popular

The poem named “El poema del fútbol” was born in the hands of Enrique Ernesto Wolff dos Santos, better known as Quique Wolff, an Argentine former soccer player and sports journalist. His life was marked by soccer. After he retired from soccer, as a player, he used to be the captain of his national team becoming a legend of his country. However, he stood out as a journalist who covered soccer and is more known for his deep talks about soccer. So much so that in 1992, he started to host a program called “Simplemente fútbol”, which today is transmitted on ESPN and conducted by his son Pedro Wolff. Program in which “El poema del fútbol” was broadcast, which tells the listener how soccer is so special and how it is related to almost all the aspects that life has. Quique Wolff’s vocabulary, experiences, and language are the reason for the popularity of this poem.

“El poema del fútbol” has vocabulary that makes this poem popular. Quique Wolff made this poem with the purpose of showing the essential value of soccer with powerful words and examples that only someone related to soccer can feel. However, those words that he includes are words that everyone should know the meaning of, but he repeats every time “How would you know?” (translated below):

¿Cómo vas a saber lo que es el amor? si nunca te hiciste hinchista de un club...

[How would you know what love is? If you never became a fan of a club]

¿Cómo vas a saber que es el placer? si nunca diste una vuelta olímpica de visitante...

How would you know what pleasure is? If you never took an Olympic lap as a visitor]

¿Cómo vas a saber lo que es el dolor? si jamás un zaguero te rompió la tibia y el peroné y estuviste en una barrera y la pelota te pegó justo ahí...

[How would you know what pain is? If a defender never broke your tibia and fibula and you were in a barrier and the ball hit you right there]

¿Cómo vas a saber lo que es el cariño? si nunca la acariciaste de chanfle entrándole con el revés del pie para dejarla jadeando bajo la red...

[How would you know what finesse is? If you never caressed the ball with chanfle, entering it with the back of your foot to leave her panting under the net]

He says love, pleasure, pain, and finesse. These are words that make you feel something. Those words make this poem strong but it makes you feel intrigued because you cannot know the meaning if you have not played soccer, you don't know what it means. On the other hand, a person who has lived soccer, can feel related and impressed by what soccer really means to them. They understand and appreciate the power of his words. After each question that he asks, he gives examples to explain the meaning, but Quique Wolff uses soccer slang that is incomprehensible or difficult to understand for someone who has not played the sport. Achieving his goal because he is wondering “How would you know?” and just soccer fans know what he is referring to. However, not soccer people might be asking themselves why this guy is saying that I cannot know what pain, love or pleasure is, and how people who play the sport can.

Another reason why “El poema del futbol” is popular is because of his own experiences as a soccer player and soccer commentator that he expresses during his narration. When he was a soccer player he used to play on the defense where he met the “mud” and got “humiliation”, things that according to Quique Wolff just a soccer player can understand what it is. Moreover, he showed a phrase that just he and his teammates could understand, leaving the audience and just talking to himself. “How, but how would you know what it is to cry, yes, cry? if you never lost a World Cup final on the hour with a dubious penalty.” This is just an example of how he disconnects the audience and loses the meaning of his phrase. Because that situation just happened one time in 1990 when Germany won the World Cup Final against Argentina 1-0 with a goal in the last minutes of a penalty and Quique Wolff was on the field watching his team crying. His experiences make the poem stronger because he makes you feel something with the word cry but at the same time, they are just blanks that just himself feels completely. However, Quique Wolff thinks that this is an obvious example of crying, which is a feeling of hate and impotence. Moreover, not only soccer fans but also other people, know how important the FIFA WORLD CUP is and they can believe that losing it in that way, would be a reason to cry. However, just a few can know the exact meaning, and Quique Wolff is one of them.

Lastly, the language that Quique Wolff uses is an important part of his poem and it makes the poem popular but also friendly. Throughout the poem, the audience can hear Quique Wolff asking “How would you know?” However, he is not expecting an answer. He just wants to tell you that it is impossible for people to know something without having experienced it before playing or watching soccer. The excessive use of the question makes the statement redundant but powerful at the same time due to how it sounds from Quique Wolff's voice. He also emphasizes in the middle of the poem to keep the attention of the audience, and he asks for more attention even from those that know the sport saying, “Listen to me, how would you know what solidarity is?” and “Tell me, how would you know what insomnia is?” Part of his language wants to connect with the audience using kind words and talking as a friend with them: “Tell me, my old friend, how would you know.....?” or “How would you know, dear friend?”. He uses the audience as a resource for his goal and he achieves it with delicacy while he is asking “How would you know?” People are wondering How would I know? Furthermore, the audience can understand that Quique Wolff is a big soccer fan just because of his clever way of saying each word by approaching the context with a mixture of spirit and intelligence. His language in this poem is a painting of the spirit from someone who has played soccer but also the intelligence from a commentator and journalist of expressing opinions with feelings.

To conclude, “El poema del fútbol” is a piece of art that Quique Wolff made using a vocabulary that connects to the audience that loves soccer but at the same time keeps the attention of others who do not. He also uses a language that makes the audience feel connected, and experiences that leave the audience, but make

Quique Wolff's purpose stronger because at the end How would you know? In addition, he wanted to express how soccer is important for him and he is sure that soccer is the most beautiful thing in the world. It is a song for someone who loves soccer the same as Quique Wolff. Therefore, for someone who does not really love soccer is an interesting poem due to the deep meaning of his phrases about the sport. In general, I think that this poem conveys Quique Wolff's feelings but also the feelings of each soccer fan. It is a bomb of truth that can even make someone cry. And as a soccer fan, I think that he did not fall short in showing what soccer really is.

Veronica H. Lima Bornas

RW 60

Taylor Swift: Double standard

Women day to day are living in a man's world, making us adapt to the rules of the game. Taylor Swift is one of the most important songwriters and singers of the twentieth century. During her career she has won countless awards, impacting the lives of many people around the world and influencing a new generation of artists. However, throughout her career she received a lot of criticism from the media and the general public. These criticisms had nothing to do with her songwriting ability, but rather with her romantic relationships and private life. It was in 2020 when Taylor Swift released the music video "The Man" as part of her seventh studio album "Lover". The song transports us to a world in which she is born a man and how the world would treat her if that were the case. This song is an open letter to the public in which she expresses her frustration, making us reflect on the double standards that exist in our society when treating men and women. She successfully achieves her goal and connects with her fans through her use of words, personal experience and tone.

One way in which Swift connects directly with viewers is through her choice of words, making use of hypothetical situations and questions to make us imagine how different she would be if she were a man. An example of this is when at minute 1:16 - 1:25 she says "What I was wearing, If I was rude, Could it all be separated from my good ideas and power moves?" Swift mentions this because in our society, people question women for what they wear, using this as justification for being assaulted or criticized. On the other hand, showing any emotion considered negative, such as being rude, can be a sign of emotional instability. These aspects are taken as relevant when the public talks about artists, which makes them more careful with their words when speaking in public and with their choice of clothes in each event, fearing to be less valuable and discredited, something that does not happen with their male counterparts. In that way, Swift invites the audience to analyze the current situation, how unrealistic and superficial the situation is and questions whether it is their valid point worthy of a career, situations that are not relevant in the case of male artists.

Another way Swift achieves her goal of making the audience think is by using her personal experience as evidence. At minute 1:26 - 1:33 she says "And they would toast to me, oh, Let the players play, I'd be just like Leo, In Saint-Tropez". In this excerpt of the song Swift describes a controversial part of her life, her love affairs. Mentioning that society judges her negatively by the number of boyfriends she has had in her life, when she dates or if she is seen with a man. For this reason she makes reference to Leonardo DiCaprio, contrasting how he is seen in society, being an admired figure for being close to young girls and having multiple lovers. This being seen as a positive quality, because it is "natural" in a successful man; however, it is totally the opposite in the case of being a woman. She invites us through her song to reflect by means of examples this double standard that exists and how people depending on the sex of the person see differently the same behavior. By sharing her experience, we are aware that this affects not only people in general, but also people in show business.

The final and most impactful way in which Swift connects with this audience and achieves her goal is through the use of her tone. As part of the song's chorus she says "And I'm so sick of them coming at me again, 'Cause if I was a man, Then I'd be the man, I'd be the man." In this part she shows her feelings of indignation, expressing how everything would be different if she had been born a man. She has to work twice as hard to be recognized by the industry, compared to her male counterparts, despite having the same qualities as many successful male artists. As a result, her tone provokes feelings of anger in the audience, which in turn generates the feeling that we must do something to change this situation. By conveying this emotion in a clever way through the song, Swift and the viewer share the same outrage at living in an unjust society, where people treat each other unjustly instead of having the same parameters, making us reflect that a change is necessary.

In conclusion "The man" is an emotional song that gives us exactly what we need, a sincere song that expresses the normalized injustice in our society when it comes to judging women. Using an appropriate choice of words, her personal experience and emotion, Swift manages to generate reflection in the audience by clearly expressing the double standard. This in turn has had global repercussions helping people discern this current situation, and impacting the life of others speaking about the elephant in the room. As well as, using the song in feminist marches and in forums defending women's rights.

Fernando Tello Puerto**RW 60****Should Billionaires exist or not? An ongoing discussion, far from consensus**

Should billionaires exist in modern society? How may we address the evident disparity between “those who have everything” and “those who have nothing”? Is wealth accumulation immoral? Would we be better off with or without billionaires? These are some to the questions that came to my mind during this past week while documenting myself to prepare this essay. I have strong feelings on this issue since once and again directly or indirectly, I have felt victim to the “billionaires are evil Robin Hood like speech”. Nonetheless I will make my best effort to present an impartial argument on the issue.

Ayres (2021) argued that billionaires represent a policy failure and therefore should not exist. In her essay “Billionaires should not exist – Here’s why” she states that most billionaires have built their fortunes either through corruption, inheritance or simply by stepping on the back of their mistreated workers pointing out to the immorality of the inequality divide and how the tax system should be used as a tool to fix it. Although her argument is compelling and her solution seems accurate, I feel that Ayres misses the point that she is trying to make. Even though her research does demonstrate that inequality exists, that policy makers have instituted obscene tax cuts in favor of the wealthy and that most billionaires have just inherited their fortunes, it fails to state why we would be better off without billionaires. I find that Ayres’s essay is filled with arguments that support that our economic system is flawed but does not prove that billionaires are guilty of this situation. Some questions I would like to ask to the author include: So, I am guilty because my parents made money and I happened to receive it? What about historical examples of other societies that tried to redistribute wealth only to create a different kind of “oppressors”? What would happen to private initiative if not allowed to reap the fruits of their own work? Ayres just limits herself to say, “you have money therefore you’re evil” which sounds to me like a gross generalization.

On the other hand, Ziperski (2019) argued that billionaires are responsible for “improving the average American’s quality of life.” Though I believe this is an overstatement, I do agree with the fact that people are encouraged to give out the best of themselves when allowed to receive the benefits of their work. That’s exactly why private initiative has historically given better results than planned economies where incentives are cut to none. That’s why people fled from the Soviet Union, or Democratic Germany, and in recent times, from Cuba, Venezuela, and North Korea. Every single person requesting refuge in any other country always point out to the fact that they were overworked, yet not allowed to keep anything. Eliminating billionaires and redistributing their wealth will not make struggling people rich, it will just create more poor people. How many factories or

administrative jobs would be lost if billionaires were just taken out of the picture?

It is true that the system we have creates inequalities, but I believe that blaming billionaires is as superficial as blaming immigrants for the lack of job opportunities, or certain racial groups for committing the greatest number of crimes in the U.S. It is just not real. Despite the current tax cuts given to billionaires by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, only in 2022 the American government received 4.9 trillion dollars in taxes (more than double of the collective U.S. billionaires' 2021 fortunes according to Ayres). Where is that money put? Who is to blame for inequality and inappropriate distribution of wealth? My guess is that an overgrown national administrative apparatus takes the money that should be directed to the betterment of social security and universal health and education.

In conclusion, I strongly believe that despite current inequalities, we are better having billionaires creating jobs and developing new ideas. Taking them out of the picture would kill innovation so good by iPhones, videogames, apps and all those things that currently make our lives easier.

Yamilia Morffe Tillan

RW 60

The Future Behind The Hill

It's hard to ignore the traces of the past to face a change that, although necessary, requires a collective effort, which can only be achieved by climbing a giant hill. But it's not impossible. "The Hill We Climb" was written by Amanda Gorman, the first-ever National Youth Poet laureate in 2017 and the youngest poet to perform at a presidential inauguration in U.S. history. It was delivered at President Joe Biden's inauguration ceremony, in January, 2021. She gives special meaning to this speech, which is a masterful piece of poetry that combines a variety of rhetorical devices to convey a message of unity, hope and resilience, encouraging American citizens to overcome the challenges and work together to rebuild the country,

In every known nook of our nation,

In every corner called our country,

Our people, diverse and beautiful,

We'll emerge battered and beautiful.

Gorman uses her skillful language, personal experiences and significant historic events to successfully create an emotional connection with the audience.

One of the most notable language way used by Gorman is the repetition of phrases such as, “we will” emphasizing the need to work together as a nation looking forward to a better future, “we will not march back”, “we will not be turned”, “we will rise”, “we will rebuild”, and ‘we’ll emerge”. This repetition creates a sense of unity and collective responsibility, calling Americans to engage in the process of progress and change as a whole. Emotional language is another way Gorman choice in the poem, “For there is always light, / if only we’re brave enough to see it, / if only we’re brave enough to be it,” these lines evoke a powerful emotional call to action, inspiring courage and urging individuals to recognize their potential and make a change, it transmits to the audience the need to find the light in their lives, “A nation that isn’t broken / but simply unfinished,” here Gorman combines emotional resilience with a sense of hope and possibility, it means that despite the difficulties, the nation can grow and progress. Other techniques employed in her language are metaphor and imagery, “We’ve braved the belly of the beast,” this metaphor evokes a sense of fear, danger and courage, it conveys to face the coming challenges. She also captivates the audience with imagery through vivid descriptions, “a terrifying hour” and “the loss we carry” these phrases help the audience to imagine scenes of passed events, “a skinny Black girl, / Descended from slaves,” this establishes a sense of authenticity and relatability, giving credibility to her performance, “When day comes we step out of the shade, / aflame and unafraid”, this imagery conveys a passionate and fearless attitude of empowerment and determination.

The tone in which she recites the poem is optimistic, melodic, hopeful, but determined. It encourages unity and progress, calling for a positive change. It’s uplifting and strikes a balance between the historical difficulties and divisions of the Americans, it’s also inclusive and inspires listeners to face the truth working together.

Logos, pathos and ethos are effectively incorporated in the poem. Logos are in the reasonable, logical and coherent arguments used to support her ideas, for example, she mentions the biblical story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, symbolizing the journey towards freedom and liberation, and the American Civil Rights Movement, mentioning Martin Luther King Jr. and the Montgomery marches, which were significant moments, to provide historical context and highlight the progress made in the fight for racial equality. She urges Americans as a whole to overcome their struggles, presenting a logical movement forward as a country.

We can see Gorman’s pathos in the evocation of powerful emotions through her choice of words and her passionate delivery. Gorman employs vivid and powerful language to paint a picture in the minds of the listeners using words that visualize the ideas she presents, “a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it,” this causes a deep response and empathy for the collective experiences described. By mentioning her story as a young, Black woman, Gorman connects with the audience, sharing her journal and vulnerability to inspire empathy and understanding.

She establishes her ethos by not only being selected as the youngest inaugural poet in U.S. history, but also through her extensive background in writing and public speaking, which indicate that she is recognized and respected for her talent, skill and voice. Gorman also shares her personal experiences, which give credibility to the speech, “But while democracy can be periodically delayed, / It can never be permanently defeated.” By referencing historical events and figures, she shows her knowledge to highlight credibility and connection to a collective memory. Also her confident delivery conveys her message effectively. These elements contribute to Gorman’s authority and make the audience trust in her words.

Overall, “The Hill We Climb” becomes evident, through a variety of rhetorical devices, its message of hope, unity and resilience that resonates with the audience and inspires them to overcome the challenges working together for a better future. Gorman’s skillful use of language, personal experiences and historical events, engage the audience successfully, inviting them to connect with the themes of the poem on a deep emotional level. “The Hill We Climb” reminds us that we must confront our own adversities and play a significant role in a collective journey towards reclaiming the hill.

Georgios Kalfagiannis

RW 60

How Obama inspired the young future of United States

On September 8th of 2009, Barack Obama, who was the president of United States at that time, made a speech at Wakefield High School, Arlington County, Virginia. This speech was published on many streaming mediums like TV or Radio. Also, this speech was hosted by The White House, but Obama expressed the speech in his own words. In this speech, he wanted to motivate the students to be successful and responsible, and he explained that is not easy to be victorious. Students must work hard, learn about their failures, not give up trying to achieve goals, and that education is one of the most important factors if they want to be successful. Also, in the speech he mentioned many people who have a successful life, but they had to work hard and beat many challenges. As we know Barack Obama was one of the greatest presidents in the USA, but why did Obama give this speech? Obama emphasized that education is an important factor if we want to be successful, so he made this speech because he wanted to build a great future for his nation and inspire people who will work hard and create a better country for themselves. In the speech “My Education, my future”, Obama emphasized that education is important, and we must be successful. Obama successfully shared his purpose with the audience through his use of rigorous phrases, great connections, pathos and ethos.

Obama was successful in sharing his message and purpose because he developed very well his idea, using rigorous phrases and words that make the speech stronger and help to accomplish his purpose. For example, one of the most important phrases in his speech is “The future of America depends on you”, so it means that the audience should work hard since they are the future of the country, and it has a big impact on his audience because the audience feels responsibility with their country. Obama ensured in his speech that he wants a great future for his country, and the student must be responsible because they are the future of the USA, and they must be successful. For example, Obama said in his speech “What you make of your education will decide nothing less than the future of this country” and other phrases that are important to the purpose of his speech. Obama was smart in using the rigorous vocabulary in his speech, and it helped to make sure his purpose.

Obama used a lot of connections that were amazing for giving his speech, his connections helped to connect with the audience and other factors that are important in his speech. The first connection was the place, The White House chose a perfect place, the place was at Wakefield High School (Arlington County, Virginia), and Obama was talking about education and the future, and if you go to a high school what will you find? You will find students who are the future of the country, therefore, this is the perfect spot to talk about his purpose because their young minds are more likely to be persuaded even more if the president of the USA is talking, so the place makes his speech greater. The impact of talking about education in a school is that Obama could encourage the exchange of ideas and promote reflection and learning. In addition, he made a great connection with the audience because he was the president, and the audience felt motivated and influenced since he was the most important person in the USA, and he had control of everything. Obama’s presidency started on January 20th of 2009, so when Obama gave the speech on September 8th of 2009, he had only 9 months in his presidency. As a result, the people might be excited since he was the new president, and it was a great way for people to know him and to know his ideas about his presidency and the future of his country. In addition, Obama got the opportunity for sharing his ideas about education and the future, Obama tried to connect with students using examples of problems and good things that usually happen in school life and in the future. For example, Obamas says that if the students develop the skills that they learn in class, they will build new businesses and they will enhance the economy of the country. Another connection with the audience is that Obama provided many examples of people who are successful in the USA, and those people were so famous, and they have a big impact on the country such as Michael Jordan, who is the most important basketball player in history. Obama used those examples because those people such as Michael Jordan or J.K Rowlings are so famous and can connect emotionally with people, also they had to work hard and learn about their failures to become successful. Obama gave this example since they are a great way for inspiring and motivating the students, therefore, the students will believe in themselves and will be more confident because those examples are proof of beating challenges.

Obama used pathos in his speech to connect with the feelings of the audience because he motivated

them to achieve their goals, and it makes feelings of satisfaction and hope. He used many phrases and words such as “The future of America depends on you” to create inspiration in his audience. Also, Obama is encouraging the audience in being successful, and the audience feels motivated because he is talking about a great goal that everyone wants in life, but what is the goal? As we know everyone wants to be successful, whether they are doctors, lawyers, or other professionals, but Obama inspires the student to work hard and never give up on the things that they want. For example, Obama said

Where you are right now does not have to determine where you will end up, no one’s written your destiny for you because here in America you write your own destiny.

In other words, we don’t have to care about our failures, we must keep working hard to have a great life and destiny. The audience will try to work hard and be victorious if they feel inspiration from Obama’s speech.

Obama generated ethos since he is the president of the USA, therefore, the audience feels influenced and motivated because Obama is a highly respected person. Also, he created credibility and authority. He created credibility and authority by talking about his educational experience, and how it affected his life. Sharing his anecdotes and showing how education helped him to achieve his dreams, allows him to connect with the audience and shows that he has control and knowledge of the purpose. For example, Obama provided an example of his life, and tell the audience how his educational process was, and that he had experienced some challenges in his educational life, so Obama showed that he has the experience and the knowledge about the purpose he is talking about. Obama was so serious about his purpose, but also connected with the audience, which means that he used great actions for getting the confidence of the audience like smiling, inspiring them, or helping them. For example, Obama said.

I am working hard to fix up your classrooms and get you the books and the equipment and the computers you need to learn.

The last example is proof that Obama wanted to help the students, and in my opinion, this is a great action. In addition, Obama was an effective and committed person who in his speech had a clear vision and plan for his message and purpose. Finally, Obama used body language that seems comfortable, and he looked confident in his speech. Obama used many expressions such as smiling, looking directly at his audience, doing many movements, and speaking with confidence.

Obama’s speech accomplished its purpose which is to motivate the students with his message since Obama used a lot of elements such as rigorous phrases and words, great connections, pathos, and ethos that made his speech successful and remarkable. As a student this speech had a great impact on me, when I listened to this speech, I felt motivated, and I understood something in this time of my life, which is that I must work hard, and it connected with some situations of my educational process in Venezuela and here in the USA. However, I can say

that if a student watches and listens to this speech they will feel inspired and motivated for it, even if this speech was 14 years ago. Also because of the speech, the students will have a clear vision of their goals and dreams because Obama and his speech was developed very well, and it was made for helping to build a great future for the students. In my opinion, this speech accomplished the purpose, and I think that more presidents should follow the idea and message of Obama and try to connect and take care of education and students.



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