

Highlights

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Saying Goodbye

Haya Aljardan
RW21

First place

It was a rainy Friday night. I closed my suitcase and went to my family home. I knew that this visit will be the last one for this year. I started thinking about what words to use to say goodbye to my heart and soul, to my laughter and tears. This painful feeling when you are saying goodbye to your family. My mother, my heart, I can't forget her warm arms. My father, my soul, every piece of advice from him still stuck in my memory. My siblings, my laughter and tears, I know that I can't find anyone who cares about my feelings like them. I took a couple of deep breaths to control myself when I will be leaving them. After all, I tried to say "goodbye," but I found myself saying "I will see you soon," with a big smile and a lot of tears.

Beautiful, Generous and Innocent Nature

Espoir Exauce Dofu Ndandou
RW5

Second Place

Oh beautiful, generous and innocent nature,
your immensity given to contemplate amazes us,
and as scholars,
we seek tirelessly to solve the puzzle of the conception
of your mysterious architecture that beautifies your contours,
becoming exquisite and dazzling

I am lost in the middle of your arteries
and swing my view dizzily across your indescribable
and admirable splendor,
which is constantly troubled

Oh beautiful, generous and innocent nature,
you saw me arrive at your feet,
as a grain of sand without consistency
and you welcomed me on your land
where it is nice to live:

forests, mountains, sea, animals of the earth and birds,

of your fruits you fed me
and as a child,
by your side I grew,
tasting the sweetness of the wind,
observing the charm of your seductive green
and feeling the heat of your sunny atmosphere

Oh beautiful, generous and innocent nature,
gentleness, affection and generosity are the keywords
proving the direction of your love
why abuse you?
why alter you?
why destroy you?

Oh beautiful, generous and innocent nature,
I am grateful to you for your loyal service
because my life depends on it
and you offer me the minimum subsistence
all are beholden to you

Oh beautiful, generous and innocent nature,
as an oath should I say that,
of your virtues I will always be a strong advocate,
so you shall keep your wonders,

The Nature of Florida is our strength,
this is the reason of the Gator 1
symbol of strength, patience and determination,
the color green reflects the choice of our commitment
to your beautiful landscape and retain its original shape,
this is our honor

Oh beautiful, generous and innocent nature,
today I lift my voice and strongly appeal
that our ultimate fighting is to protect you
because you deserve it and this would be
our token of gratitude and respect.

I love Nature and I dedicate these words to you, an expression of
my commitment to protect.

Learn from Your Pain

Esraa Moazzen
RW41

Every one of us has had difficult conditions in our lives. Some people overcome these conditions, and some people do not. I had a difficult condition and I thought my life would be over. I can't forget that day, and how my mother was. We were living in Egypt because my father opened a company there. We had that days a vacation "Muslims AlFeter break" All my family in Saudi Arabia decided to come to Egypt to spend the celebration with us. After the vacation finished, my family went back to Saudi Arabia, and my father also because he had some work to do. The next day my sister felt sick. She had only a fever, and my mother called our neighbor who was a doctor and he had a pharmacy under our apartment complex. He gave my mother medicine and said, "Everything will be ok". At midnight I told my mother to take my sister to the hospital to be safe. She took my sister with my older brother. I remember it was 2 am I was waiting at home with my younger brother. At 2:30 am my mother called me, and she was crying and she told me, "Your sister died!" She was only 3 years old. It was a horrible year for me and my family. But that year, I changed many things in my life, namely, I made decisions that made my life more important, allowed me to I overcome this condition, helped me change the bad effects to good and better effects.

First, after my sister died, I took care of my family. I'm the oldest sister, so always I should be with my brothers and I tried to build a good relationship with them. My mother slept often and when she woke up, she was crying. I did all that I could do to be with her and not leave her alone. I felt that I was alone and no one was with me. I was very scared. I always asked myself what I should do, and what the future holds for us. I decided to start new beginnings and not look to my past. I decided to write all my feelings, both bad and good. When I want scream and say enough, I'll write it on my paper. Every day I wrote my feelings for 2 hours a day. At that time I realized that my new hobby is writing. One of my friends is a journalist at a Saudi newspaper. He suggested to me to share my articles in newspapers or magazines. I sent him some articles and he published them in the newspaper that he works for. One day a journalist called me from the Saudi Embassy in Cairo and said, "We want you to be a writer for the Saudi Embassy and Saudi student magazines." I was shocked! I didn't realize that my hobby would become like a dream come true for me. As a result of writing, I became a new person with a new hobby, and new positive feelings. Because of writing, I became the youngest journalist in Saudi Embassy magazine for 4 years.

Next, from childhood, I had hoped to learn how to play piano. I decided to learn to play piano. I thought that music would control all my bad feelings, and would be possible to express my

feelings when I touched the keys on the piano. I was right. When I touched the piano and started playing, I felt like I was in a different world. For this reason, my decision to learn piano was 100% right, because it converted all my negative energy into positive energy.

Finally, after 6 months of the death of my sister, I graduated from high school. The hardest decision was how I should tell my parents that I wanted to continue my bachelor degree in journalism. They wanted from me to continue my bachelor's degree in medical school, and I didn't want to. My parents thought that I could take courses in journalism and there was no need to study in college. So the big decision was that I applied for business school instead of medical or journalism schools. My parents were mad at me, but then they knew why did it that because I don't want to be a doctor. I was very sad at the beginning, but when I started school, my goal was "I want to be a good student, and I want to graduate with a high grade," and I did it! I graduated with very good grades. Consequently, I become a daughter who my parents were very proud of. Even though I didn't like my major, my goal was I want be a great student.

In conclusion, I am a hero for myself. Yes I am a hero. Because I overcame my bad situation, and become a good daughter, sister, and wife. As a result, they were very proud how I was with them; at the same time I didn't forget myself. I felt like Nelson Mandela. We should learn from our pain. No one in this life doesn't have any difficult conditions. But the perfect person heals this pain with positive effects and becomes a new, better person. Each person will live only one life. Because of that, we must enjoy this life with all the details. Every one of us should put goals in our lives, and do them. Nothing is impossible. We can ignore all our bad feelings and put instead good feelings. We should know "behind every pain there is a successful person."

My Goal

Asim Najmi
RW35

I was born in the proper place to be a pharmacist. Many events have occurred over my life which made me decide to be the one who works to change the health system in my country and one who believes that gene therapy will change the world. I was born in a place that is unknown to most of the world. The government has a low budget for infrastructure; there are few hospitals and health workers. All these things have made this area most susceptible to epidemic diseases.

One of these diseases was the one which changed my life, Rift Valley fever. The disease spread in September 1999 and everything changed around me. People were afraid of each other and no one was close to each other and no one talked with others. Everyone was afraid of everyone else. Disease changed people's habits. The

situation was like war. But the real problem was that no one knew what was really happening: a lot of cases but no one was able to know what the disease was.

December 2, 1999 was the day that will never be forgotten in my memory. One of my friends had been infected. I decided to visit him with my dad. When I arrived there, I was prevented from seeing him but after while I was allowed in his room. When I saw him, I cried. My old friend was just 11 years old and I was a child, too. I was very scared and very worried when I saw my friend surrounded by emergency medical equipment. So, I ran away. When I ran, I landed on one of the medical team members and I fell to the ground. But he did not get angry at me. Instead, he sat down next to me and asked me what was bothering me and why was I crying.

I told him the story. He smiled at me and told me not to worry about my friend. He said he was a pharmacist and that he would do anything to make him recover even if he had to create a new medication. My friend recovered but more than 120 others died due to the Rift Valley fever. Many people felt grief for their friends, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, or wives. I knew how they felt because I was one of them. Because of that I decided to be a pharmacist.

My dream to be a pharmacist stayed with me throughout my studies in high school. I was looking for universities that teach pharmacy and various programs in the study of pharmacy, but the school which attracted me was the one that had a new program, Taif University. The program of Pharm. D, was competitive, but I was able to enter the program as one of the first batch in that program. During my studies I trained in a number of large hospitals in Saudi Arabia and I have believed through my work and studies that proper treatment cannot be effective. There is a genetic map of the human being. However, in my country we do not have a Genetic map and this is a very large weakness in gene therapy. It is true that, the specialty is new, but I believe that, it's the future of drug treatment and it's the keys that will change the world. When I graduated from the University of Taif, I decided to turn to the field of gene research and applied to work in Jazan University. It was a competitive process, but I got the job. And now I'm here at this point, tougher and more determined to achieve my goal. I really believe that gene therapy will be the solution to many diseases and I believe I'll be on the research team which will change the concept of gene therapy.

An Important Decision in My Life

Cheryl Hwang
RW 41

I made a decision this year, which could destroy my life so far, and it also could be a chance to be reborn. I eventually had quit my job from a position as a manager and decided to come to the U.S.

for my American dream. Now that I am here at UF in Gainesville, my American dream has come true. I had been working in an advertising company for three years. The normal and well-known scenario of advertising industry was every employee was crazy for working hours and hours. We usually didn't take rest for the whole week or even a couple of months. Despite that, I learned a lot and had grown mature more, but hard working like a workaholic had made me lose many things. I can say that I love my job – yes, I do – so much. However, I want to divorce my job. I don't want to spend my entire life working in that horrible situation!

One of the main reasons that I quit my job was my sleep disorder. Due to this problem, my immune system had been getting worse, and I would easily catch fevers. I sometimes fainted when I got home at midnight. I even couldn't remember how I persisted in planning my projects or socializing with my clients all day. The most important process of my work was planning, organizing and controlling. I needed to be sensible, clear-headed, and definitely healthy. Particularly when I was trying to sleep. I was thinking about my projects, creative ideas, my clients, and the priority of my tasks the next day. The doctor had advised me to take a long break to recover my weak physical and mental problem. It sounded ridiculous, but seriously, I wanted to be alive!

Another reason that I considered is lack of manpower and my heavy workload. I could not have done better if I had been working like no holidays, no vacations, and never well sleep. We had a very high turnover of staff because of the normal working surroundings. Yet, nobody enjoyed the bustling working pace. My life just had jumped into chaos and madness. The most exaggerated instances were that I didn't have leisure time to hang out with my friends, I didn't have time to relax and find inner peace, and I didn't get along with my parents even though we're living together. My bedroom was described like a hotel. There were always over 15 to 30 tasks on my schedule, including trifles. I wasn't afraid of challenges or difficulties. I was scared I had missed a lot of things that I wasn't aware of.

Furthermore, the significant reason that I wish I would never mention again is that I broke up with my boyfriend. We'd been together for 5 years and both worked in the advertising industry. Once I had wished that we would have a studio linked with lounge bar someday. It's not surprising to hear the accident. Put plainly, I made this mistake by myself. I seldom took care of him, and I didn't tell him that I loved him so much when I was terribly busy. People often don't appreciate what they have until they lose it. And he, my lover, just had gone without any words.

The last reason is I have found out is that I needed to undertake advanced studies for improving working abilities. Many of my partners told me I was too old to do so. I had plucked up courage and gave up the opportunity of promotion. I was eager to go to the U.S. for learning. Studying abroad and having experience in America will make me a more flexible, independent, and complex thinker. I will learn different cultures, and learn to be

more successful as a result. I will learn to be adapted and take adaptive attitudes toward foreign cultures.

Overall, leaving the horrible situation, now I'm trying to live a different lifestyle on my own. I will have grown mature and full of happiness! Thanks to those experiences that happened before, they are extremely precious and valuable. No tears, no fears. I just keep moving on and learning with pleasure. I believe after lots of effort and with difficulties, I will become mature and be full of happiness, I will encounter more challenges and difficulties, and my American dream is not a dream but also must be put into practice! I am happy though!

Tiny-Big Thing

Marianna Caputo
RW44

Normally the grey things are bad,
Bad days that makes you sad,
But that doesn't happen inside my bag,
When my mechanical pencil is inside that.

Long, very long, just for my hand is,
But don't say it out loud, because that would be so mean,
For that little tiny thing,
That always teach me how a good letter has to be.

The erases for the eye's world are like broken bones,
Because they trash it everything that you have done,
It doesn't matter with my pencil, that is so fun,
Because correct me the things that are very wrong.

Its smell is weird,
But don't say it, that would be so mean,
Because everything that I have ate,
Sticks on my tiny thing.

There is a lot of special things in the world,
And my mechanical pencil is one of those,
Because let my imagination flaws.

Message in a bottle

Thiago Fernandes Bernardes
LS31

Hi there,
I am in a place
Where: selfishness is more important than altruism.

Where: where psychological diseases are common.

Where: the majority of people say this sentence,
"Time is money."

Where: people spend a long time texting on the phone or on the computer.

Where: people prefer to be involved in a war than to make a dialogue.

Where: people avoid going out of their homes because there is violence.

If you find this letter, please rescue me!

Atonement

Asim Najmi
RW35

My best friend had a hard situation... Hassan is my best friend. He was living a good life with his wife and sons. He was working as a fire fighter. One time, when he was doing his job to help people from a building fire, the fire surrounded him, so he jumped off the building. He was not unconscious. He did not get in comma and that was a miracle. People thought he was okay. In fact, he was not. When he arrived to hospital to do a regular diagnosis, they found that Hassan couldn't walk again. But the doctor told his family that there is a chance, but not here. He told him the only chance was in a hospital in Germany. They could do a surgery to help Hassan to walk again. However, Hassan family's was not rich to help him. They were too poor to pay for that. His father was too old to work and his son was too young. His friends tried to collect money for him, but that money was not enough. No one was able to help. After a week Hassan received a call from a strange person, who heard of Hassan's story and wanted to help him. That stranger was rich and he told Hassan he wanted to atone for his previous sins. After a week Hassan traveled to Germany and did his surgery. Now Hassan works on his physical therapy.

My Life in My Country and My Life in the U.S.

Cheryl Hwang
RW41

"I have an American Dream?" That's what most young boys and girls say. Is it truly wonderful as a dream for me? When I was little, many classmates would like to make wishes about traveling or studying abroad in the U.S. If some of them did so, it meant their dream came true. However, travel as a vocation might be easier than being admitted to study in the U.S. I've worked for 6 years since I graduated from University. I finally made the significant

decision to go to the U.S. on Feb. this year. Let's think about dream big and don't afraid of challenges. Let's try to live a different lifestyle on our own, after lots of efforts and with difficulties, I've grown mature and gained full of happiness.

Now I am here living in Gainesville, Florida. How beautiful it is! My dream comes true! I like the weather so much, white clean clouds and blue wide sky, the sun always shining. While I got an allergy and pouring rain sudden came across that made me wet, I like the surroundings in Gainesville. Except for the weather, there are some other differences between my country, Taiwan, Taipei and Gainesville.

The distinct difference is the lifestyle. In my country, Taipei is a modern city which has many tall buildings crowded with people and traffic. The streets are always noisy. I usually walk very fast, and I got used to living at a tense pace. Some friends from other cities have mentioned that they don't like Taipei because living in Taipei is more active and competitive, and they feel uncomfortable. Living in Taipei city makes a person anxious all the time. Instead, Gainesville is a rural area, full of green trees and lakes. I can walk slow and take my time to plan my next step. No wonder I've heard a lot of people said that Gainesville is the best place to live after retirement. The atmosphere around Gainesville is quiet and relaxed, free from stress, anxiety, and also without worry and tension. Furthermore, the cost of living in Gainesville is cheaper than living in other cities.

Another difference is entertainment. In Taipei city, I can have so much fun, such as karaoke, movie theaters, nightclubs, exhibitions, and department stores. Also, there are various kinds of restaurants where I can choose whatever I want to eat, like Japanese food, American food, Thai Food, Korean food... etc. I don't need to worry about having nothing to eat at night because Taipei has 5-6 night markets open till 4:00 a.m. or even till 8:00 a.m. for the earlier breakfast. If you lived in Taipei, it would never be impossible to find any food to eat! In contrast, Gainesville has less entertainment. There are some well-known amusement parks, but it's not convenient to get there. If I want to go to Universal Studios, I should plan before. Moreover, I have started to enjoy doing housework for my leisure time as an entertainment. For example, I wash dishes every day, I do the laundry twice a week, and I clean my room almost every day. These are the chores I seldom did when I lived in my home country. One of the interesting things is cooking. I usually invite friends to come to my house to cook together or have potluck at someone's house. Despite less entertainment, the most pleasurable thing about living in Gainesville is exercise. I can go to the gym and watch the football game with friends. Both of living in Taipei and Gainesville I feel joyful, but living in Gainesville has made me more independent and feel at ease.

The last difference between Taipei and Gainesville is traffic. As I mentioned before, Taipei is crowded with traffic, cars, motor bicycles, and buses all rushing on the roads. Other than the traffic, the public transportation is very convenient. It isn't ever necessary

to buy a car. We have Railways (trains), MRT, the Mass Rapid Transit, and HSR (the High Speed Rail), which only takes 40 minutes or 1.5 hours travel from south city to north city. The particular scenario is that numerous yellow taxis drive to exceed the speed of limit competing with buses and motorcycles; sometimes you have to watch out not to be hit by them. Instead, Gainesville has wide and long road. Residents can rent or buy a car to go to different places. Gainesville doesn't have trains or mass transit system. Most Taiwanese students will buy a car to take care of each other, it also makes many Taiwanese happy to drive because they don't have to worry about the dangerous traffic. On the contrary, they can take easy to go to the supermarket, restaurants, and everywhere they want to go by driving cars. Taipei has little air pollution caused by the crowded traffic, so I like to breathe the fresh air in Gainesville more.

In conclusion, living in Gainesville has lots of differences from living in my country, I have realized that studying abroad and having experience in America makes me a more flexible, independent, and complex thinker. I will learn different cultures, and learn to be more successful as a result. I learn to be adapted and take adaptive attitudes toward foreign cultures. Now I try to live a different lifestyle on my own. I believe after lots of effort and with difficulties, I'll become mature and be full of happiness! I think the American dream is not a dream but also must be put into practice!

Magic Equation

Asim Najmi
RW35

One day in Gainesville, Florida, USA, when John and Ann were studying math in the university library, they tried to solve a mathematical equation. That equation was a magic equation that can allow them to transport through time using a computer. They tried a lot of times but they did not get the solution. One time when Ann was working alone on the equation she did it. She got the answer. She did not wait to tell John, no, she tried alone. When she wrote the equation in the computer, the color on the screen of the computer changed and transported her to another time. When she woke up, she found herself in a prison ship. Ever thing was different. It did not look like as in the movies, no, it was different. After she woke, they took her up the ship deck to decide what they should do for her. She looked in trouble. Finally, the pirates decided to kill her by throwing her into to the ocean. When she fell, she was backed again to the future. And she made a promise to not tell anybody, especially John, about what happened and how to solve the equation.

What Counts as Impolite Behavior in Japan

Hiroke Tateyama
RW 30

In Japan, an example for impolite behavior is people use cell phones to talk in the train. People can't be noisy in public places. A train is a closed place, and if someone speaks loudly, other people may feel bad. In Japan, the general rule is you don't disturb other people. There is one more thing similar to the case of the train, and that is people don't do makeup in a train. Because some women don't care about other people, they do makeup in a train. But makeup is a private thing, so don't do it in a public place. These are some of the impolite behaviors in my country.

Adapting In the United States

Lyan Almasoud
RW41

I'm 7,180.22 miles away from my country. It's very hard for a young, unmarried Saudi girl to live away from her family. It's almost impossible. I'm a girl who wants to be distinct and not just a successful person, but a woman with value. I struggled with my family to travel all of the way to America to continue my education, to learn about cultures, and to live. I tried so hard to convince them to accept my decision. Unlike other families, my family are strict and stick together, but they said yes. I was too busy convincing my family I didn't have the chance to think about how I was going to adapt there. Living in the US differs from Saudi Arabia, especially for me because everything is new and different to me.

First, here I can wear whatever I want, not what I'm supposed to. Women in Saudi Arabia have to wear an Abaya, the women's national costume that covers her from being seen by men. Any woman who doesn't is considered to be breaking the law. The Abaya is usually in black. However, my Abaya was very fashionable and vibrant. Also, I didn't have to wear something nice when I'm in a hurry. In America, the government doesn't require special clothes to wear either for women or men. Anyone can wear whatever they please. At first it was weird, but now I'm getting used to it. Even though I don't wear the Abaya anymore, I'm still the respectable girl that I used to be.

Second, In America, I can communicate with both genders. In Islam, women should protect their chastity and purity for their future husbands. Since all Saudis are Muslims, everything is separated from the other gender-namely, gyms, schools, and sometimes work. On the other hand, since I got to Gainesville to enhance my English skills, my classmates are both genders. Also,

when I went to the gym, it was also mixed genders. I wouldn't say that I'm not comfortable with this kind of change, but it's definitely a great experience.

Finally, In America, I have my own apartment. In Saudi Arabia a woman stays at her father's house till she gets married, and then she stays at her husband's house. Either ways, women should feel like princesses. Most houses have their own maids and drivers, which serves the women and makes their lives much easier. In contrast, in America, most houses don't have maids and drivers, except rich families. I have my own apartment now and I live alone, and it's something very rare. I'm struggling with my chores and all of the unpleasant cleaning and dealing with bus schedule and the fatigue from riding my bike. I'm enjoying it, though. Learning and doing something new makes me ecstatic.

Although I used to live in Jeddah city, where all open-minded people are, America differs a lot from it. My life has changed for the better and I feel that I'm taking more responsibility and learning about cultures and people more than just increasing my English skills. I appreciate my family's understanding for following my dream and every minute I'm here. Like a man in obscure movie once said 'A goal without a plan is just a wish'.

What Counts as Impolite Behavior in My Culture

Kawthar Al Matar
RW 30

In my culture, there are several things that are considered impolite. For instance, it's impolite to give someone your back when you sit in any place. Another example: it is rude to give somebody something by your left hand and similarly, when you take anything from someone, don't use your left hand. Also, you can't enter other people's house wearing shoes. You should leave it outside and wear what you are provided by the host. These are some of the examples for people to think about when they visit my country.

Real best friendships never end

Stefanie Alvarez
RW42

A popular saying is "A friendship that can end never really began." When we were kids, was easier just to say, "Hey, I want to be your friend?" And that's it. When we grow up it is more difficult because everybody needs a friend who have things in common and mutual understanding. A friend is a person that can always be with

you, in good times and bad times, a person who feels happy when you are happy and a person will help you when you are sad. You don't need to have a lot of friends, just with one or two is enough. But sometimes it is very hard to have a good friend for many years, to keep him\her with you. Some friendships have jealousy or they don't have enough time for each other or just people change. These factors can be the cause of the ending of a friendship maybe just for a little time... or forever.

First of all, everybody has one friend who is jealous. This is a bad factor. Being jealous is not good for have a good friendship because if somebody is jealous of you maybe you can't move on because this person can give to you bad advices. If you are happy, this person feels envy. It can be for money, objects, goals or other relationships. If your friend feels jealous because you have a boyfriend and you friend doesn't have one, it can cause that the friendship ends. Or maybe your friend steals your boyfriend or girlfriend. A good friend never do that. Is like a friendship rule, a good friend never try to flirt with your boyfriend. Your friend should treat this person just like a friend. If this "friend" steals your girlfriend or boyfriend, it causes the friendship to end. Because you can't be friends with someone who is jealous of you or is trying to steal your couple.

Another thing that may cause friend moves to other city or country and the other one doesn't, so the person who moves doesn't have enough time and they don't talk very often and little by little the friendship end. If they were real friend this isn't going to happen. For example, I have two best friends in Venezuela and I moved to United States one year ago. They are still my best friends, we always talk with each other but, I have other friends who I never talked again because we are very busy, we have things to do; maybe they aren't my real friends. Other factor can be beginning a new job or college. One of the friends who begins college or new job can be very busy. This person has many things to do so doesn't have enough time for talk, get together and the friendship can end. Other cause can be have a new couple, get married or have a baby; is easy to forget about the world when this happens but, you need to have in your mind that your friends and dedicate some time for them. If the person doesn't have enough time and forget about her or his friend is probably the friendship end.

Finally, one of another cause is that people change, this happen very often. Is normal to people don't like the same in the all life, they always going to change and is part of being a human, but in a friendship if the changes are radical the friendship can end. For example, I had a best friend her name is Valeria. We always were together. We studied in the same school so we saw each other every single day. We really liked went to party together. I remember we really liked dance and had fun. We had many things in common. We were 16 when our friendship ended. Before we don't like drink alcohol or take drugs we didn't need it for have fun, but one day she began to did it because she had a boyfriend who like to drinks a takes drugs so, she changed I talk to her many times about it but she really like to do it. She always was drunk and she decided

to not go to the school anymore and moved with his boyfriend this is not very common in my culture. So I decided to end our friendships because she changed. Now she is 19 like me and she is still doing this things.

Have friends is so important for our lives. They can become part of our family. They know all about you and they still love you. In my opinion a real friendship never ends and if ends is because it never was real. One example is Valeria she never was my real friend. If she was my friend now she would be still my best friend. In real friendship don't exist envy, jealousy or bad things. If is real you always going to have time for her or him. I know is sad end a friendship, but sometimes is for our benefit or just because it happen. Have a real best friend is a gift and you need to enjoy it every single day.

What Counts as Impolite Behavior in My Culture

Mohammed Al Matar
RW 30

In my culture, there are certain things that are considered impolite. For example, it is impolite if you enter any place without greeting the people there. Usually, you will give a bad impression of yourself if you don't do the greetings. Also, you are impolite if you ask some sensitive questions to, say, a woman about her age and weight. And it's absolutely impolite if you walk away when someone is talking to you. If you are planning to visit my country, be sure you avoid these impolite behaviors.

What Counts as Impolite Behavior in Venezuela

Norelquis Foung
RW 30

What counts impolite behavior in Venezuela? Venezuela has a Latin culture and Venezuelans are generally open-minded. Certain behavior, however, is still considered impolite. First, if you don't look at the person who is talking to you, you are showing that you don't care about what he or she says. Also, when you eat, you never eat with your mouth open because people don't want to see the food in your mouth. It is always important to say 'thank you', 'please' and 'good morning' because these are basic polite expressions.

What Counts as Impolite Behavior in My Culture

Meshari Almishri
RW30

In my country, there are certain things that you should not do because they offend people. For example, when you are sitting in the living room, don't give your back to any person behind you because this is really rude in my culture. And when you talk to someone, you look at him in his eyes but not elsewhere.

How to Make Kabsah

Kawthar Al Matar
RW 30

It is easy to make kabsah by just following these steps. First, wash the rice and soak it in warm water. Then use a sharp knife or kitchen scissors to cut the chicken in half lengthwise. In a small bowl, add coriander, cumin, salt and black pepper. Mix well. After that, put one tablespoon of spices that is prepared beforehand on the chicken and spread well to cover the whole chicken. Next, in a wide skillet, heat oil on medium heat. Add the onions and stir fry for several minutes until it becomes golden brown. Add chicken into pan and brown both sides. After that, add tomatoes, tomato paste, cinnamon and black pepper. Add water to cover the chicken and cook over medium heat for 50 minutes until cooked. Next, take the chicken out, place on a baking tray, and then add olive oil and a little turmeric. Then put in oven and bake for 15 minutes. Finally, put the amount of 4 and a half cup of broth in a saucepan to boil. Then add the rice and bring to a boil on the fire and let it bubble. Cover the lid and sit for 40 minutes. Let cool then serve. Now you have yourself a delicious dish of kabsah.

Different Ways to Take a Course

Mohammed Al Matar
RW30

There are two ways to take a course. You can study by taking a traditional courses or an online course. If you select the traditional way, you will study in a specific place; however, if you decide to study by online, you can study anywhere. Unlike studying online, you will meet your teacher face-to-face in a traditional class, and this will help your teacher make sure you understand the lessons. On the other hand, you will also have the chance to ask your teacher if you need help. Finally, if you study online, you will have a

problem if your Internet connection is interrupted. In contrast, you always can arrive to your class by using transportations available in your city. I believe the traditional way is the best way to take your course.

How to Save Money Living as a Student

Norelquis Foug
RW 30

Students need to save money, and the obvious option is to find yourself a roommate and share the utility bills and the cost of the food. It is so important that students buy their food in a supermarket because it is so expensive to eat out. When talk about transportation, it is cheaper to use public transportations; for example, riding the bus can save you hundreds of dollars than riding a taxi, which can easily cost you a fortune. If you have a car, you need to pay for the gas and insurance and your monthly expenses will skyrocket. Also, students need to shop less frequently to avoid impulsive buying. These are the tips for a student to save money and I hope they are helpful for you.

How to Find a Job

Mohammed Aljardon
RW30

There are many ways to find a job. One of the most common ways is looking at the local newspaper or run a search on the Internet. There are certain steps to go through until you find a job. First, write a good CV. It should be short and accurate, and contain all the information about you. Second, look around for jobs from a local newspaper, the Internet, friends and family. Finally, choose the job that suits you best and apply for it. These are the necessary steps in finding a job. Good luck!

The Advantages and Disadvantages of Shopping Online

Faisal Alhumaidi
RW30

Shopping online has many advantages and disadvantages. First of all, The Internet changed the world and online services make life a lot easier. One of the good things about shopping online is that you can shop from anywhere in the world. You can shop internationally in no time at all. Besides saving time, you can also have many choices. On the other hand, buying something online,

especially clothing, the disadvantage is you cannot try it on. Also, if someone hacks into your account, your money may be stolen. After all, you just need to be cautious when shopping online.

A Trip Like Hell

Ayane Kachinda
RW35

In 2010, in June, in Tokyo, my friend Mami and I traveled to Tokyo. The first day, we went to Shibuya. There were so many people. While we were walking the street, someone grabbed my bag. We screamed and we tried catching him up, but we couldn't make it.

The second day, we went to Roppongi at night, because we still wanted to have fun. When we were walking around, we encountered a Yakuza. He had a gun and he said "Your money or your life!" Then we gave all we had. As a result, we couldn't do anything that day.

The last day, we have been planning to go to Disneyland, we went to Disney with no money. And while we were walking to see Mickey Mouse, we saw that guy who stole my bag. Then we followed him and we got him. After that, we took him to the police. Finally, my bag got back to me, and we also got some money from the police as a bounty. We had a trip like hell.

Abdalaziz

Abdalaziz Alzbidi
RW22

My name is Abdalaziz. I have brown round eyes. I have black short hair. I am short and medium build. I don't have a dimple on my face or a mustache or a mole. I don't even have freckles. I am 32 years old. I have a belt. I am not wearing a ring. I am not wearing a necklace, and I don't have a watch. All in all, this is my description.

Do Not Be Selfish

Abdullah Al Subaie
GW

There is only one thing that makes all humans happy! It is a natural plant and it should be distributed everywhere all around the world to spread peace and love. Even though marijuana is illegal, it should be legal for two reasons: health and reducing crime.

There are many things that are legal and should be illegal like alcohol and cigarettes. Being on the same page these things and more things like these are higher steps if we compare between them with marijuana. Marijuana is healthier and it can take pains and stresses away. Also Marijuana can be used for health issues such as cancer.

People who use marijuana fight to find anywhere to smoke so badly. Sometimes they create several problems because they are not in a good mood. Just think about your atmosphere and other people's atmospheres. How would you feel if someone destroyed it without logical cause?

To sum up, making people happy around the earth is very easy and neutral if a small thing happens. If we look at this subject from another deep corner and make a deal with it.

The Reason People Attend University

Mohammed Alqarni
RW42

In Saudi Arabia attending the university was not necessary in the past. There was limited thinking about the education. The young people just wanted to find a job to get money to help their families. A lot of young people were from middle class families and their parents were illiterate, that meant the young people didn't get advice to attend the university. Also, at that time there was no awareness of learning. The country had seven universities. In contrast, today the situation has completely changed. The young people now have knowledge about the university. Also they have high ambition to continue their study. Also the country has developed higher education and established more than thirty universities at present time. The number of students who are attending the university at the present time is more than three times the number of students who attend the university in the past. There are three main reasons for this.

The first reason is to get a good job. The young people now start to think about their future and their lives. Everyone wants to get a good job and high salary to be able to have their own house and to be able to begin their lives without any problems. Also they want to work in the field who is interesting to work in it. For example, after my brother Abdulaziz finished high school, he attended King Saud University in Riyadh to study his bachelor degree in Chemistry Sciences for four years. After that, he graduated and he got a very good job in a big company in Saudi Arabia, with a high salary, and a chance to continue his studies because of his company.

The second reason is the young people want to develop themselves. A lot of young people now attend the universities because they want to do something different in their lives to do what they believe. On the other hand, some people attend the universities because they want to develop their job or change it to a better job or to a high position. For example, I attended King

Abdulaziz University in Jeddah to study my bachelor degree in media “Public relations” for four years. After that, I graduated and I figured out to find my chance to develop my job and my live because when I got high degree I will be able to get high salary that meant I will able to buy luxury car and luxury house. Then I got my chance to continue my master degree in USA. For this reason I left my job.

The last reason is family desire. Some students just attend the university because their family asked them that to have a high level of education, have a high level of thinking, and have high prestige in society. For example, Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmed is one of rich people in Middle East, he inheritance a lot of money after his father die. He attended the university and got the degree. Because he want show that he has degree just prestige. There are a lot of people like Sheikh Khaled bin Ahmed. Also there are some of people attending the university because they want some positions which require a university degree.

Attending the university has increased dramatically over the past ten years. There are several reasons I mentioned because get a good job, development, and family desire. I think attending the university at the present time is very necessary. Because at the present time the unemployment increase and getting a job has become difficult.

The Effects of More Funding for Education in Qatar

Mohammed Yousuf Al-Jabir
RW42

Education funding remains to be a big problem in Qatar. Qatari Students don't pay for the education in Qatar. There are more public schools in Qatar than private schools. The local government pays for the public schools. The government pays for many things. For example, they pay for buildings, teachers, staff, books, and uniforms. The local government controls the funding for the city. In Doha, the local government is responsible for the city's funding only. Qatar recently invested in education to develop it because Qatar doesn't have a strong one before. Some possible effects of more funding for education is the schools will have enough money to fund field trips, the schools will have new equipment, and teachers will have financial incentives.

Initially, the first effect of increase in education funding, students would be able to go on field trips. Field trips are great ways to exercise the students' ability to learn hands-on. Students will be more motivated to attend school. Field trips encourage enthusiasm for learning. For example, a trip to a museum of history would be most appropriate for a history class. One day when I was child my school plan to take us a trip to history museum with history teachers, that's helped us to understand the

lesson very fast because we use the senses. If a student is excited to attend school, they will be motivated to do well. Ahmad Al-Qalqashandi is an Arabic scientist, and he said people do their best if they like something. Ultimately, the grade point average of the students will be higher because the students like the school and the teacher and they have fun by taking them to school trip.

In addition, the second effect of increase in education funding is schools will have new equipment. The school will have a lot of equipment like projectors and computers. The projectors will make teaching easier and learning more interesting. The computers will help the students study with access to the internet so the students will have many ways to study in addition to paper study guides. In my reading and writing class the teacher lets us to write on computers that help us to find our spelling mistakes. The students will also carry less weight in their bags because the computers will have electronic book software. My old school used the laptops to teach the students, so we don't have to bring our bags or books. If there is more technology, potential students will be signing up to attend the school. Aljazeera School has many international students because it uses the technology to teach their students for example, tablets and smart board. Students will be encouraged to learn with access to modern technology.

Nonetheless, the last effect of increasing the funding in education is teachers will have financial incentives. The teacher will have motivated to teach. The government will raise their salary and they will have financial bonuses. People will want to become teachers and it will be a common job in Qatar. My uncle is a teacher in Aljazeera School he applied to be teacher after the government said they will raise the teachers' salary. Also, the teachers will teach the students very well because the teachers will have ambition. The teachers will do their best to give students a good education. For example, in Finland, teachers are paid as much as doctors. The schools in Finland are rated the best in the world because the teachers are paid so well.

Increasing education funding is important for the country, as well as the students. The country will develop by improving in education because the schools will successful students. The students will be motivated to learn. The teachers will want to teach well. No student will be left behind. Money is very important when it comes to education. The most obvious effects of more funding for education is the schools will be able to afford to take students on educational field trips, schools will have modern, up to date technology, and teachers will have financial incentives. In my opinion the government must increase the funding for education to develop the country more because if there are successful schools the students will be very intelligent, the students will be very important in the country; because they have strong certificate and knowledge.

Causes of Friendship Ending

Ohood Alyamani
RW 42

Having friends is one of the most beautiful relationships in the world. Friends are like a brother or a sister, friends you can trust, share dreams, have fun, and even tell them your secrets. Only the true friends do that, so we have to find the true friends. When I was in the high school, I had a friend; I told her a secret, but one day she told me she will disclose the secret to my mom. Then I feel so upset of her behavior. After that, I couldn't be her friend like before. This is an example of friendship ending. Friendship ending depends on many reasons.

Misunderstanding is the first reason for a friendship ending. If there are friends who are having a problem and they don't talk about it or try to fix it, then maybe the problem will be more complicated. Sometimes the problem is not that much and not very big if they try to fix it from the beginning. One day I went shopping with my friends and we decided to meet at Sephora, so I went there, but I didn't call them. I thought when they come, they will call me. I was wrong because they were waiting my call. That was misunderstanding because they felt sad, but after that, I apologized to them. Friends shouldn't be impatient or inflexible. Friends have to listen to each other and not judge friends by mistake.

Also the different way of thinking can cause a friendship to end. Some friends always have problems and they don't reach an agreement. This can be because of their differences in their ways of thinking. For example, when they have a topic to talk about and they don't reach to agreement every time, and sometimes they quarrel. In my English listening and speaking class I have two friends Dalal and Khaled. They are always fighting when we are discussing any topic about Saudi Arabia. For instant, one day they fight about what women can work in Saudi Arabia? Dalal said women can work everything they want, yet Khaled had different opinion; he said women cannot work well as men because they have to raise children and take care of their home. This is not a very big problem to have different ideas, but friends shouldn't fight because of that. Friends should respect each other's opinions. Another reason is when some people become your friends because they want something from you. This is very common in the universities and very uncommon in schools. Maybe because usually children in schools get along for many years and children can't think in a bad way. Their thinking is innocent and simple, but in the universities some people just think about their selves and can bring benefits for them. My sister told me all friends in the universities are not true friends. I know that maybe not exactly true, but it usually happen. However, when I was in the elementary school, one of my friends was like that. She talked to me just when she wanted my textbook or if she didn't do her homework. I really

don't like that type of friendship and I think she wasn't a true friend.

Leaving sometimes may cause a friendship to end. In the past, many friendships ended by traveling and their messages sometimes took months to reach, but now there are many ways friends can keep in touch. Their messages arrive at the same time by using the internet. Despite of that some people once they travel, they forget their past friends. Also, death can cause a friendship to end finally. It is the most painful ending especially if the dead person was your best friend.

Finding a true friend is a very big deal. If you have a true friend, you are very lucky. Don't lose your friend because of stupid problem. Every problem has a solution. We have to avoid all of these causes to save our relationship with our friends.

My Description

Abdullah Alanazi
RW22

My name is Abdullah. My eyes are black. I don't have a mustache. I have short black hair. My hair is straight. I am wearing glasses. I am wearing black pants and a blue t-shirt. I am wearing a black jacket and a blue backpack. I am wearing sneakers. I am middle-aged and I am average height. As you can see, this is my self-description.

1914 in a Little Town in England

Lorena Estephanie Garcia Ortega
Proyecta 2

In 1914, during the war, in a little in England was a young boy. He looked tired. His clothes were hotchpotched. He looked sad. He was looking for his aunt because his parents had died in the war. He escaped unscathed because a friend of his mother helped him, but she also died when the German's recently attacked. He remembered his aunt and was trying to find her.

One day he was walking in the street and he found a violin. He didn't know how to play, but he was so happy because it reminded him of his father who played the violin. He wanted to learn how to play it and practiced every day. He played in the street and strangers gave him money. In a few months he could play the violin, but he didn't always have enough for food or a place to stay. He didn't give up. He was bent on finding his aunt and kept crisscrossing the region.

As his playing grew, he became famous. In one of his appearances in public he saw a familiar face. It was a surprise. It

was his aunt. She looked different, but, "It's her," he thought. After his performance, he looked for her. It was a lovely reunion.

About Myself

Fatimah Alsaeed
RW22

I have a beautiful medium body and oval face. I am young. I am tall. I have brown eyes. I have a mole on my face. I have beautiful hair. My hair is long, straight, and brown. I am wearing a blazer, blue pants, and a beige scarf. I am also wearing a ring and a watch. I am wearing gray sneakers. I like my body and my hair because I am very beautiful and a good person.

Three Months Ago Was My Worst Day in My Life

Aishah Alamri
RW 22

Three months ago was my worst day in my life. It was Friday on August 19. It was my second day in Gainesville. First, I got up early. I had breakfast in the hotel. Then my brother and I went outside by bus because we wanted to find an apartment. After that, we got lost, and we didn't know any places. I was scared because I didn't have a car, and I didn't know a taxi number. Next, I went to the bookstore at 7:00 p.m., and I asked the cashier where the hotel was. After that, he gave me a taxi number. My brother and I got a taxi to the hotel. We didn't eat anything on this day. Finally, we come back to the hotel at 10:00 p.m. and went to bed at 11:00 p.m. All in all, my worst day was a lesson for me to be careful, and I know to have more information from the new place before I visit it.

Myself

Carlos Briceño Velasquez
RW22

My name is Carlos. I am very young. I am 16 years old. I am thin and tall. My hair is brown short and straight. My eyes are brown and round. My face is oval, and I don't have a beard. I don't have freckles on my face, but I have freckles on my back. I have a mole on my neck. My lips are big. My nose is medium. I am wearing a shirt. I am wearing shorts and a belt. I am wearing sneakers. As you can see, I am perfect!

Chinese Clean Circumstances: APEC Blue?

Yefan Nian(Frank Nian)
RW60

Recently, a phrase "APEC blue" becomes very popular in China. It means something is very marvelous but evanescent. Literately, this phrase refers to the blue sky during the APEC meeting in Beijing. In order to ensure APEC meeting's participants had a good impression of Beijing, the Beijing government enforced a series of policy to reduce pollution during the meeting. Local residents had a chance to enjoy blue sky, but after the meeting, the sky will change to grey again when the government stops enforcing the policies. Environmental issues are becoming one of the biggest challenges for the Chinese government.

China is facing the most serious environment problem now. PM 2.5(particulate matter 2.5, the amount of particulates less than 2.5 microns in size included in air), an indicator that scientists often use to determine how serious air pollution is in an area, is as high as 89.5 microgram/cubic meter on average in Beijing, while in other places, such as Gainesville, it is only approximately 10 micrograms/cubic meter. Last winter, almost half of the Beijing residents go out wearing mask to protect themselves. Even worse, people cannot discern objects as far away as 500 meters in someday because of smog caused by air pollution. Besides that, water pollution is also very serious in China. There is about 80 percent of surface water and ground water that is polluted by industrial waste water.

The environmental problem is caused by many reasons, but the most cardinal reason is developing economy without concerning about the circumstances. According to Tomas L.Friedman, Hot, Flat and Crowded, since 1987, China has started reform-and-opening policy, which focuses on the development of their economy. The Chinese government actually replaced Communism to GDP-ism, which makes residents prosperous and guarantees the Chinese GDP grows 8 percent a year without considering other potential problems. For example, there are a lot of factories release polluted water into rivers with no treatment or limited treatment. With 30 years development, China is the second largest economy now, but facing the most serious problems ever.

In view of this, the Chinese leadership decided, after a lot of trial and error, updates GDP-ism to green GDP-ism, which means developing economy without destroying environment. In 1995, the Chinese government released sustainable-development policy as the most fundamental policy. Nowadays, Chinese government uses a lot of approaches to cope with environment problems. Such as allowing the Chinese press to spotlight environmental polluters, passing progressive energy efficiency laws, and encouraging investments in clean power research. Still, this polices need time to really have an impact on changing environment.

Addressing environment issue is not a sprint but a marathon. Facing such a serious environment problem, the Chinese

government is trying its best to deal with it. A lot of Chinese people also do believe that with everyone's effort, China is able to eventually solve environmental problems and develop economy sustainably in the future.

Ben Hill Griffin Stadium (Swamp) vs. King Abdullah Sports City Stadium (Aljoharah "Jewel")

Ebtihal Alsekaity
RW4

Have you ever been to a football game before? I know I haven't. Actually, my first time to be at a stadium was last Friday Nov 7th. I can almost feel everything just like as if a game is about to start. Just take a look around this massive and fascinating stadium and I can bet that you can also feel it, the sound of cheering and booing, people cheering, clapping, and music and drums being hit so loud. It's overwhelming but in a good way. It's a feeling that might give you chills. Speaking about a good feeling with chills, I experienced it in a similar way a few months ago specifically on May 1st, 2014. It was the opening ceremony of Aljoharah Stadium. I was amazed by the design of our new stadium. Both the Swamp and Aljoharah Stadiums are considered to be huge constructions; however, there are indeed differences in the matter of capacity, sports played, and the location.

The Swamp was constructed in 1930 and from that year to now some expansions have taken place. Now the Swamp is the biggest stadium in Florida and it has a capacity of 88,548 audiences. On November 28, 2009, a crowd of 90,907 showed up at the Swamp, which means 2,359 people were standing for the whole game. On the other hand, Aljoharah has a capacity for only 62,241 spectators. Just as for the Swamp, stadiums always have room for more people to enjoy events. Aljoharah had this happen. On the day of the opening ceremony an extra 22,115 people were welcomed.

Aside from the world, the U.S. has its own popular game. American football has a huge fan-base. That's why the Swamp was built, to host American football games. In contrast, football or as the Americans say, soccer, is the most popular sport in Saudi Arabia. As a result of that, Aljoharah was built to host soccer games.

On the northern edge of the University of Florida in Gainesville you will find the Swamp Stadium. Since Florida is well-known for having alligators all around, this environment has influenced the stadium and the team. We can clearly see this influence through the stadium name "Swamp", and the team's name "Gators". Aljoharah also has been influenced by its location but in a different way. According to the designers of Aljoharah Stadium, the old wooden windows that Jeddah had always been popular for were used to design this shining jewel. So we can see

that in both cases the locations had an influence on the stadiums in way or another.

As discussed earlier, both stadiums are quite huge but the Swamp has more seating capacity by 26,307. The two stadiums were built to serve different sports. American football is played in the Swamp, whereas soccer is the sport which Aljoharah has been designed for. The environments of the locations have played a role in the stadiums' identities.

Global Warming

Mariannie Ramirez
RW33

There are a lot of things that cause global warming to occur on planet Earth. First of all, one cause for global warming is burning trash. This action sometimes is necessary, but it is very harmful because smoke residue affects the Earth's environment. Second, smoking can be another harmful activity that increases global warming because of the large amount of people in the world that smoke. Therefore, the smoke created by humans is destroying the ozone layer. As a result, the rate that global warming occurs is continuously increasing. Furthermore, due to deforestation, carbon dioxide is destroying the ozone layer. If our planet lacks trees, it cannot convert carbon dioxide into oxygen, which is necessary for life. In conclusion, there are a lot of things that cause global warming. Therefore, we need to do something to save the world from being damaged more.

Sea Pollution

Sumayah Fahimi
RW33

There are several reasons that humans cause many of the contaminations in the world, including the pollution of the sea. First, wars can cause sea pollution because when a country wants to fight another country their ships are loaded with oil. This is very dangerous for the sea. For example, the war between Kuwait and Iraq in 1990 resulted in sea oil pollution in the Arabian Gulf Sea. Second, due to people throwing plastic into the ocean, many sea animals eat it and die. Also, some beaches have hotels overlooking the sea. As a result, the sea has become polluted and the organisms that live in it have been harmed. Finally, human activities are harming the sea for different reasons, and that is why we should resolve this problem to maintain a healthy environment for our planet.

Sustainable Development

Dannah Jummah
RW33

There are several reasons why environmental organizations urge people to focus on sustainable development. Living resources such as vegetation, wild animals, and aquatic animals may go extinct as a result of human kind's wasteful and harmful lifestyle. Due to industrial development, manufacturers consume a large number of non-renewable resources like petroleum, coal, and natural gas. When there is improper exploitation of renewable resources, the resources available begin to deplete. To sum up, sustainable development is important for our planet's atmosphere, and environmental organizations want us to become more aware for the three reasons previously explained.

What My Name Means to Me

Ohood A Alyamani
RW42

What is your name? What does your name mean to you? This is the first question people ask when they meet someone for a first time. Everyone and everything in the world has a name, and every name has a special meaning. My name is "Ohood". It means promises in English and it means a lot to me.

The first reason that my name is important is because my uncle was the person who chose my name. Mom and Dad were puzzled about the perfect name they should give me. My uncle liked the name when after he heard his neighbor calling he daughter "Ohood". My uncle displayed this name for my parents. They like it and especially its meaning. So they agreed give me this beautiful name "Ohood".

Second, my grandmother loves me very much. I am her favorite granddaughter. She always pampers me, and she calls me "Ouda". It is mean some type of "Oud perfume", which is Arabic perfume and it has very beautiful smell. She calls me by this beautiful name because the pronunciation of both "Ohood" and "Oud perfume" is almost the same.

Another important reason is because I love my name. I like the sound of my name when my Mom calls me. I feel my name is like the sound of the breeze. I never change my name also I don't want to change it. I'm really proud of my name. Finally, my name reflects my personality. I always try to be like my name: to be honest, to fulfill of promises, and to not humiliate anyone. This is what my name means to me.

Sexual Harassment in the Middle East

Sumayah Fahimi
RW33

There are several reasons that it is difficult to find a solution for sexual harassment in the Middle East. The main reason this problem has no easy solution is because of culture. For instance, men in the Middle East think that the main work of a woman is only to be in the house to cook, birth children, and take care of the family. The second reason is that women do not share high positions in the workforce like men. For example, a woman cannot be president due to this position being just for men in the Middle East. I believe that in the Middle Eastern community, men are not entitled to take away the rights from a woman. However, this is still a big problem. For example, if men do something bad it is seen as normal because he is a man. However, if any woman were to do something not good, the community punishes her for her mistakes. They will not forget the mistakes she has made because she is a woman. Some women are even killed for their mistakes. In conclusion, I have discussed the reasons that it is difficult to find a solution for sexual harassment in the Middle East.

Effects of Music on My Life

Gayoung Park
RW33

There are several reasons why music is important for me. When I was younger I only listened to fast and very exciting songs because these kinds of songs would help me with my stress. If I listened to fast music, it surprisingly changed my emotions, and I was able to forget bad memories temporarily. Another reason music is important is because of the lyrics. I didn't focus on the lyrics when I was young. Since I just focused on the rhythm of the song, I didn't know the meaning what I listened to. When I started to focus on the lyrics, I heard many songs that described the same situations I have had in my life. These songs gave me the courage to be strong and gave me hope. I always play music when I travel due to the memories of that time that pop up in my head later on. In conclusion, music is so very important to me and I love music for a few different reasons.

Why are People that are Different Attacked?

Frank Jose Yegres Hernandez
RW33

Why are people who are different attacked? In my opinion this is a question that all people have probably thought about before. First, I think violence is a natural part of the human race. You only need look at history to see patterns of violence in humans. Second, differences between people can be the perfect excuse to start a fight. Although we are all equal, these differences can cause people to believe things that are far from the truth. Third, I believe in a chain of hatred that is passed on from generation to generation. For example, if someone were to kill a member of your family because of your religion or beliefs would you forgive them? Maybe you would not forget and teach this to your children. In conclusion, these are my views on why people are violent towards each other due to personal differences.

Friendship and Social Media

Esraa Moazeen
RW 41

Everybody agrees that we cannot live without friendship. Friendship is the most important relation in our lives. But how can we connect with our friends? The answer is in the past was very difficult because the only way to contact with each other's was by mail or expensive calls, but now everything has become easier with the new social media. There are many kinds of social media like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snap Chat. There are many effects of social media on friendship.

First, social media is an easy way to contact each other. We can contact our friends in different countries, and it is very easy. We can send messages to each other any time. We can talk to our friends in other countries with free calls, just downloads apps on our phones and we can talk to any one we want. Because of social media, it has become easier to contact with our friends and our families. Next, we can update our last daily details. With one click we can update our daily information. For example, on Instagram, I put my wedding pictures so my friends who didn't attend my wedding they can see them. Also the app Snap Chat, can be used to update what we do during our day, like what we cook or what we do. As a result, these apps make our connection with other friends easier, and we can share our moments with them.

Finally, we can see our friends any time we want. In the past it was impossible to talk to our friends on video. But now with social

media, everything is different. We can talk and see our friends any time. It is possible now to see our friends with just one click.

In conclusion, social media has good effects in our lives. Social media improves our relationships with our friends. No matter where we are, or what the time is. We share our lives, moments, and feelings with each other with easy way. Thank God we have social media in our lives.

My Friend

Qutaiba Albalhan
RW33

There are several effects that a special person has in my life. In this case, I will talk about my friend. My friend makes me happy because he is great at telling jokes. If I have my friend to support me then I feel I will win any game or succeed at anything in life. When I do something wrong, he guides me and teaches me the right thing. Due to my friend helping me succeed in life, I really appreciate him. In conclusion, choose your friends wisely because these special people will have several effects on your life.

Being a Good Student

Abdulrahim Alkhibari
RW33

There are steps to being a good student. First of all, you must come early to class. Then you have to focus on the teacher's lecture. After that you have to participate during class. Next, you should do your homework. Finally, you need to do well on your exams. To sum up, the way to being a good student requires some important steps.

My Experience Life

Esraa Moazzen
RW 41

Countries everywhere govern their actions and their behavior, beliefs, concepts, and habits that they inherited from the past. We can learn from the differences, and compare it with our life, and learn from the advantages. I'll write the differences of my experience between living in Saudi Arabia and United States of America, and how the education, religion, and social life are different's from each other's.

First of all, in the United States, schools are mixed between genders from kindergarten to university. Teachers encourage

students to think and answer the questions, and say their freedom opinion and expression without hurt the others or infringement. Teachers strive to answer you directly, or refer you to a professor or another source. Teachers come and end on time, and they respect it. But in Saudi Arabia it is totally different. Schools are separated between genders. The teacher encourages the tradition, and there is less space for freedom of opinion. In my opinion, the education in the United States is better than Saudi Arabia. There are more majors to study in the United States than in Saudi Arabia. Second, the religion in the United States mixed. You will see Christians, Jews, Muslims, and followers of different religions. However, in Saudi Arabia, you will see Muslims, and some Christians who came from outside the country. In the United States, you can find few mosques, but in Saudi Arabia it is difficult to find a church. In Saudi Arabia every action the Saudi citizen do in life have a relation with the religion. But in the United States, the American's controlled most of their actions with their feelings, and principles.

Next, Social life in Saudi Arabia, and the United States have big difference. The boy/girl in the United States who become 18 years old, they can choose if they want to live without their parents or not, and their parents do not have any authority over them. However, in Saudi Arabia, the parents will responsible for their children until the end of their life. The families in Saudi Arabia are close relatives than in the United States.

In conclusion, people should choose what the benefits are for each country he/she lives in. I believe that I have learned many things in United States, and I will learn more. The biggest thing that I have learned in the United States is that I know now how I can do everything alone. I have become more independent. I feel that the United States is my country because I was born here, and Saudi Arabia is my hometown because I have lived all my life there.

Teenagers Jobs

Mohammad Aldousari
RW42

Do you know why teenagers work? Some teenagers works to have more money, help their family and to have more opportunity in the future. In Kuwait it isn't common for the teenagers to works but in the US is very common for them to work. In the US, the teenager works of jobs but not all the jobs pay a lot to them. The teenagers work simple jobs like in a restaurant or delivery man but it has a lot of effects. Teenager jobs effects the teenager life and the society by let them have less grades, increasing the economy, have more opportunity in the future, and having more money.

The teenager jobs effects their grades. For example, if they have job in the night and they already have classes in the morning when will they have time to study? Therefore, some of the teenagers have bad grades in some exams. Other teenagers make

time for study by reducing the sleep time. Thus, they will not have energy to be focus in the classes and that will effects their grads. Also, some of the teenagers because of the bad grades they got expelled from the university. For example, one of my friend, he was working in some restaurant and always work on the night Because that he has less time to study and less grades. Therefore he got expelled from his university.

The teenager jobs effects the economy. For example, the economy will increase if the money increased and the money will increase if the workers increased because that if the teenagers work the economy will increase. In 1998 in KSA, the economy runs down because there aren't enough workers. The solution for this problem is to make the teenagers work. Therefore, the economy had a sharp increase that year. When the economy increase the society will have more money to build more building, more hospitals, and schools. Therefore, that will make the health care in the society better than the old time. Also, that will make the education better than the old time. All of those effects come from the teenagers jobs.

The teenager jobs effects their opportunity in the future. For example, some companies want someone has worked before in any place because the work experience does not like the university experience. Therefore, the teenager who has job will have a lot of opportunities in the future. Because he has a lot of opportunities, he will have a good job in the future. Also because he has a good job he will make the life of his family better than a lot others. All of that because he had a job when he was a teenager.

The final effect and the most important one is having more money. When you work, you will have money; that is the one of the effects of working but for the teenagers, having money will have other effects, some of them are positive and some of them are negative. The positive thing when they help their family, make a small business and etc. For example, if they helped their family that will make a positive effects on the family. Also he can save money when he work to have a good home when he has a family in the future. There are a lot of positive thing about the money he had from the work when he teenagers. The money from the teenagers works have a negative effect, also like buying drugs, drinking too much and etc. For example, if they take the money and drink with it they will destroy their health. Also, there are effects on their family such as, they will not have money because all the money goes on the drink, they will not have a father to save them, and the children will follow their father and drink a lot or gets drugs. All the positive and the negative effects for the money go back to the works effect because all of that came from the work.

In the end, the teenager jobs have positive and negative effects on the teenagers. The positive effects are increasing the economy, helping their family and many others things, and having more opportunity. The negative effects are having less time to study, buying drugs from the money they take from the job and a lot others. In my opinion, teenagers job are very important not only for the teenagers but for the society.

The Challenges to Reach My Goal

Fatimah Alsaeed
RW22

When I was young, I always liked science. I burned my hand because I tried to use chemicals when I was child. I still have the burns today. When I started studying at the university, I chose chemistry as a major, and I was very happy. For two years I got high grades, but in the third year suddenly my mother had a stroke. She couldn't move the right side of her body and lost the ability of talking. After that, I became unable to think clearly between my studying and taking care of my mother, so I decided to stop my studies for two years. Then I went back to the university, but I was shocked to find out that I was suspended and I couldn't complete my studies. I was very depressed, but I didn't stop trying to enter the university again. After several tries, I came back to study. Then the worst thing happened. After a while my mother got cancer, and it was my last year in university, so my day became half for studying and the other half in hospital with her. Every day of my life was a challenge, but I graduated with high GPA. I was very happy with all that happened with me. After one month, my mother died of cancer, and my life was hard. Therefore I decided to complete my study to find out the medicine for cancer. Nowadays, I'm in the first step to reach my goal, which is studying English.

Food Habits in Saudi Arabia

Dalal Bagabas
RW 42

In 1960s, when my grandparents were the same age as me, they lived in Jeddah, which is in Hijaz area, in Saudi Arabia. At that time, Saudi Arabia was a developing nation; now in 2014, it is becoming a developed nation. During this time many changes have happened with the economic and urban development. One of the most important change is food, this change happened in my parents' generation; at that time, many people from different countries migrated to Saudi Arabia which caused blending of cultures. Some food habits changed and some of them are still the same. The types of food are different from area to another, the Hijaz area have many different kinds of traditional food from different countries; this because it is a commercial area and a lot of people from different countries live in it. In the last five decades, during my grandparent's time and today, there are many differences and similarities things in food.

There are many kinds of traditional food in Saudi Arabia; for example, madhbi, mandī, salīq, and magloba; the essential

ingredient for these are rice and meat but in different cooking method. Also, there is traditional food in Hijaz area comes from different countries, for example: Levant food like hummus, falafel, tabbouleh, and grape leaves; Afghans food like manto, tamis, and bukhari; Indian and Asian food, all of these are traditional food from different countries. One of the differences is my grandparent's traditional food is local, but our traditional food is global, this globalization in food positive in terms of diversity, but it will make hard reference of Saudi traditional food.

Holidays have specific food; in Ramadhan there are some kinds of food that cooked in this month, for example: sambosa, soup, luqimat, qataief, etc. it has different taste at that time. In Eid Al-Fitr, the breakfast include: liver, ful, ma'sob, tamis, tea, etc. these are some of the main food in the meal. Also in Eid Al-Adha we should eat meat in lunch or dinner, this is a religious thing to do. On holidays also, desserts have special site, the most popular are: Om-Ali which made of bread wafers, milk, raisins, and nuts, this is served hot; Konafa, which is made of vermicelli, cream or banana, and syrup, is also served hot. These kinds of food are similar in my grandparents' time and mine, it is some of traditional habits we have.

Food habits is one of the things that almost the same between my grandparents and me; before the houses were small and there were few rooms, but now with urbanization, we have large spaces to live in. According to food area, my grandparents were eat in the living room, but for me, I eat in the dining room. The similar thing between my grandparents and me is we both prefer homemade cooking; also we both eat together with our family in the meal time. In occasions like celebrations and weddings, both of us hospitality the guests by Arabic coffee and dates, also we ordering the food from catering.

Eating in restaurants is one of the biggest different between my grandparents and me. It comes popular these days to eat at restaurants because the development of society. This happened when the fast food restaurants start to growing up until it comes identity of the developed nation, then the international restaurant began to increase. The lifestyle changed during my grandparents and me; people found that it is easy to eat outside home, its saves time and money.

Even with Reasons to End it, I want a Friendship

Caren A. Ruiz Spitaleri
RW42

What is friendship? According to Aristotle, the friendship is "one soul inhabiting two bodies; one heart inhabiting two souls", according to the dictionary, the friendship is "a loving relationship between two or more people, or between people and animals", and

according to some others, this is simply “a connection that I cannot explain, but makes me feel along with someone”, which shows us that a friendship is totally subjective and consequently, the concept is caused by feelings that may come to feel a person for others and affects all those involved in it. However, friendships usually begin unexpectedly and often unsought. On the road of life we find them and it all starts because someone "like him" and becomes a good person; therefore, even when there are many things that cause the beginning of a friendship, there are another ones that may cause the finishing of one and people usually do not think about that, but this is a very important thing to take care about because knowing the reasons, people can be prepared or can also avoid this situation to happen.

Decisions, feelings, tastes, hobbies, opinions, ideas, beliefs, religion, and customs are some of the common things that causes us to make friends with someone, but those can also be the reasons that affect in a negative way our life if we talk about the end of a friendship, because if we don't manage them correctly, it would be dangerous for any type of relation, since talking of feelings is too delicate.

An important reason could be not sharing common interests or not having things to talk about, because if you don't have something like a group of links that connect you with another person, you are probably not going to have any interest in talking with that person and as a result, the friendship is going to finish very quickly. Actually, there are people who just have friendships with others because it looks nice or cool for the rest of the people, but if you listen to their conversations, those are too empty, they don't say anything concrete to each other because they don't share anything; that's why that attraction or connection has to exist.

Another one could be that your friend harasses, manipulates or makes you feel bad about yourself. Any friend should be constantly making you feel inferior or guilty, because first, he/she is not a real friend. Actually, a good friendship should make you happy and comfortable about yourself and about who you are, since if you feel like you are falling down because of a “friend”, it means that you are not in a friendship, but instead, you are in a bad alliance that is going to affect you until the moment that only the other person has all the benefits or the good part of that relation despite you. There are some common examples where we can observe this situation: between children who are still in elementary schools and don't have a defined personality, between people who depends on others with authority or power over them because of a job or business relation, and between two people who don't really get along with each other, but they have to be rationed because of a family background.

Also, if your friend is too possessive and demanding, the friendship will finish as soon as you allow it. Demanding for your whole time and attention or preventing you from you develop stronger friendships with others are causes that make you finish it. You should not feel obligated to spend time with someone more than you really want, or you'll be limiting yourself in your choice of

friends because of that friend and obviously, it is not fire from any point of view. Stefanie Alvarez, who used to be a friend since my childhood, was always wanting me to be with her, and if for example, someone invited me to go to a party and she was not invited, she didn't let me go, but sometimes, I went there without her and if she found out, she went to the party and punched my face. Obviously, it caused the end of our friendship and she is not my friend anymore.

So, after we saw some causes of the end of a friendship, we can still be thinking in many more causes and that's why we can conclude that the end of a friendship is caused by infinite reasons and nobody can say the opposite, because talking of feelings is a perfect abstraction, so it is not as a subject where people have math, physics or chemistry formulas to use and the knowing with certainty that they are right. Consequently, even when we know that keeping a friendship is really difficult and requires a big effort from the friends involved in it, we also know that it is a situation that everyone would like to experiment, because it is really amazing and unexplained, since, friends provide that fun, that happiness, entertainment or that chance to find hobbies and communicate in an atmosphere of love and ease and, not infrequently, the opportunity to evade everyday problems. So, those reasons explain why we are always trying to find friendships for diverse ways and probably, anyone who wants to be happy is supposed to go to that problematic, hard, funny and perfect world that we call friendship.

Hugo Chavez's Impact on Venezuela

Luis Castillo
RW42

Hugo Chavez was a military politician from Venezuela, who was born on July 28, of 1954, and died on March 5, of 2013. He enter the military at the age of seventeen, it developed his early interest on politics. In 1992, Hugo Chavez and other revolutionaries leads a seizure of power; which is when a group of militaries take control over the government of a country by forcing the president out with brutal force. After he failed on this attempt, he had to spend a few years in prison, until the next president, Rafael Caldera, gave him a presidential pardon which let him free. During those years, Venezuela was growing up as an industrial country due to the lot of people who invested their money in all of the oil that Venezuela has. However, it was making the country strong in some economic aspects, as it was also causing weakness in others areas like poverty. The crime rate severely increased in the country with terrorist organizations as the F.A.R.C. who came into the country to kidnap the rich people for their revolutionary causes. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as the F.A.R.C for its acronym in Spanish, they are group of terrorist who had been in the border of the country for years scaring and kidnaping people to get money and weapons for their own interest.

Things were getting worst and worst for the country, Venezuela was facing a difficult economic situation, poverty caused a big impact in society, the 49% of the country population was considered poor by 1998. But Chavez saw a great opportunity and took advantage of it, by making promises of employment for everyone, houses, schools, better health care and almost everything that the poor population was in need of. With this promises Chavez won the election on 1998 with the strategy of using the poor people, which was almost the half of the population, and the rest of the votes were filled by people who thought he was going to actually make his promises, this elections affected the country in many ways, and developed one of the most important impacts in society and Venezuela's actual position.

Chavez started a great period of government trying to accomplish his promises, but with the oncoming years, people discovered that he was doing nothing to fight against delinquency, each year, the number of murders and kidnappings kept growing, so the people started to make rallies to show the government inability on finding a solution for the insecurity problems, so people started asking for Chavez resignation. In consequence Chavez created a group of gangs to fight against the people who protest these people were armed with guns and sponsored by the government, so the police couldn't stop them. They appeared on the streets of the cities and scared the people away, destroying public property and even killing who ever dared to confront them.

One of the main causes of the insecurity that Venezuela is living today is created by these gangs. Venezuela is considered as one of the most dangerous countries around the world, every weekend there is the same death toll as if the country was on a civil war, especially in the capital city of Caracas, which is really affected by these insecurity problems, placing the city in the most dangerous places of the country, with lot of robberies and assassinations that keep growing in numbers each weekend.

The extremely poverty have causes an unstoppable network off crime that the whole country is living now. While in the capital city the killings for money where getting way to common, because of the necessity of money and bring food to the table. In the west part of the country terrorist groups were kidnapping and killing people, they could kill each other for a small amount of money, no place was safer than other, robberies and murders were as normal as everyday routine and expanded all over the country. This impact is caused by the huge slums that are around the big cities which created a decay of the society even when Chavez tried to help them, he didn't show them how to get things, he just gave it to them, so they will be totally dependent on him.

Back in the 90s, Venezuela was not as dangerous as it is now, the people could walk in the streets, go to a park, and travel without the fear of being robbed. The police used to do their work, and supermarkets and stores were as in every other country life was way better and developing; However, nowadays we can see the result of Chavez bad administration with almost 30 thousand people kill by delinquent actions, with no reaction from the

government side, corruption all over, police and armed forces in the other side are not making any better instead of enforcing the law they accept bribes which let the people do whatever they want. As a consequence, this develops the increase of delinquency in the country. It is pretty easy to show the difference before Chavez government period, people still remember how life was like, but newer generations have never felt how it was to live in a country with good economy and security.

It is commonly known that others countries which have less oil than Venezuela, developed better economy and security due to a good administration. This shows even more the decay of the life quality president Chavez left to the country as a result of his bad administration. With all the good qualities that Venezuela has, as touristic engagement and large sums of oils, the country could be in a way much better position than it is right now. Chavez only left insecurity and big amount of debts that will take years to recover from, even if the country gets the best president, his damage is almost irreparable. People just have to have faith.

Feel Like Home

Marianna Caputo
RW44

Dear dear home,
you make me feel so alone,
because I miss the warmness of your love,
that always protected me against the storms.

Happiness and a beauty kindness,
it's all that matters,
when came the sadness,
and you put away the darkness.

But not everything is bad,
in USA I love to see the stars,
the respect from people to the laws,
and how they love their natural parks.

Food, food and a lot of food,
is what I eat when I am in a good mood,
well I won't lie to you, that is not true,
I just eat because I think is very cool.

Family, friends and a home,
is what I leaved in my small town,
but besides all this love,
I'll do everything with all my soul.

Myself

Feranda Stefania Gutierrez Aguilera
RW22

My name is Fanny. I'm 19 years old. I have thick brown hair. My face is oval, and I have a little dimple. I have brown eyes and only one mole. I have a medium build. I am very short. At this time, I am wearing gray pants and a black sweater. I am not wearing sandals because I don't like them. Instead, I have sneakers. I also have two accessories: a bag and glasses. I am a nice and simple person.

Sao Paulo, The Love is Blind

Francisco Lourenco
RW60

"The city that 'actually' never sleeps". Historically modern, the picturesque megalopolis named Sao Paulo, is not only my beloved hometown, but it also shelters over 12 million people. Beyond shadow of a doubt, it carries the responsibility of being the most relevant Brazilian city. In order to acquire a decent overview about why I unconditionally love this fascinating place, we have to scrutinize it as if we were looking at it from inside an airplane.

From very high among the clouds, sitting in the tight airplane's seat, we try to focus through the window on the blurry earth down there, yet already appearing in our sight, we are able to see the avenues and highways – like gray veins – without any organization or structure, just flowing and congested as an unhealthy bloodstream.

A few feet lower, crossing the airplane's thick window glass, we start involuntarily listening to the cars' and motorcycles' horns. The traffic noise is so deafening that it sounds like music to my ears.

Further down, now approaching the airport, we taste the carbon monoxide flavor, which subtly enters in our mouth without any permission. In fact, it is a unique sensation, giving water to your mouth.

Even lower, we can sniff the city smell, which comes from a mix of the dead Tiete river sewage aroma and cement. Yes, the recipe is simple and the secret is actually the cement.

Approaching the airstrip, we are almost touching the bustling heart. "Do not touch anything, please! These habitants are all too busy and cannot be imprudently poked", announces the flight attendant.

Suddenly, with a strong bump, we are pushed forward as the plane harshly drifts to the ground. Logically, any rational human being would rather command the pilot to immediately take off

again. However, considering my passion for this place, I would rather not, and honestly, as the poet previously said: "Love is blind".

Gold

Ahmed Albinhumdh
RW 35

One day in Alhasa City, there were two friends. They had a job digging in the ground. Suddenly they found a big box in the hole. They wanted to pick up the box but the box was heavy. They finally got it up out of the hole. They thought, maybe there was gold in the box. They tried to open the box, but all the methods couldn't succeed. In the end one of them suggested he take the box with him until morning and after that they would see what they could do it. But the other one refused and he said "I'll keep the box with me". Each of them tried for convince the other one, until their voices were loud and after that they fought. Until one of them killed his friend. He was surprised at what he did. But he kept trying to find a way to open the box. After many times by hit the lock, the box opened. But what he find? Nothing, only sand in the box, all his dreams about the gold was gone. And when he saw what he did, he killed himself by eating the sand.

College High Tuition

Haifa AlGhazi
RW60

Nowadays, the world is experiencing economic crisis. As a result, college tuition has increased and that fact it is plastered all over websites and newspapers. College tuition increases about 8 percent annually over the past few decades; however, recently, college tuition has been rising dangerously fast, almost three times as fast as inflation. College tuition increases due to a variety of situations, and there are three effects of high tuition on young adults such as a steady increase in two-year community college enrollments, students dropping out of college, and starting a business before graduation.

A major important effect resulting from college high tuition fees is that enrollment in two-year colleges has risen. High college cost haven't driven the ambitious students from pursuing their dreams. Many students have replaced the bachelor degree goal with the two-year community college degrees and these colleges have witnessed stable increase in enrollment as a result of the higher tuition fees. According to the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), 10.4 million students are enrolled at the community colleges. Of these students, 45 percent are first-

time freshmen. Furthermore, According to 1997 AACC statistics, 49 percent of the two-year school students were ages 18 to 24. Norma Kent, vice president for communications at AACC, said such numbers are increasing. In addition, two-year community colleges allow students to work while they attend classes (Zimar, 2004).

On the other hand, one of the negative effects of collage high tuition is dropping out of higher institutions of learning. Students drop out of college for numerous reasons; the decision usually has a lot to do with finance when the students lack the funds to cover college costs, they usually dropout. The Los Angeles Times reports that high tuition can contribute to increased dropout rates. In fact, students who pay for school themselves instead of getting help from their families are more likely to drop out because of financial issues (Thompson, 2014).

The last effect, which some of us consider a positive effect, is that more students are starting businesses. When students cannot afford a degree, especially a business degree, they usually tend to start their own businesses and projects. In fact, many studies show that young adults share of entrepreneurship has been growing as some students prefer to invest their money on actual businesses rather than on a degree. Also, many grads even start businesses before they graduate, in a survey of 1,000 fresh grads and current students, the Young Entrepreneur Council found that 36% started a business while in college and 21% started a business because of unemployment and high tuition (Shontell, 2011).

In conclusion, collage high tuition has many effects other than the steady increase in two-year community college enrollment; students drop out and start a business before graduation. However, these are the main and most common effects. As a result colleges must balance between the high tuition and students finances. Colleges should find and invent in new ways, beside student loans, that can help college students to earn their degree without facing any financial problems.

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The Great Man

Hawra Al abbad
RW15

This man has been struggling to become successful. This man is struggler. When his father died, he was only twelve years old. He carried groceries for a long distance to home. Also during holiday in highschool, he worked as a cashier in a mini market. After he finished his college, he worked as a cashier in a restaurant. This man is responsible. He has been responsible for his family since his childhood. Also he volunteers for charity work in his village every year. He is a hard working person. He worked in company in desert, so he worked in cold and hot weather. Although he works in out of house, he also helps me in our house. This man is my husband, Hussain. I hope he achieves all his dream because he deserves all good things.

Our Light in Life

Haya Aljardan
RW21

Do you know who has the kindest heart in the whole world? It is my mother! She has a wonderful personality. She is always smiling, even if she is tired. Also, she tries to take care of all the family members, from my grandmother to my little sister. Sometimes she forgets to take care about herself. Because of that my sisters and I try to help her in everything we can. What is more, we try to make her happy as much as possible. We believe that she is our light in life.

The Day I Will Never Forget

Huda Albu Ali
RW 21

Two years ago, it was a day that is important in my life and that I will never forget. On this day, I became a mother after waiting for two years. It was a hard and happy day at the same time. When I felt the birth paints, it was difficult for me because that was the first time I have ever given birth. But it was a happy day because I felt the motherhood. Also, my family waited for my baby. This day changed my life for the better. When you have a baby calling you "Mom," you do not need anything else. In conclusion, I love this day in spite of all the difficulties and I will never forget it.

The Queen of the Pirates

Proyecta 2 Mexican Class Story

One day in the Bahamas, John and Paula were relaxing. Paula was bored with John. He had a lot of money but he was boring. Suddenly the sky grew dark and a hurricane was coming. They got in the car and before one minute, a tornado lifted the car into the sky. They thought they would die, but the car crashed into the ocean. As the car was sinking they saw many sharks. However there was a ship nearby and the sailors rescued them. Unfortunately the sailors were pirates. Fortunately the captain of the pirates was a friend of John's. He took them safely to Freeport. John gave the pirate lots of money and said, "Please take my girlfriend Paula. Paula pretended to be angry, but secretly she thought the captain was very handsome. John went back to his boring house and lived a boring life. Paula became the Queen of the pirates.

My Super Grandmother

Adriana Cortez Centeno, Maria del Rocia Gonzalez Montano,
Jessica Tapia Jaramillo

One day in China, my grandmother was walking in the street when suddenly she found a coin. She saw something shining in the coin. It was gold. She didn't know it was a magical coin. She showed it to a man who taught her some magical words and then walked for a long time in the middle of some mountains and lakes to find Godzilla. She fought Godzilla and when she drank his blood she felt power in her body. When she got the power she destroyed all the bad politicians and gave peace to the world. My grandmother is a normal grandmother, but she always tells us this story.

Juan Carlos

Juan Carlos Rodriguez Campos
RW22

My name is Juan Carlos. I have brown round eyes and short black hair. My face is round. I don't have a mustache. I am tall with a medium build. I am 30 years old. Today, I am wearing a black shirt with white lettering and blue jeans with a black belt and black shoes. I also have a small blue backpack. I like the way I look.

About Me

Mohammed Alhudaif
RW22

My name is Mohammed Alhudaif. I'm 18 years old. I have brown eyes. I have short black hair. I have a mustache and a beard. I don't have freckles or a mole. My height is about 6 feet tall. I'm wearing a sweater and sweatpants. I'm wearing sneakers. As you can see, I am a simple guy.

The Causes of Plastic Surgery

Ola Mandorah
RW42

Plastic surgery is a process to change and fix something in human body. For example, you can get rhinoplasty and breast augmentation for many reasons. In the past, plastic surgery was very expensive and just for medical reasons, but these days the plastic surgery cost is cheap in many countries like Lebanon, Venezuela, Mexico, and Jordan, so everyone can get plastic surgery. The studied by Aljazeera news said the percentage of women who get plastic surgery are more than men. The women probably get plastic surgery not for necessary reasons, but men get plastic surgery for medical reasons. These days we have many causes to have plastic surgery some of them are necessary and some of them are not.

Women and men have different reasons to get plastic surgery. The first reason is the age. Women care about physical shape when they get older, but men do not care. For example, when woman turns 50 her face has wrinkles and she does not like it. She want to look younger, she tries to hide the wrinkles by getting plastic surgery. The common way to hide the wrinkles is the botox injection. On the other hand, the man does not have any problems if he looks older. He does not care even if his face has many wrinkles or his nose becomes bigger.

In addition, some teenagers get plastic surgery because they like celebrities and they want to be like them. For example, some girls like Angelina Jolie lips, so they get lips augmentation to have lips like Angelina's lips; also some boys want to have a good body shape like Brad Pitt. Thus, they go to the doctor and ask him to have six pack like Brad Pitt, so the doctor does the liposuction and tummy tuck to make six pack.

Another reason people get plastic surgery is accidents. For this case the plastic surgery is very important and necessary. There are many kinds of plastic surgery for that. For example, if someone has an accident and he broke his nose, the doctor will do rhinoplasty

for him to fix his nose. Another example, if someone burns his arm, he will get skin grafting to remove traces of burns.

Being born with birth defects is another cause of plastic surgery. One of the common birth defects is a cleft lip, which is a problem in baby's mouth that makes her/his lips open all the time. My cousin was born with cleft lip. As a result, he got a cleft repair to correct this abnormal shape to restore a more normal appearance. Now his lips looks normal and he can close them. Also he feels confidence about his looks.

In addition, another reason to get plastic surgery is to lose weight. Liposuction is the easiest way to lose weight. Tariq one of my family who got a plastic surgery. He was very fat and lazy. He did not like to exercise to lose weight, so he chose the easiest way to lose weight and he decided to get liposuction, after he got a liposuction he died because the doctor made a mistake. So he lost his life not his weight.

Now we know the causes for getting plastic surgery like accidents, follow celebrities, lose weight, and birth effects. However, we must think about the effects before we get it. Plastic surgery can end your life, waste your money, and if you do not like your looks after plastic surgery you will do it again and again. In my opinion I think we need to read a lot about anything before we decide to do it.

My Description

Rashed Alzahrani
RW22

My name is Rashed Alzahrani. I am 24 years old. I have oval black eyes and short black hair. I don't have a mustache or beard, but I have a dimple. My height is about 5 feet. I am strong and stocky. I am wearing a t-shirt, jeans, and sneakers. As you can see, this is my description.

Myself

Regina Silva Campos
RW22

My name is Regina. I am from Brazil, and I am 24 years old. I think I am a typical Brazilian because I have black narrow eyes. I have very long straight dark hair. I am average height, and my face is round. I have a very peculiar feature: my cheeks are very long, but I don't have freckles. Today I am wearing jeans, a blouse, and a jacket. I am wearing old sneakers too. I am wearing a lot of accessories such as a watch, a bracelet, earrings, a necklace, and rings. As you can see, I am a beautiful Brazilian.

My Worst Day

Regina Silva Campos
RW22

Four years ago was the worst day in my life. On this day a terrible accident happened to me. I was going to a fish farm by motorcycle. I was riding on the road when a car overtook me. Then he hit and threw me off the road. The driver of the car didn't stop for help. After that, other drivers that watched everything, helped me and called the emergency. I was burned all over my body because the accident happened at 12:00 P.M., and the road was very hot. There were many rocks under my skin, too. I was in the hospital for 15 days, isolated because I could get an infection. I needed to scrape in my injuries each day. For that reason, I had to take care of the accident marks on my body for more than a year. Luckily, I did not have more serious problems because I was wearing a helmet. After this day, I never rode the motorcycle any more. As you can see, this was my worst day because I was very bad in hospital and felt a lot of pain. I think I will never forget this day.

My Best Day

Rimberto Ojeda
RW 21

My best day was many years ago, maybe as many as thirteen. It was when my father bought me my first horse. But, actually, it seemed like a really bad day because my father said that he didn't buy me the horse. He said it was expensive, too expensive. I cried for four days, but that was a cruel lie, because my father really bought me the horse and the next weekend when I went to our farm the horse was there and I saw this beautiful horse. I was really happy. That horse is my best gift and that was my best day.

How to Pot a Plant

Hajer Al-Hamad
RW 30

It is easy to pot a plant if you follow the right procedure. First, cover the bottom of a pot with small stones. You can put to inches of soil on top of the rocks. Then make a hole in the center of the soil. After that, drop plant into soil. Continue to add soil until it almost reaches the top of the pot. Finally, press soil down with hands and water the plant. Now you have a nice pot of plant!

Why I Like to Use Social Networks

Hajer Al-Hamad
RW 30

In our life, it is very hard to know everything in one moment, but with social networks, you can do just that and it is so easy and possible. I like using social networks, especially after when I came to the United States with my family staying in my country. Through social networks, I can know everything about them. I also like to use social networks when I plan to visit a place. I can join the discussion in some social networking sites and get the information I need. On the other hand, I can use those networks to invite people to come to my parties. With all these advantages in using social networking sites, I just need to caution myself not to spend too much time on them!

How to Be a Good Student

Jose Martinez Cabana
RW30

Every student needs to be successful in class. But how? It is very easy. First, attend your classes. You cannot miss too many classes. Also, pay attention to your teacher in your classes. You need to be respectful and have discipline. Make sure you do all your homework assignments and always review your class material. As long as a student works hard every day and does all the things correctly, he or she will be an excellent student.

Saegyeol

Saegyeol Park
RW22

My name is Saegyeol Park. I am 22 years old. I'm average height and plump. I have narrow brown eyes and shoulder-length brown hair. Today, I am wearing a black t-shirt and jeans. I am also wearing socks and orange sneakers. I am wearing three gold rings and a silver necklace. I have painted my nails dark gray and purple. I am carrying a backpack filled with books, water, pencils, and my wallet. As you can see, I am a good-looking student.

The Bad Birthday

Won Hee Cho
RW 35

Tomorrow is Tim's birthday so he wanted to invite his friends. He called his friends but all of them said "Sorry, Tim. I can't go your party... really sorry." He felt sad because his birthday is an important day to him. Just then his parents came home and looked at him. His parents said, "What is the problem? You look so sad baby. What's going on today?" He answered, "I want a birthday party with my friends. But all my friends can't come. So I'm so sad." Then Tim's father gave him some money and said, "Tim! Look around! You have me and your mother! You are a lucky guy!" Tim felt better. He decided to buy something. He went to the market and bought cool shoes. He was happy. Then he came to home he went to sleep. Next day, he yelled, "today is my birthday. After class, while he coming home, he again felt sad. He thought, 'No one congratulated on my birthday.' He slipped and fell down in the road. He felt the worst. When he opened his house door, he was surprised and cried because all of his friends were in there. His friends said, "Happy birthday Tim!!" he felt affection and he said, "It's my happiest day!!"

The Chameleon

Carlos Parra
RW35

One day in Bangkok, Shin and his wife Ana were eating dinner in the park. When they were sitting a rare animal appeared. It was a chameleon with a lot of colors and very fast. Suddenly it bit Shin and Ana and the animal ran and hid. The next day both were scared because Shin and Ana had skin like the chameleon, a lot of color and they very fast. When they were together they were like Chameleons but when they were separated they came back to normal. They decided with their posers to save the city together. Every night they both were on the street fighting with the criminals and thanks to them, they made a city more secure.

The Most Important Qualities in a Friend

Yahya M. Jokhdar
RW40

Every day we see new people in our life and sometimes we make a friendship when we see someone special. It takes a long time to make friends and it includes a lot of experiences. As you mature, you realize qualities make a friendship strong and lasting. There are many qualities necessary for a good friendship but the most important qualities in a friend are honesty, respect and being supportive.

The first important quality in a friend is honesty. Honesty is foundation of a good friendship. Everyone should be truthful with

his or her friends. Make yourself a better friend whom your friends can trust. And you should tell them everything true and never lie to them. For example, if he wants something from me and I can't do it, I should tell him I can't. There is no need to lie and tell him I can but actually I can't. Another example, if he gives me something to save it for him and after a few months he wanted, I should return it to him and I should never lie about it. Being honest the most important foundation about any friendship.

The second important quality in a friend is respect. Respect means admiration given by others. People should respect their friends to make friendship last for long time. People must never speak badly about their friends. For example, if someone talks badly about my friend, I should stop him and tell him this is a wrong way and you should respect your friend. Another example, if my friend saw a mistake from me, he should tell me to my face, not behind my back. Respect yourself if you would have friends respect you.

The final important quality in a friend is being supportive. Being supportive means helping and supporting me to achieve my goals. Friends should always be ready to help others. For example, if I have adversities in my life, my friends should stay with me step by step and help me to resolve all my problems. Another example; my friends support me and push me to a true way when I am in the wrong way. Surround yourself only with friends who are going to lift you higher.

In conclusion, being honest, respectful and supportive are the most important qualities that a friend can have. Some friends may come and go in life, but true friendship lasts forever. If you have friends, you will never walk alone. The best friends make you happy all the time. And a good friend is someone who people always remember.

Having These Friends Makes Me Grow Up

Ting-Chun Wang
RW42 Essay

No one wants to end a friendship if they don't have to, but some situations make it unavoidable. To me, there's only a thin line between friend and enemy, because my feeling of love and hate are very evident. Friendship doesn't depend on the age of two people, and it doesn't depend on appearance. My friends and I were unfamiliar with each other at first, so we treated all of our classmates very well. Then I considered that all of my classmates were very nice. But with time, everyone's personalities came out. The friendships between my friends and I ended as a result of a lot of negative factors that I can't endure and I can't be friends with them anymore. There are three factors that led to the end of my friendships: disposition, scheming, and honesty.

The first origin of end a friendship is disposition. Cherry who was my friend and classmate used to hit me, she has a bad temper

and tends to be violent. She thinks it's her way to show she is friendly, so she always slaps my back, pushes me in a strong way, and plays tricks to me, but I don't like that. Even though I tried to tell her many times I really don't like you doing this to me, she still keeps doing that and I can't understand why other classmates can accept when she did these things to them. Once, I finally couldn't stand this anymore, so I got mad and yelled to her and she was scared by me then we didn't talk anymore. However, I know if she changed, we could still be friends, but it would be embarrassing between us. We still have few conversations but only on schoolwork.

The second origin of end a friendship is scheming. I strongly hate this personality, but sometimes we can't avoid becoming like this. Rachel who was my classmate used to plan negative things to other people. At first, she was naïve, so being with her was comfortable and free, but she became more and more serious and I don't know what happened. She was always doing sneaky actions to make things happen like when we needed to split up to groups, she always stayed with smart people in class so that she didn't need to think then could get the answer easily. Scheming can be an advantage but it can also be a disadvantage. If my friends scheme against someone, it will make me feel sick with them. So I left her gradually, since I'm afraid that someday she will scheme against me.

The last origin of end a friendship is dishonesty. I have an impressive story that happened when I was in high school. Sabrina and Christine were my best friends and we told everything to each other like when I broke up with whom, I didn't like somebody in the class or I just pood and it's big. Also, we usually went to one of ours home lied for a day and did nothing. But after one year, all of us became busy doing our schoolwork and clubs; it was hard to find a time that everyone was free, so we didn't meet each other for a long time. One day, my classmate hung out with me then I saw Sabrina and Christine were shopping in a mall, I was so shocked and I couldn't think for three moments. Then I walked to them, they were just as surprised me and don't know how to face me; the only thing I did was smiled to them and said hi to them then I left. When I got home, I started to cried and my heart was broken. After that, they explained to me why they hung out without me and hoped we could still be friends and I accepted that because I do love them. Until now, they still keep doing that and always being caught by me but the stupid thing is that I can't leave them.

Friends may come and go in everyone's lives, but no matter how long they are in them, friends leave a lasting impression. Sometimes, the memories of Sabrina and Christine hurt me the most, but when I am happy or sad, the first people that come to my mind are Sabrina and Christine that I want to share my feeling to. Even though I really love these friends and I always treated them very well, but I have to leave them because it's good for me and I don't want to be hurt by them every time. Leaving them helps me learn a lot and makes me be more mature to face the problem in relationship.

Describing Myself

Victor Rozanski
RW22

My name is Victor Rozanski. I have brown eyes and curly shoulder-length black hair. I am average build and thin. I have an oval face and a beard. Today, I am wearing a gray jacket, t-shirt, and jeans. I am also wearing a baseball cap, a watch, a ring, a bracelet, and a necklace. I have black, purple, and white sneakers. I'm 19 years old, so I'm a teenager. I don't have freckles and wrinkles, not yet. In conclusion, I'm not perfect!

The Face of an Elderly Person

Dongha Kwak
RW60

I believe that people's personalities are reflected in their faces. People make facial expressions by using facial muscles when they express their emotions. I am assured of this theory when I saw the face of my maternal grandmother. She has an oval-shaped face with long gray curly hair. Moreover, she always wears an ornamental stick shaped hairpin, called a "Binyeo", so she looks graceful and dignified. Her eyes look like a crescent because she always has a smile on her face. There is the delicate arch of her eyebrows between a round forehead and benevolent eyes. She also has a sharp nose and thin lips like Mona Lisa, and she was getting wrinkles because of her smile. Whenever I see her face, it makes me happy. Furthermore, "Hahoe mask," which is a traditional mask in Korea, reminds me of my grandmother because their

smiles are similar. Based on this description for my grandmother, if people try to live with affirmative attitude with smile, they are able to have a beautiful smile on their face.

The Sound of Silent Voices

Jessica Tapia Jaramillo

In Mexico there are people who are not able to talk and say what they feel inside. They keep their emotions in their hearts, because if they show their feelings a big monster named government will make them disappear.

I'm just a Mexican girl, but I know my country doesn't have freedom of expression yet. And in the future we will be in the same situation because we do not have the courage and power to speak without masks. We are like wizards or magicians who want to make hunger and poverty and injustice transform into peace and happiness...but magic does not exist. It is going to be pseudo real and only in our dreams. We are going to be in the same situation, because nothing is going to change in a good way, only when the oppressed rise up. I'm not a pessimist girl. Realism is in my blood.

Thanks from the Editor

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