

HCCC

We dedicate this issue to our wonderful instructors and students.

Diversity

ESL MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2016

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Freddy Sanchez—Mixed Media Art

AMERICA— OUR DREAM COME TRUE

America

“Only in America can someone start with nothing and achieve the American Dream. That's the greatness of this country.”
Rafael Cruz

Hoda Ali, LO

Hello America! I remember the first day in the US. I was very happy because I'll live in a big and beautiful country.

When the plane arrived to the airport, I felt happy and I looked from

the window to see the state which I'll live in. After I got out from the airport, I looked at the buildings, streets, shops and people from different nationalities. There are many things that are like in my country. I com-

Professor Irene DelRosso

pare these things, and I am impressed by all these things.

I wish I can visit all the states in the USA and see other places, but I don't have enough money to do that.

The First Day in America

Hala Abdou, LO

Professor Irene DelRosso

“In order to succeed we must first believe that we can.”

Nikos Kazantsakis

“Wow!” “So beautiful!” The day I came to America was the best day in my life. It was my dream to come to this county. I came with my family. My ambition was to see the USA and make a happy future for the children and me.

In America, the first difficulty is the language. That's why I registered at Hudson County Community College to learn English because English is the key of success to get a job. In Jersey City, I saw everything is organized, clean, and beautiful. The people are helpful especially that I don't speak English well. My children are very happy in their school. The school prepares them for a good future.

Finally, I am thankful to God for giving me a wonderful chance to be a student at Hudson County Community College. It prepares me for a good job, too.

My First Time in the United States

Belma Paredes, LO

Professor Jed Palmer

I used to live with my father and my little brother in Honduras. My mother left us come to the United States eleven years ago. During eleven years I just spoke with her by phone, and sometimes we used the computer to see each other.

In 2012, I got a tourist visa. I was excited. I came to the USA in December. I took the plane from Honduras at noon, and I arrived to New York, USA at midnight. When I arrived at the airport, my mother was waiting for me. She cried a lot, and she hugged me and kissed me for many minutes. I didn't see her for a long time, and I felt so happy

when I hugged her, and I also cried. My mother's husband was waiting for us outside of the airport. The weather was cold. I never felt cold in my country. That was awesome.

My brothers were waiting for me at home. I was happy because I didn't know them. When we got home, I met my brothers. We spoke and ate, but I was tired, and I fell asleep. In the morning of the next day, we went to eat in the International Restaurant. We ate bagels and we drank Snapple. It was delicious.

The next week, we took a trip to Virginia. We stayed for a week in the house

of a friend. My mom's husband played soccer with his old friends from Honduras. All the women were watching the game. When the game finished, we had a meeting. In the meeting there was food and music. We danced to music of Honduras. On the weekend, we visited the White House in Washington. We also visited some museums of the city. In my last days, I went to New York City, and I saw a lot of important places.

My first time in the United States was like a dream. When I returned to Honduras, I couldn't believe all the things that I did in the United States of America.

*Baby it's
cold
outside.*



LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT ME

Do You Know Me?

Nevin Khalil, L0

I am a romantic person. When I have free time, I like to go by the sea. Sometimes I go alone. I drive there. I like the calmness of the water. I also like how the sea makes me feel. I like to talk with the sea. It's

relaxing for me.

The beach is a place that I enjoy visiting. I see the water is blue and the sky, too. Some people put on lotion or sunscreen. Others are wet, and some people are sitting quietly like me.

Professor Irene DelRosso

Some people are talking and some are playing. The water in the morning is hot, but not too hot to swim. At night the water is warm.

I like to go to the sea because I enjoy spending my free time there.

My Habit

Bosaina Ayoub, L1

Professor Nipon Kutubuddin

I liked to read romantic books in the past. I read many books. At that time, I had enough time to read a book. I wasn't busy as now because I am married and I have three children. I do many chores at home. I don't have time to read as in the past.

When I was sixteen years old, I studied at school, and I read romantic books like Romeo and Juliet. My father didn't want me to go outside with my friends to have fun. He was worried about me to go out with my friends, so I spent most of my time at home and I was bored. At that time, my friend said to me, "If you don't want to get bored, spend your time reading books." After that, I started to read and I enjoyed my time.

Now, I don't have time to read because I am busy. I have to cook for my children and my husband. I also have to take care of my mother-in-law. She lives with me, and she is always sick, so I have to take her to the doctor, and I care for her. My husband doesn't take his mother to the doctor because he works full time every day. Beside that, I have many chores at home, and I go shopping too. I go to the laundromat to wash our clothes. My children also need help with their homework. I study with my children to do their homework. I have to talk with them about what happened in school. When I have free time, I don't like to read, I like to relax.

Sometimes I miss reading books. I wish to read again because I enjoy reading. When I have time, in the future I will try to read interesting books.



Colors

Nairoby Guzman, LI

Professor Sola Armanious



Colors are beautiful, and they create meaning in my life. My favorite color is blue. The color blue makes me happy. It reminds me of the blue sky when there are no clouds, and no pollution.

This color is special to me because, it represents my brother's grave, who died nine years ago. I was one of the people who decided that it should be painted blue. Furthermore, blue symbolizes new born babies. It also represents peace and tranquility. I have many blue things in my house. I have many blue decorations all over. For example, my living room curtains and my carpet are blue. The decoration of my kitchen is blue. I also, have blue shelves in the kitchen, and they are always clean and well organized. In addition, the blue color brings many happy memories to my mind. I think about the beaches of the Caribbean islands. For example, those magnificent beaches of my beautiful country. Blue also helps me relax. When I have a problem, I sit in my favorite chair. I look at the blue living room. I close my eyes, and I image the beach of the Caribbean island. My problems go away, I feel peaceful, and patient.

In conclusion, the color blue makes me happy because it makes me remember many things that are valuable and have a meaning to my life.

Where I Live

Yassmen Khalle, LI

I live at 2659 JFK Blvd. in Jersey City, NJ. I am happy here because in Jersey City many different things are available. I live near my church, my children's school, and grocery stores.

First, I am happy to live here because the church is near my house. If I want to go to church any time, I can go with my children without a car. We have six fathers in the church. They help us if we need help. Teachers and our fathers in the church always ask about us. Also, my

children love their Sunday school teachers.

I live near my children's school. Every day, my children walk to school. I do not need a car to drop them off to school. They love their school because they have activities. For example, they have four or five field trips during the school year, and they have time for gym too. Also, they have many friends for a long time.

In addition, I live near grocery stores such as, C. Town and Fresh Farm. I can

Professor Nipon Kutubuddin

buy my supplies without a car. I go to the market and buy fresh fruit and vegetables. Also on Kennedy Blvd. there are different kinds of clothes stores. I go and buy something on sale for a good price.

All in all, I am very happy where I live. My family and I are comfortable in our place. If I buy a new house, of course, I will move. However, I will try to find it near the place where I live for my children to be happy.



The Place Where I Live

Mercedes Bohorquez, LI

I live in a small house in Union City, New Jersey. It isn't elegant, but it is very comfortable for me. My neighbors are very nice and my neighborhood is safe. Furthermore, my house is close to the stores. I have everything I need close to my house.

I live with my family. We feel very comfortable living here, because the rent, the electric bills, and the water bills are reasonable. My house has six rooms. The rooms of my house are small, but they

are comfortable and well organized. My favorite room is my bedroom, because it is very quiet. Also, I can relax a lot, and I can sleep peacefully there. The living room is beautiful. I always watch TV with my family there. In my kitchen, I prepare my favorite dishes for my family. The bathroom is always clean and kept sanitized.

Additionally, my house has a small yard, but it is nice. There are bushes and red flowers. I like to spend time there because it

Professor Sola Armanious

has a nice view. Furthermore, I can see many parking meters in my neighborhood, and this is very convenient for us. My neighbors are very considerate with us because they aren't noisy. Furthermore, my neighborhood is safe. There is no crime. The police are patrolling the streets all the time. I feel safe living here.

In conclusion, I like my house, my neighbors and my neighborhood because my house is very cozy, my neighbors are nice people and my neighborhood is a wonderful place.



*“Seek home
for rest,
for home is
best.”*

**Thomas
Tusser**

My Apartment

Vruti Patel, LI

I live in Jersey City. I live in a tiny apartment. My apartment is really small. I live in a two bedroom apartment. It is on 7th Street. I live with my small family. I have been living in the apartment for six months.

My apartment is a comfortable place for my family. There are two bedrooms and one living room. There is one kitchen and one bathroom. It is enough for my small family. I am happy for my family.

I have many reasons for my happiness. The first reason is our neighbors. They are so friendly with me. They always help my family. One day, I woke up at 8:30 in the morning, and I was late for college. I missed my bus. That day my neighbor, Anjali, helped me to go to college. She gave me a ride to college. She is my next door neighbor. That's why I am happy there.

Second, it is convenient for my college and my job. I work in a Dunkin Donut store. My apartment is on 7th Street and my job is on 8th Street. It is near my home. Every day I walk to my job. My college is also near my apartment.

I would never like to move to another place because it is a very comfortable apartment for my family. I feel relaxed there, so I don't like to move.

Professor Nipon Kutubuddin

My Husband

Blissam Laatabi, L O

Professor Kitty Mazzarella

I met many people in this life, but the most important person is my husband, Mohamed.

Mohamed was born and raised in Marrakesh, Morocco. He is 31 years old. He is six feet tall and weighs one hundred eighty pounds. He has dark eyes, black hair, and a nice smile.

Mohamed is the most gentle, kind, and caring man in the world. He has a quiet personality. Mohamed likes soccer. He was a good player, and his favorite team is Barcelona. Mohamed's future plans are like dreams. First, he is going to improve his knowledge to be a professional soccer coach. Then, he will go back to Morocco to coach its national team.

I am sure he will achieve his dreams because he is a hard worker. I learn that from him, and I learn from him everything is easy in our life when we do it together. That's why I love him.



My Husband and I

Mirtha Rosales, LI

My husband Pedro and I have been together for many years. I am married with him because we have a lot of things in common. However, we still have our differences.

My husband is forty-three years old and I am forty-two years old, so we are almost the same age. We have many memories together because I met him when we are teenagers. He was sixteen and I was fifteen. Before, my husband was skinny, but now he is heavier than me. My husband, Pedro, is a tall and strong man. However, he is also very sensible and noble especially with the children and the elderly people. I am very sensible with them too. Therefore, we share the same feelings. We have three chil-

dren, and we love to spend time with them. In his free time, my husband likes to listen to salsa and bachata, and I like to dance to those kinds of music too, so we always enjoy those happy moments together. In conclusion, we have many similarities.

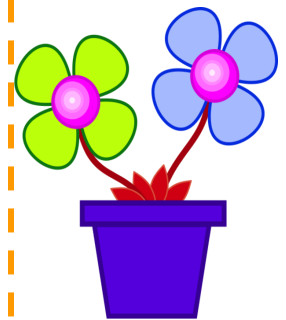
Also, my husband and I have different skills. For example, he likes to help our children when they have some projects at school, so he is an expert in that. In contrast, I like to help my children to solve their homework. Another difference is I like to clean and organize my apartment, but he does not care about this.

On weekends, we usually go out to eat at some restaurant, but my husband always prefers Peruvian food, but I prefer Italian food. However,

Professor Sola Armanious

sometimes we also like to cook at home together. Additionally, we always go to the mall together. However, we usually do not agree when we buy clothes and shoes for my children. Therefore, we do not always have the same preferences. In summer time, I prefer to go to the pool and the park, but he loves the beach. However, we enjoy each other's company wherever we go.

Even though my husband Pedro is different from me in some ways, I love him because he is a good father and a great husband. He always thinks about our family, so he is very responsible, and I believe I am a responsible person too.



“A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.”

Mignon McLaughlin

My Husband

Mercedes Bohorquez, LI

Khelifa is a special member of my family. He is my husband. We are always together with my three children. We spend a good time especially on weekends.

My husband is a very energetic person. He always gets up early every weekend. He loves his family and he loves to spend time with us on weekends. He divides his weekend in two. On Saturday, he stays home to rest. In the early morning he takes his breakfast. He often eats pancakes with some honey, and toast with cheese. He also drinks chocolate milk. Khelifa loves to read newspapers and magazines while he is watching his favorite program on TV, which is sports especially soccer. He plays with his children and

helps them to do their homework. He likes to teach his children and take care of them. My husband also helps me a lot in the kitchen. He often cooks some dishes. His favorite dish is couscous, the traditional Algerian dish.

He usually plans where we will go before he goes to sleep. On the next day, we often go to the park together in the morning. In the afternoon, we go to the restaurant. We don't wait for a special occasion. Sometimes, he takes us to an Italian restaurant, Bella Restaurant, and sometimes we go to a Chinese restaurant, Good Chinese Kitchen. He of-

Professor Angela Addy

ten does the shopping on weekends. He buys everything we need for the week. When he returns home, he takes a shower and eats dinner; then, he takes a short nap. My husband always reads stories to his children before they go to bed.

My husband is a gentleman. He understands that his life is about service to others not serving himself. He is helpful, and ready to help anyone who needs some help. He supports and takes care of us. He loves me and I love him. He is special to me because he is my husband. We work hard together to get a better life for us and for our children.

All in all, my husband is my life. I will respect this relationship forever.

“Don't marry the person you think you can live with; marry only the individual you think you can't live without.”

James Dobson

My Mother

Genyvyvan Eysee, LO

Professor Kitty Mazarella



My mother is a very important person in my life. She is the most wonderful woman in the world. She always has something to teach me.

My mother is 50 years old. She has black hair. She has brown eyes. She is not thin. She has brown skin. She is average height. She is very friendly with other people. She always likes to help. She gives me good advice. She is a very neat woman, so she likes to clean the house every day. She likes to wear her clothes very neatly. She gets mad when I do not do what she asks me to do.

I consider my mother the biggest teacher in my life. She always has so much to teach me. When I was young, she taught me what is right and what is wrong. For example, when I was a little girl, I opened the oven door and stood on it. She came running toward me yelling, "Get down!" She was very mad. Then she sat with me to calm me down. She told me this was wrong. When I got older, she taught me how to be a responsible person. These lessons helped me when I got married. Now I know what to teach my children, and how to raise my children. She taught me to be there when my husband and my children need me. She taught me how to cook, clean, and save money. She also taught me how to be a good wife. When my husband feels sad or down, I go to cheer him up.

My mother is the best mother. I wish someday I will be like her, and I teach my two daughters how to be good mothers and wives.

*Mothers
hold their
children's hands
for a while,
but their hearts
forever.*



My Lovely Friend

Violeta Maltchanova, LI

Maria is a great person. She has been my friend for a long time. We worked together for more than 30 years. She is a doctor. Maria lives in Sophia, Bulgaria in a small apartment. She lives with her son Victor.

Maria is a middle-aged, beautiful woman. She is average height and slightly overweight, but she is in good shape. She has gorgeous brown eyes and short brown hair. Her skin is pale with a few wrinkles. She has a pleasant smile but looks very serious with her glasses. She always looks nice. She wears stylish and elegant clothes every day.

Maria has a very pleasant personality. She is an outgoing

person. She likes people very much and makes friends easily. She likes to have a good time with friends, but she doesn't have a lot of free time. Maria is a very good mother too. She constantly worries about her teenage son. Also, she is a very kind and patient person. She always talks with her patients.

Maria is also a very smart woman. She speaks French and Russian fluently, and she reads a lot. She is a very busy person too. She is a surgeon and works in a big hospital with many doctors and

Professor Lauren Drew

nurses. She helps sick people. Her job is stressful, but she likes it.

Maria's hobby is reading books. She likes to read historical and political novels, but she doesn't like to read the newspaper. She thinks there are a lot of lies. Maria has a big collection of books at her house. She prefers to read at home when she has free time. Her favorite place to read is her chair in the kitchen. She has a lot of cooking books. When she has enough time, she likes to make cookies. We often discuss together what we read. We like to sit together with a cup of coffee in hand, remembering our service.

I am very happy with my friend, and I hope we will be friends for a long time.



My Last Trip

Achrf Ishiek, LO

On my last trip I went to Alaska. It was very cold. We had to wear two jackets. We went in the summertime, but it was still very cold. I went with my friend, Liza.

We took the ship cruise from Bayonne to Alaska for one week. It was all inclusive, so we had a lot of food and drinks all day every day. We saw the white bears. We took photos of the white bears. It was very nice sightseeing because everything was in white color. We met the Eskimos. These people live in a cave built from snow and ice. They use a sledge for transportation, and the sledge is pulled by dogs.

It was a very nice trip. We had a lot of fun, and we saw new places and new people. We learned how people adjust themselves to live in a very bad weather and how they communicate with the mother earth.

Professor Joanna Karnicka



My Good Friend in the US

Janette Adames, LI

Professor Douglas Ramirez

My good friend in the U.S is Manuela. She is from Brazil. I met her five years ago in the Dominican Republic. She is the wife of my brother in law. She is a good person. Manuela is the sister that I have never had.

Manuela looks like the typical Brazilian woman. She has a beautiful body. She looks like a model. She is 28 years old. She is 5 feet, 5 inches tall. She has dark brown eyes. She has light and long hair. She likes to eat healthy, but she does not like to exercise. She only exercises when she walks in the mall.

Manuela is an excellent person. She likes to help people, so she is studying social work. She likes animals, and she has two dogs, Joaquin and Bela. She helps me to drive in this country. I like to spend time with her. I like to go shopping at the mall with Manuela. Manuela likes soccer games. She is a little crazy about the Barcelona team, a soccer team from Spain. She is pretty and a lot fun to be around.

She has many plans for her future. She studies at Rutgers University. She is finishing her post-graduate degree in social work. She would like to work in the prison system. She also wants to see the world. She would like to visit Europe. She likes children. She dreams of having two children. She was a babysitter before she studied social work. I am sure her dreams will come true.

Manuela is a beautiful person. Everyone likes Manuela. I hope that she gets pregnant soon. I love her because she always helps me when I need her. She is the person that I want to have forever. She is like my sister.



My Favorite Restaurant

Glenda Rodriguez, LI

Professor Douglas Ramirez

Sevilla is my favorite restaurant. It is located In Passaic, New Jersey. Sevilla is a Spanish restaurant. I like to go there because of the food. They have good wine, too.

Sevilla is a nice restaurant. The ambience is quiet and comfortable. It is small and quiet. The music is very nice. Sevilla is a clean restaurant. There are many tables. The decoration is beautiful. When you enter in the hall, you can see a great chandelier. This makes the interior of the restaurant look classy. It is an enjoyable environment.

Sevilla has many different types of food. It has seafood, Spanish,

and also Italian food. If you like seafood, it has shrimp, fish, or if you like Spanish food, it has paela, and mariscada. If you like Italian food, it has all kinds of pastas. All the food is delicious and prepared to perfection. Most of the people like Sevilla. The food has a good quality. I enjoy being there.

When I go to Sevilla, I usually order mariscada. They cook an excellent mariscada. I like red mariscada. Mariscada is shrimp, lobster, clams and red tomatoe sauce. I usually eat this dish with tostones. Tostones are round fried green plantains. When I go with my mother, she orders mariscada,

too. I love it because it is very healthy. I think the chef makes it differently. The taste is amazingly good. If you go there, you must try that dish.

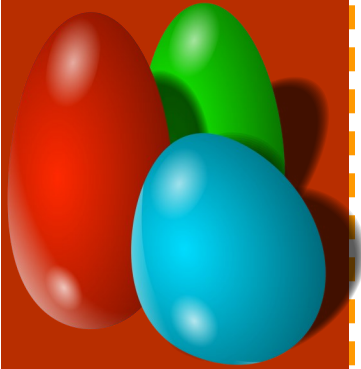
I like Sevilla. I think it is a nice restaurant. I always go with my friends. For me the place is comfortable, and I can eat good food. I can listen to excellent music, and drink sangria. Sangria is my favorite drink. In my opinion, this restaurant has a very good reputation.



Celebrating Easter

Maryana Nakhla, LI

Professor Bing Wang



*“Easter is meant to be
a symbol of hope,
renewal, and new
life.”*

Janine di Giovanni

Easter is my favorite holiday. Every year I plan to spend this day with my family in Egypt, so in the spring break, I always travel to Egypt to celebrate it with them. My sister and I are very interested in this holiday; therefore, we always plan our trip for things we will do. We always have a wonderful time there for Easter.

When we are in Egypt before the holiday, we usually have a lot of work to do, such as cleaning, baking cookies, and buying new clothes. My cousin Jule and my nephews Mina and Mona often come to share work with us. We clean everything like windows, curtains, sheets, and floors. We like to help our mother clean our home.

After cleaning, on the second day, it is time to bake cookies, and we go shopping after that. We bake Kahk, Betefour,

Cornstretsh cookies, and Shaklmah. In our country, we have many different names for cookies, but all cookies have the same basic ingredients, such as eggs, flour, and oil. Sometimes we also add coconut, almonds, and other nuts. I like Shaklma so much, so I like to do it. Coconut cookies are the basic; one egg, some sugar, and two spoons of butter. We mix them all together and put a cherry on the top after we make it like a ball. It's really a cheerful day when we do everything together. After we finish baking, we go shopping to buy new clothes. We go to Elabrahimea Street. Usually, I don't like shopping, but I like to go with my sister when she asks me to go. She says, "I need your advice to choose my clothes."

On Easter Eve, we are so anxious waiting our turn in the beauty salon.

Finally we finish our hair and nails after long hours. Then we go home, wear our new clothes, and put on makeup to go to church at night. After that, we prepare Easter eggs for the children when we come back from the church. On Easter, early in the morning all people in the family wake up to meet the Easter Bunny and play egg hunt in the park. Jule likes to help the children to find their eggs; also Mina and Mona like to make a small music party singing and dancing. It's a special day and we all help each other. That's the reason I don't want to come back to the US after the spring break.

We always take a lot of photos not to forget how much fun we have. We want to keep it in our minds and our hearts and remember the happy time.

My Sister

Yarina Rodriguez, LI

Professor Angela Addy

I don't like my older sister's lifestyle. Her name is Yoelis. We live together in Union City in a beautiful apartment. She works as a salesperson at H&M Company in New York. She has a son who is nine years old. She is a beautiful woman with a friendly and sociable personality, but she is a spendthrift.

Yoelis is a beautiful dark colored woman. She is 35 years old, but she looks younger than her age. She is about 5 feet 6 inches tall, and she weighs 125 pounds. She has big brown eyes and a round face. She has black straight hair, and she likes to wear it short. She has a pointed nose and thin lips. She goes to the gym from Monday to Friday because she likes to look attractive.

Yoelis has an outgoing personality. She likes to be the center of attention everywhere she goes. She is never shy or scared to talk to people she meets for the first time. She loves to dance and her favorite music is salsa. She dances to it very well. She also likes to go shopping. She spends most of her free time in the mall.

I don't like that Yoelis is a spendthrift, and her future plans are not definite. First, she wants to work hard to save money to get her own house. After that, she wants to travel to another country and spend a lot of money. She likes to wear expensive clothes, shoes, and jewelries, and carry expensive purses. Also, she loves to have the latest in technology, such as cell phones and laptops. In general, Yoelis needs to organize her life style, because she doesn't have control of her life. She spends too much time on her physical appearance. She spends a lot of money on material things that she doesn't really need.

I wish she could save money for her future. Whatever it is, she is my sister and I love her very much.



Time Is Gold

Yoania Peerez Leon, LI

I have a brother; his name is Fernando. He is younger than me. He is 23 years old. He is a good boy, but he wastes his time a lot.

Before he came to the US, he lived in Cuba. Fernando finished high school in this country. Also in his free time, he worked with my father selling fruit, rice, beans, and beef. He did not play because he never had time. He grew from a boy to a hardworking man very fast.

Now everything is different in his life because he lives in

Rochester. He does not go to school because English is very hard for him, and he is afraid. Also, he lives his life thinking that he does not need to learn more. He spends most of the time in front of the computer playing "Super Mario" game, listening to pop music, and having night life with his friends.

In addition, he is very smart because he knows how to fix cars, but his problem is that he does not speak English. He spends time smoking and drinking alcohol, doing things that do not give him

Professor Nipon Kutubuddin

benefits.

I think that he has to focus more in his life, and make good use of the time because he has to prepare himself for the future. He needs to be ready when he decides to have a family.

"Lost time is never found again."

**Benjamin
Franklin**

Studying in the USA

Katheryn Mencia, LI

Since I came to the United States, I've realized that our generation has sought to stop their studies at the university. One of the reasons is because the economic situation is not very good. Another reason could be that most of the students don't have legal documents like a social security card or passport, papers that contain personal information so they can register at any college. Therefore, if they do not have them, they probably couldn't be accepted at any institution.

In addition, to be part of any institution the students need to pay and that is why they work to pay the classes they might have. As a result, sometimes they can't make it to class or they cannot do their homework. Numerous students also say the language is very difficult to learn or understand, especially because they didn't learn the language at a

younger age. That's why in this situation the students don't know what to do, and they believe the best decision they can make is to not continue with school.

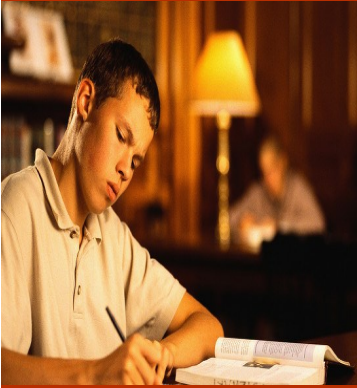
Perhaps there is no excuse to not continue with education. I have met people who know how to work, go to school, go to the gym, take care of their family also when they are sick, people that know how to do four things at a time and never give up. Without education there is no progress at all; people can be doing the same things over and over.

One of my cousin's friends knows a girl. She was in high school and she was getting ready for the senior graduation. She passed all her classes, but one day when my cousin asked her what her plan was when she got out of school, she replied she couldn't go to college because her parents did not have money to pay

Professor Bethany O'Cansey

for it. This was the day that she decided to get a job and she found one. It was a great job that paid her 45 hours. She was happy because the first thing that was on her mind was to go to school and get a degree so she can be someone better. She started working and going to school every day at night, every summer, no vacations, and that's why today she has her degree.

However, we can find a lot of positive factors that could change student' minds that help them always make the right choice, and realize that it is never too late for anybody to learn or have an education. That's why I'm against the students who are trying to drop college or not continue with it. We need to make our generation bright and also teach them that we can do it, and the result of education becomes our own success.



"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."

Sydney J. Harris

My College Study

Mariam Nasralla, LI

Professor Bing Wang

I am an ESL student at Hudson County Community College. This semester I am taking four courses. They are Reading and Academic Discussion Level 2, and Grammar and Writing Level 1. My classes are from Monday to Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. I like my classes very well because they are very important for me to learn and improve my English.

In my classes, I feel very happy to learn English with my teachers and share my time with my classmates, who are from different countries, such as Egypt, Dominican Republic, and Morocco. I never forget to bring my books to classes, and I am always very active and work very hard in my study. For example, in my writing class, I usually focus on learning with my teacher to write notes for grammar exercises. Also, in my reading class, I try to listen carefully how my teacher pronounces the words because I want to improve my pronunciation. Sometimes I am thinking about my family in Egypt while I am learning in class because I miss my mother. However, I quickly stop thinking and pay attention to my teacher. Besides learning English, we study computer skills to do our homework and write essay assignments in Word on the computer.

I always go to the library to do my homework carefully after my class. It is a good place for everyone to study, and it is equipped with an excellent computer lab. I usually sit in a quiet area to study diligently what I write in my notebook and study the textbook, too. I often work on the new vocabulary and expressions to improve my writing. After that, I practice and practice on some grammar exercises. Then I write my current essay assignment on the computer in the library because I don't have Internet service at home.

I still have some difficulties in learning English. I can understand people who speak English, but I don't speak very well to express everything I want to say. My teacher in Reading and Academic Discussion helps me a lot. She makes all the students work in groups, and she gives everyone a chance to speak. She advises me to make friends with students from different countries and watch English channels, not Arabic channels. I think these ways will help me to improve my English quickly.

I am very happy to be a student at Hudson County Community College. All the classes help me to learn the basic communication skills to live here, and the college prepares me for a good future.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson
Mandela



My Study in College

Amal Tawfik, LI

It is very important for me to go to Hudson County Community College to learn English. It's a great step in my life. Before I went to college, I asked myself, "Could I read and write English after study?" I felt it was something impossible. However, after I started attending college, my outlook changed.

I am happy with my wonderful reading and writing classes. My class starts at 9 a.m. I always sit in the first row, so I can be attentive to what my teacher says. It is not easy to me. Reading and writing are difficult for me to learn many skills I

never knew. I am trying and trying very hard like a young child to take her first step.

When I am sitting in the classroom, I usually work very hard on writing and grammar, I always take notes for important grammar structures and write down the new words, so I can review them at home. Our teacher sometimes asks us to share the practice with a classmate and answer the exercise questions together. Sometimes she asks everyone to exercise on one's own. She always asks if anyone has a question, so she can help.

I always study and do

Professor Bing Wang

my homework in the evening. I don't have much free time because I'm always busy with my children. After they finish their homework, I do my homework while they are watching TV. In the beginning, I often go to google and type practice for the present tense and present continuous tense, so I can exercise to prepare myself and refresh my memory. Then I start my homework.

However, I know that is still not enough. Really, I need to work harder and harder to develop my skills to write and speak like a native speaker although it takes a long time. All in all, I'm still trying my best, and I believe I will learn better.

"You have to remember that the hard days are what make you stronger. The bad days make you realize what a good day is. If you never had any bad days, you would never have that sense of accomplishment!"

Aly Raisman

Moving Back to My Country

Joehan Paniagua, LI

Professor Maria Schirta

If I move to my native country, that will be awesome, because I would like to live there. I can do whatever I want to do. You can break the rules, and you can do anything if you have money. The police are corrupt, and you have to be intelligent to go out without something bad happening to you.

I will feel great if I move to my native country because I love my country, and nothing can be better for me than to live there. However, the problem is that you have to have money, and the jobs in there are really bad. They don't pay enough money because the government robs the money from the people that believe in them. However, if you find a good job, you can live well.

My family members will feel bad because they say that in my country there is no life to live in there. They want me to finish my studies. After that, I can think to go back to my country and live without problems. However, I don't see it that way. I think that I can get a lot of money with my English and have a good work to live well and build a house to rent it. I like this. I won't have to worry about money.

In conclusion, I would like to go back to my native country. Life in the US for newly arrived immigrants is tough. A lot of people who come from another country live without having the same respect, work, life, and dignity as they did as citizens of their native countries. Life may be better later, but at the beginning it is not easy.



When I Go Back to My Country

Ronald Mieles, LI

Professor Maria Schirta

When I came here three years ago, I didn't think about going back to my country because I looked at America as a country of dreams, but the reality is different, so now, every day I think about returning to my country.

How will I prepare for it? I don't know. Everybody is prepared to come to this country, but not to leave it. Every night just thinking about going back to my country, my heart beats to a thousand per hour, so I don't look as my

heart will go crazy. It is difficult to control our feeling.

What will I do there? This is very easy for me. First I will hug my mother, because for me the best place in my life and in my world are my mother's arms.

Every day I talk to my mother, brother and sister. My family and I we are very close. My last name is Mieles. In English this is "honey", so I think we are as bees making honey every time together, so I think my family will be happy

if this bee returns to its hive.

My family is very funny. I think when I return to my country, they will make a big party. This will be an excuse (ha ha ha), but we will have fun. I will remain a happy bee family.



An Unforgettable Vacation

Carmen Sotomayor Ll

Professor Robyn



In March, our family decided to take a nice and memorable vacation to France. We wanted to visit the many beautiful places like the Eiffel Tower, the Cathedral Notre Dame de Paris, the Triumph Arch, and the Louvre, but our trip didn't go as we planned because of the bad weather.

On Saturday morning, we arrived in France, and we rented a car. We also bought a map to avoid getting lost. My husband was driving the car while I was guiding him with the map. The first problem that we encountered was the cold weather. We thought that the weather would be warm, but we were wrong, so we had to look for a store to buy warm clothes. After we bought warm clothes we started driving

from Lyon to Paris. Half way through our trip, a snow storm changed our plans because the police closed all the roads. We stopped at the closest town near Lyon, and we stayed at a hotel.

We could not leave the town because the snow lasted about four days. In those four days, we planned to visit many places in that town. However, on the second day our daughter became sick, and we needed to look for a doctor. It was difficult because of the language barrier, and not many people were able to help us. We went to a pharmacy and bought cold medicine. On the third day after we arrived at the hotel, we noticed that our luggage was missing. We

talked to the hotel manager, but he didn't understand what was happening. We tried to call the Police to make a complaint. After the police arrived they told us that we needed to go to the closest American Embassy. On the fourth day police opened the roads and we were able to travel to the closest American Embassy to confirm our identity. Then we needed to call our family in America to fax our birth certificates. After they confirmed our identity, and we received our new passports.

Finally, we were able to drive again, but our time in France ran out because it was time to come back to America. We drove back to the airport and took a flight back home.

A Great Trip

Carolina Yugcha, LI

Professor Robyn Sklar

I took a fantastic trip with my family when I lived in my home country. We took a vacation trip to Galapagos Islands, where we went to visit a family friend. We would stay there for one week.

First, we arrived at San Cristobal Islands. We were so excited because we would see all the species that inhabit the island, which are unique in the world. Also we would visit parks, beaches, museum and landscapes that are famous that people from other countries come to visit. We imagined ourselves enjoying them.

Then, when we got to the airport, we found out that a storm was coming toward us and my first thought was it would destroy our plans. We waited for a some time so that our friend Manuel came for us, but he called us and said he wasn't able to do it because he couldn't leave early from his job. As a result, we had to take a boat to go to Isabela Island where he lives.



When we arrived at Manuel's home, we met his wife Veronica and his daughters Roxana and Arelis. We haven't seen them for a long time. We couldn't enjoy the trip as we planned because it rained every day, and the tourist places were closed but we enjoyed our trip in a different way. We stayed at their home telling stories about our childhood, playing cards and they taught us to prepare traditional food, such as lobster, ceviche, seafood rice, and seafood soup. Although it rained, we saw their farm where they have cattle and horses.

Finally, even though weather was bad, we could enjoy our trip doing different things, so we will always remember it.

A Rainy Day

Deysi Rocinos, LI

I have three cousins, and they live in California. Last year, they went to Guatemala in their vacation. I was there at that time, too. We wanted to go camping.

We thought about nature, trails and beautiful landscapes, so we decided to go. We prepared everything to leave the following day. We carried tents, sleeping bags, brooms, ground cloths, blankets, a

picnic table, flashlights, water bottles, soda, and backpacks with a lot of food. We also carried a first aid kit. We were very excited.

When we arrived at the place, we started to put up the tents and cleaned the area. We were getting ready to go for a walk and enjoy the scenery when suddenly the sky darkened, and it started to rain very hard. We ran back inside the

Professor Robyn Sklar

tents. We were very sad and disappointed. We hoped that the storm would pass soon, but that did not happen. It rained all day. We were far from home, so we did not return home.

During the storm we ate our food and drank soda while we played cards and talked about us. We could not walk or fish but we had a nice day because we shared our stories of living away from our country.



A Ruined Picnic

Svetlana Grishanenko, LI

Professor Robyn Sklar

One Saturday afternoon, my family planned on having a picnic in the park. That day was my day off.

This spring has been very cold with many cloudy days, but the weekend promised to be sunny and warm. The morning sun woke us up promising good weather. We quickly peaked up and went to the park. We settled on the green grass. My husband began a barbecue. When I looked around the park, I saw a lot of people. Some elderly people were sitting on benches and talking. Others jogged along the park's paths.

Many people were walking with their pets. While the parents were talking, the children were free to run and play games.

Despite the fact that the sun was shining, there were many clouds. Then these clouds began to darken. Suddenly, a very strong wind began to blow. It knocked down chairs and blew off the tablecloths. Many people hurried to their cars. We also began to pack for home. Suddenly it began to rain at first a small amount and then strong. We grabbed our things and ran to the car.

Spring is my family's favorite season. We like it when the weather is not too hot and not too cold. Our last picnic wasn't the best one. Therefore, our next picnic would be in the summertime. My husband said that next time there would be no problems with the weather. I hope we will be able to relax and have fun next time we will go to the park.

People's lives certainly change with the weather, but we should always remember that each kind of weather has something good to offer.



A Happy Childhood Memory

Kenia Sanchez, LI

Professor Lauren Drew



My name is Kenia. I was born in Manta, Ecuador. I lived in this city many years ago. I always lived with my parents, and my four sisters. I didn't have any brothers. My parents always cared, loved, and respected my sisters and me. They gave us good examples, and they taught us to respect the elderly. My mother was a seamstress, and she made us beautiful dresses. She was always watching over us, and she never left us alone. My father worked hard and he gave us everything.

I have many beautiful memories of when I was a child. For example, I liked to play with my toys. I had a beautiful baby doll, and I still have it. My father gave me my first dog called "Boy". This was the first time that I heard a word in English. I enjoyed the stories of my grandparents. They aren't with us now, but I remember them with love. I also missed playing with my sisters and my cousins. At this time I also met my best friend. Her name is Martha.

I had a wonderful time when I was a child. Another happy childhood memory was to know the countryside where my mother was born. When I saw this place for first time, I fell in love with nature. This was amazing. I saw the river with its crystal clear water. Many trees had their hanging fruits. There were many diverse birds. There were also flowers of different colors and pleasant smell. The people who lived over there were very friendly because they greeted me without knowing me. I learned to ride a horse. I saw how to milk a cow. I saw how to cook with firewood, and the food was delicious. I got up early, and I felt the cool morning air. Then I had breakfast with the best cheese, and hot milk milked from the cow. Everything in the countryside is pure because it doesn't have the pollution that the big cities have.

All in all, my childhood was the best time of my life because I didn't have concerns. My parents were poor, but they worked hard for my sisters and me. They are the best parents in the world, and they always gave us love and respect. When I have my children, I will give the same example so they have a happy childhood. I also hope one day to return to the countryside that I knew because I want to remember those beautiful moments.

“If you carry your childhood with you, you never become older.”

Tom Stoppard

“One of the luckiest things that can happen to you in life is, I think, to have a happy childhood.”
Agatha Christie

Sana'a

Fakriah Almuwallad, LI

Professor Lauren Drew



Sana'a is my favorite city. Sana'a is one of the most important cities in my country, so you should visit this city.

Sana'a is a big city in North Yemen. Also, Sana'a is the capital of Yemen. Sana'a is a historic and traditional city because the age of this city is 2,500 years old, so they called it "Old Sana'a."

The buildings of Sana'a were built more than 500 years ago. People still live in these buildings until today. All who visited Sana'a said, "We feel like we are living in a museum" because everything is from the past: the buildings, streets, markets and clothes. Almost all of people who live in Sana'a wear traditional clothes.

Sana'a's weather is moderate all year. In winter it is not very cold, so you will be surprised because many people wear light and short clothes. Sana'a is on a high area, so in the summer it is not

hot and humid. Sana'a has mountains, but far from the city. In the spring, the mountains turn green. You can see all the mountains are green. There are some rivers, but they aren't big. Also, there are dams. You can notice them when you visit the mountains. Some people who live in the mountains have camels, so you can ride a camel and take a trip on the mountain.

Sana'a is a busy city, so you can do many activities there. If you come to Sana'a, first you should visit Dar Al-hajar. Dar Al-hajar is a house of a King of Yemen in the past. It was built on a big rock. Inside this house

there are a lot of old tools of the king. Second, you should visit the Souk. The Souk is a big place and all the markets are there. You will see how they make silver jewelry, and how they make pottery. You can take a trip in the mountains, and you can see agricultural terraces. Sana'a has many villages built in the mountains, so you can also visit them and enjoy there.

Sana'a is the most beautiful city. If you have never seen it before, you will be amazed. In addition, people there are friendly, so you will have a great time with them.



WE RECOMMEND

El Conuco Restaurant

Marian Betancourt Santos, LI

Profesor Douglas Ramirez

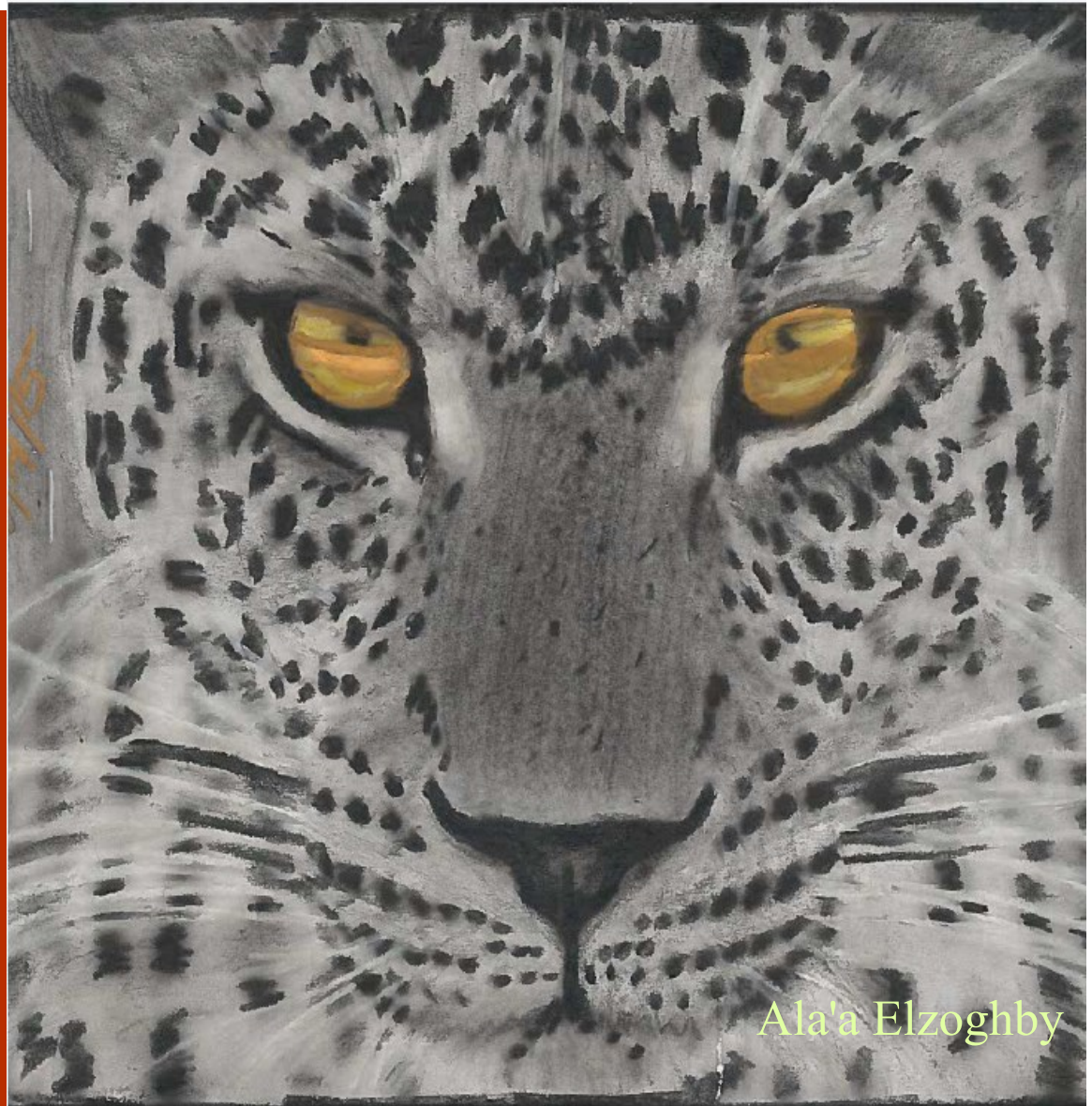
My favorite restaurant is El Conuco. The Conuco is a Dominican restaurant. It is located between Summit Avenue and 8th Street in Jersey City, New Jersey. It is open seven days. The Conuco opens at 8:00 A.M., and it closes at 10:00 P.M. It is convenient for me. Sometimes, I take the bus, or I walk there.

I love the environment in the Conuco. It is clean. It is organized. There you can watch sports. There are two big television screens for the customers. There are three boards where you can see the menu. It has excellent service and good music. One day, I spilled my juice and they ran to bring another one for free, and they cleaned the mess right away for me. The Conuco has amazing employees. They have good attitude. That is good for the restaurant.

As you can imagine, I love the food. One of my favorite dishes is mofongo. To be honest, mofongo is a Puerto Rican and Dominican dish. It is a plate that contains fried plantains, garlic and pork. It is delicious! They also have tostones, chicken and salad. Tostones are fried plantains with salt. The most popular Dominican plate is Mangu con los Tres Golpes. Tres Golpes means plantains, eggs, cheese, ham and onions. I get hungry by thinking about it.

The restaurant has all the typical dishes of the Dominican Republic. I like them all, but I love mofongo and mangu. When I eat that, I feel at home. I remember my origins. I know who I am, and also where I am from. It is a piece of my beautiful country here. Dominicans love plantains. I am not the exception.





Ala'a Elzoghby

Your goals are closer than you think.
Stay focused.
Keep your eyes on the prize and follow
your heart.
—Ricardo Housham

Life in College

Maria Aguilar, L2

Professor Maria Schirta

“We are happy
when
we are growing.”

—William Butler Yeats

Attending college is a great opportunity to succeed in life. Since I started attending college, I have felt that my life change in many ways. College life requires a lot of time and effort. However, I have gained more confidence speak-

ing English

as a second language. Since I became a

student, I have also become more careful with my money.

One of the biggest changes in my life as a student has been my time. Now I feel that the hours in each day are not enough because after every class I need to go to work, and then after work, I have to go home and finish my homework. Now, on my days off, I have been trying very hard to learn how to write a good essay. Before I became a student, I used to have a better social life.

However, my English has really improved, and I have been very happy with the new adjustment in my life stage. Now I feel more confident when I speak English. My vocabulary and grammar have improved so far. I used to feel

frustrated when I tried to communicate with English speakers.

“Education is
one of the most
valuable rights
in America.”

Going to college in America can be really expensive and might make you think twice about studying. I have had to learn how to budget my expenses because I am working fewer hours that means less

money. Having to deal with rent, every day expenses and paying college loans makes me feel more responsible with managing my money.



My Husband Martin and his Friend Arthur

Yadira Dalia, L2

Professor Linda

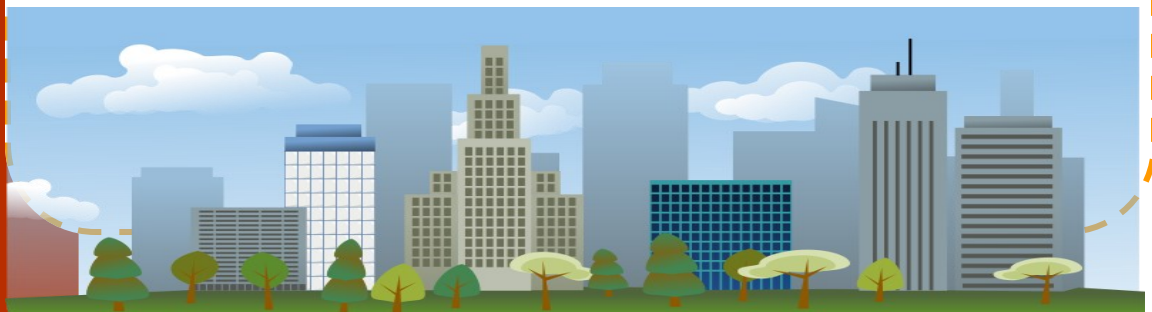


My husband Martin is working in the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Central Park in Manhattan. Giving excellent services to the guests is the most important part of the hotel. Martin started to work there in 2004. He belongs to the engineering department, and he must maintain the rooms in optimal condition. Martin has won awards for employee of the year three times consecutively. He always arrives early to the Hotel and ful-

fills his duties. Arthur, Martin's coworker, is living in an apartment next to us. He is a painter in the hotel, and he must give spackling to the wall and then paint it. His work is very delicate, but he doesn't care if the wall remains blemished. My husband works more efficiently than Arthur.

Every day, Martin wakes up at 5:00 A.M. He makes coffee while he is brushing his teeth. Then, he takes a shower before he listens to the

news forecast on the radio. When he is ready to go, he goes to the bus stop before 6:15 A.M. to wait for the bus. He takes the bus to Journal Square, and then he takes two trains towards the hotel. Martin is always the first worker to arrive to the hotel. Arthur and Martin should leave together, but it isn't like that. They are going separately. My husband likes to get there early, but Arthur doesn't care if he gets there after check-in time.



My Husband, Martin, and his friend, Arthur..... Con't.



Martin works in three or four rooms of the hotel each day. He checks devices, and he cleans the air conditioners' filters. Also, he changes the lights when it is necessary. He must fix everything in the bathroom when it is broken, such as: the sink, toilet, faucet and doors.

In addition, Martin sometimes paints walls when Arthur's work isn't adequate. Arthur is my neighbor. He is the superintendent of the building where we live. He is a good guy, but I know he doesn't worry as much as my husband does. Arthur wakes up at 6:30 A.M. He just takes a bath and leaves in a hurry. Arthur is frequently late. The work starts at 8:00 A.M., and he punches in after that time. He arrives to the hotel when the team meeting has started. When the duties are assigned, my husband looks for Arthur. First Arthur goes to the kitchen, and he eats a piece of bread and drinks some juice before he starts his work. Arthur must do three or four rooms daily at least, but he just does one. So my husband must finish Arthur's work as well as his own. Also, Arthur takes many days off, personal days and sick days. He is absent a lot of days in a year. Martin and Arthur make the same salary. Martin asks Arthur: "Why don't you care more about your job?" "What's happening with you?" He says: "I'm very tired and I don't care if they fire me ." Arthur doesn't have children, and he doesn't have to pay rent because he is the super of the building where he lives, so he doesn't care about anything.

My husband Martin works more than Arthur. However, their boss doesn't notice it. Every day, there are more duties in the hotel. Martin takes care of his job. He must work hard because he must pay rent and other bills. Martin knows his family needs him. I hope someday Arthur notices that he needs to take care of his work because it is very hard to find a new job.



The Best Day Ever

Nathalei de la Cruz, L2

For every birthday wish, I always wished to be with my mother. Since 1999 she never got a chance to fly back to the Philippines because of her work here in America, so she left me when I was one year old with my auntie and with her family.

It was November 28, 2012 in the afternoon. When I saw her, I thought I was in heaven or in a dream. There were tears in her eyes and a smile that I can't describe. I was staring at her with a big smile, and I realized there were tears in my eyes. I

ran towards her and hugged her so tight like there is no tomorrow. We started crying and asking, "How are you? Why are you crying?" and I said, "I love you, and I missed you."

On our way home, I was hugging her and enjoying the moment with her. Everybody was so happy for us because they knew how I really wanted this day to happen. I actually got "starstruck". I didn't know that she was that pretty. She looked like me; we were like twins. When we got

Professor Maria Schirta

home, I yelled to my cousin and other family, "My Mommy is here!" They were laughing and had a big smile on their faces because they were glad she was in the Philippines.

I couldn't explain how great it was to be with her. I never knew that a wish could come true. I couldn't ask for more. I love my mommy so much. Good thing I'm with her right now in America. I hope your wish will be granted, too.



In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past, bridge to our future.
—Alex Haley

A Great Influence

Debbie Lorie Ann Burgos-Montero, L2

Professor Normita Atienza

“There are individuals who have great influence in everyone’s lives.”

There are individuals who have great influence in everyone’s lives. Ordinarily, parents are these type of people. However, I have someone other than my parents who was even more influential in my life when I was growing up. She taught me several things resulting in the development of values that I still keep. Her name is Angela.

Angela is my grandmother. I lived with her three years ago when I was 18. She was 48 years old. At the beginning, that situation seemed weird because it was my first time to be under her care. But after a few days everything became comfortable. She was strict, but at the same time, she was loving. She took care of me seriously.

An important value she taught me was responsibility. Whenever I had some plans with my friends, I did not care if I had something to do at home. Grandma Angela would always remind me that I was not a little girl anymore, and if I wanted to go out with my friends, I had to be responsible. I had to do household duties first before going out with them. In addition, she said, “You should be careful of your actions whenever you were with them. At the beginning, I was mad, but as the years went by, I came to understand that she was right. I had responsibilities, and I had to accomplish them.”

Grandma Angela also taught me how to be organized. I used to start and do many tasks at the same time, and most of the time, I would not finish anything. From her, I learned how to manage time. For example, when I woke up, she gave me list of things to do. I had to organize myself by knowing the most important and least important ones were. I should start with one task and finish it before doing another thing. I should follow this rule for everything I had to do.

I found these lessons of responsibility and organization valuable because they affected my life. An instance was when I moved to my apartment and lived with other people. Applying these values has been a great help in dealing with them every day. Also, when I found my first job, I saw to it that I used those values. If I did well, it was because of her.

Summing up, I am so grateful that during my younger years, I had an opportunity to live with Grandma Angela. I am so lucky that she became a part of my life. Grandma Angela, wherever you are, thank you.

Grandma
Angela,
wherever
you are,
thank you.

La Feria De Las Flores

Juan Camilo Sanchez, L2

Every country has different traditions, holidays, and rituals that make each one unique and special. All of these celebrations may vary depending on how its people think, what they believe in, or just what they like to do. “La Feria de las Flores” is a much-awaited event in Medellin, Colombia.

“La Feria de las Flores” has been popular since 1950. Back in the 1950’s a few groups of people started the celebration by displaying the first “cilleta”, a structural work made with flowers. City people came to see that “masterpiece”. Then, it started to spread

throughout the country. Now, it remains the same great celebration; only it is bigger. Nowadays, it includes not just display of “cilletas” but also activities like vinatage car exhibits, concerts and games.

This celebration has attracted people around the word. Tourists come to the festival to see beautiful artworks and enjoy watching or participating in seemingly endless activities. During the festival, farmers all over Colombia prepare their “masterpieces”, as well as vintage cars and traditional food for the visit of thousands of people expecting to have a great

Professor Normita Atienza

time in the city. For the last four years, more than three million people entered the city of Medellin just to be a part of “La Feria de las Flores”. From this number, about two million are from South America, and most of them are from Venezuela, Ecuador, and Brazil. The other million comes from North America. Colombians always wait for this celebration every year because they enjoy every single day of the festival.

The celebration starts on Monday and ends on Sunday. It is a week of “cilletas” to view and typical food to taste.



La Feria De Las Flores...con't

There are concerts of well-known artists as Shakira and Carlos Vives. The biggest exhibition of beautiful antique cars from many countries is also a major attraction. More than 100 vintage cars are a delight to the eyes. With all the concerts, exhibits, games and other fun activities in different streets and avenues of the city, people of all ages find no time to waste. It is truly the fun time of the year.

Indeed, “La Feria de las Flores” is close to the hearts of all Colombians because it a time for them to smile and dance as one country. Traditions make a difference among people. Every country has its own traditions and celebrations to share with others. Colombians have “La Feria de las Flores” for the world to enjoy.



Yes to College

Lizette Galza, L3

Professor Johanna van Gendt



“Success still depends on how a person is going to decide their future.”

College is one of the most awaited parts for most people's lives. There's a lot of things that you can encounter in college life, but you'll learn a lot of from the experience. I really think that everyone should go to college because of these good reasons: everyone will have a brighter future, people will have better opportunities, and a clearer perspective in their career.

One of the reasons why everyone should go to college is that they will have brighter future. When students go to college, they know the things that they want to learn for the job or career they want to have in the future. College will help them to offer more information about the things they want to study. Students can also plan their classes for the specific careers they want. It helps the students to be more prepared for the future. For example, college organizes a lot of students into talking about getting a career, this helps the students to decide on their desired course. Therefore, they

will surely have the knowledge for them to be inspired and prepared for whatever they want to achieve in the future. College really gives students the chance to have a brighter future in their life. Another reason is that everyone can have better opportunities in their life. Most of the people want a decent job, so they study well since high school. High school cannot give people everything that they need to know. For example, if someone wants to be a doctor, he or she can't learn all the important things she/he needs in order for her/him to be a doctor.

Yes to College.... Con't

“Students can get clear perspective in their career when they go to college.”

Therefore, the best thing to do is to go to college, and it will provide the most up to the least important to whatever course someone likes.

College will give you a wide knowledge on which specific things that a person wants to know. Also, when students graduate from college, most of them get hired easily for a job, especially if they have graduated from a good college or university. Therefore, a lot of big opportunities are waiting for those who graduate from college.

Lastly, students can get clear perspective in their career when they go to college. For the reason that they will know if they are capable of the job they want by taking college subjects and college exams. These exams will help them to determine if the course that they want fits their personality and knowledge. Students can also identify whether they are going to survive the career they want to have in the future. For example, students want to have enough learning in the field of their course because they want to be sure that they really fits on that specific career. College gives a lot of tests, if they don't pass them, then the students might not be capable of that kind of work. They can immediately ask for advice for the career that really fits them. Therefore, they are not going to mess up in the future. College will help them to be sure of their perspective in career of a job they want to have in the future.

Generally, college is a big factor in success. There's a lot of benefits that everyone can redeem by going to college such as; brighter future, better opportunities, and clear perspective in life. However, success still depends on how a person is going to decide their future.



Technology Weakens Communication

Nawal Rafla, L3

Professor Johanna van Gendt

“Our technology has exceeded our humanity.”
—Albert Einstein

“Technology is a queer thing. It brings you great gifts with one hand, and it stabs you in the back with the other” (Charles Percy Snow). Technology highly impacts our society. In fact, every part of our lives is affected by technology.

Social skills are not an exception. Technology has negative effects in physical activity, communication with others, and communi-

cation in families. Using more

technology leads to less physical activity. Nowadays, people are staying in front of their computers for a long time. As a result, they are not doing many activities in their lives. For example, they are not going to the parks or gym which allows them to meet others and communicate.

Therefore, they are becoming lazy and not living healthy lives. They are wasting time on technology instead of exercising. When peo-

ple spend too much time in front of the computer, they isolate themselves from others, and also hurt their communication with others.

Smart technology steals our ability to communicate with others. Many people communicate with each other through technology rather than in person. For example, some people text others without knowing who



Technology Weakens Communication ..con't

“With more technology, our communication skills are becoming weaker.”

they are. They also do not know if those people are good or bad. Moreover, since they are not communicating face-to-face, they might not react appropriately. For instance, if a person asks for advice through text, most of the time he/she won't receive good advice. Therefore, when people only communicate through technology, they may have trouble making real friends in life. People who depend on technology in their free time are losing the communication in their families. Technology enters every house which puts a distance between parents and their children. For example, when children have free time, they prefer to spend it in front of the computer instead of staying with their parents to talk. Therefore, they are missing a real conversation between each other. Since they spend more time playing on computers, they are losing focus on what is important. Children can easily become distracted from their school work which can hurt families. In this way, technology destroys communication between parents and their children. Overall, communication in person may be considered an old fashioned idea, but it is very important. Even though technology has some advantages in life, it has negative effects on people's socialization. People struggle to make real friends and become isolated. Depending on technology leads people to lose out on what is important. Additionally, families are not communicating as well as before. With more technology, our communication skills are becoming weaker.



Animals are such agreeable friends—they ask no questions; they pass no criticisms.
--George Eliot

Emotional Support Animals

John Diossa, L3

Should emotional support animals be allowed on campus? Emotional support animals are used to improve the mental health of students, but there are more effective ways to treat this kind of illness. Also, emotional support animals have a strong negative impact on students including their living conditions, their increased responsibilities, and their academic performance overall.

One reason that emotional support animals have a negative impact on the students' living condi-

tions is that the animal will damage the property of the campus. For example, an animal has physiological needs such as urination. These natural processes will cause the carpets to get stains and get damaged. Also, it will release odors, making the students' living conditions uncomfortable. In addition, most animals have wild instincts, and a small room would not be the right place for them to develop freely, making this kind of support as unfair for animals as it is for students. Also, animals are a source of certain infections or parasites including fleas, rabies, and for many people the animal's hair can cause allergies. Besides mak-

Professor Lauren Drew

ing the living conditions uncomfortable, this kind of support could put the student's health at risk.

Second, the student's responsibilities will increase dramatically because a pet demands a lot of time. They need to be fed and walked constantly throughout the day. Also, the students will have to pay for the expenses regarding their pets, such as food and vet visits. This would be a problem because most students don't have enough funds or financially depend on their parents.



Emotional Support Animals..con't

This means that they would have to share the money that is supposed to be used on their own expenses with their pet's needs.

In addition, one of the biggest responsibilities is that they would have to pay for the damages that their pet causes on campus. This shows that the increase of responsibilities will be physically and economically demanding and as a result, instead of helping the student's mental illness, this kind of support can cause stress and make it worse.

Third, the students will have to divide their priorities between their pet and their academic obligations, causing their academic performance to decline. Additionally, students will not have enough time to complete their tasks such as doing homework or studying for tests because a pet demands a lot of attention. For example, a dog should be walked at least twice a day and be constantly fed. Also, the pet would be a source of distraction because of all their needs and their natural wild behavior. This means that the students will not be able to concentrate as well as they could if they didn't have a pet. This lack of concentration will cause the students to not reach their academic goals.

Many people believe that this kind of treatment is the best option for mental illnesses. However, is it really helpful for students to have pets on campus? This kind of treatment causes negative results on students and it will divert them from their true purpose of going to college, which is to obtain a degree. Also, it is unfair for animals because a campus is not an ideal environment for them.

In conclusion, emotional support animals shouldn't be allowed on campus because it has negative effects on students both physically and academically. Students should improve their mental health with more efficient treatments such as exercise, good nutrition, and in the most extreme cases, prescription drugs. Unlike comfort animals, these kinds of treatments don't affect the student's academic performance.





Technology has given people an uncomplicated way of communication.



The Sexting Phenomenon

Amminadad Gonzalez, 14

Over the past of the years, technology has involved people's lives in a way nobody thought possible. Technology has given people an uncomplicated way of communication. According to a survey conducted by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy in 2008, it was found that 39% of teens and 59% of young adults are using diverse applications of technology as the media to send explicit photos to

their partners or friends by text messages to enhance the relationship and sexual satisfaction. Sexting is promoting numerous of consequences such as, the end of relationships, emotional problems, and legal issues.

One of the consequences of sexting includes the loss of relationships. People who send or forward nude or private photos to others have the disad-

Professor Chandridat Persaud

vantage of experiencing embarrassment. Once a person sends an explicit photo to someone, there are no guarantees that the photo is going to remain safe, so if that person forwards the photo to another, the sender can pass through a hard time of embarrassment. Additionally, sexting causes revenge. For example, if a relationship broke up or a friend became angry, the picture that a person has sent is at risk to be forwarded to other people as revenge. Perhaps, sexting makes people distance themselves. As soon as the people

receive the nude picture, they are going to feel fear of being with a targeted person because they feel they are going to lose their reputation, as a result they isolate themselves from the sender.

Another consequence of sexting involves emotional problems. Sexting makes people feel depressed and frustrated. When people start pointing, criticizing, and isolating themselves, that is going to make the targeted ones feel lonely, vulnerable and exposed. An explicit photo forwarded to friends can also expose a person to be bullied. Along with bullying comes death. For example, an eighteen-year-old girl named Jesse Logan sent nude pictures to a boyfriend. When they broke up, he sent them to other high school girls. The girls were harassing her, so she felt miserable, and two months later, Logan hanged herself in her bedroom. This devastating example shows how sexting leads to bullying and bullying results in death. People who are bullied feel that they have nothing to live for in life. Therefore, they commit suicide.

Equally important, sexting leads to legal issues. A teen who is sending explicit photos is at risk of exposing his or her parents to legal consequences. If the parents know that their child is sexting with someone and they do not do anything to end it, they can be charged for contributing to the abuse of a minor.

Parents can also be in danger of losing their child. They can be under investigation if they do not stop their child from sexting. A person who is sexting and is related to child pornography can be registered as sex offender. It is against the law to retransmit a copy of a photo of a minor or a private image to another person. Moreover, not only the sender, but also the recipient may face charges for contributing to the delinquency of a minor. For example, in 2009, a Fort Wayne, Indiana teenage boy was indicted on felony obscenity charges for allegedly sending a photo of his genital to several female classmates. Distributing explicit photos can cause severe legal consequences.

To summarize, sexting drives several issues that can place someone in danger. This type of sex-text is causing serious problems on people's lives. People must be careful with the messages they forward to

someone because if not they can experience many headaches and stress. In order to stop sexting people should be informed, and talk to our children about this type of sex-text, so they do not undergo an experience of embarrassment, harassment, and emotional disorders.

Distributing explicit photos can cause severe legal consequences.

Fathers' Absences

Narges Gerges, LA

Professor Chandridat Persaud

People face serious problems in their lives. Although problems exist in all stages of life, there are some people who are exposed to more problems such as children who are raised in single-parent families. Fathers' absences are a devastating issue in the society because it leads to generating financial issues, having emotional troubles, and producing social problems.

The first effect of absentee fathers includes generating financial problems. First, children who are raised in single-parent families suffer from low income; namely that, the mothers are the only bread winners, so children suffer from lack of money. Second, due to low income, single-parent's children live in a below average class. As a result, this negatively influences their lives because they live a hard life. For these reasons, the mothers cannot keep up with the financial obligations of their children, so their children cannot grow happily because their needs will not be fulfilled. For these reasons, the lack of a father's presence creates financial obstacles in his children's lives.

Another result of truant fathers comprises having emotional issues. Children in single-parent families suffer from lack of care because it is hard for mothers to work and care for their children at the same time. Also, children suffer from low self-esteem because they feel that they miss the most important source in their lives which is the presence of their fathers. Moreover, children feel stressed because they cannot fulfil their emotional needs. Thus, fathers' absences harm their children's emotional lives.

Perhaps, the most serious result of fathers' absences involves social troubles. For instance, children suffer from less family time because mothers work all the day to try to satisfy some of their needs. Besides that, children suffer from lack of supervision which causes misbehavior. As a result, children resort to inappropriate behavior such as belonging to gangs, using alcohol, or taking drugs. For these reasons, social troubles are a destructive result of fathers' absence.

In conclusion, the absences of fathers are a destructive problem in society. It can destroy lives because it leads to generating financial problems, creating emotional troubles, and producing social issues. Therefore, fathers should be aware of its devastating effects so they can avoid destroying their children's lives.





The use of computers is essential for the majority of subjects in education fields.

Learning about Computers

Elianny Casado, Exit Summer Enrichment

Professor Johanna van Gendt

Technology has become one of the most powerful tools around the world. It is being used for almost everything. Education is one of the areas where technology has become fundamental. The use of computers is essential for the majority of subjects in education fields. Some students do not know how to use a computer. They assumed that is professor's duty to teach them how to use technology. Unless it is a technology class, professors

do not have to teach students about computers. It should be students' responsibility because they can find resources, they will obtain accountability, and they will save time.

There are several resources where students can learn about technology. If a student is interested in learning about computers, he/she has to look for this resources. There are plenty of free resources available. For example, there are libraries with whole shelves about technology. There are computers labs on and off campus. Some people have

created a great number of apps such as YouTube where students can see countless videos. In addition, the majority of schools and colleges offer free tutoring. Moreover, students who do not know about computers can ask from those who know. Asking for help from their peers is not a difficult task. There is no excuse, students have the resources to learn about computers.

When students care about their own education, they become responsible. Taking responsibility for their own

learning prepares them for the unexpected, and for their future. Getting educated about computers is the most responsible thing students, who do not know about technology, can do for their own lives. For instance, if a student does not know about technology put effort and look for ways to learn, he/she will be proud and satisfied with his/her own achievement. Students who prepare themselves to learn about computers develop academic skills, which is the ability to do things well. Students need to do what they need to get done in order to be responsible.

Studying about computers off the classroom saves time. If students learn about computers out of the school time, they will obtain more time do what the subject requires. school time is limited, so students deserve to take advantage of every minute at school. As an illustration, if a Math teacher spends half of her time to lead the class talking about computes, she and her students will lose that time. Since "time is gold", teachers should not spend it talking about other subjects. Furthermore, saving time benefits both, the students and the professor. Students learn more about the subject they are into while teachers can lead their class without any interference.

On the other hand, some people believe that it is professor's responsibility to teach students about computers if their subject requires technology. They are



accustomed to leaving all the responsibility to the professors. A few parents blame teachers for the lack of knowledge their children have. Teachers can be flexible somehow. They can encourage students to care for their own education. It does not mean that professors are entirely responsible for student's learning.

In short, it should be students' responsibility to learn about technology. It will help them to be responsible and take advantage of the time they have in the classroom. It also will contribute to their future. Students have plenty of resources to learn how to use technology. If they want to learn, they can learn.



Partial Debt

Meet Sheth, Exit Summer Enrichment

Professor Johanna van Gendt

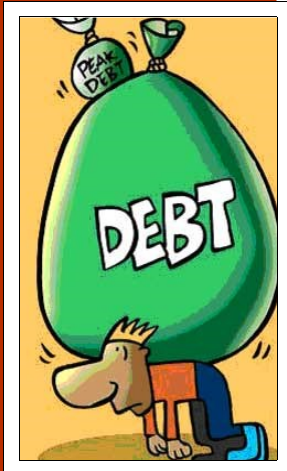
Education is very important in everyone's life. It is very expensive in the United States. Some bright students earn scholarships from their high school. However, other students who do not earn scholarships have to get loans from the state, banks or their colleges. Partial debt relief program is not a good idea for students who pursue time consuming and expensive degrees such as medicine and law. It is not good because it will affect students, it will be unfair for other students in other fields, and it will also affect colleges.

First of all, the partial debt relief program will effect students. They will become lazy. In partial debt relief program, schools give some time to find field jobs to their students. If students are not able to find jobs, schools give them some tuition fees back. Since students know they going to get money back, they do not put that much effort to obtain a field job. They tend to work whatever job they obtain and do not practice their profession. If students have law degrees, they have to practice almost everyday. Moreover, students start to forget their knowledge if they do not practice. When schools offer this program, students will not take this seriously and it will effect them when they acquire a job in their field. Thus, this program will effect students is a negative way.

Secondly, partial debt relief program will be unfair for other students in other fields except medicine and law. All colleges are expensive in the USA. It does not matter what colleges students go to or what degrees they want to obtain, it is always expensive. If colleges offer this program to the medicine and law degrees only, that will be biased for other students besides those who are in law and medicine. Every student pays a lot of money and puts a lot of effort to obtain a degree. Most of the students have to get a loan from somewhere, so if colleges only give some students their tuition fees back, it will be prejudiced for others. In short, this program will be unequal and unfair for students who are not in law or medicine.

In addition to affecting students and not fair to other students except medicine and





law, it will also create financial problem for colleges. Since college is giving tuition fees back, it can lead to a big financial problem in the future. Colleges need more people if they want to run this program. Since students have to show schools that they have been actively searching for employment in their fields, schools need more people to look for it to discover whether students are saying the truth or not. For all of this work, schools need to hire more people and it costs a lot of money. Briefly, if colleges offer partial debt

Partial Debt, cont...

relief program, they might have a big financial problem in the near future.

The opponents believe that this program will be good for both colleges and students. They think this program will motivate more students to seek a career in a law or a medical degree. However, it will not help either colleges or students. It will affect both in a negative way. It will also annoy other students except medicine and law. Colleges will face financial affairs.

Ultimately, partial debt relief program is

not a good idea for students who pursue time consuming and expensive degrees such as medicine and law. This program affects students in a negative way. They become indolent. It is also unfair to students other than law and medicine. This program also creates financial difficulties for the colleges, which is unfortunate. I think colleges should not offer partial debt relief program to the students.

Briefly, if colleges offer partial debt relief program, they might have a big financial problem in the near future.

Migration in the United States of America

Arturo Pinedo, L5

Professor Jennifer Fleisher



In this century, people tend to move from one country to another, or from one state to another. In the United States, many people move from rural areas to urban areas. Often people move and must leave behind family, lovers, and friends to pursue their dreams. There are many reasons why people move from their hometowns. Some of the causes of this migration are people wanting better jobs, better education, and more freedom.

The first reason why people migrate from rural to urban areas is to find better jobs. Most of the jobs in rural areas are in the agricultural industry. In these kinds of jobs the work is usually physically hard, and the pay is not adequate. In the urban areas, there are many more people, and, as a consequence, there are many more types of jobs. There are more jobs available in the service industries such as restaurants, hotels, and transportation which also allow people to collect tips making the pay better. Most large companies, like banks, or electronic companies like Google, or Apple have their main offices in cities. These types of successful companies provide many jobs that also pay well. As a result, many people move from rural to urban areas to find better jobs.

Often people move and must leave behind family, lovers, and friends to pursue their dreams.

The second reason why people migrate from rural to urban areas is to get a better education. In the rural areas, when young people finish high school, and they want to continue their education, they have to move to urban areas to continue their studies. The urban areas have colleges and universities where they can finish their studies whereas rural areas do not have those schools. People who want to get a professional degree in fields such as nursing, law, or medicine have to move to a city which has a university that has the program that they

want. People in the artistic fields like painters, musicians, and actors have to move to urban areas where they can develop their skills working with other artists and mentors. For example, musicians have to go to the city to go to school for music. In addition, they get to develop their skills by playing with other expert musicians. People in the entertainment industry like athletes, models, and dancers have to move to urban areas to become better at what they do. For example, athletes have to go to cities to play on better teams, have access to better

training facilities, and have better coaching to become great at their sport. Models have to go to cities to find a good agency that will develop their skills to their maximum abilities. Education is the second reason why there is a migration from rural areas to cities.

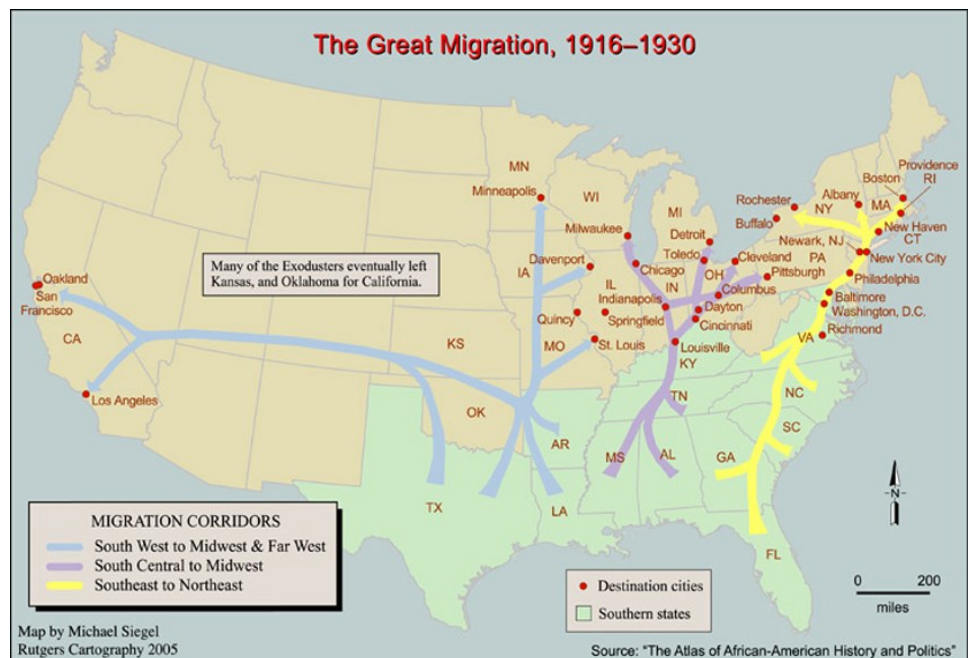
The last reason people migrate from rural to urban areas is for personal freedom. Young people move from the rural areas to become independent of their families. Moving to cities lets young people learn to live on their own. They learn to take care of themselves and pay their own bills. They

People move from rural areas to cities because they want to have the freedom to be themselves.

have freedom to do whatever they want to do without their families questioning every

thing they do. People move from rural areas to cities because they want to have the freedom to be themselves. For example, homosexual people might get discriminated against, or harassed in small towns and, consequently, they leave rural areas for cities where they will feel more accepted. Transgender people also have the same problems as homosexual people. In addition, they need special medical care which makes them more likely to move to cities where healthcare is available. People move from rural areas to have the freedom to follow their dreams. For example, someone who wants to be a singer has to move to a city to have the chance to become famous. Somebody who wants to be a magician will have to move to a city to have more chances to be able to perform and make money doing magic. Having more freedom is another reason why people migrate from rural to urban areas.

In America, people have been moving from lightly populated rural areas to densely populated urban areas for many reasons including finding better jobs, getting a better education, and having more freedom. As Brunson McKinley, the Director-General for the International Organization of Migration said, “If you don’t have migration you won’t be able to fill important jobs to keep the economy going.” On the other hand, migration will cause problems in cities as they become more congested. Also, rural areas will have fewer services and skilled people available for the people who remain there.



The Differences between Local Food and Imported Food

Eugenio Hernandez, L5

Professor Jennifer Fleisher

In the United States, the Department of Agriculture estimated that local food sales were about US\$8.4 billion in 2015. Restaurants are incorporating local food into their menus giving the consumer its freshness. Local food is considered to be any food grown or produced within one hundred miles from the farm to the place where it will cook or sold. Eating local food can provide many benefits for people's health. Imported food in the United States has become one of the most consumed by Americans nowadays. However, imported food might not always be beneficial to people because it contains preservatives, which keeps the food from not going bad and the vegetables looking shiny. Local food and imported food have many differences including freshness, organic labeling, and cost.

First, the difference between local food and imported food is freshness. Some restaurants nowadays are using local food because it gives better flavor to the food. For example, local food is more beneficial because it can help to maintain a nutritional diet and rich in flavor. However, imported food is not as tasteful as local food. For instance, imported food has to travel for thousands of miles and it can lose the richness of its taste. Moreover, both local and imported food benefit from the process of freezing their products. For instance, local food producers can freeze their products when they harvest them within less than an hour which helps the crops to maintain their original flavor; on the other hand, imported food needs added chemicals, so, when food producer freeze their products the food does not get damaged in the thawing process. In short, local food

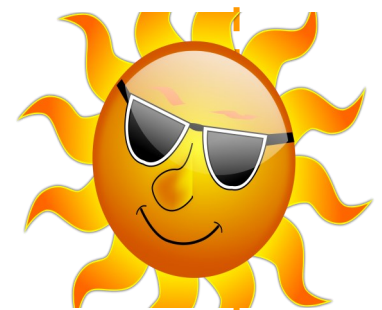
can benefit many people who choose to eat healthy.

Another difference between local food and imported food is organic labeling. Local food that is organic needs to be certified by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). To illustrate, these organic farms companies requires all organic food to meet the government standard, the farmers need to handle the growing, handling, and process. On the other hand, imported food companies can grow organic food as well, but because imported

food comes from thousands of miles away, the food will not be as fresh as local food. In addition, non-organic food is also found in local food with fewer chemicals. For example, local food has greenhouses to grow their crops with fewer chemicals. In contrast, imported food producers have been using these chemicals that can cause birth defects, breast and prostate cancer because the farmers infect their animals with hormones and antibiotics. Some of these toxic pesticides have been banned in the USA. For example, Atrazine and DDT

(dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane) are pesticides that have been banned in the USA, but these chemical companies still selling them outside the United States. In fact, local food can contribute to a clean environment and help to reduce global warming.

Finally, the most important difference between local food and imported food is cost. Local food is less expensive than imported food. For example, local food is transported within less than one hundred miles,



***Local farmers
are growing
their crops
using organic
methods.***

which means less gas is being used and it helps to maintain a cleaner environment. In contrast, imported food is extremely expensive because of where the food is being grown. For example, imported food is grown thousands of miles away or in a different country; therefore, the amount of fossil fuels that these companies are using on gas can cost a fortune. Furthermore, the quality of local food is better than imported food. For example, local food is more natural because the farmers focus on not using chemicals, which gives the local food more nutrients, and higher quality. However, the quality of imported food is not as fresh or as healthy as local food. For instance, imported food use numerous chemicals that can affect people's health in the future. In summary, the cost of local food is extremely inexpensive giving people the opportunity to have healthy meals.

In conclusion, the benefits that local food offers are freshness, organic labeling, and low cost. Local food provides people with better nutrition. Local farmers are growing their crops using organic methods. The cost of local food is less expensive because it grown within one hundred miles and the crops are fresher than imported food. Many people are now avoiding non-organic food because of what it its effects. Small local farms help to increase the economy. The government should imply to farmers the use of chemicals. People should consider their options before buying imported food and consider the importance of eating healthy by buying local food.



Why the Current Social Networking Sites Are Negative for Our Children

Reda Mastouri, L5

Professor Jennifer Fleisher

Social networking is what it sounds like. The sites are accessible to everyone all around the world. Ever since the appearance of the web 2.0, social networking sites have created more and more connections between different kinds of audiences such as students, social activists, travelers, or professionals. From file sharing and e-learning platforms to dating meetups, social networks have become more influential, pervasive, and widely used. Some argue that social networking sites are dangerous because they represent new forms of leisure. There are many young adults who spend energy at least part of their time sharing banned links or downloading illegal intellectual property. Indeed, as they become widely consumed, social networking sites have negative impacts on young people such as addiction, psychological damage, and victimization.

According to opponents of social networking, sites like Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and Google+ are used by teenagers for developing biographical profiles, sharing their chronicles with their peers, and enhancing communication around the world.

While that true general-networking slave people ing their the Internet. teenagers most of their frequently latest notifica-profile's wall, or their peers' activities.

From file sharing and e-learning platforms to dating meetups, social networks have become more influential, pervasive, and widely used.

with people with whom converge. may be ly, social sites en-by wast-time on Many spend time on checking the tions on their commenting on

Research has shown that media such as Tweets, Status on Facebook, pictures and videos on Instagram, LinkedIn, music on Soundcloud, Pinterest, hangouts on G+ and gaming through numerous social networks consume large amounts of the student's time when he's studying; the screen time spent on using those websites has a huge negative impact on their GPA's. Furthermore, ever since smartphones became mainstreamed, young people may be victimized by their negative use of social networking sites. Youth is exposed to many viral practices on social networks. Most of students do not take responsibility for what they share online and could be harmed by the offensive content of their virtual communities. As it happens, young people may lose control of their lives and could be manipulated by the appeal of hooligans and criminals; therefore, they can be prompted to involve themselves in many dangerous schemes. Because of their heavy use of social networks, teenagers tend to get entertained most of the time and in the end find themselves having lower grades which can ruin the formation of their careers.



Others argue that social networking provides young people with better opportunities to meet new people. This argument does not take into account the consequences of social networking use on a daily basis. Indeed, social networking and psychological illness are in all likelihood causally linked because they are tributes of the state of mental stability. Depression and anxiety are the first illnesses that can result from social networking site addiction. Moreover, those mental disorders can be associated with the feeling of loneliness and a self-centered personality; they might be correlated with the repeated routine of using a platform with a variety of identical views on the same repeated topics. The use of social networks leads to numerous mental issues such as the inability to maintain a person-to-person conversation. In the other hand, people who use social networking sites are more likely exposed to social isolation. The loneliness caused by anxiety or the passive consumption of social media can strengthen the feeling of disconnection and may tend to lower self-esteem and cause eating disorders.

Finally, some proponents of social networking sites say that the online friendships and social acceptance found through virtual communities reinforce prosocial and interpersonal interactions. The prosocial impacts on young people using social media can be seen in their heavy consumption of educational materials and their interaction with their peers on what concerns empowerment and leadership. Therefore, the argument put forth by people who think social networking sites are good for our children, could be a source of optimism; however, this is not valid. Social networks are used by many creepy gangs in order to commit crimes. Some criminals hire young adolescents and young adults to promote cyber robberies. Some gangs bribe teenagers to steal information from their online peers and partners. In addition to this, social networking site users are vulnerable to identity theft and phishing. Although children can endanger themselves by not understanding the public nature of social networking sites, their ignorance may lead to several hardships caused by the sharing of their birth date, the details of their daily lives, and more intimate personal details that should not be communicated to strangers. Moreover, social networking sites are a bridge to cyberbullying. Many young adults are exposed to pedophiles and cyber burglars such as black hat pirates who spread spammed information towards social media. Children can be prompted to engage in sexting crimes which can lead them to be arrested because of their ignorance of the laws and the materials that they share with unknown criminal cells.

It should be clear that many proponents who support the use of social networking sites for young people must study the drawbacks and social impacts of their passive consumption on our future generations. While social networking sites have negative effects on young people such as addiction, psychological damages, and victimization, parents have to make change by educating themselves disadvantages of social media in general. Thus, for teenagers not to abuse social networking, parents must guide and protect their adolescent children so that they can accept more responsibility for their online actions.



Freddy Sanchez-Mixed Media Art