

Highlights

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ELI STUDENT VOICES

Volume 18, Issue 1

Spring 2014

Seasons of the Airport

Winnie Nascimento Silva
RW50

First Place

Seasons of the Airport
The airport is like a season
Everything happens for one reason
The summer gives me life
but the winter kills me like a knife
The atmosphere of spring is just beginning
Think about your caresses have other meaning
Because of the suspense to see you again
My life has returned to be a poem

Flowers still on the tree
Everything is beautiful to see
Passagers on his plane almost arrive
The airport is about to see a surprise
Good morning a summer day
looks like I've never been away
A very long time waiting for you
but now, every moment is like a "déjà-vu"

My eyes are gently smiling
My heart is happily crying
There are no words to translate
when I saw him through the gate
Two weeks is our time
before the sun stops to shine
until you came back to the airport
and I know that I'll miss you rsupport
I have love in the palm of my hand
I've been enjoying it like in the neverland
When you're happy hours seem to fly
and some leaves fall down from the sky
The airport now is a scary place
I don't wanna see that face
Your face saying good bye to me again
even if promising "love, forever, amen"
The fall is almost at its end

and I have to say good bye to my friend
Can you see that boy checking-in?
Yes, I love too much him
Then I'm looking at the floor
missing someone behind the security door
Winter, why are you so cold?
You saw, The airport is like I told

I'm Happy I Lost Part of My Salary

Akram Altawal
RW2

Second Place

I always woke up late. I took a shower and ate breakfast,
One day when I arrived at work late, my boss found out. A month
later I got a decrease in my salary. Then I felt bad. The next day, I
woke up early. When I reached work, I sent a message to my boss.
"I am not lazy, that is past." He understood me. After several
months, I got a pay increase. I'm very happy that I lost part of my
salary. That bad event changed me for the best.

21 Minutes are Enough

Jenny Fuentes
RW5

Check daily news and realize that nothing has changed, it has
become a daily task for a Venezuelan, but waking up one morning
and finding out that this time was not a distant event to you, is too
hard to believe.

That happened to me last 24 March when I was having
breakfast getting ready to go to college and I opened the
newspaper headlines looking for at least a sign of good news in my
country. There was not any good news, but there was one of kind
of news that you cannot read, see or hear: my good friend's sister
had died; she was killed by a man who opened fire amid a protest
while she was waiting for the bus with her husband.

I couldn't believe it; I was impressed, in shock, blinded by rage
and the indignation I felt at that moment. That could not be true,
that Adriana was dead.

But what else can happen in a country where every 21 minutes a person dies? Venezuela has become one of the most dangerous and violent countries around the world. A study by the National Institute of Statistics (INE), placed Venezuela as the country with the highest rates of violence in Latin America, even above Mexico, with its high percentage of violence, or drug production in El Salvador, which maintained the first position. A country in which the inflation currently stands at 54% (the highest in the Americas), with a black-market rate for U.S. dollars, currently 10 times the official rate; a country where it is impossible to get goods and services, even to get food and other primary necessities.

In response to this situation, on February 12th (Venezuelan “Young Day”), thousands of students (mostly aged 18 to 25-years-old) from different cities of the country took to the streets to protest peacefully against delinquency, rising crime and insecurity prevailing in the universities and in all the country in general. A reality that has been on the table for the last 20 years.

But it wasn't until this February 12th (ironically our “Young Day”) that things really took a bad turn in a bad way. Perhaps the main problem has not been the protest, the chaos and the anarchy which are dominating our streets and principal cities. The real problem is that a lot of young people are still dying in these demonstrations of “peace”. Proof of this is that to date, the nationwide protests have left a toll of 37 people dead, of which 8 were officers of the security forces and 29 were civilians; among them was Adriana, a 28-years-old girl who dreamed of a country where she could live worthily, one more hard worker, a sister, a daughter, a wife, a friend. A Venezuelan that was asking (or waiting) for a better place where she could raise the child that was in her belly, because my friend's sister was pregnant.

Now she is dead, now she is gone, while her murderer is hiding somewhere in the world and the country continues in the same situation. This time her name was on the list... but it could have been any of us.

Living on a Farm to Living in the City

Debora Regina da Silva
RW44

The place where a person lives is a very important part of her or his story. I am a privileged person because I had the opportunity of living on a farm and living in the city. I am able to enumerate the most important contrasting points between a farm and the city. Based on it I may say: there are many aspects to be analyzed and there are similarities and differences. First of all, the quality of life is very particular in each place. Second, communication is seen in a curious perspective by the habitants of these places. Lastly, the demeanor of people from a farm compared to city is very specific according the situation there.

While quality of life can be good in both locations, as cities have better access to medical care and farms have readily available fresh food, rural areas seem to offer a better atmosphere

overall. According to an article from Wikipedia, a farm is an area of land that includes various structures and is devoted primarily to the practice of producing and managing food, fiber and increasingly fuel (“Farm”). A farm is where a person plants vegetables and fruits without pesticides. It is a place where the alarm clock is a rooster. There is the bellowing of cows, milk is not processed, the farmer knows the quality of the meat produced there and the earth smells after a rain. The sky at night is more beautiful because stars seem to shine brightly. Clearly, life is awesome there. In the same way, the city's facilities are convenient. For example, the access to hospitals, pharmacies and supermarkets is simple, while in a rural area a person needs, sometimes, one hour to arrive and get medical assistance. On the other hand, cities have grave problems, like pollution, the possibility of an `urban heat island` phenomenon and burglary. It causes many health problems, for instance cardiac and respiratory changes, stress and cancer. On a farm, it does not exist. In conclusion, a farm offers a healthy environment while a city seems stressful.

Even though the advancement of technology overthrew the borders present in rural areas, some farms still have problems with internet and telephone access; however, the users of technology from rural areas are more conscious about the appropriate use of it. In fact, I live in a farm and I do not have access to internet there, and the use of cell phones is very limited. In many rural areas, this reality is present. In contrast, it does not happen in cities even though the majority of people from cities do not use technology in an appropriate way; they are addicted to the internet, social networks and texting. Thus, it is better a conscious use of this tool even if the communication is limited in rural areas.

The demeanor of people from farm and city is very similar, although farm people are friendlier. Urban people are usually quiet and interested only in their business. They are afraid to make friends because they do not rely on anyone; they do not know their own neighbors! The behavior of rural people is similar; however, I always see people from a farm with a smile on their faces due to the good life that they have in a peaceful place. In addition, people from rural areas are united most of the time; they help each other when there is a necessity. In fact, they are friends and sometimes closer than families. In brief, people from cities are less social and interactive than people from farms.

In summary, living on a farm and living in the city have advantages and problems, though in the overall perspective, I see a happier life on a farm. The quality of life is higher on a farm than in the city. People from rural areas are more social and they enjoy a peaceful life there. After analyzing all characteristics, my conclusion is this: a happy person is who lives on a farm and can relish the flavor of a simple life. The farmer is who provides food for the city because there is no soil fertility in the cement. I am proud of my origin!

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When Valentine's Day Hits the Lantern Festival: How do Chinese celebrate?

Yaru Chen
RW60

To have Tangyuan with your family or to have dinner with your boy/girlfriend?

That is a big conflict for a lot of Chinese, especially young people, this year.

February 14, as we all know, is Valentine's Day in Western Countries. It is, however, also a very crucial day for Chinese. On the Chinese Lunar Calendar this year, February 14 is the Lantern Festival, which is a very important part of Spring Festival. Families gather around during dinnertime and have this day's special food – Tangyuan, made of glutinous rice flour with sweet fillings inside. The end of the Lantern Festival means the beginning of hard work in a fresh new year.

Spending time with your family during the Lantern Festival is a Chinese tradition of more than 2,000 years. It is natural for Chinese people to celebrate this traditional Chinese festival. However, after the introduction of western culture, Chinese people now also enjoy the western Valentine's Day.

In the history of Chinese festivals, family affection is always the spirit. Nearly all traditional festivals emphasize the family. The Spring Festival and the Lantern Festival celebrate the union of the family in the New Year. The Mid-autumn Festival celebrates the reunion (or the hope of reunion) of the family in the year. Tomb-sweeping Day is for the family to get together to remember their ancestors. We can see from the above that two main characters of Chinese Festival are family and tradition.

Unlike those traditional festivals in China, western cultures have different themes in different festivals. For example, Valentine's Day is for couples, Christmas is for families, Halloween is for kids. When these concepts were introduced into China, they appealed to Chinese people, especially the concept of Valentine's Day.

During the old times, Chinese people used to hide their love or emotions. That is the way to behave properly and to be treated as upper class. However, the young generation, especially after the Reform and Opening-up, receives advanced education and accept the concept of equality and freedom. They need to express their emotion and love loud to the one they love and the world. That's why Valentine's Day is so popular in modern China. An interesting phenomenon is that after Valentine's Day becoming widely accepted in China, the smart Chinese merchants create a Chinese Valentine's Day based on a Chinese love fairy tale.

It seems that this is a conflict choice of which festivals to celebrate among Chinese young people. However, in fact, it is actually the conflict of two cultures. But this conflict may not be a bad thing.

As one of my friends kidding on this phenomenon: "Why should we be bothered by this choice? We are lucky that we can

have Tangyuan with chocolate fillings so that we can celebrate both Valentine's Day and the Lantern Festival."

Venezuela: Moments of Crisis

Carlos Vera
RW 62

When the deceased president Hugo Chavez told the Venezuelan people that they have to continue his legacy by voting for the already selected ward, the followers of Chavez didn't think twice. This ward was Nicolas Maduro, who is the currently president of Venezuela. The last elections left a lot to talk about. Some people believed, and still believe that the past presidential elections were stolen, and the actual winner was Henrique Capriles, the opposition candidate. Nowadays, the country is going through an economic crisis, shortages, violence, etc. If we put all these facts together and we add an illegitimate government, that puts us into a pressure cooker. The pressure cooker blew up two weeks ago; now there are people on the streets claiming for their rights. The followers of the government say that protests are to cause destabilization, but the truth is that these protests have reasons to be because of the economic crisis, shortages, and violence.

It is true that Venezuela is facing an economic crisis and has shortages in most of the basic products. According to the Agence France Presse (AFP), which is the oldest news agency in the world, "Venezuela's inflation soared to 56.2 percent in 2013..." (2013, para 1). Venezuela is the country with the highest inflation in South America; followed by Argentina with an inflation rate of 10.9% (National Institute of Statistics and Census of Argentina). According to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), whose objective is to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among members countries in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers, Venezuela is the first country with the largest oil reserve in the world (297.74 billions barrels) followed by Saudi Arabia (265.85 billions barrels), so the economic crisis makes no sense. Some experts attribute the inflation of Venezuela to rigid currency and price controls that were introduced in 2003 by the ex-president Hugo Chavez (AFP 2013). Furthermore, Venezuela imports most of our basic products; the productivity in Venezuela has been on a decline. Yvan Gil (2013), the Ministry of Agriculture and Land of Venezuela, reports "Venezuela imports 50% of the food we eat". This statement was made last year, but we can assume the percentage is still the same. The government hasn't improved the national production at the same time the consumption increases. Ana Benedetti, a reporter for the Huffington Post notices, "Basic necessities like milk, toilet paper, and harina pan – a corn flour used to make arepas, a Venezuelan staple – have become hard to fine" (2014, para 2). The situation has become even worst, toilet paper and toothpaste have become luxuries. Nowadays, students are protesting for a country where you can find variety of food without having to wait in line to buy a reduced quantity of products. Besides shortages and the economic crisis Venezuela is

facing, students are protesting against violence because today Venezuela has more deaths than countries at war.

Violence is one issue that is affecting Venezuelan people. Currently, in Caracas and other important cities, robberies are occurring more and more often. The modus operandi works this way, when you are in the middle of traffic during rush hour two subjects in a motorcycle knock at your window asking for jewelry, your cellphone or your watch. If you try to make resistance most likely they are going to shoot you. However, robberies in traffic are not the only way to commit a crime. Nowadays, in Caracas we are living what we call express kidnapping, that is when a car with five subjects inside block your way and take you for a ride. In this express kidnappings the kidnappers call your family and ask for a lot of money. Associated Press, which is an American multinacional nonprofit news agency headquartered in New York City states, "A non-governmental group that tracks violent crime in Venezuela says the country's homicide has risen again in 2013 and quadrupled over the past 15 years". This group is known as The Venezuelan Violence Observatory (VVO). The VVO estimates that 2013 closed with 24,763 killings, which pushes the homicide rate to 79 per 100,000 habitants; in 2012 was 73 per 100,000 habitants, and in 1998 the rate was 19 (as cited by Association Press in the Huffington Post, December 26, 2013). When we see the most violent cities ranking, in the first place we have San Pedro Sula, Honduras with 170 homicides per 100,000 habitants, then we have Acapulco, Mexico with 142 homicides per 100,000 habitants, and finally we have Caracas. Now you can see why the students are protesting against violence, but violence doesn't end in robberies and kidnappings. For the past few weeks, the call to students that are clamoring for their rights, and for a country without violence, is to protest peacefully; however, the police, the army, and other special forces have launched a strike against the students. Officially, 12 people have died so far in protests. Nowadays, these protests are spreading out all over the country, many people has joined forces to achieve a common goal, to fight for the Venezuela which many people dream of.

On the other hand, the government chaired by Nicolas Maduro has called for peace and dialogue. Nicolas Maduro (2013), who is the president of Venezuela said, "La Paz con Justicia e Igualdad será nuestra Victoria frente al Golpe de Estado que estamos desmontando y Venceremos por Amor a la Patria" (Peace with Justice and Equality will be our victory against the coup that we are removing and we will win for love to our country) via Twitter @nicolasmaduro. It is true that some groups of protesters have caused damage to public infrastructure. Furthermore, the government has made concentrations for peace. But they have had a rambling speech; they first call for peace and dialogue then you turn your back and they order repression for the protesters. Francisco Ameliach, who is the governor of Aragua state, affect to the government said, "UBCH a prepararse contra el contra ataque fulminante. Diosdado dara la orden" (UBCH get ready for the fulminant counter attack. Diosdado will give the order) via Twitter @ameliachPSUV. UBCH are armed groups that follow the government, and Diosdado is the president of the National

Assembly, which is like the congress in the U.S., so we can infer that the government isn't being clear about with its message.

It is clear that Venezuela is facing a lot of important issues, and people are joining forces to protest against these issues. The country suffers from shortages and goes to an economic debacle. Venezuela is one of the countries with more violence in the world. Although the protests are peaceful, there is a lot of repression by the police against the protesters. In my opinion, these protests have reason to be, for all the abuses of this government. I am sure that all the Venezuelans living out of the country want to come back and join the fight for a better place that in my opinion, we are going to find sooner rather than later.

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Addiction: Cellphones

Andrea Aristiguieta
RW51

Many people in the world have problems with addictions like alcoholism, gambling, drug abuse; however, these days people have demonstrated that they can be addicted to technology, and the most addictive device is the cellphone. Cellphones are devices that work to make and receive calls and messages, and the purpose of them is that we can communicate with people wherever they are in a faster and easiest way. Cellphones are used by people of every age, culture and social class. You can find different styles of cellphones, and each one can include more functions than the

others, so the cost of it depends on the functions that the cellphone has. Furthermore, cellphones are very helpful and useful for everyone in the society, but people are using their cellphones most of the time of their lives, it has become an addiction. If you want to prevent this addiction, it is good to know the causes, the symptoms, and the consequences of being addicted to cellphones.

Nowadays people can be addicted to cellphones for several reasons. The addiction to cellphones started in this century, when the technology started to advance very fast. Advances in science and technology helped to create more productive and useful artefacts, adding new functions, like in our cellphones. Also, these artefacts besides being used to communicate, can also be used as other devices like camera, television, computer, game console, GPS, and as a music player. Therefore people feel that they don't need to use other stuff because they think that they have everything that they need in their cellphones already; they can spend time doing different types of things in it, and maybe at the same time. Around 60% of the population of the US that are addicted to cellphones are teenagers. This is because when people are in that stage of life, they become more isolated, so the fact of using a cellphone can make them feel not alone at all. People can have many reasons for being addicted to cellphones, but addictions are not healthy for us.

The people who are addicted to cellphones can show many notorious actions, behaviors, or symptoms of this addiction. The symptoms that a person can have for being addicted to cellphones can make several changes in their life. The primary symptom is when you can't be without your cellphone and you are constantly checking it, searching for new messages, missed calls, or looking to see what people have published on social networks. Also, you can notice when you are around people and you don't leave your cellphone for a minute, you don't care about what is happening and about the people who are around you. It can also make changes in your mood, you can be happy, and then mad because your cellphone did something wrong that you didn't want to do, or you see something that you shouldn't; or maybe this can happen on the contrary. If you or one of the people you know present one of this symptoms, it is correct to worry about it.

Using your cellphone a lot of time in your life can generate lots of consequences to your health and social life. Addictions don't create any positive things in your life. It can create lot of consequences in your health; you might continuously have headaches, ear or eye ache, sleep loss, and you can feel dizzy. Also, it can create hallucinations; you may start to hear your cellphone ringing, but it was only in your mind because it wasn't really ringing. Furthermore, cellphone addiction can create consequences in your social life. The main consequence is when people start to isolate themselves. They live in their own world, and it can ruin the relationships that you have with your family and friends because you will not spend enough time with them. Moreover, this addiction can kill people; many people these days are using their cellphones while they're driving, so it can generate big car crashes and take the lives of lots of people.

Cellphone addiction is a big problem for society. Like other addictions, it doesn't give anything positive for us, it only causes

problems. If people continue having this addiction, people won't interact between each other in real life anymore. We can't stop using our cellphones, we only have to know how to use it and when. If you know that you are addicted to cellphones admit it, is the best way to begin a healthier life. Also, try to be a little independent from technology, focus on other things, like your family, friends, and your environment. Those things are more important than a simple device. Cellphones are devices that have helped us a lot in the last years, but if you don't want to have any problems in your life, just use it in a right way.

What is Adulthood?

Amalia Ojeda Gonzalez
RW 53

How do you recognize an adult? The majority believes that someone becomes an adult when she or he turns 18 or 21 years old, but this is just a legal definition. An adult, however, is a grown up, mature, and responsible person who has lived several experiences in life that have made him/her mature as a person. There are three different ways we can recognize the adulthood in a person, like their physical appearance and characteristics, their mentality, and their independence and responsibility.

One of the most common ways to recognize an adult is by his/her physical characteristics. You can tell if a person is an adult by just looking at his/her appearance. There are some people that seem older than they really are because of some physical characteristics; for example, when men have a beard, white hair, or even when they become bald, people usually think that this is an old man, but this is not always the case. Moreover, people are used to classifying a person by his/her age; they believe that a person is an adult according to their age, but this is completely wrong. There are hundreds of people that are 25, 26, or even 30 years old that do not act like adults at all. Meanwhile, there are also hundreds of 18- or 19-year-old people that are real adults. Adulthood is not just about age or physical appearance, it is actually about your way of acting.

Nevertheless, you may think you can be sure of a person's maturity just by looking at his/her physical characteristics, but an adult can be also recognized by his/her mentality. There are some specific characteristics that define the maturity in a person. First of all, education is an extremely important factor in a person's life. Generally, people who have a good education are more likely to mature earlier in life than those who do not have the possibility of having a good education. Furthermore, a real adult is wide open to new ideas and to take risks in life in order to be a better, mature person. Besides, adults have great faith in things that they believe in. To exemplify, adults have stronger faith in God and religious beliefs than kids or young people have. Adults are completely secure and confident in themselves.

Not only are the physical characteristics and the mentality of a person signs of adulthood, the independence and responsibility are also significant signs of adulthood. When a person moves out of

his/her house you can presumably think that he or she is an adult because he/she has enough maturity to live alone and take care of her/himself. Living alone brings a lot of responsibilities, of which you have to take care on your own, such as paying your own bills without your parents' help; as a consequence, you have to have a job and earn money to be able to sustain yourself economically. In addition, an adult is a responsible person who faces all the problems and inconveniences in life with maturity.

In conclusion, an adult can be recognized in three different ways, like their physical characteristics, their mentality, and their sense of responsibility and independence, aside from the fact that people often get confused. People believe that they know when a person is an adult by just looking at his or her physical appearance, but this is not true. Adults are characterized by being educated, open minded, and faithful persons. Adulthood is also recognized by living on your own because it says that you are mature and responsible enough to take care of yourself without any help. Being an adult takes multiple attitudes and actions that differentiate you from others, more specifically, that make you unique. I personally think people never become adults; they just learn how to behave.

Learning to live and accept the differences

Aparecido Soares Filho
RW 44

Discrimination has been responsible for several conflicts and disagreements around the world and throughout mankind's history. Unfortunate historical periods as World War II, Apartheid, and slavery involved discrimination issues. All of these events happened because one group of people believed they were superior than another one for their origin, skin color, religion, or sexual orientation. The effects of discrimination are visible and clear. However, analyzing and discussing the causes can be the key to understand why some people do not know to live with diversity.

The first and one of the most important causes of discrimination is called "learned behavior"; that is, the product of a person's observation. Most of our values, behaviors, or beliefs, we acquire by observation of who lives around us. Usually, we internalize what we frequently contemplate. Indeed, this internalization is a natural part of our upbringing, but there are behaviors, and values which are not quite good to be copied. If a child hears from her or his parents, during the upbringing, that certain types of people are not as good as him or her just because their skin color is different, or that the people who follow that one specific religion are not worthy to go to "heaven", this child will probably internalize these statements as incontestable truths. The result of this will be an adult who does not accept anything or anyone that acts or believes in something "different".

An another cause, which is closely related to the first one, is a "stereotype". A stereotype is "...a fixed, over generalized belief about a particular group or class of people." (qtd. in McLeod, "Stereotype"). To understand the relation between the two causes discussed so far, it is necessary to notice that a stereotype is

transmitted and maintained by learned behavior. Nevertheless, the stereotype is a issue with deeper roots, more than we can measure and imagine. The stereotypes related to sexual orientation or races there have existed since when different civilizations with different customs and beliefs had their first contact. However, when we look at a person for the first time and make judgments based, for instance, on his or her clothes, without even having one brief conversation, we are making stereotypes.

The last cause is to not admit that discrimination exists. The first step to solve a problem is to admit that it is real and really exist. If we do not think that something needs to be changed, we will not do anything to change it. Discrimination has to be combated as if it was a disease. And we will only have given the first step from moment that the society, and governments realize the discrimination is present in almost all the sectors. It is possible to find it in a publicity campaigns, in a church which does not tolerate members who have different sexual orientations, or even in the proportion of workers in a company.

It is common to think that make premature judgments about the people based in their way to talk, their hair, or other superficial factors, it is natural attitude, but this is a kind of discrimination as well. Of course, these kind of discrimination do not result in huge consequences to the society. But if they did not exist, society would definitely be a better environment to live in, with human beings who really have evolved throughout time. What we have to remind ourselves of is that insignificant judgments can become stereotypes which can be repassed by learned behavior, resulting in a endless cycle. Differences have always existed and they are what make the world have the richness of diversity.

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Living on a Farm to Living in the City

Cheng-Hung Cho
RW44

Living is a very important decision in your life; some people tend to living in the city, some are not. Actually, most people live in the city because there have more opportunity to find job, they forced of the economic pressure. Is living in the city your original consideration? If there have choice, what is your opinion between living on a farm or in the city? There is no way around the fact that they both have advantages and disadvantages.

Convenience is one of the most important factor of living, if people consider where to live. Compare to living on a farm, living in the city is more convenient. For example, they have more opportunity to get greater job. Also, living in the city have more convenient public transportation to go everywhere they want. In addition, people living in the city have a lot of recreation for fun, such as malls, outlets, 24/7 stores and movie theaters. In

The Civil War to the American Revolutionary War

Aparecido Soares Filho
RW 44

Global history was, and is still written by revolutions, revolts, and wars. A common dissatisfaction is the main factor which leads people to come together in favor of a general well-being. The achievements of each nation were reached through the strength of the people, which was strengthened by unity. Most times, the main objective of citizens fights was the liberty, whether individual liberty or the liberty as a nation. The USA, for example, has two important moments in its trajectory that resulted in great conquests that changed the course of its history: The American Civil War and the Revolutionary War. Even people being the major responsible for the achievements in both of them, these uprisings have critical differences and other similarities that help us to understand a little more about American cultural and its historical and political contexts.

Firstly, to really understand the differences and the similarities between these two remarkable periods of American History, it is necessary to know the definitions of a civil war and a revolution. Among the numerous definitions of revolution, the one that most applies in the present context is: "a fundamental change in political organization; the overthrow or renunciation of one government or ruler and the substitution of another by the governed" ("Revolution"). In contrast, a civil war is defined as "a war between opposing groups of citizens of the same country" ("Civil War"). Through these definitions, it is possible notice that the primary difference is the character of each uprising. While a revolution fights to overthrow a political organization and the government is one of actors involved, a civil war is based just in a disagreement between groups of citizens and the government is not necessarily involved.

In the Revolutionary War, the American colonies fought against the British government and the main objective was to reach the independence of all colonies from Britain. In contrast, the Civil War was fought between the American colonies: the South against the North; and the objective of the South was the independence from the North by disagreements related to slavery. Another important difference between these historical events is concerning the leaders of the war. During the Revolutionary War, many British people lived in the American colonies and they also wanted to be free from Britain. Therefore, they led and fought next to Americans born to achieve their liberty. On the other hand, during the Civil War, only Americans led the battles and the decisions. The location of the conflicts also differed. While the Civil War's conflicts concentrated in the South, during the Revolutionary War, the conflicts were spread throughout the colonies (Reeves, "Adprima...").

Although many differences exist, there are important similarities between these uprisings. Both wars had two words as the principal objectives: unity and liberty. The Revolutionary War

contrast, people living on a farm, they cannot have so many convenient public transportation. They have to plan their purchasing schedule carefully when they are going to buy anything they want. Convenience is an important factor so that some people decide where they want to live as the first consideration.

Pollution is also the mostly influence when people make decision about where to live. Living in the city, there are a lot of pollution around human's daily life such as air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution and so on. "Adverse air quality can kill many organisms including humans. Ozone pollution can cause respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, throat inflammation, chest pain, and congestion."(pollution). On the other hand, some people prefer living on a farm because of fresh air, less pollution and natural environment. No matter living in the city or on a farm, doing something right to protect our environment is important, because that is where we live.

The pace of life is different between living on a farm and living in the city. Living in the city is usually busier than living on a farm in modern life. "In 1995, Kanter argued that successful cities can be identified by three elements: good thinkers (concepts), good makers (competence) or good traders (connections)" (city). Like New York City, it include large central business districts that serve as hubs for economic activity. However, living on a farm, caretaking plants and animals are primary mission in daily life. In brief, there have big gap between two living style.

In fact, there are a lot of people living in the city. For instance, "New York City, with a Census -estimated population of over 8.3 million in 2012, is the most populous city in the United States. Alone, it makes up over forty percent of the population of New York State." (New York). However, more and more people prefer living on a farm after they are retired. They both have advantages and disadvantages. The most important things is to choose your favorite place in your life.

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wanted to achieve liberty from Britain and the unity of thirty-three colonies. Similarly, in the Civil War, the Northern colonies aimed to preserve the unity of the nation, while the colonies from the South wanted their liberty. Similar to the Revolutionary War, the Civil War can be also considered short. The former lasted about five years, and the latter about four years. Also, both wars happened on American territory (Reeves, "Adprima...").

Indeed, these two remarkable events changed American history. Despite happening in different periods, the unity of the nation, or even part of it, was the main factor that helped citizens achieve their goals. The unity was not only a factor that pushed the people to fight but also the main conquest of both wars.

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An Interesting Story of Detection

Cuneyt Caliskan
RW43

Once upon a time, something happened. It occurred at Mrs. Perkins' mansion. She was rich and quite wealthy because she was a professor. She was doing important research, and she was earning her own money. She was researching the residue on fruit and the deficiency of protein in animals. One day, a burglar entered into her home and found her in her bed. He tied her hands and closed her mouth. This was inhumane and cruel, and Mrs. Perkins didn't know what was happening! Then he stole some valuable jewelry from her bedroom, and he ran away.

After that, Mr. Perkins came home and saw his wife. He was appalled! He saved his wife from this situation. They talked about what happened. Then they decided to call the police and wanted a detective. Two minutes later, the detective came to the mansion. When he arrived, he started to ask interesting questions. These questions were not about the case. Mr. and Mrs. Perkins got angry. They argued loudly in the house because the detective's mission was catching the criminal. However, he wasn't doing his mission. After that, he continued to ask questions and he took some fingerprints and other evidence. One week later, the criminal was caught by the police. He is in prison now.

Many years later, the detective decided to write a book about criminals, after he retired. He took some bad critiques about his behavior after his book was published. Actually, he had needed a

lot of help to catch criminals. It seems that he was unsuccessful as both a detective and a writer!

My Favorite Room

Maria Gabriela Azzari
RW21

I like to be creative and learn new things. I love cooking and my favorite room is the kitchen, because there I can do what I want. This is the best way for me to enjoy my free time. Cooking is relaxing too, because you are focused on the food that you are preparing. My kitchen is not so big, but it is a modern and comfortable room. It is sunny because it has a big window. In my kitchen you can find every type of knife and other kitchen items. From the kitchen, I can see the living room and the dining room because it is fully open. There is an automatic dishwasher. There are many cabinets and the walls are white. Actually, it is all white and the table is black. In my kitchen, there is a big fridge and a good stove. I love to cook for my friends and family and it is good to know they like my food. Everyone needs a place to be relaxed, and that place for me is the kitchen. That is why the kitchen is my favorite room.

My Favorite Place to Visit

Aparecido Soares Filho
RW 44

Everyone has a favorite place to visit or a place where we have dreamed visiting one day. Most people spend a lot of money to travel to Europe to visit the Eiffel Tower and try French cuisine, or to travel to the USA to know the famous Times Square. Also, there are those who prefer one simple place, without glamour or crowd, without skyscraper or monuments, one shelter where they can relax and feel protected and welcomed. Actually, that kind of place is my favorite to visit. The place where I really can calm down, feel loved and have the best meals is my grandmother's house.

My grandmother is distinguished woman. She has suffered and faced plenty of problems and difficulties, but these events did not make her sadder or weaker. Instead, everything that happened in her life just made her stronger and happier. Due to everything that she has lived already, before she judges someone, she always tries to understand why that person acts that way. She did not complete her studies, but even so she has a lot of lessons to teach. Lessons from her life which I have learned since little.

My grandmother's house can be perfectly described by her personality. Her home is simple but comfortable; it is not too big but it is sufficiently large to fit all her grandchildren. Any person who get there will always be welcome. The only thing which is better than her house is her food. Honestly, in my whole life, I have not seen someone who cooks better than her. Everybody probably says this about her or his grandmother, but I really have

to admit it. I love spending my vacations there because I know that I will be very welcome.

Every time I arrive in her house, I feel a mixture of feelings. I feel things such as peace, serenity, love, memories, and a certainty that I will have a good time. Sometimes, I feel more relaxed and in peace there than in my own house. That is strange, because it is common to hear “There is no a better place than your home”. Unfortunately, or fortunately, I have a place that is better or as good as my home.

Indeed, a simple house without wealth or luxury can mean much more than your eyes can see. It is a difficult task for you to try to describe something that is special or you, because what makes something being unique for you cannot be described, only felt. Of course, visiting places around the world is fantastic and exciting, but if you want to find peace and feel loved, your grandmother’s home is a great deal.

Electronic Devices Follow Us When and Whatever We Are

Jairo E. Orquera Vasquez
RW4

It seems to be true that technology and all of its friends came to live among us and do not attempt to move to another place. Do you believe that mobile phones, tablets, and other devices are more convenient and interesting than books and newspapers? There is a tendency among young people and teenagers to have a smartphone or a tablet on their hands when they are travelling by or waiting for the bus. It is possible to see that they like electronic devices because they can keep in contact with their friends, read e-books, play games or search the web for information. In other words, the new generation feels the necessity of being accompanied and having fun.

To begin with, the modern devices can be like a friend or partner when students are on the way to classes at the university. For example, if you do not meet a close friend or someone you know very well, smartphones and tablets appear from the pockets and become the best friend you want to talk to. It happens many times when we are on the bus that people are sitting with their bags and headphones connected to their mobile phones or tablets.

Another interesting behavior is how the young find playing games and surfing the internet funnier than reading a book. As we are not used to reading and analyzing books, we tend to play video games or listen to music in order to relax before we enter to our classes. It does not mean that we do not like literature. The thing is that we prefer to use our iPhones or tablets when we have to go to a particular place like the university, school, or college.

To conclude, it is impossible to deny that a great number of young people are keen on using technology and, therefore, they adore being in contact with smartphones, tablets, and other devices. In my case, I can say that electronic devices are quite useful, practical and friendly. All the time you feel you are

connected with someone else. For instance, it could be the radio, your friends on WhatsApp or Facebook, and the websites.

Small Cities vs. Big Cities

Yasmin Gomes
RW 41

The populated area of a city is defined by the existing social, cultural and economic networks there are. A population zone is typically planned with buildings designated to different purposes, such as housing, business, industry, etc. In this way, each city has its own identity. On the other hand, in terms of territorial characteristics, there are different types of cities and they can be distinguished by their sizes: small and big. It is easier to talk about that when there is a parameter for making comparisons, so I will compare the city that I live in U.S. now – Gainesville, an example of a small city, and the city I lived in Brazil – Belem, an example of a big city.

Gainesville is classified as a small city when compared to my city in Brazil because it has between 100,000 and 150,000 residents. Small cities like Gainesville are good because they don’t have a lot of noise. Gainesville is also featured with the University there, making it a typical college town. The transportation is another big difference. Most students use public transport or alternative means to go to places, leaving the traffic freer and calmer, and you hardly see any fatal accidents. As a consequence of that, small cities tend to be less polluted than big cities. The special organization in Gainesville is clear; therefore, you don’t see so much trash in the streets and the grounds are always clean and well maintained. The town is more secured, so you can walk around the quieter streets without concerning about safety. You can return from a party and walk home without fear. Public services in Gainesville also tend to operate with higher quality, and people are also more educated in general.

However, a big city like Belem has a wider range of choices for those who appreciate a busier life style. There are numerous opportunities, especially in relation to leisure, culture and education. In large cities, there are a greater amount of jobs available, but in contrast, the competition is much more intense and the level of proficiency in certain required skills is higher. Public transportation isn’t as efficient; as a result, the number of cars on the street is higher, resulting in heavier traffic and more frequent accidents. In addition, people tend to be more arrogant and individualistic.

Anyway, both big cities and small cities have their strength and weakness. There are people who would not exchange the diversity of big city for a small city. Just as there are people who would not exchange the quiet life in a small city for the noise of a big city. Choose between livings in a big city or small city requires serious consideration about life style. Small city life isn’t for everyone, but the same goes to big cities. But each of these types of cities have something to offer for people to live well.

The Student's Perspective

Thiago Campos de Oliveira
RW 34

There are two different languages which came from different sources. They show some differences in their writing system, grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary, but they show similarities, too. These two languages are Portuguese and English.

Their writing systems are the same with little difference. In Portuguese, there are 23 letters, 3 fewer than English, which has 26 letters. Portuguese does not have the letters Y, K, and W included in its alphabet. The punctuation is still the same in both, changing only the way to use it. Commas are used in Portuguese more often than in English, as well as periods are used more often in English than in Portuguese.

Talking about grammar, it is possible to identify many differences. There are more verbs and conjugations in Portuguese than in English. For example, in Portuguese, the verbs in simple past change depending on the subject, so there are more word forms. It does not happen in English where the simple past is still the same independent of its subject. Also, Portuguese permits dropping its subject in a sentence, but English does not.

Similar to grammar, the pronunciation also changes. In English it is common to use the tongue with the teeth while speaking. The sounds "th", "ch", and "sh" are not used in Portuguese. Another thing is English speakers do not pronounce some letters and vocal sounds which is different from Portuguese speakers who pronounce all letters and vocal sounds.

Taking into consideration vocabulary, it is possible find infinite differences. But English has a feature which Portuguese does not have. There are called phrasal verbs, where a verb can change its meaning when linked with an adverb or preposition.

Even though demonstrating their differences and similarities, it is not possible to say which one is harder to learn. It depends on the wish that each person has. However, the differences between these two languages do not prevent the ability to learn both perfectly.

The Pride of a Life

Thiago Campos de Oliveira
RW 34

Everyone looks for a friend who can become a best friend. Some people have as an ideal friend their pets, which make them smile and forget their problems. But in my vision, the ideal friend should do more than just make me smile. He or she needs to be loyal, honest and, most importantly, a model person.

The loyalty which I am looking for in a friend is not that which a person is always in my favor and follows me unconditionally, but also that which our ideas and opinions get in conflict while our confidence and respect for each other are

connected. The loyalty in which both sides are trying to help each other is required in a friendship.

Honesty is an precious characteristic to get respect and trust in someone. When I say that my friend needs be honest, it means being honest with their opinions and acts. He or she should not just be honest with me, but also with all those around him or her. Only in this way will I trust him or her completely.

Most importantly, my best friend should be a model person who I will get help from when I am desperate. This friend is someone whose steps and road can be followed. He or she is the kind of person who can fail but not give up. He or she is a person whom I will forever be proud of with his or her qualities and defects.

Reviewing these characteristics I am sure that I already have my best friend, someone with all these virtues. And as Jaden Smith found his best friend in his father in the movie, "The Pursuit of Happyness" I have found mine in my father.

Pizza

Faisal Alhasawi
RW33

There are many ways to make a pizza and different way to prepare for it. First of all, to prepare for the pizza, you must have some ingredients. The pizza require half of a cup of warm water, one package of active dry yeast, three and a half cups of flour, two tablespoons of olive oil, one and a half teaspoons of salt, three cups of homemade pizza sauce, your favorite pizza topping, four cups of grated mozzarella cheese, and some corn meal. We now have the ingredients, and we can prepare a delicious pizza. The first thing we ought to do is preheat the oven to 400o F and piping hot before you start cooking the pizza. Secondly, prepare the crust by removing the unbaked crust from the packing. Use a brush to spread the olive oil on the crust. Then you can spread pizza sauce on the crust. After that, add as many toppings as you want. I prefer to add mozzarella cheese, peppers, mushrooms and onion. This is my special vegetarian pizza. Finally, put your pizza in the oven and wait for 15 minutes. After this, enjoy it! In conclusion, if you follow these steps you will get a delicious pizza.

What Is an Adult?

Felwah Alanquri
RW 53

What does it take to be an adult? This is a challenging question which can confuse people, but really are there any special characteristics to make someone an adult? It is a controversial topic because it is difficult to define an adult. Obviously there is no clear line when someone becomes an adult. However, each person has

his own criteria that can be used to make an adult, such as physical appearance, social life and psychological behavior.

The majority of people may argue that physical appearance can be utilized in specifying how mature a person is. They associate being adult with puberty. These psychological changes include body hair, voice change in males and sexual development such as menstruation in females. Others may say that they can judge someone's maturity by knowing his or her age. If he or she is above 18 they will be considered as adults; otherwise, they will be still teenager. Also, people may use the size of the person in order to decide if he or she is an adult. For example, if a person is tall people may imply that he is an adult.

Another aspect in judging the maturity of someone could be his social life. Adults tend to have responsibilities among their lovers. They may have partner or spouse who relies on them emotionally and financially. Also, they may have children who they should take care of. For example, parents have to take their children to the day care every day before they go to their work or study. Moreover, some people may think that adults are the group of people who can socialize and be able to drink alcohol. Others may believe that adults are the group of people who experience pain and are able to survive even though they have to face some obstacles in their life.

Psychological behavior can also play an important role in determining if the person is was an adult or not. People may think a person may become an adult if he or she is able to decide which is right to do and which is wrong. For example, adults should know that they cannot drive under the influence or drive fast and pass the red lights. In addition, maturity could be related to realizing the consequences of the person's behavior and taking responsibility for his actions. For example, if someone is late for work every day she and he should realize that they might be sacked from work. Moreover, if the person is open minded and can listen to what other people say and take it into account, it may be considered as being mature. These behaviors show the world around you that you are an adult.

In conclusion, the definition of an adult can be ambiguous at the first glance because people may find their own opinion about what makes somebody an adult whether their physical appearance or social life or psychological behavior. However, the best way to find out if the person is an adult or not is to take a close look at their appearance and also to consider their actions and beliefs.

A Model Change for a Changing World Order

Irati Lafragua
RW62

Once upon a time there was a land where the economy was not the center of everything, where capitalism was useless, and the environment, culture and people the most important concepts, because success meant happiness. This is not a tale. This country exists –Bhutan– and instead of using GDP, since 1972 they have

used GNH: Gross National Happiness. The philosophy behind this is measuring progress in a less individualistic way and with the conviction that the beneficial development of society happens only with the material and the spiritual one. Nick Marks, of the New Economics Foundation, admitted that there are still many things that are unimplementable outside of Bhutan, but the truth is that in crisis periods many governments are giving attention to this small country and its politics. Nevertheless, reality is yet to be so beautiful. In fact, talking in terms of superpowers nobody mentions happiness, and much less Bhutan. Sadly, things such as currency, military power or influences are much more important. In consequence, if someone asks us to think about who the world's superpower is, we could have more than one candidate, but surely the first, even if it is because of its traditional dominance, would be the U.S.

We usually take into account influences, economy, military power, self-image, GDP, etc. But, what about citizens and welfare? In the U.S. the rate of unemployment is worrying (especially among the youth), education and health are also a big problem, life expectancy is lower than in other developed countries, the population in risk of poverty is rising... After seeing all this evidence, it is not strange to talk about America's decline, but who could be its substitute? Maybe it is time to rethink the term "superpower", or to push it into oblivion. In 1729 the legal code of Bhutan already declared that "if the Government cannot create happiness for its people, there is no purpose for the Government to exist." That's why the main powers in the world should be considered those offering the best life-quality, welfare, more social benefits and an even society to their population. It's not a coincidence that, according to the Earth Institute at Columbia University, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Netherlands are the happiest countries in the world. In a fairer society, they would also be the example that everybody would want to follow.

My Favorite Room

María Gabriela Camacho Prieto
RW21

My favorite room is my bedroom in Venezuela. I love this room because it is very big, yet private. The atmosphere is good because it always smells clean. My mom decorated my room very nicely. The walls are painted white and my Mom put up little posters about medicine on the wall because that is my interest. I have a big desk for study and my books are nearby. I have one closet for my medical books and for my romantic books. In my room there is one sofa next to the bed. I sit there when I watch TV. I like this sofa because it is very nice and comfortable. When I am happy, I go there. When I am tired I stay in my room because it is a quiet space just for me. I miss my special bedroom in Venezuela very much.

My Favorite Room

Gustavo Perez Salpetrier
RW21

My favorite room of my home must be my bedroom. It's a medium-sized blue room. It's comfortable because the temperature is a little cool. There is a bookshelf where I keep my favorite books. I have my laptop on my desk that is a little far to the left side of my bed. I have my video games on a shelf just like my books. There is a TV in front of my bed. I do many interesting things in my bedroom. This is a special room for me.

Are You Ready for Next Generation?

Jessica Moraes
RW 52

Have you ever stopped to think that we could be the last generation who knows how life is without technologies like cell phones or computers? Years ago, it was predicted by many that the future would be an amazing and surreal place, yet no one really seems very shocked about the advances. The more technology enters our homes, the more our routines and relationships change. One would think that these tools would be used to gain an understanding of ways of learning, maintain and strengthen relationships, have different kinds of information, or help people to become more socially adept. However, some technological advances cause people to be distracted, have less critical thought, be overly stressed, and increasingly isolated. Obviously, technology has had a profound impact on what it means to be social and we will be the last generation who knows the difference between people with and people without technology.

You often hear that children of the Age of Information are technologically gifted since the vast amount of data has made these young people adept at manipulating and managing information, but researchers have proved the opposite. Mass media has highlighted the importance of technology in our lives since they want to convince us and sell us just the positive impacts to move this business. Even when learning how to deal with all this information and acquiring this ability, researchers proved that technologies are a distraction for children, affecting their productivity and their engagement in activities. A mere 20 years ago, children used to play outside all day, riding bikes, playing sports, and building their own games. Masters of imaginary games, children of the past created their own form of play that didn't require costly equipment and they could exercise their minds and bodies (Rowan, 2013). Children now rely on technology for the majority of their play, limiting challenges to their creativity and imaginations, as well as limiting necessary challenges to their bodies to achieve optimal sensory and motor development. According to pediatrician Chris Rowan, when children don't exercise their bodies, this sedentary habit is resulting in delays in attaining child

development milestones, with subsequent negative impact on basic foundation skills for achieving literacy or a healthy lifestyle (2013).

Getting information in an easy way is also something regarding technology that attracts people. But, is constant contact with all kinds of information a good thing? If you are always in contact, there will be a decreasing amount of time to devote to your own thinking, and others will shape your opinion more and more. The news is a great example - you see or read an interesting story, think about it for a second, and then you leave it behind, without any critical thinking or wondering how it could affect your pre-formed opinion. We are connected to so many gadgets that we lose ourselves between so much information. Moreover, we are reprogramming our memory, without realizing it. Attention is a key to have a good memory and technology has made us increasingly distracted. According to Nicolas Carr, the internet is changing the way people read and process information (2008). Immersing ourselves in a book or a lengthy article is a good example. It used to be easier, now our concentration often starts to drift before we finish the reading. We have so many distractions that after a couple of pages our brain wants to check email, social networks, click on links, hop from page to page and the reading is not deep anymore. Another downside about looking for information on the internet is that we tend to find groups of people who share the same opinion as us. The result is that we are not exposed to the variety of opinions that we used to be. If somebody has an opinion that differs they are usually excluded from the group. The result can be that the beliefs and opinions become much more firmly entrenched than they used to be and people are less tolerant than they used to be.

The lack of strong relationships is also an impact that has changed our behavior. Many people think that technologies have been facilitating communication around the world for the last years, and that it approached people and strengthened their relationships. But creating meaningful relationships is often about sharing our lives with others and not just having online contact. No one can deny the fact that the advancement of technology has produced a completely unique method of interaction and communication. Now, more and more people are interacting with others through different platforms like apps, social networks, text messaging. Social media sites can make us confused about our real and strong friendships; it is more difficult for us to distinguish between the meaningful relationships we foster in the real world, and the numerous casual relationships formed through social media. People feel as if they have a lot of friends, while their relationships are based only on superficial ties. The usual coffee with a friend to talk about news is not necessary anymore since you can say everything you want by chats on the internet. A lack of intimacy starts to be formed when there is no face-to-face contact, making relationships based on weak and unreliable ties. Also, people lose knowledge about how to interpret corporal language, the sense that help you identify a lie or even a joke, that sometimes people blur. These occurrences are facts that only those of us who lived the life before technology can realize.

Furthermore, many people are involved in an abundant number of relationships through technology, but sometimes the

quantity of these associations leaves people feeling qualitatively empty. Web sites such as Facebook have been associated with jealousy, social tension, isolation, depression, and even suicide. Studies prove that people exposed to social media are more prone to negative emotions than people who don't use it. The main reason is that these people look at the digital lives of all their other friends, compare themselves to what they see and then feel a decrease in their self-esteem. There is this fantasy that other people's lives are always better. And it is easy to imagine that they have more friends, more money and a more exciting life. This feeling can act as self-harm and become depression that can even result in suicide. The increase of suicide in the last years can be associated with technology and acts as cyber bullying. It is easier for a person threats, harasses, or embarrasses another person using the internet or other technologies, like cell phones. The psychological and emotional outcomes of cyber bullying are similar to those of real-life bullying. The difference is, real-life bullying often ends when school ends. For cyber bullying, there is no escape. And, it's getting worse. Researchers proved that bullying victims are 2 to 9 times more likely to consider committing suicide ("Eleven Facts about Cyber Bullying", 2013). These facts are confirming the effects of gadgets overuse and prove that there is a motive to concern about and that it can generate extreme consequences.

In addition, an important curiosity about the negative effects of technology concerns the physical change that is going on with our body. When you change your habits or thoughts, your body tends to react to this. According to Nicholas Carr, our deepening dependence on networking technology is indeed changing not only the way we think, but also the structure of our brains. Carr also wrote that there is an uncomfortable sense that someone, or something, has been tinkering with his brain, remapping the neural circuitry, reprogramming the memory. His mind isn't going—so far as he can tell—but it's changing. He's not thinking the way he used to think and he is not the only one who feels this way (2008). When we talk about our troubles with reading to friends and acquaintances many say they're having similar experiences. The more they use the Web, the more they have to fight to stay focused on long pieces of writing. The explanation to this is that our brain is like any other muscle – if you don't stretch it, it gets both stiff and flabby. But if you exercise it regularly, your brain will be flexible, quick, strong and versatile. With all of these distractions that technology brings, it is more difficult to make the rich mental connections that form when we read deeply, and without distraction and it remains largely disengaged, changing the structure of brain (Carr, 2008).

In the end, the rapid revolution in technology has affected our lifestyle drastically and led us to believe that our lives have changed for the better, but not all of the effects have shown themselves to be good for our lives. In fact, many of them can be harmful for our social behavior and relationships. This generation is still impressed with the new technology's advances and they are blinding their eyes for any negative effects. Currently, we are the last and unique generation who has lived in both "worlds" and is able to realize this difference. If we let it fall behind our eyes, these negative effects

may be forgotten and in the future, no one will be able to prove the real effects on society. Our children who are already here or will still be born in this new and technological world need to know and recognize that is possible have a good and healthy life without technological gadgets. The question this moment is: will they have the chance to disconnect and know this old world?

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Make Your Journey, Know Yourself

Jessica Moraes
RW52

Study abroad had been a life-changing experience that has made my education develop exponentially. Living in the USA made me discover myself through new friends, new culture, and new language. Every day I discover new words that sometimes describe myself better than my own language – and today I use these words to describe my new feelings, thoughts, my new me. This independence to take new paths by myself expanded my world view and perspectives about myself and my own culture. It often challenged me to reconsider my own beliefs and values and sometimes to alter or abandon them, embracing new concepts and perceptions. Here I also realized that all people are able to take control of their own life, even when they are younger; if they don't, they will still learn, they just need time. I wish that everyone could become a full-time learner like I became. Each day is new learning when you live in a different culture with people from everywhere in the world. Furthermore, the knowledge that you acquire when you know a new university and become familiar with an entirely new academic system is a great achievement, especially when that university is considered a highlight around all the world. In the end, I'm sure that this experience would make the difference in anyone's life. Applying the knowledge I acquired here and the ability to communicate across cultures, I will be able to make right decisions in my life. When you know yourself and you know the importance

of taking advantage of your experiences, it is easier to make a good journey.

Love

All of the Students in
RW43

Love
Love is the moonlight
Love is like a spring wind
Love is butterflies in your stomach
Love is attractive—like a shark to blood
Love is a blanket that covers us
Love is like cotton candy
Love is a red rose
Love is an ocean
Love is a letter
Love

New Moon of Ramadan

Saadoon Alsaadoon
RW2

One day, I went to the desert with my friends to see the new moon of Ramadan. Our plan was to return home the same night. One of my friends, Ahmed, brought a large bag and we wondered about him. I was speeding fast when we hit something and blacked out. When we woke up we thought Ahmed was dead. He wasn't but he was not waking. We got out of the car and tried to use our mobiles, but they didn't work. There was no service. We did not know about Ahmed's injuries and we didn't have much food or water. We didn't know how dangerous Ahmed was, and we didn't know anything about medicine. I remembered Ahmed's bag, so I tried to open it, but it was locked. I looked in his pockets to find a key, but I did not find it. I looked at him and said, "We're dead." Suddenly Ahmed woke up and said, "What happened?" I told him everything and he asked, "Where is my bag?" He opened the bag and produced a very strong mobile and he called for help. We waited for an hour and help came. Ahmed laughed said, "Who laughs now?"

Margarita Island

Cesar Maduro
RW 21

Margarita Island is the more important tourist place of Venezuela with over 3,000,000 tourists each year. Margarita Island is located in the southeast Caribbean Sea, northeast of Venezuela and has 431 square miles. The weather is mostly very hot and

sticky. The temperature does not have much variation; it is around 90 Fahrenheit degrees all year. The Island has many interesting restaurants which offer delicious sea food. The interesting parts of the Island are the beautiful beaches. The names of the top beaches are: The Yaque, The Water, Guacuco and Paradise. On the Island live many foreign people from Spain, Italy, Germany, France, Argentina, Chile, Colombia and China. This island is an excellent place to enjoy the best vacation with the family and friends. Visit Margarita Island!

He Pointed his Weapon at his Head

Chany Nogera Genua
RW2

He was sad because his mother and brother were dead, and his father was an alcoholic. He was alone in life. One day, without reason to live, he went to a dark place and pointed his weapon at his head. He was planning to suicide. When he was about to shoot a guy walked up, so he didn't shoot. The guy was blind because of cancer. The blind guy told him that he appreciated thing more than when he could see. That motivated the sad guy to keep living and he became a famous singer. This is based on facts from real life.

SOS Venezuela

Maria Gabriela Camacho
Maria Gabriela Azzari
RW21

Venezuela is a beautiful country with beautiful destinations for tourists, but right now it is in a difficult situation. This problem is about the government because these days it has been acting against the population. Many students from high schools and universities are going into the streets protesting for the rights that every Venezuelan should have. Venezuelans around the world are trying to be heard, Now more than ever, Venezuela needs support. The government has violated a lot of human rights and many people have left their homes to protest and fight for a better country, the country that they deserve. Because of demonstrations and protests, several people have ended up suffering serious consequences from aggressive acts. Some of them are dead, others injured, and others unjustly imprisoned in jail. We, the Venezuelan people, expect to get out of this situation as soon as possible and let the world know what is going on in Venezuela. We thank all the people who support us and are currently the voice of Venezuela abroad. #PrayforVenezuela.

I Hated my Manager

Sara Alhaif
RW2

I worked as a banker for five years. One day when I was sitting in my office, my friend Noura came to me and told me about a training course that would advance my career. I had a good chance to get into that course. After two days of thinking, I decided to talk to my manager. First, I walked to his office, but he wasn't there. I came back later and talked to him, but he refused my request because he had a lot of work that only I could do. I was sad and took the rest of the day off, and I hated my manager for a while. After several weeks he called me to his office and his voice was angry. I said, "Oh my God what did I do?" I entered his office and he gave me an envelope and said, "Open it!" I was shivering in fear, but after that I started to cry. It was a promotion. In that moment I knew if I had gone to the course, I would not have received the promotion.

The Fault of the Cow

Andres Ospina Martinez
RW43

Last night a criminal broke into Mrs. Perkins' house, taking an invaluable painting. As a result, the burglar generated several problems inside the house. He killed her baby cow because the newspaper published that it was the best veal in town. He broke all the expensive furniture, and left a fire in the kitchen. He stole millions of dollars. Mrs. Perkins didn't stop critiquing the deficient security of her house until one day, the police said that it happened because she left the back door open. She was in shock and afflicted due to the fact that she couldn't imagine how someone could act so cruel and inhumane. She was mindfully depressed, thinking about how she left that door opened. Finally she understood that on the run to her job, she left the door completely opened, causing a burglar to break into her house. In the end, she sold the house and bought a safer one.

Where Did Mrs. Perkins' Pet Go?

Seonmi Yoon
RW43

Last night, when Mrs. Perkins went home, she couldn't see her pet. She thought to herself, "A burglar must have come into my mansion and taken my pet!" She called the police, but they didn't understand her request. The police said, "You should find another place." "All this stalling," thought Mrs. Perkins, "I need help!"

The next morning, the police finally came. The police asked about her pet. She told them it was a baby cow. The police were frightened because a cow is not a common pet. The police asked the calf's age. She answered that he was one month old. "I brought the cow to the mansion after his mother gave birth to him." The policeman worked on this new mission.

In the afternoon, the policeman brought an expert to the mansion. Mrs. Perkins was surprised, "I met that expert three days ago! Is this man the burglar and cow thief?" The expert replied, "I am not a criminal. This woman—Mrs. Perkins is the real criminal!"

The expert gave his reasons, "This mansion has bad conditions for a baby cow. Mrs. Perkins is inhumane! She goes to work and leaves this calf here alone! The cow is so young. He cries in the mansion when he is alone. Then sometimes Mrs. Perkins forgets to feed him. It is so cruel! She is not concerned for the welfare of this calf. When I came here three days ago, I asked her to move the cow to a better place, but she rejected it! If that calf stays here, he will be nothing but veal. He will die! Moving him is my mission!"

The case was indisputable. Mrs. Perkins lost her pet, and the cow went to a good place.

Physical Beauty to Inner Beauty

Melisa Chandra
RW 44

Which one do you prefer? Physical beauty or inner beauty? Many people say physical beauty is the most important for women, but how about inner beauty? Is that not important? Physical beauty and inner beauty have similarities and differences.

Physical beauty is when someone looks good or beautiful on the outside. Many people say "don't judge a book by its cover." In fact, people almost always judge other people by their looks. The reason someone wants to look good, especially women, is to find their partner and a better job. "Physical beauty is not about how big or how small you are. It is about how you work it. If the girl is bigger, but she has confidence, she is more beautiful to me than a pencil thin person who has any. To me, she has to have a beautiful personality to be beautiful. In short, I believe that physically, every woman or girl is beautiful in some way form and fashion." (Paige, What's Your Personal..."). For example, in Korea, many woman get plastic surgery because they believe appearance is the most important thing in life. Based on what Korean students said about plastic surgery in Korea, around thirty-percent of Koreans have already gotten plastic surgery. Most surgeries are double eyelid and nose jobs. A small different correction can make someone look fabulous. Besides, in Korea, some families give plastic surgery as a gift to their daughter. On the other hand, for some people who never gets plastic surgery, they usually use make-up to look good.

Inner beauty is when someone who may not be good looking, but who has a pure heart. For example, she likes to help others people not because of money or another reward. Different

from physical beauty which consists of having a good appearance, inner beauty is about feeling and heart, about someone who has a good personality. Inner beauty does not mean a person only has a good personality without good looking. The similarity about inner beauty and physical beauty are they are "beauty." The differences are they are have different beauty. Physical beauty is beauty on the outside; inner beauty is beauty in the inside. "Someone that is spiritually evolved and has a beautiful soul. They give everything and expect nothing, always putting others needs before their own. They never judge others unfairly if at all, they can teach you things that change the way you view the world, they can bring out the best in you." (Asker's Choice, What Is Your...").

In conclusion, nowadays, physical and inner beauty should be balanced. Physical beauty is important to find job and inner beauty is important to social life. Someone who only has physical beauty will not last long in the community and someone who only has inner beauty may not easily get into a social group. So, everything should be balanced. If physical and inner beauty combine together, that will be perfect.

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Live with Roommates

Mohammed Zainel
RW 44

There are many things that make the people stay with roommates and don't get lonely. First, the price will be cheaper. Second, if he is going to stay with roommates he will learn English and a lot of stuff. Finally, he can be a friend with roommates and hang out with them to not get bored. Also, it will help a person to learn more about different culture.

There are a lot of people choose to live with roommates because of the price. When they live with roommates, they will not have to pay a lot of money. Also, they will save money for the future. Also, there are some families can't pay a lot of money, so they decide to let their sons to live with roommates. That is why the people decide to not live alone and stay with roommates.

There are some people live with American roommates because they want to learn the language that they come for. Also, it will help them to learn more about the culture. Therefore, they can play a game in English together to learn the language quickly. There are some international students choose American roommates because it would help them learning English much faster. Everybody knows that practicing English makes perfect

living with an American roommates would give you numerous inevitable opportunities to practice your English skill. Therefore, your every day life would be more challenging. That is why the people prefer to stay with American roommates.

There are some people don't like to live alone without roommates because they get boring fast; however, they prefer roommates because they can hang out with them. Also, they can make a lot of friends by introduce your friends to them and they do the same. Also, they can wake you up for the school. There are more than one million people said having a roommates is the best idea. Since I have American roommates, I will never get bored.

There are many people prefer to live a roommates because they will have a cheap price for the apartment. Also, they will have fun all the time and meet new friends. They will learn English faster and everything will be easier for them. Since, I live with American roommates, I never get in trouble and I learn a lot.

Bye Bye, Snow! Welcome Springtime and Baseball!

Miguel Montoto
RW21

The snow was cold. Trees, flowers and green cities show that a new baseball season begins. Thirty two teams are following a dream. Over 1000 players want to win the World Series in the game that they have played in childhood. Will the Red Sox repeat as champions and win two in a row or will they be replaced by any of the other 31 teams? Miguel Cabrera, a Venezuelan, has won many individual awards as Most Valuable Player. In addition, he has signed a contract as the highest-paid professional baseball player in history. Is this year he will win in Detroit?

The Detroit Tigers which have Miguel Cabrera and three aces on the mound can get the desired success. The Yankees have lost their best players in recent years: Robinson Cano went to the Seattle Mariners and Alex Rodriguez was suspended. However, the Yankees were boosted with Jacoby Ellsbury and Carlos Beltran. Passing to the National League, the St. Louis Cardinals have struggled in recent years. The current super team is the Angeles Dodgers led by Clayton Kershaw, the Dominican Hanley Ramirez, Andre Ethier, Adrian Gonzalez and the new revelation, the Cuban Yasiel Puig. Also, the Atlanta Braves continue to grow. Even the team called the Washington Nationals may enter the fight. The San Francisco Giants have "The PANDA", the Venezuelan Pablo Sandoval, who is much more mature and slim this year. We will say goodbye to the last survivor of the "historical team" members who were champions of the World Series four times in five years between 1996 and 2000. His name is Derek Jeter. He will follow Mariano Rivera and pitcher Andy Pettitte, who ended their careers last year.

It's all back. A new season starts. Who will win MVP? Who will win a perfect game? Who will step up? Who will fall short? Who will let go? And make history? Welcome back, baseball. We have missed you.

My Dream Job

Justin Chia-Hung Hung
RW41

Have you ever given any thoughts to your dreams? I sure did. People's answers might differ greatly from one to another when asked with this question. Some people want to be a doctor, some a dinosaur researcher; mine, however, is to be a travel show host. I think that there are many advantages being a travel show host. The most important reason for me is to broaden my horizon and enhance my ability to communicate and coordinate.

First, to be a travel show host can broaden my horizon. If I am a travel show host, I can travel around the world; in this way, I can understand the cultures and customs of different countries. In China, people say, "You can learn more by traveling a thousand miles than by reading a thousand books." Despite that this is a highly developed information society, and you can easily get information from the Internet, personal experience is still more real than in the books.

Second, as a travel show host, I can plan my own lifestyle. For example, I can go to Russia to introduce local architecture this week, then fly to Melbourne, Australia, to taste the famous local seafood. Or, I can go to Rome to introduce to everyone this ancient and historical city. Compare with other daily routine jobs, I prefer this job for the challenges and adventures it brings.

Furthermore, each country has its own religions, customs and lifestyles, so there will always be a special situation occurring in your traveling. By dealing with these issues, I can increase my communication and coordination ability. These capabilities can be useful not only in traveling, but also in daily life. For example, in an international business company with many different kinds of people from different countries, if you have good communication and coordination skills, you will have a better chance to be promoted than other people.

To sum up, some people prefer to have a routine day job, but some people don't. As for me, I like to travel and want my job full of challenges and adventures, so I think a travel show host is perfect for me, and that is definitely my dream job.

Talking to your Mom and Talking to your Friends

Athbi Mayyal
RW44

While I agree that the difference between my mom and my friends need not to be so stark, I think that your mother deserves more respect than your friends do. But, your friends still those people who you share every moment in your life with them.

Your mother is everything you have in your life, she deserves everything in your life: your eyes, your heart and even your lifetime.

You can have thousands of friends, but you only have one mother raised you up from your childhood. "A mother (or mum/mom/mam) is a woman who has raised a child, given birth to a child, and/or supplied the egg which in union with a sperm grew into a child" ("Mother"). On the other hand, your friend is someone you have met and you trust him to be as your brother. Still, your mother loves you more than your friends do. Otherwise, you will be relaxed when you talk with your mother and you can say everything in your heart without fear of anything. However, there are sometimes many things that you cannot say to your mother. So, you usually call or talk to your nearest friend.

Both your mother and your friend listen to you when you are talking, and you trust them both. But, in my opinion, your mother will listen to you and care about you more than your friends do. Because, she raised you up and she knows the way that you think. Although, your friend sometimes knows what you are thinking and that makes you more comfortable, because you know that there is always someone understand you. Nonetheless, I always talk with my mother and my friends with an open heart and do not carry any malice in my heart.

From my experience, I share everything with my mother. I really love her. Because, she talk to me after classes and asking about my daily life; that makes me more motivated. I cannot hold my tears when I talk with her. In contrast, I choose my friends carefully and I have a lot of friends, because I am a social person who loves to talk. In your life, you meet many people who deserve the respect and treat you as a brother. On the other hand, there are many people who do not deserve the respect because they are very shameless, selfish and rude. Those kinds of people, you should respect because that is your personality, but you should not name them as a friends.

In conclude, you must choose your friends carefully and respect your mother and share with her every moment in your life. Also, trust your friends and have a great time with them. Both your mother and your friends want to have a good time with you. In the other hand, do not be shy sharing them everything in your life.

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Academic Pressure: Don't Worry So Much

Rodrigo Rampazo Amadeu
RW 51

When in college or school, everyone has already suffered stress at least one time because of a test, a deadline assignment, or seemingly infinite homework. This person has probably stayed days sleeping badly and felt some health problems. Academic pressure has led to several problems for students. The American College Health Association reported in 2007 that 32% of almost

100,000 college students answered that stress led them to drop a course or to have a lower grade. The academic body can better deal with this pressure if they know its causes, its consequences, and how to reduce it.

The first step to deal with academic stress is to know its causes. According to Prof. Misra (2000), anxiety is the leading cause, followed by bad time management and personal dissatisfaction. "Anxiety is a fear of failure in an academic test that arises when parents, teachers or the student's own expectations exceed what the student believes she can realistically achieve" (Brogaard & Media, n.d.). Bad time management is a snowball, when it starts, it keeps consuming all the other activities which causes disorders in study, leisure, and sleep time. Lastly, personal dissatisfaction is the unhappy feeling with the course, goals, achievements, and relationships. These three main reasons contribute to the stress and can lead to several failures in the academic journey.

Besides the possible lower grade, a failure, and dropping a course, there several consequences of academic stress given the three main causes. Excess of anxiety leads to health problems, drug consumption, mood alteration, and many other consequences (more in Smith (2013)). Bad time management could be responsible for late assignments, sleep deprivation, and loss of friendships. Personal dissatisfaction can cause serious psychological problems which can persist for a long time. A student who faces some of the consequences of academic pressure may carry these signals during all the academic periods and even after academy.

At last, how to reduce academic stress and avoid its consequences. According to Luccier in his article "How to Reduce Academic Stress" describes a list with 9 tips for this achievement: "1) Take a good course load; 2) Join in a study group; 3) Learn how to study more effectively; 4) Get help from a peer tutor; 5) Utilize your professor as a resource; 6) Make sure you always go to class; 7) Reduce your non-academic commitments; 8) Make sure the rest of your college life – sleeping, eating, and exercise – are in balance; 9) ask upper-class students for advice with difficult professors". Also, the students always have to remember to put their health first. If he or she is not getting along very well with her or his schedule, carefully think: to drop a course or get a lower grade is not as bad as a possible health problem. Following these primordial tips probably will make the student life better and less stressful.

College life is tendentiously stressful and possible hurtful. However, there are many ways to avoid this. Recognizing the stress is the first step to treating and reducing it. Then, the student may search for tips and advice to achieve a better and enjoyable academic life. Remembering Bob Marley in his famous song, "Don't worry about a thing / Cause every little thing gonna be all right", analogously, do not worry so much now, stressful or not, probably you will graduate.

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What Is an Adult?

Dana Saeed
RW 53

What is an adult? How do people become adults? Since humanity started, there have been different definitions for an adult. Generally, adults are people who are between 18 years old and 21 years old, but that is very controversial because it depends on culture, customs and society as well. There are many different/conflicting ideas about an adult age. According to physiologists the adult age is 18 and above, and many people they think this definition is right; on the other hand, some people think differently. They think there is no relationship between age and being an adult at all. As a result, we can say being an adult is related to many factors such as physiology, psychology, and society.

Physiology is one of the many factors for being an adult. Scientists think when the human organs are complete and become mature, or when they can represent their need or work, they become an adult. That's very important for being adults; however, that is related to many factors. For example, weather, healthy environment and healthy body with innate ability. That means many people become adult at the age 18 and 22, and they have right to decide whatever they want. Also, they can do many things that were prohibited before.

Psychology is the second factor that is related to being an adult. Experiments and psychologists (psychology scientists) think that adventure and surrounding environment have effects on an adult's personality. Those researchers and experiments mad attempted to engage in this field by testing a mind process perspective. Theorists who accept this perspective believe that the effects of mentality and having a hard time in life have an effect on the structure development of children into adults. Psychologists as well compared many adults of different ages and of different

environments and saw that psychology has a very big effect on the personality of adults.

Society is another factor that makes future adults. Family background, community, customs and knowledge give a person an excellent experience, and prepare one to be an adult. For example, if someone grows up without parents and takes all the responsibility for many things in their life, he will become an adult earlier than someone who does not take responsibility for anything in his life. In addition to society, researchers show support for this factor and community perspective. There is a lot of information available on society's influence on being an adult; for example, writers of social studies have accepted that supportive and unsupportive behaviors from others are extreme opposites that define one social support territory, field. Many modern studies are nearly dependent on social experiences. This advice that research studies which review both of the positive and negative functions of social relationships have the possibility to provide new context on society mediation strategies for the maturation of physical activity and being an adult (Journal of Aging and Physical Activity).

As we learn, being an adult is related to many reasons and factors. It is not about age or body size or shape, but related to mentality and thinking. How do people think, and how do they make deals and handle problems in their lives? How do they find solutions for their problems? That definitely needs a strong society and family background to help teenagers build good personalities and help them become adults. All of these factors play an important part in adult personalities. In the end, we can say acting according to your age and deciding to be yourself is very important for being an adult. Also, playing your roles in society to get your spot and becoming a useful member to represent your work is important to improve your community as well

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Be a Nice Person

Xiuyue Ding
RW43

Today, something happened in Mrs. Perkins' mansion. She is the manager of a big company. Today when she was coming home after work, she opened her door and saw that everything was messy! Then she called the police and asked for help. A few minutes later, some police officers came, and they checked her house and found something valuable was stolen. The police thought it was a criminal event. A burglar had come into her house and stolen her money and jewelry.

After that, a detective came to ask her some questions: "Do you know anyone who lacks money? Does anyone else have your house key?" and so on! She told them, she couldn't imagine anyone who could have done this, and only her family had the extra key. Then the detective asked, "Are you a good manager?" She said,

"Yes!" The policemen began looking for traces and decided to catch the jewelry thief.

A few days later, the burglar was caught by the policemen. The burglar was one of the staff in Mrs. Perkins' company. She always likes to critique his work, give him insurmountable missions, and didn't give him any awards. Every time he tried to argue about her rules, she always said, "It's indisputable." So he generated some bad thoughts about her. He is insane. Then he decided to steal her money. When she went back to her house, he was on the run. He was nervous, but he escaped.

The moral of this story is be nice to others.

From Childhood to Adulthood

Shira Felder
RW 53

"We have not passed that subtle line between childhood and adulthood until . . . we have stopped saying 'It got lost,' and say, 'I lost it.'" For many years we have been seeing young men and young women become adults but what is the real meaning of becoming an adult? Is it just a physical thing or a mental state? However, this transition and changes can be defined by the person's physical maturity, psychology and social background.

If we think about the most common idea of what is an adult, we probably say it is 'maturation.' When young men or women reach a certain age they pass through a biological process called puberty by which a child's body makes a transition into a body of an adult. It starts developing many obvious physical changes, such as body hair, acne, males become taller from one day to another, their voices crack and eventually become deeper. Females, in this case, develop breasts and their bodies gets curvier. On average, boys begin puberty at ages 11-12 and for girls is quite sooner [at ages 10-11 and usually in boys, this process ends at ages 16-17] and for girls at 15-17. Although the appearance can be directly proportional with the physical growing of a person, this doesn't mean that it is 100% related to adulthood because each human being has his or her own physical maturation time. In fact, you can have a beard but that doesn't make you an adult.

Meanwhile, there is another thing developing inside the person but this is a more complex scenario: the psychology. This can be defined by these three strong factors: education, beliefs and personality. First, education can be one of the most significant aspects in an adult's life because without it there is no structure. Not only because we learn about general knowledge and world history but we also obtain a lot of helpful and crucial lessons about life such as discipline, sense of responsibility, punctuality and others. For example, we all know that getting a job is one step for becoming an adult, but this gets difficult and almost impossible if we have no education at all. Nowadays, having at least a high school diploma is a requirement for hiring someone (it depends on the job). As we grow up, education prepares us to become professionals in a specific area of interest to hopefully have some stability in the future. Then comes our beliefs that, in my opinion,

are a mix between our values and the religious/cultural background. We get most of our values at home. Since we are little, our parents try to raise and teach us the best way to behave with ourselves and with others. But as we get older we start building our own criteria of what is best for us but never leaving our old basis behind. Alternatively, religion plays a role in this process because it gives us some structure but also faith. No matter what religion you believe in, the majority of them are designed to make us a better person and encourage us to have hope. But all of this is being directly affected by the culture we belong to because it influences us in many different aspects such as the food we eat, music interests, dancing skills, dress code and others. Last of all, we develop something that makes us unique, and this is our personality. As we become older, our interests and other things may change but the one thing that never changes is the personality because it is the essence of a human being.

Next, we have all the legal terms and society background related to adulthood, such as legal age, social manners, marriage, family planning, and others. The Government of each country or state believes that when young men or women reach a certain age, they can be considered as adults, so they have to evaluate and establish a specific age to let young women and men do all the "adult things," for example: driving a car, consuming alcohol, smoking and marriage. In many countries this number can vary. To exemplify, in Venezuela it is believed that when an individual turns 18, they can be by their own and make their own decisions without their parent's approval. In some cases this age range is different for one situation to the other. In the USA for instance, the minimum age to consume alcohol is 21 years old but for driving it's at the ages 14-21 (varies by state). In my opinion, 18 is just a number because sometimes life forces you to make decisions and become an adult earlier than you expected.

For all these reasons, becoming an adult is a complicated subject, but definitely it is more than just an appearance, an age or religion. It is a group of experiences, physical changes and social norms that together form a complete individual that we call an adult.

Why Do Some Students Cheat?

Athbi Mayyal
RW44

Honestly, students nowadays raise slogans like "study for success and cheat to get a good grades!" There are many reasons students cheat. Some of them do it because of they are afraid from their parents. Also, some others are afraid of failure or getting a bad grades. Furthermore, they are suffering from the difficulty of the curriculum one of these reasons. On the other hand, cheating may lead to a bad community.

The main effect in my opinion is that the student afraid of their parents. The reason for that is because parents are the most important person in most students life .Some parents are very

harsh and they punish their sons by stiff penalties .That is why some of the students cheat on their tests.

Another effect for students is that they are afraid of getting a bad degrees. Indeed, some of them want a specific university and some of the universities want a high degrees. For that reason, some of the students cheat to go to university that they want to go to.

Students sometimes cheat because of the difficulty of the curriculum. Some curriculums lead the student to cheat because of their difficulty . Students who are facing difficult subjects and difficult, boring classes that can make him a cheater. for that reason, that is the only way for exceeding this subject.

From my experience, I cannot say that I have not ever cheated. But sometimes, I have many difficult subjects that make me cheat because studying for this subject causes me a headache.

To conclude, we cannot stop students from cheating by making the curriculums harder and harder. We should think in a positive way so that we can stop the cheating and lead our community to get better and better.

The Burglar in Mrs. Perkins' Mansion

Nadiatou Hamidou Karimou
RW43

Last week, a criminal entered Mrs. Perkins' mansion and stole her blue diamond necklace. The person who did it, did it with mindfulness because he knew exactly where it was. She called a detective to find who did this cruel action. She said to him that it is inhumane to take this valuable necklace because it was 10 years worth of hard work. The mission of the detective is to find who did the crime. The detective has a critical mind and collects all the clues and even some residue from the footprint. He concluded that the person who did this was in her house. He said that the person was her maid. This was an insurmountable obstacle for Mrs. Perkins because this object represented her whole life. The detective said that it is indisputable because all the clues are related to the maid. She gave back the object and went to prison. Mrs. Perkins is happy to have her blue diamond necklace back.

The Flawless Job

Nivea Maria Oliveira Martins
RW41

What do you want to be when you grow up? This is a typical question that most of the people hear in their childhood; however, over the course of their lives, this question undergoes a change into "what is your dream job?" Several new studies done recently reveal that roughly 30% of the interviewed professionals have careers related to their childhood dream jobs. This actually happens because the kids' dream job is most often related to an idol or role model that the children have in their mind, such as an astronaut, an athlete, a teacher or a singer. However, this conception is often

modified when the life of an adult begins and a child must put his or her feet on the ground. One example for this life event is my conceptions that I used to, and still have about how my perfect job would be. When I was younger, I dreamed to be a veterinarian because I was passionate about every animal species, and I wished I could help them when necessary. Later, when I became a little bit older, even I still loved all the animals, but my idea about the perfect job has evolved into helping sick people, working in a workplace where each professional is respected as they are, and with a fair income that is worth my efforts.

First of all, everybody agrees having special skills allows you to help people when they are in need. The fact of my being able to help needy people indeed makes me feel professionally realized. This can happen because I always appreciate it when someone who is suffering receives aid by a professional in solving his or her health problems. Every human has suffered or will suffer from various levels of difficulties in the course of their lives. After all, most of us know how important it is to offer help to people who may or may not have a special condition, should it be financial, psychological or physical.

Another quality for a perfect job concerns having amicable relationships with all the staff at the workplace, no matter where it is. To respect your colleague is essential in generating peaceful and excellent teamwork. Every challenge becomes smaller when a professional team works together, respects the roles belonged to each other, and has a shared experience and confidence about the goals the team is achieving. Furthermore, an integrated team of health professionals might facilitate the development of new medicaments and even the cures for terminal diseases.

Last but not least, no one would be happy after years and years of studying but end up with no job that yields a worthy income in his/her respective profession. If someone dedicates his/her time to study and is looking forward to a bright future career, it is not right that this individual does not obtain a wage reflecting his/her merit. Also, the labor market is increasingly competitive, and is always seeking people who can bring professional excellence and contribution to building a successful business. Therefore, we must be ready to face and grab our dream jobs that would compensate all of our efforts once it becomes available. Some people just worry about the salary they receive in the end of the month and do not care if they fulfill their responsibilities or not. To me it is important that I do my best and get paid well because this is the right way to go.

In conclusion, the perfect job would be constituted by a series of specific qualities. The concern about needy people is certainly in the center of the role of every health care professional. Also, a workplace filled with respect and people of integrity leads to successful work relationship among the staff. After all, to respect each other is the duty for everyone. The third quality of my dream job undoubtedly consists of receiving all that you deserve because of your effort to achieve your dream job. In my point of view, the advantages of having a job with all these positive aspects motivate you to love your job more, and that consequently generates the biggest professional satisfaction.

The Kabssah

Wassmih ALEshaiwi
RW10

Saudis' favorite dish is Kabssah. It is salty and delicious. It consists of meat, and you can add any types of meat such as beef, chicken, lamb, and camel. Some people desire to put vegetables. You can mix meat and vegetables with rice or pour them on top of rice. Kabssah requires skills of cooking, but a novice might succeed if he/she tries it. You can serve Kabssah every day or for holidays, weddings, and home visits.

How the Society Recognizes an Adult

Thomas Scarassati Bello
RW 53

It is hard to define what is the moment when a boy becomes a man or a girl becomes a woman. It is an interesting worldwide discussion for what factors can be considered determinant to a person to be seen as an adult. This transition from childhood to adulthood can be prompted by several reasons, the ones of most importance and frequency being related to their independence, physical appearance, and mental psychology.

First of all, and exceptionally natural in many countries around the world, it is the way how people aspire for an independent socio-economic life. This independence is accompanied by a lot of responsibilities and it can be recognized as a starting point to be viewed as an adult. In older times, being an independent adult meant to move from the parents' house and to start living by yourself with all the responsibilities by your own; however, this tradition has been becoming increasingly less frequent over the years. According to an article written by Richard Fry in 2013 with data from a Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau, the number of young adults that were living with their parents increased from 32% to 36% in four decades. Sometimes due to economic difficulties, health problems, or other kind of issue, the fact of staying home even after obtaining an independent life is proving to be a decreasingly important factor to be considered an adult. On the other hand, the fact of living by yourself can be helpful for the meaning of obtaining an independent life.

Besides how independent a person is, it is very common to recognize an individual as an adult through his physical appearance. On the one hand, questions like how tall is he? how much beard does he have? how developed is this person's body? and how old does this person look? are very habitual to judge if a person can be considered an adult. On the other hand, if it can retake an old proverb: "Never judge a book by its cover" meaning in this context that you can't identify a person as an adult just by the fact that he has two feet or a lot of hair and beard. Thereby, this type of recognition conducts in a prejudice that is not often accurate.

Moreover and the last, another way that the society very often utilizes to recognize is how mature this person is, how he handles his responsibilities or eventual difficulties. This kind of analysis is directly involved with the mental psychology of a person. For example, in contemporary society, if a person has a simple problem and resorts every time to his parents, he is seen as an immature child, while a person that is able to handle every kind of issue is easily recognized as an adult. In the same way as the independence, the mental psychology depends of several factors as socio-economic factors and many others.

As a final point, society is used to identify a person as an adult by several distinct methods. Methods that include lifestyle, appearance, or what are the decisions made when facing a problem. In this way, the same person can be considered an adult and a child at the same time in different classifications. Due to this controversy, being an adult or not can be considered an interesting issue that probably will be discussed for a long time yet.

Reference

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2013/08/01/a-rising-share-of-young-adults-live-in-their-parents-home/> <accessed 02/08/2014>

What's going on in Venezuela?

Virginia S. Rubiano T.
RW4

Venezuela, one of the most beautiful countries in the world located on the Ecuador. A perfect weather, if you want snow, you can get it. If you want sun, you can get it, and if you want rain, you can get it too.

Then, if everything is so beautiful there you may wonder what is going on in Venezuela.

For many years Venezuela has been everything but an easy country, the insecurity increases day by day. Kids know about politics when they're just nine years old because is the only thing that people talk about. And there is a lot of people like me that don't even know another president besides Hugo Chavez or Nicolas Maduro. We don't know another life style; we have to live in a constant war between kidnappings and robberies. I am seventeen and I have already been robbed four times and I have been threatened of being kidnaped. I had to run away from my own country because the government wanted to arrest me or even kill me just for being a student.

However, not everything is bad, and I will always know that I am lucky to be born in Venezuela, lucky to live in Venezuela, to see landscapes, her beaches, to see my parents listening to "llanera" music and ride a horse after eating "cachapas". I was lucky to know my Venezuelan siblings, a lot of them are here and I am sure that they feel the same as I do, that their first love was Venezuela and that the best memories are of their families in December eating "hallacas", listening to "Gaitas" and watching fireworks. A lot of them are here trying to became a professional so they can go back to Venezuela and try to fix what other people have destroyed. A lot

of them are as grateful as I am to the Americans who have received us with so much love and kindness in their country. A lot of them are always dreaming about coming back to our country, a country where you don't need to ask to go out with your friends and you go to eat arepas listening to Reinaldo Armas. A lot of them cry when they listen to the song "Venezuela", and when they notice the Venezuelan accent they know that even though they're not family, or they don't even know each other they are Venezuelans.

"What doesn't kill you makes you stronger", says Kelly Clarkson, and maybe it is true, maybe this is going to make Venezuela stronger and she can get out of this hole. Meanwhile we are going to keep praying for a better Venezuela a secure and happy one like the one that sometimes is in my dreams.

I have to thank my favorite Venezuelans here in Gainesville: Alfredo Natera who is my angel, Maria Alejandra Figueroa, Genesis Cedeño and Gabriela Azzari who are the best friends that anyone could wish for. Alejandra and Andreina Nash (Her I have to thank on behalf of all the Venezuelan people for creating that video from which I stole the title for this article and which has informed a lot of people around the world about "What's going on in Venezuela"). Also I have to thank my roommates and a lot of people that are not mentioned here but they know who they are, Thank you because when I came here I was in total shock about what I saw back in Venezuela and in that times that I wanted to cry you all made me laugh. Thank you all for singing with me "Venezuela" all the time. I love you all, but the most important thing: Venezuela, I will always love you.

What Happened While I am Distant

Wassmih Aleshaiwi
RW10

While I was in America two months ago, my mother became very sick. Ambulance transported her to the hospital after she felt short of breath. The result of medical tests and X-ray showed breakdown of the lungs, and the low oxygen. The doctor put a ventilator to save her. Despite the severity of the pain of my mother, she was patient, and thanked God for whatever happened. My brothers and sisters were around watching the evolution of the health situation, and prayed for her. Suddenly, the doctor told them the kidneys failed. And then, it got worse and worse. In the end, my mother died, and I was away from her. My mother died, but we are confident of what happened to her in order to go to a higher degree in paradise.

“Mom, I'm Going to Defend the Freedom of Venezuela”

Wilmaury Gonzalez Campos
Carlos Quintero Ortiz
Jose Mazzone Guerrero
Andrea Aristiguieta Socorro
RW51

"Mom, I'm going to defend the freedom of Venezuela, and if I don't come back it is because I perished with her". Those were the last words of the student Basil Alejandro Da Costa, who died in the march for freedom in Venezuela on February 12th. Youth Day in Venezuela is on February 12th. Students organized a peaceful march to express themselves and demonstrate that a lot of people do not agree with the government. The main causes why Venezuelans are against the government are the insecurity, the corruption, devaluation, shortages, and censorship. Venezuelans feel exasperated and they want to change the situation in their country to have a better and peaceful future.

On February 12th a huge march for students was organized in every city of Venezuela, seeking a change in the future of the country. The march began peacefully, but because they were marching against the government, the government decided to send in the police to stop the march. It was a peaceful march - people were only walking in the streets, waving their flags - until suddenly the police officers started to attack without provocation. They started to shoot at random people in the streets without any

consideration, and three innocent students were killed. Many more people were injured, and some are still missing.

People in the march started to take pictures and record everything that was happening, and then they began to publish these on social networks. They hoped to spread the word of what was really happening in Venezuela before the government took over the media, and said that the pictures and videos were really from elsewhere. In reality people want freedom in their country and to live a life that they haven't had for a long time.

People in Venezuela have to stick together and fight for freedom, peace and for their rights. The government has taken many of the rights of Venezuelans and they act like they don't care how the people are feeling. According to Maduro, "if you want to march you need to ask for permission", but in the constitution of Venezuela Venezuelans have the right to express themselves in a peaceful way. That was exactly what people were doing on February 12th. We have to stop this situation altogether and pray for Venezuela.

Thanks from the Editor

Thank you for sharing your writing with everyone. I hope you enjoy reading your fellow students' writing. Also thanks to Megan Forbes and the University of Florida Bookstore for arranging the gift certificates, to the Reading/Writing, Listening Speaking instructors for supporting their students in their writing, and to Lynne Clark, Thomas Dolce, Jessica Jones, Patrick Klager, Valentina Komaniecka, Olga Moody, Maya Shastri, Victoria Shelly, Lillian Vargas, and Zoe Witty for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone!

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