

ELI STUDENT VOICES

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My Story

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GM 32*First Place*

When I was young, I was literally nobody. I was a student with no respect for my teachers, my school, or for myself. It wasn't that I didn't mean to have no manners, but I was determined to live an effortless life. I grew up with more than fifty people under one roof, including my mother, two sisters, and seven brothers. They had many different goals and dreams, but I had no dreams and zero goals.

My middle school was my favorite place where I liked to sleep in, and I got hit, scolded, and expelled from classes by my teachers. The hardest thing was when my teachers threw chalk on me. Every few days I got hit by my teachers or someone in my house because I was lazy.

In my high school, the situation was different. There were no problems from my teachers. I decided the corner of my class was a perfect place to sleep in. I used to joke about how I slept through the semester and got promoted to the next level. The only exception was in my first year in high school when I failed my mathematics class. Because all of my family was focusing on me, they told me I must spend my vacation time to study mathematics. I went to my exam and I failed it. At that point I could predict what would happen to my school year, so I decided to drop out, but my family forced me to complete my school. High school looked deceptively easy in the beginning because my teachers assured that everything would be fine.

On June 18th, 2005 my view of life changed. I went to my school later than usual. The morning queue ended, so I had to stand in the late student line. Then the vice principal of the school came with a stick to hit late students. That was normal in my school days, but what was unusual happened in the fifth class of that day. When the class was in some school activities, my classmates decided to stay in the classroom. The activity teacher came. He was a new teacher for me because he did not teach me before. His name was Saeed. We discussed some topics and as usual everyone gave me a chance to make them laugh. I was such a silly person who could turn anything into a big joke. I started joking in the same way. My teacher stopped me and asked me, "What village are you from? What is your family name?" When I

replied him, he asked me, "Do you know Hatem and Aqeel?" I answered him, "Yes, they are my brothers." He said, "Your brothers are exceptional! I know that they had awards from the prince of the city because they were intelligent." He said again, "Your brothers are like a fire in the dark, and everyone can see them. But you are nothing compared to them." When he said that, my classmates said "Oh, oh!" They reacted in such a way because they didn't know that I was my brothers' brother! At the end of the day, I decided to forget about that episode, but it has always been in my mind ever since.

I moved with my family to live in another city. I was so happy because I was going so far away from my hometown. "Finally, I am in a comfortable place," I said to myself. In fact, the sentence that my teacher uttered never left my mind, even when I was getting close to graduation. When I graduated from high school, I got my liberty. I thought I would be happy, but in fact I was not. I always thought about what my teacher said to me and I asked myself, "What can I do?" "Do I really want to live my life like that?"

My brother found a job for me in the Saudi army. At the same time I got admitted to my university. I had to make a choice: to work a job with not much income or go back to study and live with the books, pens and teachers for four years. It was a difficult decision to make. I could either live an easy and effortless life for the rest of my life or work really hard and go up the mountain to see the world around me. Finally, I decided to go to the university.

I decided to become a respectable person. This was what I told myself: I must go to the university every day with no absences. No, this is not enough, I must be in the university two hours before my first class. No, this is not enough; I must stay until night. No, this is still not enough; I must participate in all the activities at the university. No, this is not enough; I must think like a student, an intellect. No, this is not enough; I must be different. No, this is not enough; I must work even harder. Yes, now this is enough. Finally, after working hard for four years, I graduated from college with honors with a GPA of 4.73/5, and with thirteen certified courses. I also won many certificates and trophies. The lesson that I learned from this is that if you want to succeed, you must take your studies seriously, but if you want to be superior, you should make your studies a part of your life.

Six years later, I sent a message to my teacher Saeed. I told him that it was him who said to me "Your brothers are like a fire in the dark, everyone can see that. But you are nothing". I thanked

him wholeheartedly because he made me a successful person. In the end, I cannot change the world, but I can change myself.

After college I told myself that I should not put all my eggs in one basket. That meant I had to apply for many different kinds of jobs. I got two offers, one from KFSC, King Fahad Security College to become an officer, and the other from the Ministry of Education to become a teacher. I chose the first one. A month later, while I was doing my job in KFSC, I got a letter from my university. I left the KFSC because I thought it was not suitable for me.

Nine months later, I moved to the USA to study. I started learning language first, and will go on with a MA and a Ph.D. program. Now I am with the ELI family, and I tell myself, "If I achieve my goals here, I will add more successes to the list of my success. If I cannot, it is enough to have a chance to see new things."

Texting While Walking: A Study

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RW50 *Second Place*

Introduction

Nowadays, it has become very common to see people using their cell phones while they are getting from one place to another by walking, driving a car or even riding a bicycle. It has been demonstrated by different studies that texting while walking could cause serious consequences, from running into a light pole to getting hit by a car. According to a study from Ohio State University, more than 1,500 pedestrians went to emergency rooms as a result of texting while walking (as cited in Vicens 2014).

In "Texting while walking can be more dangerous than distracted driving", Lesley Adewunmi affirms that according to a study by the University at Buffalo, more injuries occur from distracted walking than distracted driving because pedestrians face three types of distractions: manual, because they are doing something else; visual, because they are trying to look at two things at the same time; and cognitive, because their mind is somewhere else. This article also expounds on some of the actions that countries and companies have already taken to address this issue in order to minimize the danger of texting while walking. As a way of illustration, Apple proposed to replace the background of the screen with a live video feed so people will be able to see what is in front of them while texting, and in London, they placed bumpers around the light posts to prevent pedestrians from running into them.

For this project, "texting" encompasses checking the cell phone or doing anything with the cell phone that requires looking down while walking and it is based specifically on the University of Florida's campus, which has many streets, intersections, light poles, stairs and parking lots, where an accident could easily happen.

Texting becomes a problem whenever the person who is doing it starts doing another activity that requires their whole attention, such as driving or walking, because they are not completely focused on their surroundings so that the probabilities of having an accident increase. The activity that is studied in this project is walking. A study from State University of New York found that the people who use their cell phones while walking are 60 percent more likely to veer off course (as cited in Siegel 2014).

According to "For teens, texting while walking is also dangerous", by Alyssa Abkowitz, 40 percent of teens affirmed they have been hit or almost hit by motor vehicles while walking and the main reason is distraction from a mobile device. Moreover, 63 percent of these teens that said they had been hit or nearly hit also said it is normal to cross the street using their cell phones because there is nothing wrong with it. For this reason, Abkowitz recommends enforcing pedestrian safety laws so that teenagers would think it better before breaking the laws by crossing the street using their cell phone.

"Texting while walking: strategies for postural control and implications for safety" explains some of the possible causes why so many accidents are related to cell phone usage. For instance, as we try to make it easier to use the cell phone while walking, head movement corresponds to phone movement, and arm movement is equally related to thorax rotation, which reduces the postural control, making us more likely to stumble or veer off course by trying to maintain the cell phone in a visual field. The fact of the matter is that the strategies unconsciously used to maintain the phone in a steady position may compromise the posture control and impact on balance performance, which leads us to a greater risk of collisions or falls.

As far as the effects of this issue are concerned, in "Is it safe to walk while texting?" Marc Siegel describes several negative consequences that come with texting while walking. It mentions several studies related to distracted pedestrians, as a way of illustration, Bellevue Hospital's "Safer Streets" program determined that 4 percent of pedestrians were using their cell phones when struck by a car. In addition, different alternatives are shown in order to make texting while walking safer, such as voice activated software or apps with camera images that allow you to see your surroundings. Still, the safest advice is to put the cell phone down.

Besides, "Reports say texting while walking is becoming more dangerous" mentions this generation's need to stay connected all the time as one of the main causes why it has become so common to walk using an electronic device, and that need may explain why many people prefer to cross the street while texting instead of taking those few minutes to do it safely.

However, "RTS bus hits UF student texting in crosswalk near the Hub", by Kathryn Varn, tells the story of a UF student who was hit by a bus when she was crossing on a crosswalk while texting, but she did not assume any responsibilities for the crash so the advice that she gave to pedestrians was to "live to the fullest because you never know when you are going to get hit by a bus"

instead of giving a better piece of advice related to paying more attention while crossing the street or not being distracted with your cell phone. Thus, it definitely depends on how serious this problem is taken and the first step to understand its gravity is to realize it is a current issue which is increasing day by day, because in cases as this UF student, she did not even take into consideration that if she had not been using her cell phone, she might have seen the bus and had been able to avoid the accident.

Texting while walking is a major problem, which is affecting a lot of people around the world. For example, in a community it does not only affect the ones who text while walking but also the other pedestrians, drivers, or anyone who crosses their way. Consequently, the UF campus is a place where everyone could be affected because there are several people on bicycles and in cars, and thousands of pedestrians.

The University of Florida had 49,555 students enrolled for the fall 2014 semester; whose average age is between 18 and 21 years old. It is one of the largest single-campus universities in the United States and is home to 16 colleges where more than 100 undergraduate majors and 200 graduate degrees are offered.

RTS (Gainesville Regional Transit System) serves the UF campus with several routes and it also offers special services such as Gator Aider during football games, SNAP, and Later Gator at nights. Furthermore, UF has many different activities and lots of enjoyable areas that could be used not only to study but also for recreation. Hence, there are always many people around the campus so this problem might affect a great number of them.

Texting while walking can be considered a problem because there are many people who have already suffered its consequences. There are some universities, such as University of California, Berkeley (UCB), University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), where the behavior of the pedestrians has already been studied in order to make it safer for their communities. Using the cell phone while walking has become a serious issue, which needs to be addressed before it gets worse and leads to more accidents.

All in all, this project could be significant to UF since it explains a recent topic, texting while walking, which might not have even been considered a problem. However, as it keeps becoming more common, it could also become more challenging to overcome it. Hence, being aware of the causes and consequences of this phenomenon is indispensable to develop different strategies to address this issue in the future.

Methodology

This project has two main purposes. First, to observe how many people usually text while walking and secondly, to determine how many people already know the danger of texting while walking. In order to find out whether it is necessary or not to inform the people about the consequences that, for example, texting while crossing the street can lead to, or, if they already

know, to look for another possible solution to address this issue before it keeps aggravating.

The data for this project was collected through two different methods; both of them were collected on the UF campus. The first method used is observation; from January 30th until February 11th, three days per week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) from the Rawlings Hall bus stop to Matherly Hall. Also, the observation for each day occurred at the same time from 10:20 am to 10:40 am. This project only focuses on the people who were texting while walking and 401 individuals were observed.

In addition, on February 12th from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm, a survey was given to 40 people, who were near the Plaza of the Americas, in order to discover if they are aware of the danger of texting while walking, if they do it as a habit, and the questions shown in Figure 3.

The people who were interviewed were randomly chosen. The places were chosen because many people frequent them and there are also several streets and crosswalks which allowed us to observe the pedestrians' behavior while crossing the street. Furthermore, neither the ones who were observed nor the ones who answered the survey were chosen for specific reasons. Even so, the ones who answered the survey were asked to indicate their nationality, their age, and their gender. After having both observation and survey information, it was separated by different parameters such as gender and nationalities, which eased the way to analyze it and made the results clearer to understand.

Results and Discussion

Observation

Figure 1 indicates the difference between women and men who were observed from January 30th to February 11th. It is clear that women are more likely to text while walking than men. Even though it is clear that more women were observed texting, it does not affirm that women are more likely to text while walking than men because there could have been more women on that route.

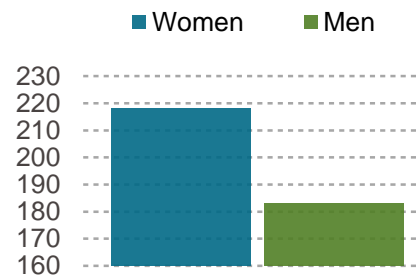


Figure 1. Number of people observed texting while walking

Figure 2 presents the same information, separating men and women, but also provides the number of people who were observed each day, which allows us to consider external factors that may have influenced the numbers obtained. For instance, February 6th was a really cold day and it was raining at the time of

the observation; also, on February 9th it was very cold, and so those are the two days when a significant decrease of people texting can be observed. Compared to these two days, the behavior observed the rest of the time did not change meaningfully. Nonetheless, a factor that totally stopped people from texting while walking was not found.

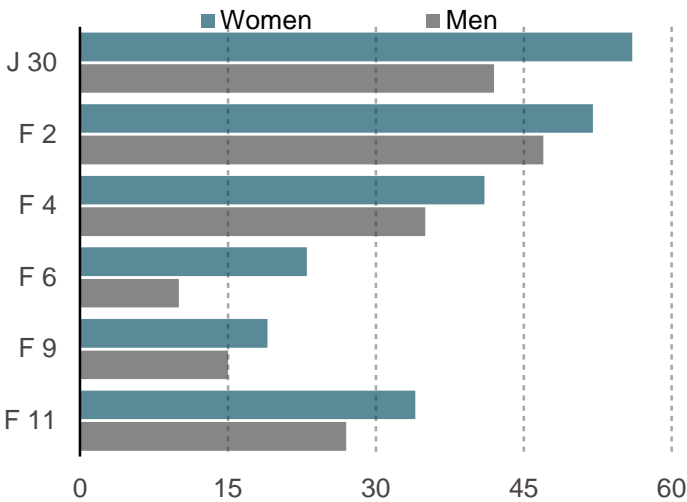


Figure 2. Comparison between genders and days

Regarding the differences found in the behavior of the people because of the weather, one conclusion we can draw is that people are significantly less likely to use their cell phone while walking when it is raining or when it is cold, just to get to their destination in a shorter time or to stay dry.

Even though the weather is a significant factor, it leads us to think that when people stop texting, it is because of the reasons that were mentioned before, but not because they are conscious of the dangers of texting while walking

Survey

Although we asked for age and nationality on the survey, we did not analyze the correlation between that and the responses because we focused the survey on the habit of using the cell phone. However, the ages of the interviewees are between 18 and 56 years old, and there are 11 different nationalities.

Figure 3 presents four of the questions that were asked in the survey, which gives us information about the interviewees' habits and knowledge about the risk of texting while walking. [Omitted for this publication]

It was demonstrated that 75% of the people who answered the survey usually text while walking, 65% consider it dangerous, 82.5% would not cross the street while texting and 65% have already run or nearly run into something because they were distracted while texting. This information indicates that the majority of the people surveyed text and walk as a habit, but also a great number of them knows about its risk.

Although only 17.5% of the people admitted they would cross the street while texting, comparing it to the observation, it seems like a bigger amount of people would do it. This might mean that it is not important for them to pay attention to the road even when crossing the street, or it is important but not as important as using their cell phone.

More than half of the people said they have run or nearly run into something because they were texting. This seems to be because their cell phone requires most of their attention so they walk being distracted by their devices.

The last question is about what people think. Even though there were different responses, the largest number of people think that more than 1,000 emergencies were related to cell phone usage in America last year, which is correct. This summarizes that most of the people are aware of the risk that texting while walking represents but they still do it frequently.

One last conclusion we can draw comparing the information obtained in both the observation and the survey, is that a great amount of people know about the danger of texting while walking and also about the consequences that it can lead to, but they will keep doing it even if they have already run or nearly run into something. Nonetheless, there are some factors that do influence their behavior, such as the bad weather, but with the exception of that factor, they will not stop from texting while walking.

Conclusion

According to Chad Holway, a police officer from University of Florida Police Department, texting while walking is not considered an issue that affects the society around the UF campus. Since using the cell phone while crossing the street is not against the law, it is not a primordial concern for him. In his opinion, it is not necessary to create a law against texting while walking. Nevertheless, he mentioned that it is always recommendable to encourage pedestrians to pay attention to the road while crossing the street, which encompasses putting their cell phones down. This seems to be the main reason why nothing has been done in UF to prevent people from texting while walking; since it is not considered a problem, it might not concern the authorities. However, the University of Florida has already been affected by this issue; as it was mentioned in this project, a UF student was hit by a bus while she was crossing the street being distracted by her cell phone. Nevertheless, Mr. Holway did not know about this accident.

Considering the great number of people who were observed texting while walking on campus, it could be inferred that sooner or later this phenomenon may affect the society around campus, because there are thousands of pedestrians who have to cross many streets, where accidents could easily happen if they are distracted with their cell phone. Even though UF has not taken any actions taken to address this issue, there are some places and companies around the world that have already started to tackle it. For instance, some sidewalks in China have been divided between

pedestrians who are using their cell phone and the ones who are not, in London they placed bumpers around the light posts so pedestrians would not run into them, and Apple proposed to replace the background of the screen with a live video feed so people will be able to see what is in front of them while texting.

Nonetheless, the solutions that have been taken are not directed to the major problem; instead of working on changing pedestrians' behavior, the actions taken are directed to protect them while they keep using their cell phone, which is the real issue. Diverse alternatives could be considered, such as making public campaigns to create awareness about this issue, share information in newspapers or websites to generate interest about the consequences of distracted walking, produce commercials with interesting facts about texting while walking, offer conferences or presentations to raise awareness about this problem, and place warning signs near crosswalks to remind pedestrians to not use their cell phone, at the very least, while crossing the street.

Finally, it mostly depends on how serious this problem is taken so creating awareness in the society would definitely be a well-chosen strategy to reverse this trend. In addition, the University of Florida campus is a place where the mentioned alternatives could be developed and because of the vast number of people who frequent its areas, it seems to be a good place to implement this plan.

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Heart of a Mother, the Heart of an Angel

Espoir Exauce Ndandou
RW61

Like a seed in your womb, I germinated
Hooked into your fallopian like a fruit on a branch
By your invaluable patience,
A new life has found its essence
To the vagaries of gestation
And the troubling fetal gymnastics,
You have fought valiantly
Until heavy and too old, it took me to come into this world,
For the first time I blew and cried
Amorous of attentions and tenderness
A that moment, I was playing endless scenarios
Fiction or reality, a scene overlap that unfortunately,
My immature reason could not distinguish,
Cries, gasps and grunt interspersing,
My eyes on my contemporaries was only a simulation
To be the subject of contemplation
So you constantly wore me in your arms to the softness of velvet
And that I preferred to the cradle
As I can remember an indelible memory of a matchless love,
A surefire protection and a permanent tenderness,
I love you mom!

I dedicate this poem to all mothers of the world to show how incredible you are, there is no comparable to that love a mother has for her child.

My Life with Wonderful People

Stephanie Fadus Perez
RW10

My life in the United States is wonderful because I have many good people around me. First, it is my father. I came to the United States in January this year with my father. He stayed in Gainesville with me for two weeks and went to the first activity of ELI with me. When everything here was in order (apartment, school, food), he went back to Venezuela. I couldn't do anything without my father, and I really thank him for everything. Second, I met my new roommate Atenas Calzadilla who is from Venezuela, too but from a different city. We go to all the activities together. She is my best friend, and I love her very much. She also studies at ELI. Third, my three teachers are the best. My grammar teacher is Haydee Britton. I like her class because it is very dynamic. My Listening & Speaking teacher is Laura Jarvis, and her class is very funny. My Reading & Writing teacher is Zoe Witty. She is my hero, and I like her class very much. Fourth, my classmates from reading & writing are the best. I have eleven classmates from Saudi Arabia, one from Qatar, one from Turkey, and one from Venezuela. Salman Abu Onq is a very smart student, but sometime he comes to class late and always has different excuses to explain the absence. Mohammed Alamri is a very good and friendly person. Mohammad Alhabib is also in my group of study and is a very good student. Mohammed Almousa is in my group of study, and he is a pretty conservative person. Abdulmajeed Almuqbil is a very good student, but he always talks a lot in Arabic. Milfy Alqahtani is a charming and very smart person. Khalid Huntush is very honest and good student. Rayan Milibary is shy but a good friend. Abdullah Shoals is very serious and friendly. Jumah Al-jahani is very friendly, but he never comes to class. I don't think he is going to come back to ELI next semester because he is going to study in California. Good luck Jumah! Sinem Erturk is the only girl from Turkey in the class. I will miss her next semester because she is going back to Turkey. Eberlith Reyes who is from Venezuela is a very good person and intelligent. Nasser Alkhulaisi is my best friend in the class. I love him because we always speak in English all the time and thank to him because I speak more English now, and he is the best. Now I can speak English language better because I'm with many warm hearted people around me. I'm so lucky!

A Different Change

Carolina Barroso
RW40

Many people have to change their life style. A new change is not always comfortable: you will be scared, but that is part of growing up and leaving your normal life for another new one. The things most hurts are leaving your family, starting again and feeling alone.

The most difficult thing is leaving your family. Family is the most important thing in your home, because they know you, they can help you, they are your home. When I left my family, it was so hard, because I felt like my heart broke. Not only is leaving your family hard, you are also leaving your friends and everything that is around you. Friends are part of our life, I mean true friends, for example, when I left my friends and said goodbye, it was so hurtful. My friends are as my brothers or my other family. We cried and cried, and it was the hardest thing that I ever did before. I never thought that leaving your family would be horrible. Before, I did not appreciate my family, but now everything has changed.

Another thing that is very hard is starting again. When you arrive in a new country looking for opportunities to be someone better, or because your parents gave it you, so you are better than them, you have to go back to start again, because you do not have your stuff. You have a new home, new life and new goal to achieve. Go back to start from scratch, but now in a different place and with a struggle in your interior. An instinct that we have as humans is a fear of new things, of all things new, we are accustomed to the everyday things we do not realize that we can start over again, even though we may have to sacrifice some things. Starting again always hurts and is scary, but there are always new things in a new beginning.

Finally, the last thing that will always pass is the feeling of being alone. Always been by ourselves confuses us and does not allow us to see the picture that we have in front of our eyes. Feeling alone makes you start to think that this opportunity was a mistake and want to go back, but all you can do is be strong and continue seeing the good side and enjoying the things that are happening.

All that you have to do is to give you an opportunity and look forward; you will realize that this opportunity was worth it when you feel happy. You have a lot to learn and enjoy with the ELI family. Come and join the family of different cultures but only one place, ELI!

Myself When I Was 18 and Now

Yahya Jokhdar
RW51

Life between the past and present is full of events and surprises. People sometimes want to go back to the old days to remember beautiful things, but some of them don't want because to because the old days are sad for them. Life has changed between the past and present. Additionally, also my life and myself have changed. The three main differences between myself now and myself at 18 are my responsibilities, my mind, and my habits.

The first difference is my responsibilities. When I was 18 years old I didn't care about my family because my father took care of them. Also, my time was only for my friends and myself. There was no time for my family. In that age I had specific responsibilities not too many. However, now, I care more about my family and my responsibilities are more difficult after my father died. I should work to help my family and to bring in money. After my father's death, I have had more and more responsibility for my family, my time and my money. It's hard when your father's has died and you are the big brother for your sisters and brothers. When I was a teenager, I didn't care about anything because I wanted to live my life and I didn't care about anything that happened with my family, but now I should care about them. I am supposed to be a good brother and father for them. For example, if the family doesn't give sons and daughters responsibilities from the beginning, they never care about them and they grow up without any care.

The second difference is my mind. My mind is changed between the old days and now. When I was 18 years old I thought about girls and cars. How could I have a lot of relationships with girls? I think it was a stupid thing. When I was 18 I went to a college only for my family and not for myself. My goals in my mind at that age were limited. I thought I should work to make money and to marry. On the other hand, now I have changed my mind. I got married and have no need to think about the girls anymore. I finished my bachelor degree and I changed my mind to complete my Master's degree and PHD for myself, not for my family. My mind has changed from the old days about why I should work and study. I should work to do something in my life and to improve myself. For example, the big change in my mind now and when I was 18 is I should make something special for my society and myself. Another example, when I was 18, I thought man married only for sex and to have children, but now I have changed my mind. A man marries for sharing his life with a woman and to complete his life with her.

The last difference is my habits. It's an important difference for your life. When I was 18, I spent a lot of money and I didn't care about it. I didn't care about feelings of people and only I care about myself. I was selfish. Also, I was so nervous and fought with

everyone. I have changed my habits now. I care more about people's feelings and I care about the people around me. I save my money and don't spend it for nothing. Also, I am so quiet and peaceful man with everyone. For example, when I was 18 I spent my money for everything even if I didn't need it, but now I care more about my money and spend it for important things. Another example, when I bought something I never shared it with my brothers and I hated to share it with others, now I love to share everything with my brothers and my family.

In conclusion, my responsibilities, my mind and my habits are three differences for myself now and myself when I was 18 years old. The life between the past and the present is fully different. Some people have unhappy memories with the past and some of them have happy remembrance. However, between now and the old days there are a lot of things happening with me and it is something amazing. I can't forget everything that happened in the past.

An Unforgettable Day

Jamal Alzahrani
RW20

It was an unforgettable day when I woke up in the morning on April 2 - 1996. I got up unusual time because I normally get up at 7 AM. I woke up too late, so I did not go to school. I had to wonder maybe my mom was still asleep or she didn't wake up. I even had to guess why I couldn't go to school because the bus driver was the one who did not wake up. I got out of my bed and moved to the window. When I woke up, also my birds woke up in the morning. Even the sun at that time was not raised and I moved to the other window. There were exciting people in the village. That movement was strange. I left my room and went to the stairs. I saw all my family members on the same floor and all of them were awake! When I got to the first floor, I saw the elders from the village and they were sitting round the bed and crying. Here I noticed that only person who did not wake up was my father.

God, mercy on my father in his grave!

My Darling Grandmother

Regina Silva Campos
RW43

There are people who have the ability to mark our lives with just simple actions and caring demonstration. That person in my life was my grandmother Nely. She was amazing, a real gift from god to me. But, unfortunately she left me when I was fifteen years

old. My grandmother was like every other grandmother in the world: cute, loving, and kind.

It is still very clear in my mind how pretty she was. She looked no different than almost every grandmother. She was charmingly short and chubby. Her beautiful silver hair touched her face gently, sometimes hiding her black eyes strongly marked by her expressive eyebrows. She had a round face always with a big smile which conveyed her joy of living and her intern joviality. Her wrinkled skin denounced her years of journey and at the same time showed her delicacy and her need of care that the advanced age required. I could write lines and more lines telling how beautiful she was, but that is just a small detail about this wonderful person who I claim to be the most special.

My grandmother's personality was incredible. She was able to make everything become simple and fun. She was always smiling and humming, and the moment did not matter. She loved to use her experience to listen to everybody's problems and give wise advice. I was delighted with her sweet ability to have the right word in the right time which always brought relief for my heart.

I am sure Nely Silva was the most special person whom I met in my life. It is so hard to describe how helpful and kind-hearted she was in this few lines. I am really glad to have her in my life. I miss every single day when I would spend my whole afternoon stroking her hair and hearing her sweet voice. For me, she is a model of a person, a woman, and a mother to follow. I hope one day I could be a little bit like her, for me just this will be enough.

Pour Your Heart Out

Ebtihal Alsekaity
Advanced Informal English

What's wrong with the grumpy face?
Friend please, I'm trying to suss out the case,
You don't need to hole up in your place,
You'll always have me by your side.
So speak up and shout
and pour your heart out,
don't ever feel down and out,
and next to you, you'll find me no doubt,
so look on the bright side and shake off all the sorrow from your heart.

Dream House

Abduikhaliq Alismail
RW45

Have you ever dream about a life house? It could be normal house or it could be a magnificent house as a castle. Let see what kind of houses I dream about them as follow the sections.

First of all, it is a station for my stomach, yes it is a kitchen. I dream of my kitchen is as wonderful as Alize in French. In term of it has a lot of things what I want inside the kitchen and more. Moreover, I want my knives seem like a swords. Also, I want my kitchen has a huge TV to make my wife very excited about cooking. Furthermore, I want my kitchen a romantic kitchen, it has more red and blue lights, and it has a great music without singing.

The second thing is my Island. I am going to write about is my significant restroom. I want my restroom is as wonder as island. I dream about my restroom has many things do not come in our minds, I am going to make an amazing pool, the pool on the form of beach. Also, I am going to put two coconut palms with lights around the palms. Furthermore, I want it has wonderful Jacuzzi, Sauna, and table for Massage.

The Last one is a UF stadium, it is my activity area. My activity area like Island Adventure. I am going to separate my area to two sections. One section is as wonderful as city games, it has pools tables, tennis tables, a huge screen is as magnificent as theater, and term the length of the screen is 150" inch to play video games. Next, it is a great sport area, It is as significant as Gainesville Place, and I am going to put a private section Gym. Also, I want it has a huge pool like lake, a great soccer place like Real Madrid team soccer place, two volleyballs places.

We see that is just a dream, everyone has a dream at least about how he make for his family a great family. My dream is king of fiction, as well as has a lot of things difficult to make it like soccer, screen 150" inch, and pool. However, I hope everyone achieves his dream at least part of his dream.

Pet Is Like the Perfect Berry

Alejandro Benzaquen
RW43

Aristotle said: "Man is by nature a social animal," that means that humans tend to be accompanied by humans. But, what about people who like to be accompanied by pets? There are many causes that explain why people keep pets in their lives.

First of all, people who live alone maybe feel a necessity to interact with something that has senses. Sometimes you can see in a residential elevator a woman or a man who lives alone that has a pet with him or her like a child. A pet is a great option for a lonely people.

What is more, people keep pets because it can be good for the health. For example, dog owners have the habit to walk their pets so that permits the person to be physically active. Being healthy is important for everybody, so why not to have a pet by the excuse to be healthy.

People's routines can be sometimes stressful and having a pet may help to stay away from the problems. In fact, pet's owners take the time when they arrive home to play and have some fun and leisure time as a distraction. That allows the person think about other things and not just work problems.

In conclusion, keeping pets it's not an excuse, it's a simple reality that can make the difference in a people's lives. It's true that humans are social animals by nature, but it doesn't mean that they don't need other things to surround them. Having pet it's like a perfect berry on a piece of a cake. It's a special detail in our lives.

Being Famous Can Change Your Life

Alejandro Benzaquen
RW43

If I am trying to imagine myself on the big screen, on a newspaper, on a magazine or even on the TV, maybe it is because I believe that some day I will be famous. If I were famous, I am sure that I would try to keep my private life private. Being famous doesn't mean making your life public. I think that being famous permits you to be, maybe, the motivation for somebody or even his or her inspiration. Being famous can be positive or negative; everything depends on your behavior and your goals. If I were famous, I will be like Alejandro Benzaquen, just me.

My Inspiration: My Father

Alejandro Benzaquen
RW43

Everybody is born with people around them, and those people are a part of our circle of the life. When I think about the word INSPIRATION, one of those persons who come to my mind is my father. My father, for me, is like a huge light that pushes me to walk on the right way.

My father, teaches me about life using his own experience, and how his behavior and thoughts help him. He is a motivating person. I say that because he looks on everything as an opportunity. When I think about his life, and all of those hard things that happened in his life, I see him like a warrior. The title of father is maybe like a big rock on the head of someone, but my father tries to dissimulate that weight to inspire me in my life. "Never give up," is his motto.

Pa, how I call him in Spanish, is a reflection of me in a mirror. His appearance maybe is not exactly like mine, but when he was young he looked like me now. He is not that tall, but he is an average height. If you are trying to guess if he is also funny, the answer is yes.

In conclusion, I am more and more sure that my father is one of the foundations of my life, He lives to make my life easier with his recommendations and advice. When people say that I look like my father in many ways I feel proud because definitely he is my inspiration.

Two Sanctuaries

Alejandro Benzaquen
RW43

Amen, a declaration of affirmation found in the Bible and in the New Testament. Many religions use that word in their routines and in their traditional prayers, but the two based on those books are Judaism and Christianity. Both have a country as a sanctuary, Israel and Vatican, two different countries in many ways. The main religion, the territory, and the population are some of their differences.

Israel is the nation of the Jewish. It has the Western Wall by the central point of pray, located in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel. The main language is Hebrew, but there are others that you can hear if you walk on the street. In addition, Israel is a small country compared to others, but is not the smallest one. Finally, the population is around 8 million, but is increasing over the years.

On the other hand, we have the second sanctuary, the Vatican. The Vatican is the nucleus of Christianity. The principal papal, Francisco, lives there, and when he talks with his followers, he speaks from the main balcony of the Vatican. Italian is the main language, probably because it's the only country next of Vatican's limits. Moreover, the Vatican is the smallest country in the word, that's why the population is 900 people, and the territory is less than 0,5 Km².

As you can see, both, Israel and the Vatican are different. For many people around the world they are the horizon of their culture, traditions, and their religion. They are different, but we are sure that when they finish their prayers, they finish with an AMEN.

An Unhappy Day on Campus

Aljawharah Almuqbil
RW 44

It began as a nice day, but it quickly turned into an awful day. I was at a restaurant with my classmates, and I talked with my friends, Fatimah and Zahra, and with my language assistant, Mary. Fatimah was sick. She had a pain in her neck. "Hey guys, we are done today, see you." That is what Mary said so we would go to another class at Anderson Hall.

On our way, the weather was wonderful and the sky was blue. We were glad and so excited for the Thanksgiving Holiday. I walked next to Zahra, and Fatimah was behind us. We were talking together until we arrived near the building.

Zahra and I went down the stairs to enter the building. Suddenly we heard a scream from behind us. Oh my god, Fatimah fell down from the top stair to the bottom! We hurried to help her, but she couldn't move her body. We were talking with her, but she was in pain, and she didn't talk a lot. She just asked us to give her the medicines that she used for the neck pain from her bag. We did that without thinking. I saw blood from her knee that broke my heart. I realized she needed the emergency.

There were someone who helped us, and he called the emergency number. They took some information about Fatimah and her fall. All of a sudden, Fatimah couldn't breathe. I was so worried about her life. After a few minutes she fainted. We asked the emergency to hurry.

The emergency arrived quickly. Then they asked us to keep away from Fatimah. I realized she became worse after we gave her the medicines. I felt sorrow and my eyes began to shed tears for my close friend. Now I'm thankful to my god about Fatimah. She is better, and she came back to study.

Causes and Effects of Obesity

Aljawharah Almuqbil
RW 44

According to the World Health Organization, 2.8 million of people die every year around the world because of obesity. Obesity is the increase of the fat in the body. That leads to weight. Obesity is a serious and common disease in the world. There are several causes and effects of obesity.

The first cause is diet. Most people don't have a healthy diet, which is food rich with vitamins and proteins such as vegetables, fruit, meat, and fish. As a consequence of being busy with work, people have no time to cook, so existence a lot of restaurants. This is why people eat so much junk food. That lacks to vitamins, proteins, and filled of fat and calories such as hamburger, soda, and chocolate.

Another cause is the lack of movement. Many people are couch potatoes, and they spend their time front of the TV or on the Internet without exercises. As a result of transportation's development, the people don't need to walk or do exercises. For example, they go to their school or their jobs by cars, buses, or trains.

The important effect of obesity is diseases. The more people weigh, the more likely they are to have diabetes, blood pressure, and cancer. Also diseases may lead to more difficult moving and weakness in the body. Consequently, people will spend a lot of money and time for treatment of their diseases.

As you see, obesity influences our health and the life of community. It leads to laziness, weakness, and sickness. We should follow a healthy diet, quit bad diet habits, and keep exercising to get rid of obesity.

Why Do People Keep Pets?

Mohammed Alqarni
RW43

People have been keeping pets for centuries. The number of households around the world has been increasing every year. The number of pets has been changing as well. "72.9 million families in the United States have one or more pets, which is about 62% of all the U.S. households. This number was increased from 56% in 1988" (2011-2012 National Pet Owners Survey). Nowadays having pets helps people in many kinds of problems. People keep pets due to many reasons: for protection, company, and health.

People use pets to protect themselves, their house and property. Having pet massively reduces the crime of assault and robbery. For instance, many girls have dogs to protect themselves when they walk outside or on the beach.

One more reason why people keep pets is that pets are useful as a company. Old people face problems when they retire or when their kids move out; they are alone all the time. Having pets helps them to take care of another living creature. In addition, it makes it easier to meet new friends while being involved in activities for pet owners.

Another convincing reason to keep pets is health. According to many polls, the majority of people believe that pets encourage them to do exercises on a daily basis, such as running and walking. Also, spending time with pets helps to lower blood pressure and relieve stress.

In conclusion, keeping pets helps people to improve their health; also, it helps them to keep connected with the society and reduces crimes.

Obesity Affects People's Lives

Azhar Milibary
RW44

Obesity and being overweight are becoming a major problem, which is increasing day by day . Many people gain weight as a consequence of the wrong habits in their lifestyle. In addition, they do not have the knowledge of the healthiest way to be in good shape. There are several causes and effects of obesity.

The first cause is the lack of exercise and energy imbalance. That means eating too much and moving too little, where too

many calories are eaten and not enough physical activity takes place. For example, eating large amounts of fast food without exercise will make the person fat because of the fat and sugar in it.

The second cause of obesity is eating junk food like burgers, pizza, and noodles. These types of food are easily available to people and faster than cooking at home. Additionally, in this era, parents are working and they do not have time to cook at home. Consequently, they buy a dinner or lunch for family, and that will affect their bodies and their children bodies. For example, eating a large takeout hamburger, fries, and a milkshake can total 1,500 calories and that's just one meal, but the average of calories is 2,500 for men and 2,000 for women.

Another cause of obesity is the psychological factors . For some people, emotions influence eating habits. Many people respond excessively to emotions such as boredom, sadness, stress, or anger. Due to these emotions, people eat a lot subconsciously just to get out from their bad mood.

Obesity also has many important effects like the health risk. Obese people are more likely to have heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and cancer. For example, drinking too much alcohol means a lot of sugar and because of that they will have diabetes.

Another effect of obesity is that overweight people are more likely to be depressed, due to having fewer friends, and lower educational attainment. For example, an obese person will face sarcasm from some students in their school, and that will affect his or her education. For this reason, they prefer to isolate themselves instead of face these challenges in life, and this is the strongest reason for depression.

In conclusion, obesity has several causes and effects. The most important cause is the lack of exercise and energy imbalance, eating junk food, and the psychological factors, which influences eating habits. Also, obesity has many important effects like the health risk, and depression, which affects peoples' life in everything. However, I believe that if the obese people work hard to lose weight, they will do it. Also, the family of the obese person should help him by advising, or participating in exercises, or eating a lot of healthy food, to give him the ability to lose weight and to be in good shape.

Independence Day and Carmen Virgin Holiday

Camilo Bernal
RW47

The holidays are part of the lives of most human beings, because in all countries of the world, holidays are celebrated. However, while many people around the world celebrate, they are ignorant of their origins. On the other hand, it is interesting to learn about their traditions and who celebrate these feasts. To

reflect this in this essay, I want to make a comparison between two important holidays in Colombia which are Independence Day and Virgin Carmen holiday in reasons, traditions and who celebrates, which have many differences between these two holidays.

The Day of Independence in Colombia and Carmen Virgin Festival, are holidays that are celebrated in two totally different dates, and it's because their reasons for celebration are for different reasons. Independence Day in Colombia was July 20, 1810 and it all started because Llorente (Spanish) was asked to borrow a vase and refused, which over the years of Spanish repression revolution entered the village and took the country. On the other hand, the Carmen Virgin day is celebrated on July 16, 1251, which is due to the image of Carmen Virgin appearing to St. Simon Stock, which is believed to be the image that Whitsun tradition made the prophets Elijah and Elisha to become Catholics.

As for traditions, Independence Day is celebrated with some Colombian hoisting the flags of Colombia in their homes, taking to the streets for parades of the Colombian military, fireworks all day, etc. However, some Colombians take advantage of the day to travel to places with hot weather. On the other hand in the Virgin Carmen day parades celebrate making hundreds of trucks and buses for all places of Colombia, with the statue of the Virgin over their vehicles. However, other Colombians pray, drink alcohol, dance, etc.

Finally, I want to mention who celebrate these festivities in Colombia. Independence Day is obviously held by the Colombian people; however, as previously mentioned other Colombians(Who are approximately 70% of the country), celebrated in farms and houses with swimming pools and hot weather. On the other hand, Carmen Virgin holiday is celebrated drivers of trucks, buses, taxis and obviously Catholics.

To summarize, there are many festivals around the world, especially in Colombia, and each differs in its origins, dates, traditions, people who celebrate etc. However these two holidays as we could have observed significant differences in their reasons, traditions and those who celebrate. It is very interesting to know about the festivities worldwide!

College & High school

Danah M. Jumah
RW45

Sarah has graduated from high school recently and she decided to attend collage to achieve her goal as a teacher. She knew high schools and colleges have some similarities like the structure for the class should include teacher and students. However, she has found several differences between collages and high schools in particular grading system, independent learning, and responsibilities.

One difference she has found is the grading system. Almost every college is using a grading system called "credit". In the sense that, the student should collect a certain amount of points to pass his or her class. In addition, in the college each class is separate which is if the students fail in one class he or she just has to take this class again, but in the high school the student must pass all his or her classes to start his or her next year or to graduate.

Another difference she has found is independent learning. In college the teacher should only give a lecture, or maybe only introduction. In this case, students must learn almost by themselves for instance, they have to read more to understand and expansion their knowledge. Also, they should develop their skills and their abilities to be as much of the responsibility.

The last difference she has found is responsibilities. As a student in a college or high school it is important to know your responsibilities. However, to be a student in a college the amount of your responsibilities will increase. For example, you should organize your time between your work and your studying period. If not, you might lose your job or your points in college.

To summarize, although colleges and schools are similar to each other in the structure for the class; however, she has found several differences between colleges and high schools in particular grading system, independent learning, and responsibilities.

Dance Like Nobody Is Watching

Samary Shahein
RW43

Have you heard the phrase "dance like nobody is watching"? This is attributed to many authors. I love to dance, and I think because of that I love to read it. It is about that happiness that is the journey and is not the destination. Many of us hope that it arrives at the specific moment, and we do not enjoy the journey of life, which is true happiness.

Our lives are full of difficulties and challenges which we have to face with happiness because these are impulses that we need to live. For that, we need to stop worrying about what other persons think of you, need to put our heart into everything that we make, and always smile. For these reasons, "dance like nobody is watching, work like you do not need money, and love like you have never been hurt."

Learning English as a second language

Fatimah Alsaeed
RW34

I would like to tell you about learning English as a second language. These days, many people have college degrees, but they don't have jobs. This is due to the fact that they are not good at English, which is very important for many jobs. There are many ways to start learning English: some people go to English-speaking countries, while others can learn it in their countries.

However, even though some people can travel to the US where they take classes every day, this is not enough. They should do more than that to learn English. First, they should study every day; for example, in addition to taking classes every day, when you go home, they should study hard and try to learn from different websites, such as YouTube channels. Also, it is useful to record their voice and listen to it. This is a perfect way to improve pronunciation. Second, it is important to try to speak only in English the whole time, e.g. hang out with people who don't share the same first language. Finally, they need to depend on themselves in doing things, and use their phone, iPad, and computer in English.

If you are among those who can't travel to an English-speaking country, I would like to give you some tips about learning English: if you decide to learn English in your home country, you should take an English course. For example, there is a famous institute in Saudi Arabia called Berlitz. It is available in all major cities in the country, but it is expensive. Some people don't have enough money for these expensive programs, but they don't give up studying. For instance, you can learn English via in the internet. There are a lot of websites and YouTube channels, such as EngVid, which particularly helps you to learn English. Moreover, you can practice in English while doing your favorite things. For example, if you like to listen to the news every day, listen to it in English.

To sum up, I talked to you about how to learn English faster and easier no matter if you want to learn English in your country or if you want to travel to another country. There are always good methods for learning English. Change your life to English and use different sources to learn it.

Fatal woman

Espoir Exauce Ndandou
RW61

Fatal woman,
So beloved and pampered,
You that Nature has elected,
Carrier of her crown,
Recipient of her prestigious charity,
And off her finery,
Fatal woman,
It will grant me the grace of your smile,

Me, whose obsessive fanaticism is dedicated to your entire reverence,
 That fantasy book of endless dreams,
 Your dazzling charm enslave the worship of deference,
 And your majestic gait create reference,
Fatal woman,
 Laureate of praise festival
 And queen of the carnival,
 Your incredible magnificence deserves all attentions of a goddess of beauty,
Fatal woman,
 As long as your hair,
 It is drawing a long line of men behind you,
 Hammering each one with a strong body imbued passions and desires,
 Left to conquer, your heart like a throne
 Offers the theater of a battlefield
 To the excitement of ardent feelings fiercely struggling
 Alas! The throne was only room for one lucky winner.

Reading a Book or Watching a Movie Based on the Book

María Belén Medina Caceres
 RW 47

Do you prefer reading books or watching movies based on the book's story? There are a lot of movies based on the story of books like The NeverEnding Story, Wuthering Heights, The Shining, The Hunger Games, the Harry Potter saga and more. You could enjoy both the book or the movie. However, we can find differences in their length, their character's details and the reaction at the end.

Each movie has a maximum 90 to 120 minutes of length and in this time it needs to summarize the whole book's story. In contrast, a book has all the pages that it needs without restrictions. You can find small books with less than 100 pages like The Little Prince, and big books with more than 300 pages like Wuthering Heights. The movies sometimes need to modify the story due time limitations. When you read a book, you can take your time and enjoy every detail that the movie probably does not have. For example, in the movie The NeverEnding Story, many parts of the original story had to be cut, and only shows the important parts.

Another thing to consider is the lack of characterization. The movies have the difficult task of bringing the main characters to life; however, many times this task is not achieved. The way that the actors perform their characters and their costumes could be different from the way that the reader imagines. The viewer could lose his opportunity to understand the story in the correct way, though only he who reads the book realizes the difference.

When you finish watching the book's movie, and you like it, you could feel good but it does not last a long time. Compared to this feeling, when you finish reading a book, and you really enjoyed the story, you feel good and have a very good mood. You feel a sensation similar to achieving a goal and this feeling could last for a very long time. Also, when the movie is over, sometimes the people begin to criticize the performance, the costumes, the settings, etc., and forget the meaning of the story, this does not happen when you read a book.

Choosing between reading a book and watching a movie based on a book could vary depending on the type of person. Each one has differences in length, characterization and the reaction at the end of the story. Nevertheless, it is important to remember the importance of reading. Whichever you choose, you should enjoy it.

ELI Campaign

Mohammed Alqarni
 RW43

Behind every success there are motivating factors helped to reach it. As international students was very important to be with this factor. Also, we were very lucky to be in this place. It helps me greatly in improving the English language so far. ELI is first step for a lot of international students to be ready to join a university to complete their studies in the United States.

I remember the first moment when I entered Norman Hall which was all ELI classes and administration offices there last summer semester. Exterior was completely different from the buildings in my country. I liked the design, which is characterized by the beauty of the ancient art of using the red-brick, which I see it for the first time in the real. There also green yard around the building surrounded by trees and flowers I like it so much. The interior design of the building was lovely and quiet stripes, the classes were equipped with new technology. Also equipped for the disabled.

In our case we need to teachers who have a high level of sparkle to help us to improve our language. At ELI I found staff administration with high level of assistance. Also, I deal with teachers who have enough experience to make him able to help each student according to his weaknesses. In addition, I saw something different it is great idea to making an hour every day is a mix the students with language assistants who are native speakers of English. Furthermore, in fall 2014, which was my second semester in the ELI most of the classes moved from Norman Hall to other classes in different buildings inside the campus that's in my opinion helped the ELI students to mix with the UF student, Which contributed to having the opportunity to talk and listen to the university students who are the English language is first language for them.

ELI in one of the best and oldest universities in the United States. University of Florida has more than 50,000 students in different majors. It located in Gainesville, Florida which in the southern region of the United States. It is very quiet city. As well as, it is suitable for learning and study.

In conclusion, as Mark Twain said "To be good is noble; but to show others how to be good is nobler and no trouble." From this point, I will try to be nobler by recommending you to join such programs and instructors who inspire you to be educated besides your desire.

What Makes Us Good Students

Frank Yegres
RW43

How can we be good students? This generally is one of the first essays topics that teachers love to give their students. There are many different kinds of students; everyone has their personal thoughts about what makes them good. Usually, when people think about an answer, they only focus on a general idea; I define this idea as "the rules." Are they sufficient to be good students?

First, what are the rules? When we were children, we learned about those rules, for example: be on time, do your homework, rise your hand when you have a question etc. As a result, people can literally have an organized class because of the guidelines that make us able to coexist as a society inside of the classroom.

However, are those social rules enough to be a good student? Being a student is a part of life for many people, and life does not only follow rules. There are different values that can help to improve us as students. Moral principles are necessary when people go to class. What is a class? It is socializing in search of knowledge. Inside the meaning of socializing we can find two words: communication and cooperation and those indicate that it is not enough to follow the rules to develop as students. It is more about contributing, be interested in improving your class. One good suggestion that teachers always give is never take your question home, because asking this question can help you and your classmates. If you reach the goal of helping everyone to be better students with all possible tools, you become a part of a superior formation.

Finally, to be a good student it is necessary to have a balance. Emotions can also affect you as a student. It is necessary to keep them in control.

If people combine emotional balance plus values and "the rules," in my opinion, this would make a good student. People have the power to change a boring and ordinary class, and sometimes it is as simple as wanting to be in the class.

The Game of Life

Ebtihal Alsekaity
Advanced Informal English

I think my whole life has been a false start. I can't say that I wasn't trying, but I've been swinging and missing all the time. To be honest I felt like I was dying inside, but I was too strong to throw in the towel. I believe that hard experiences did shape me and taught me to roll with the punches. Next time when life throws me a curve, I know for sure it's just a reminder to keep my eye on the ball and my head in the game. Yes, life is nothing but a game and the ball is in your court, but remember no one is always winning!

Cause and Effect of Marriage

Hajer Alhamed
RW45

Human nature hates to be lonely. Trying to find the real love is one of common thing that people do. If they found the other half they decide to marry. Marriage is beautiful thing signifies that partnership longevity. Because of love, desire to be with each other they decide to get marry. There are many effects to be marriage.

One of them, marriage promotes the responsibility and the feeling of important. Each side has duties and response about their family life. Sometime marriage eliminates the vacuum in the life. Also, they have interesting time with each other.

Another thing, the beautiful and terrific thing is children. When the couple decide to bring baby, how the life will be such beautiful. They watch their child grow and do action for the first time. They raise the children in the right behavior. Additionally, they implant principles and values in the children's life.

Furthermore, the love and sharing burdens of life. As you know the life full of difficult and serious factor you need how sharing that and eases your workload in the raising children, in the financial expenses and other issue (Nancy Marie Brown). However, beautiful life lies with the participation of the beautiful and the ugly factor in it.

All in all, the love, have children, and happiness with sharing are some effect and result of the ideal marriage. If the each side respect the other side and do the responsibility in the right way, you have such a good marriage in happy family.

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Journey of My Dream

Ahmed Alsannaa
RW40

We all have dreams in our life, things we want to do before we die. My dream was to finish my undergraduate degree in the US, so I decided to come to Gainesville to finish my English requirement. First, I didn't know Gainesville; all I wanted was a warm place so I started to search for good schools in Florida. I saw UF, then I looked for the city, so I found this really nice picture of Butler Plaza. Somehow, I thought it was a big fancy mall: It never occurred to me it was just restaurants and coffee shops, but never mind. I decided to come here, and I started to look for a luxury apartment and I found one, but they told me we don't rent to undergraduate students. First I thought they were kidding, honestly, I don't see the point why they won't rent to me because money is money, so I decided to wait until I arrived here. Before I left my house, it was really difficult for me. I saw my parents crying, my best friend is still back home, I am here all alone. I have relatives in North Carolina and Oklahoma, but I didn't really want to go there. After I arrived here, I was kind of worried because it is kind of hard to come here and know that you are going to stay for a few years. It is a lot to handle. I got admitted to the University of Arizona - School of Engineering. People always tell me Florida is hot, honestly I only felt hot once, maybe I was tired, I am not sure. So I decided to go to Arizona, one of the reasons I also didn't like Gainesville is that it is like when you ask anyone what people do here for fun they will be like, "dude it is Gainesville." In my mind when I first heard it, I thought Gainesville refers to a secret code, then I know it was just the city and the economy. I don't want to talk about the economy because I will probably finish my essay criticizing Obama, although the bus system is OK, but I couldn't understand why they don't work on Sunday: There are people here who want to enjoy their weekend. I have an IELTS test soon, and I hope I get the score so I can stay for another term. I know it is kind of weird to tell you if I get the score I will stay, but it is true, and if I didn't I would have to change my institute. One of the reasons that I want to stay for is I don't want to break my lease. The complex told me if I didn't pay they will transfer me to a collector. I am not sure who it was first, they told me he will come and take the money from you. I was like, "I won't tell him where I am or even answer my phone," but I felt it is kind of rude to tell them because after all the people who work in the main office are not the ones who make a high income. It was really nice term, and I really enjoyed it. I hope you all catch your dreams - even if they don't make sense or are stupid - and always remember you only live once so try to enjoy it and not do something stupid.

Technology Effects

Kawthar Almatar.
RW 44

Could you imagine your life without technology? Look around you! You will find technology everywhere. Nowadays, technology is considered the lifeblood. In fact, we can say technology is a big gift from scientists. I would like to show the technology effects of our personal life, medical field, and education field.

Technology has a significant impact on an individual's personal life, where almost no empty house of the simplest types of technology such as an alarm clock, washing machine, refrigerator, and a lot of technology types which make daily routine activities easier. In addition, Technology also is an important factor of entertainment. Many of us spend his spare time watching TV or listening to music or communicate with others via smart mobile devices and using some of the applications deployed extensively in the world.

Technology also plays a vital role in the field of medicine. Nowadays has become a medicine relies heavily on technology, starting from primary care as organs of blood pressure measurement, sugar and weight measurement ends doing some surgical operations after using this technological super-resolution techniques. Modern technology reduced the odds of medical errors significantly, this in addition to being regarded as a tool for treatment in some cases, such as the use of the correct defects sight laser techniques.

The last but not least, the technology has contributed to the evolution of the field of education on a large scale. Where many of the available possibilities and assistive devices for schools and universities, making the comprehension and understanding for students easier such as computers and Projector. In addition, the technology helps to get information quickly and easily. As well as the technology has an important role in the accuracy of the completion of the scientific projects to all educational levels.

In conclusion technology is still constant evolution to facilitate human activities. It service all areas of scientific and daily routine. I think it is hard to dispense without technology because it is part of our life.

My Awful Day

Kyoung A Kim
RW44

I have never forgotten my first journey of 10 years ago. What happened? I traveled to China with my close 3 friends for a month. When I decided to go to China, I was excited. I couldn't sleep well for a few days. However, my dad and mom were so worried about

my first trip: would I be safe, would it be dangerous and would I be healthy. Then when I eventually departed to China, nobody could provide for me.

Nothing was familiar when I arrived to Beijing. In addition, I couldn't speak Chinese. However, I was interested everything in the first place because I had gotten together with my friends. We also talked about our past and future for a long time. Sometimes we were active, and sometimes we were serious. We had been staying in Beijing, but then we had an enormous problem. We couldn't find transportation from Beijing to Mongolia.

Ten years ago, China didn't have the technical development and the Internet. We had to go to Mongolia. We directly asked a traveler and an information center for a tour. We got a little bit of information. Afterwards, we quickly went to the train station because the transportation. From Beijing to Mongolia was only by train. Next, we waited in a long line to buy a ticket. On, my god!!! We couldn't buy our ticket. Our ticket had sold out. Nobody could think about our next plan. At that time, a man approached us, and he wanted to help us. I thought he was like an angel. He suggested another solution for us. It was an airplane. We had worried because a flight ticket was too expensive. As a result, we booked to schedule by airplane. Meanwhile, we had been worrying about another matter. Where would we sleep that night?

Luckily, we figured our problem out with the night culture. We found an all-night store and club close to us. We became excited again. We looked active and vivid, and we were really happy. Afterwards, we were dancing to the music and drinking deeply of Chinese's passionate night culture until sunrise. Although we felt tired, we were excited.

As soon as we had arrived to the airport, we went to the toilet. We were laughable at the same time. Each friend saw each friend for the first time. We were dizzy! After that journey, I have traveled to a lot of places. Nevertheless, I will never forget my first travel experience in my life.

Life in Gainesville and Al-Hasa

Zahra Alquraini
RW44

When I was in Gainesville for studying in the English program, I adapted quickly because the weather in Gainesville is similar to the weather in my city. Also, both are agricultural cities. Because of that, I like living in Gainesville. However, there are several differences between Al-Hasa and Gainesville in the cost of living, transportation, and entertainment.

Al-Hasa and Gainesville differ in the cost of living. My city is cheaper than Gainesville in rent, gas, and day care. In my city, you can rent a house for \$ 17,000 for one year. In contrast, the rent in Gainesville is about \$ 40,000 for one year. In addition, daycare in

Gainesville is more expensive than Al-Hasa. For example, I pay \$ 750 per a month in Gainesville while I can pay the same amount for whole semester. Not only are the rent and the daycare cheaper in my city but also the gas. For instance, my husband pays for gas in Gainesville three times what he paid in my home country.

Another difference between Al-Hasa and Gainesville is transportation. Although my city has buses to transfer girls to schools, in Gainesville, the buses are for all people and transfer people to many areas. This point is distinct for Gainesville because students don't have enough money to buy a car.

Finally the last difference between Al-Hasa and Gainesville is entertainment. Unlike Al-Hasa, Gainesville has a lot of parks for picnics with your friends or your family. In contrast, Al-Hasa has just two or three gardens, and zoos. Moreover, there are several movie theaters in Gainesville while my city does not have any movie theater.

Although there are differences between Al-Hasa and Gainesville in the cost of living, transportation, and entertainment, these do not make any problem for me because the life in any city has advantages and disadvantages. In general, if you see the bright side you can adapt to living in any city in the world.

If I Were Famous

Luis Curbelo
RW43

If I were famous I would give a good message to all the people that know me. I would help anybody that needs help. I would teach children how to read and write in Spanish and English. I would build houses for the homeless people. I would give jobs to the poor people. I would thank all my teachers for teaching me all I know (especially my RW43 teacher). After that, I would enjoy my life sharing time with my family and friends.

Sports: A fun Way to Change Your Life!

Manuel Droz
RW51

According to George F. Will "Sports serve society by providing vivid examples of excellence" (1972), there exists documents that can prove that around 2000 BC. humans in China were practicing sports, but the culture of sports and exercise was actually a legacy from the ancient Greeks and Romans. All cultures, independent of religion or the places, practice a sport, but what is the reason of that? Why are sports are important? The answer is easy; sports have an important meaning for society. Sports are a fun way for your life because it gives to you more than you lose. By

playing sports, you are going to be able to be physically and mentally health, possibly win money and also have some fun.

The first reason of why society need sports is the interest of be healthy. People right now are living in a way that they feel stress in their life and need a moment and activity that provides them freedom and peace for their minds and sports can do it.

Specifically, right now in the world a problem that is affecting many countries is obesity. It is very important to have good nutrition habits, but if you practice sports you are not going to have this problem. Furthermore, you don't need to be good in one a thing to practice a sport. There are a lot of different sports and all of them need a different skill to practice, so you have the opportunity to choose the sports where you feel more comfortable.

Second effect that can produce the sports is that you can win money. Many cities, stores, and people live only with the money that they win through the sports, and you don't need to necessarily be a super athlete to do it. It is a fact that a person who is very good at sports can be a billionaire very easily. Also they are going to be richer than a smart person. On the other hand, a lot of people win money betting on each other about sports. It can be betting on playing the sports or trying to guessing the scores in the games (this one is very common). In other words, sports right now is an industry. Also, some sports teams manage more money per year than some countries and that's incredible because this is changing the world.

The third effect of sports in society is that you can have some fun playing sports. With all the technology that we have right now, people prefer to stay at home more than play outside. Sometimes sports are a solution for that because almost all the time you practice a sport you should go outside home and you are going to interact with some people and you have fun and met new friends. It is easier to make new friends when you are practicing a sport, but you don't need to be playing a sport to have fun. You can also enjoy seeing other people playing sports. An example of that is the FIFA World Cup and the Olympics where many people go to see it and have some fun.

All the countries and cultures, no matter the religion or the economic status support sports and they think that is a good way to have some fun and be healthier. As a final point, it is important to understand that sports, right now are an important part of the society, and that is good. However, we need to be more responsible and make a perfect balance between the values that we give to a scientific cause and an athlete because both are valuable. They both complement societies. In conclusion, it is clear that sports give us a lot of benefits, and we win with them more than we lose.

Untitled

Mohammed Alqarni
RW43

Every successful person has someone who wants to become like him. In our lives, from we were kids we have been dreaming what we want become. Also, we know someone who is perfect and successful in his live and among his community. When I was kid every day I dream that I will become famous in my country. Day after day this dream grows with me and becomes bigger. After that in the university I met my hero he was the best professor I studied with. He has very interesting history. This professor, who taught me in the university, is named Prof.Saud Kateb.

Prof. Saud Kateb has healthy body like any sport body because one of his hobbies is running every morning. He has an oval head and short curly hair. His eyes are like coin in size, and as black as olives in color. His face with a lot of wrinkles, and his body is the color of desert sands. He is in his late thirties, and he has healthy-looking complexion. Prof.Saud Kateb has a long and wrinkled face, his nose is hooked; also he has short shiny black hair. Furthermore, he has brown and watery eyes. He is thin and tall and always seem well-dressed. In addition, he wears glasses. Moreover he always wears neat clothes.

On other hand, he has high level of behavior. In the class he is modest and friendly with everyone; also, he is talented in dealing with students. He has high confidence in his self and he is very calm. On the television, radio, and in person his behavior is the same always on his nature. Saud is influential person because he is a successful person that everyone wants become like. Besides, because he is a simple man from a small family of middle-class also in the beginning of his live he left his job to continue his study and traveled away from home. During his trip to seek knowledge and faced difficult conditions but beat it. For example sacrificed his job and shortage in money because he traveled to country far away from his home and lived alone in small room in old building basement. When he returns home, he worked in many leadership positions and academic jobs. Nowadays, Prof. Saud Kateb is the Foreign Information Managing Director at the Ministry of Culture and Information in Saudi Arabia. When I saw Prof. Saud Kateb in class for first time and I heard his speech I felt something different like his Knowledge, his way of thinking, and his behavior. He was interesting to me after that I start figure out about his CV. Then I was impressed in his behavior and his knowledge and ambition. Currently, Prof. Saud Kateb is one of the most important media figures in the country because he helped in the development of media in the country.

Finally, Dr. Saud Kateb is one of the best Professor I ever had because he was the persons who inspires me to give my best. In addition, He is good example of the challenge in self-development and faces the obstacles and achieves goals.

My Twin

Munirah Alkhulayfi
RW44

Walter Winchell once said, "A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out." Friendship is the most significant matter in my life. I cannot imagine my life without friends. Eight years ago, I met a girl, who became my best friend in fact, my twin in high school senior year. My best friend Amnah was studying with me at same classes. In the beginning, we did not like each other because we look the same, and our teachers were confused between us. My math's teacher was calling me Amnah, and she was calling Amnah by my name. As a result, Amnah and I hated each other. However, by the end of first semester, each of us had known clearly.

In the case of description my twin, I could describe her appearance carefully because she looks such as me. Amnah has a special smile such as moon light. Her hair is black and long like me. Since she was born in August, she has a strong character. She likes reading novels, watching movie, working out exercise. She has a pure and kind heart. Amnah and I are having a wide eyes, and they're the same color, which is brown. Also we have bronze skin color.

This gorgeous girl is my worth in this life. She understands me even if I didn't tell her any word, she will know it from my eyes. She's helping me out with all of my problems, and if she couldn't help me, in some cases her words were enough for me to be stronger and happier. In addition, our hobbies are the same for that we spend a lot of time together without any boring moment. She supported me to come to the United State. However, I could not meet my twin for a year so far, and I miss her too much.

Independent of all these, my best friend is an important part in my whole life. I thank my god because my god gave me this unique friend. She calls me daily, and we spend a lot of time to know our new news. I remembered one call, we stayed talking for two hours. When I remembered how we were hated each other that makes me laugh. People sometimes judge others for the appearance. On the other hand, if they spend time together, they'll probably change their opinion about this judge.

In conclusion, all these words cannot describe my feeling about this unique friend. In 30 years from now, I can picture Amnah and I setting together telling our grandchildren how we've met each other, and how we become such as twins. For all these people, who do not have a best friend, do not lose your great years without person will be your back thru rises and falls moments in this life.

Some Differences between Jeddah and Gainesville

Munirah Alkhulayfi
RW 44

Jeddah and Gainesville are the closest cities to my heart. I graduated from King Abdulaziz University, and I selected Gainesville, in the United States, to complete my masters. Both of these cities have universities that are famous around the world. In addition, Jeddah and Gainesville have a lot of mixed cultures due to having students from many countries. However, Jeddah and Gainesville have some differences. The main differences between Jeddah and Gainesville are weather, transportation and entertainment.

Jeddah and Gainesville differ in their weather. The weather in Jeddah is very hot the high temperature in Jeddah is 45 centigrade, and the lowest temperature is 12 centigrade. As a result, Jeddah citizens always use their car as their transportation. On the other hand, Gainesville's weather fluctuates between hot, cold, and rainy. Also, some days, it has all these states. Gainesville's citizens thought to take their jackets, umbrella, and water with them always in case, the weather will change.

Another important difference between Jeddah and Gainesville is transportation. Jeddah does not have a public transportation system except, private car, and Taxis. It is a shame, Saudi Arabia has an affluent economy, but its transportation is limited. In addition, Saudi drivers do not follow driving rules. As a result, there are many accidents in Jeddah. In contrast, Gainesville's transportation is organized. People can use buses, private car, bicycles, and sidewalk. Also, the drivers in Gainesville respect driving rules. The transportation in Jeddah and Gainesville are very.

Finally, the significant difference between Jeddah and Gainesville is here are multiple entertainment places in Jeddah. For example, there are parks, beaches, restaurants, and malls. Jeddah's citizens could go to these places any time, and because they close at midnight, their prices are a cheap. However, Gainesville's entertainment is confined because it is a small city. There are some lakes, parks, and one mall. Likewise, Gainesville is near Orlando, which is the most famous city for entertainment. The entertainment in Jeddah and Gainesville is not similar.

In conclusion, Jeddah and Gainesville have a lot of differences like the weather, the transportation and the entertainment. For all that, I am glad and very happy to live in these cities with all these differences.

My Miracle

María Belén Medina Caceres
RW47

The woman who raise me,
The woman who helped me,
The woman who taught me,
The woman who loved me.

She is the woman whom I want,
She is the woman whom I love.
She is the woman who suffered when I suffered,
She is the woman who cried when I cried,
She is the woman who laughed when I laughed,
She is the woman who loved when I loved.

And this beautiful woman whom I refer to,
is my mother, my miracle of love.

My Family Emergency in Gainesville

Qing Bi
RW44

It is the most impressive memory since I lived in Gainesville. It was the first weekend we were in Gainesville. My son and I just came back from a dinner with my friend. My son was very excited, and jumped and jumped in the room. I went out of my house to check my mailbox. Then an unexpected incident happened. It broke the peace of my family. Even now I feel nervous when I think about that night.

First, when I went back to the door of my house, I heard a very sharp crying that I had never heard before from my son. I rushed into the room. I saw blood all over the ground in the living room. My son was in the other room. I followed the blood and reached him. He was trying to find something to clean the blood, but blood continued flowing out. He felt very scared and got upset. I was shocked by the picture. What would I do? My husband had gone back to China, and I had lived here for just 5 days.

A few minutes passed, I tried to let myself calm down. Meanwhile, I asked my son what has happened in a most simply way. After he told me, I called my friend. I knew that was the only way what I could choose what to do.

As I hoped, my friend gave me the best suggestion, "Call 911!" As soon as I hung up my phone, I called 911. I told them my son bumped into the corner of the tea table and broke his head, and I told them my address. Then I was anxiously waiting.

About a quarter of an hour later, a fire engine stopped at my house. Some people came out and held my son on the truck. They cleaned the wound and wrapped it very fast. After that, my son stopped bleeding and crying.

After a while, we arrived at Shands. The policeman transferred us to the nurse had been waiting there. Even though there were many patients waiting there, my son also got very good treatment in time. The doctor put three staples the back of his head. He cooperated with the treatment very well in the whole process. It was 1:30am when I left the hospital.

In the whole night my heart was like a roller coast going up and down, up and down. Finally, I didn't need to worry about it anymore. Even if the emergency was very horrible, it was the chance that let us experience the emergency service and hospital service in America. I think it is a very advanced system, and everyone I met that night was friendly, responsible, and efficient.

Dammam and Gainesville

Ahmed Alyahya
RW4

My hometown and Gainesville are very different. My hometown Dammam, Saudi Arabia, is a big city, while Gainesville is only a small town. In Dammam, there are a lot of high rising buildings; in Gainesville, however, there are not many of them. The good thing about a big city is that you have numerous shops, malls, restaurants and activities, but in Gainesville you have a lot fewer choices.

I in particular miss the restaurants in Dammam. The restaurants there are much better than the ones in Gainesville. In my city, you can find restaurants selling kabsah, kabab, Arabian foods, pastries and international foods. However, Gainesville doesn't have most of them, and the variety of restaurant is pretty limited.

In general, I like Gainesville very much because it is a quiet city, while Dammam can be very crowded and noisy. Also, Gainesville has a lot of nature around it; there are trees, plants and nice landscaping everywhere. In contrast, Dammam doesn't have any of these. Both Gainesville and Dammam are very nice although each of them has their advantages and disadvantages.

Gainesville and Medellin

Daniela Cadavid Bedoya
RW4

I lived in Medellin, a big beautiful town in Colombia. However, it is not the capital city of the country. Actually, I now

am living in Gainesville, Florida, which is a beautiful town too. Talking about these two towns, I would like to discuss some similarities and differences between them.

Both Medellin and Gainesville are beautiful towns. Medellin has an efficient bus system; similarly, Gainesville has a bus system that covers the whole town and provides services to some two hundred thousand residents. However, while Medellin also has a subway system, Gainesville doesn't have any. Medellin is the safest town in Colombia; likewise, Gainesville is a very safe place. Medellin is considered the most innovative town in South America. It has some of the tallest buildings, malls and museums. In contrast, Gainesville only has two malls and a few museums. In Colombia, there are no distinguishable seasons, and Medellin is called "the city of eternal spring". Gainesville is very different in this aspect; the weather changes according to the season. Medellin is a multicultural town as much as Gainesville is. In addition, both Medellin and Gainesville have a popular university that rank high among public universities. Because of that, I think Medellin is a town perfect for students, just like Gainesville is.

To conclude, both Gainesville and my hometown have many things in common, despite the difference between them. They both are nice to live in and are perfect for students.

Gainesville and Kuwait

Lolwa Almasoud
RW4

Living in the United States put me in a new situation and I started to have my mind and eyes opened to new experiences. Student life in the United States is an incredibly unique experience, especially when you came from a very different culture. That's why I would like to compare and contrast Gainesville and my country Kuwait. Let me start with the similarities between them.

The weather in Gainesville is sunny and beautiful; likewise, the weather in Kuwait is also sunny and beautiful. We usually have a long summer like that of Gainesville. People take advantage of the warm temperatures by spending more time outdoors during the summer months. Because of that, activities like going to the beach and having picnics are very popular in both places.

Gainesville is a quiet place; similarly, Kuwait is generally considered a quiet place to live in. Also, the cost of living in Kuwait is just about the same in Gainesville. The people in Gainesville are friendly, and the people in Kuwait are friendly too. They can start chatting up on an airplane, when standing in lines, or when they are on board a bus. They make people feel comfortable when running their daily routines.

Now come the differences. Most of the students in Gainesville use their bikes or the buses for transportation. In contrast, in

Kuwait buses are only for foreigners because every Kuwaiti has a car. In addition, in Gainesville, there are many live events that occur on weekends at UF. There are also a lot of festivals just like the Indian Festival at Santa Fe College last week. On the other hand, we don't have weekend festivals in Kuwait. In the United States, students are allowed to work while they are still studying. However, in Kuwait they are not allowed to work until they graduate.

As we can see, there are a lot of similarities and differences between Gainesville and Kuwait. After all, I enjoy living in Gainesville very much.

Gainesville and Makkah

Bayan Sairfi
RW4

There are a lot of differences between Gainesville and my hometown. My city is Makkah. Unlike Gainesville, it has a lot of shopping malls. Also, there are some places in Gainesville that you can't find in Makkah, places like the cinema in downtown and the airport. The streets in Gainesville are very different from that of Makkah. In Makkah, we don't have the buttons for a pedestrian to push when he or she wants to cross the road. We just wait until the traffic light turns green. The houses in Gainesville are like chalets, while the houses in Makkah are in very big buildings on different floors. Other than the differences, there are some similarities between Gainesville and Makkah. For example, UF is a big university; likewise, Um Alqura University in Makkah is also a big school. Also, both places are very hot in summer. Because of these similarities, it is easier for me to adapt to the life in Gainesville.

The Kind of Sport I Like

Mohammad Qasim
RW4

Sports are very useful for the human body. It is very important for everybody to practice some kinds of sport. Actually, playing what kind of sports depends on the society because every society has its only favorite sports. In my country, the most popular sport is soccer. I used to play soccer every week with my friend, and I usually watch soccer games from my favorite teams. My favorite team is Real Madrid. It is one of the best teams in the world and I hope to go to Madrid to watch Real Madrid play in their games.

The Kind of Sports I Like

Daniela Cadavid Bedoya
RW4

Since when I can remember, sports have always caught my attention. I like all kinds of sports, but my favorite is soccer. I think soccer is the most popular game in the world because it is practiced in numerous countries.

I love soccer, but I can't play soccer because I have a chronic pain in my ankles. When I was in Colombia, I played soccer for my university. One year ago, I broke my ankle and I could not play again.

I usually like to watch the UEFA champions League. This is the most important competition in Europe, and only the best teams can participate, to name a few, Real Madrid, Barcelona, Sevilla, Valencia and others. They play the best soccer that you can see since the players have excellent techniques. My favorite team is Real Madrid. At this moment, it is the champion of its league. Finally, I think soccer is a great sport for everybody, and I hope you'll like it like I do.

How to Make Luqaimat

Lolwa Almasoud
RW4

In my country, we enjoy Luqaimat (dumplings) in the holy Ramadan, and it is one of the most popular desserts made in that month. I have an easy way to make crunchy sweet luqaimat. First of all, in a blender, add water and one cup of all purpose flour, one teaspoon sugar, one tablespoon corn starch, one teaspoon oil, 1/2 teaspoon cardamom powder, 3/4 cup warm water, 1/2 teaspoon dry yeast and two cups of oil for frying. Blend well until you get a combined, smooth batter. Then pour the batter into a bowl, cover and let it become double in size in a warm place. That may take an hour or so. After that, in a deep frying pan, add oil and when it is hot, reduce to medium heat. To test how hot the oil is, take a teaspoonful of the batter and drop it in the oil. If the oil is ready, you can drop several spoonful of the batter in the oil. Use another spoon to separate the mixture and push it into the oil. You just need to be careful when you are in this step. When the dumplings are frying, use a wooden spoon to move it around and let it cook evenly. Finally, when the dumplings are light brown, remove them from the oil and place them on kitchen paper. Pour your favorite syrup on top. I use date syrup. If your dumplings don't turn out round shaped, don't be discouraged; keep on trying and you'll eventually have round ones.

What Counts As Polite Behaviors in My Country

Fuaad Said
RW4

Polite behavior in my country is helping everybody and being friendly with strangers. That means to help anybody in trouble on the roads, streets and anywhere. For example, if you find a person whose car just broke down, you should help him and invite him to your house. Also, you should say 'hi' to everybody wherever you go. It is also very important in my culture to respect every old person, like your father, your neighbors and all your seniors. In a wedding, you should invite the people who are crossing the street where the wedding is. If you are standing in a line in a store or a restaurant, it is good to give your turn to other people if they need it. Also, you must stay silent when other people are talking. Allow them time to finish talking. To sum up, the most important thing is to help people.

What Counts as Politeness in My Country

Lopez Claudia Alejandra
RW4

Being polite in my country is very important because you need to show respect to all the people who live with and around you. In Argentina, as in all other countries, it is always polite to say "Hello" when you are in a new place. When you get to somewhere, you need to greet the people there with a kiss on the cheek, or taking the hands of the other person, or giving a hug if you know that person. In a conversation, it is always right to look straight into the eyes of the other person. It is also correct to wait for the other person to finish talking and not to interrupt. It is not right to hear other people's conversations, or to talk with your mouth full, or to gesture or say offensive words.

A Day in India

Saad Alshamari
RW44

It was a dark night and quiet. All I heard is the sound of the wind. Anything is possible when you arrive to another country. A person must be himself, and that is what I did when I arrived in India. I helped myself to find a hotel and someone to help me.

It was my first time in India. I didn't have any experience or know what I should do. So this was a big mistake when I didn't ask

anyone how I go there. It was a difficult day when I arrived in the night nobody was waiting for me in the Hyderabad airport.

I needed some help. I saw a person who stayed very far from me. I didn't know him. I ran to him, and at the same time I felt he was a ghost because he didn't move. That scared me but I didn't have any solution. When I came very close to him, he looked at me and his eyes were red.

After that, I said "hello" to him but he didn't answer. I thought he was crazy or stupid. After a few minutes he said, "What do you want?" I felt very happy when he spoke and more happy when he spoke in English. I asked him to help me to find a taxi and a hotel in Pune, a small area in India. He said I will help you, but it's very far in the car. It was a long trip in the car (300 m). Also it was difficult because the driver didn't speak any language beside his language. I arrived at the hotel, and I rented a room after I took a long time to activate my credit card to pay for them. At last, I went to my room and I slept 18 hours, until my friends came and picked me up from the hotel.

We must read and ask before we do anything new, to make things easy and comfortable. We should know in all countries we will find helpful people, to help us in our life.

My Family

Saleh Almejaibel
RW43

My family is the most important part of my life. There are 10 members of my family: 7 sisters, 2 brothers and I. Saleh is the oldest son in his family. If his father is not at home, he takes care of his family and is a father for a while. His mother worked hard every day when he was young to teach him his lessons for school, and now he rewards his mother. He got a scholarship from his government to the USA. His grandfather was teaching him how to be a good farmer for 3 years. His grandmother was teaching him how to cook. In brief, Saleh now is a great person due to his family.

I'm Invisible

Saleh Almejaibel
RW43

Imagine that all people in the world are visible and just you are invisible. Can you imagine that? I'm invisible so I can do whatever I want. I entered Universal Studios for free. Now you are thinking that invisible people can be heroes. We can help the elderly people, police stations. Also, we can fight the criminals. I traveled the whole world and visited every place I wanted. I robbed banks and was a billionaire. Invisible show presented by the invisible man and

I had a lot of fans coming from every country and a lot of money. Once upon a time, I remember that I swam with a black whale, sharks and so many kinds of fish. All in all, being an invisible man is an incredible thing that I enjoyed.

Speeding

Faisal Almuqbil
RW40

Most of the deaths in accidents are caused because of speeding. Speeding makes the driver lose control easily and it is hard to avoid anything that comes to your way suddenly. Most of people believe speeding is very dangerous, but why do we still see some drivers still speeding? I am totally against speeding for three reasons.

First, speeding is killing people and it is the most common reason in any deadly accident. There is a statistic says there is at least one deadly accident every forty seconds regardless of injured in accidents. According to a research about the most popular causes for death says speeding is one of the top five reasons with 19% which means if you heard about any person died, there is a 19% chance the reason was speeding.

Second, speeding could make you go to jail or losing your money. In U.S., speeding more than the speed limit is not allowed, if you speed and have been caught in first time, you will pay a fine. Speeding would not only lose you money, but also would lead you to the jail if you have been caught more than once, or you were driving with very high speed; in addition, you can get a 28 day license suspension.

Finally, speeding can damage many things, such as the human body, the car, and Public facilities. Damage is not only about cars, speeding can cause very huge damage. For example, there are many videos for drivers who are speeding and they lost the control, then they hit stores, gas station, or houses and there were very huge damage so damage can be harmful for you, or for people that you involved them by your speeding. Some drivers agree with speeding sometimes and they say there is need to speed in highways to reach to their destination faster, or some say we speed for fun only when the highway is not crowded. I would like to say to the first people who say they want to reach their destination faster, you just need to go earlier than usual and you will reach to your destination in the time without making any danger. Also I would like to say to people who say speeding for fun, speeding is a dangerous tool, none of whom died in car accidents wanted to kill themselves or to kill other people, it just happened without control.

In conclusion, people around the world started to be aware about speeding issue; as a result, the percentage of deaths in accident was decrease a lot. Speeding is a very dangerous issue which can be solved easily, you just need to go out earlier than usual and you will arrive in time and safe. So, save your time, save

your stress, save your money, and save your soul with no speeding only.

That last moment ...until the next one!

Nader Aljohani
RW40

When your loved one talks to you closely, you don't want that moment to end. The situation becomes wonderful if that person who talks to you is your affectionate mother! But the worse thing if that was the last moment you will see your mother for a long time. That what was happen to me!

The last night before I leave home toward U.S., I stayed all night beside my Mom listening to her, trying to memorize her speech because I was realizing this is the best moment ever, and I will miss it. While my tears already started, I was listening to her in a quiet place that only her and I were sitting in. Mom started to speak with tears filled her eyes:" Son!! It is difficult to explain my feeling! You mean a lot to me! I would love to have you stay close to me! This will affect my heart but I'll endure because of you! I'll pray for you and wish you the best."

Immediately, I kissed her head, hands and feet. I held her hands and I said, "Mom I can't ... I have to do that but I promise I'll be here soon." I still feel her warm hug. And I hope to feel it physically soon. Mom, PEACE!

The Causes of Early Marriage

Danah M. Jummah
RW45

According to UNICEF in 2003, approximately sixty percent of girls are getting married under the age of eighteen in rural areas. This type of marriage can affect the girls' social life, health, and future. For example, girls who get married early they would not have the opportunity to live their life childhood normally. However, young girls get married in the country side for many reasons. (UNICEF)

The first reason is poverty. The economic situation of the girls' families led to the early marriage. Especially that these families could have a number of kids, and they need to give their kids such a good life level but they cannot. Because of that they make their girls get married very early to remove themselves from the responsibility.

The second reason is low education level. Education makes these girls more aware and helps them to raise their kids in good way. Imagine if the girl gets married and she is uneducated girl, she

would not know how to raise her kids. Also, the generation will be irresponsible and unhealthy.

The last reason is customs and traditions. These areas have certain customs and traditions, which are the girls should get married early. In their opinion girls are only for pregnancy and childbearing. Because of this, they always force their girls to get married. They also chose the husband for their girls.

To summarize, girls who are under age are getting married for three reasons: the poverty, the low education level, and the traditions. UNICEF has made a statistical work on the girls who get married under the age of eighteen in the rural areas. This statistic showed that the early marriage could affect the girls' social life, health, and future.

The Hero's Journey

Mohammed Al Qasem
RW23

Every day Mohammed goes to the park, and plays with his friends. One day when he comes back home, he is abducted by the Mafia. He saw a lot of guns and weed and drugs. He saw many people like himself who had been abducted. He doesn't know why they abducted him. He heard many people being beaten. He smelled a lot of weed. They tried to give him drugs, but he didn't want to taste it. They beat him so much he tasted it. He saw a lot of blood on the floor. He wanted to kill himself. They beat him every hour. After two days they came and said, "Sorry, you are the wrong person."

UF Stadium

Maria Segura Navarro
RW45

I had been three times at Uf stadium and I had never known which was the name and even I didn't know anything about it. So now I'm with my morning class writing about UF stadium. This place is huge and amazing and it has three names such Ben Hill Griffin, The Swamp and, Florida Field. Also it is characterized by two color; blue and orange and, for the alligators. The capacity is 88,548 seats and 90,000 people, also it has seven sections such VIP and others. This stadium is exclusively for American Football and the field has a lot of rules, so it can only be played with a oval ball and a weird goalpass. This stadium is among of the biggest in the world and in it the Gators, the local team, has won many famous national championship.

Untitled

Andres Kinzbruner
Grammar and Writing

This decade a debate has come out in the American society as one of the most controversial topics. This discussion is trying to answer the question whether or not videogames influence children to engage in violent behavior. In fact, this question has become more relevant after recent shootings, and the increase of bullying in schools and high-schools all around the U.S. However, are the videogames to blame? Or are parents using videogames as an excuse for their mistakes?

Videogames are made for entertainment like any other T.V. show, movie or even book; therefore, it is useless to accuse videogames of increasing violence in schools while leaving movies, and T.V shows unpunished, when T.V and movies are just as responsible for misfortunes like children jumping out of windows trying to fly like Superman. On the other hand, all the ways of entertainment mentioned, and obviously videogames have parental advisories that are visible to everyone, so that it is the parents who are ultimately aware whether or not their children should play or watch them.

Games are evolving fast, and getting more advanced, complex, and interactive all the time, like technology in general, but what people worry about is if the games are going to advance at a rate whereby you will not be able to define what is real from what is not. It is argued that this might cause people to act violently, because they will not know how to separate reality from fiction. Nevertheless, this kind of thinking seems unreal itself nowadays; furthermore, even if it were true and games could trick minds, the parents are still at fault for letting their children use that technology.

There are videogames like Grand-Theft-Auto that are just for entertainment, and lack real content, but there are also games like Age of Empires that actually teach not something but a lot; from general history to the ability of multitask. Moreover, even violent games can teach; one example of that is how the U.S. military prepares soldiers for war, using games like Call of Duty, Battlefield, and Gear of War. But instead of seeing the possibilities of videogames as a progressive tool for education, it is depressive how videogames are the suspects of witch hunters while their potential is forgotten.

It is undeniable that videogames may influence children and teenagers, and that some of these games have very strong content; nonetheless, in movies, T.V. shows, and books you could be able to find this content and worse, since those ways of entertainment have been evolving longer. Furthermore, parents are the pockets of the youth, so it is essentially their responsibility to watch what their kids do with their money, and every minimum change in their behavior. In the end, video-games' developers can be categorized

in the same way as arms' traders; you can't blame them for what their customers do.

Why The Climate Change?

Danah Jumah
RW45

According to many environmental studies, by 2050, twenty percent of the creatures on the earth may be exposed to extinction. This change can affect human's health and can damage agricultural crops as well. In addition, climate change can affect the percentage of water on the globe. However, the climate is going to change for three reasons: pollution, human activities, and natural disasters.

The first reason is pollution. It is important to mention that there are three types of pollution which are land-based pollution, water pollution, and air pollution. All of these types have a direct relationship with our daily life. For example, nowadays air pollution is the main reason for asthma. Also, water pollution is one of many reasons for Hepatitis type A.

Another reason is human activities. The development of civilization over the years lead to so many important changes. For instance, when some people want to build such a house or building in a part of a land they need to remove trees. Because of that, the ecological imbalance occurs. There are other human activities such as industrial and petroleum refining.

The last reason is natural disasters. Volcanoes and earthquakes are the most effective natural disasters on the environment. For example, in March 21st 2010 the Republic of Iceland got a volcanic explosion, which led to loss many people, of course, animals, and agricultural crops for the first since 1821. Also, many airplanes were unable to take off because of the heavy smoke. (Wikipedia.org)

To sum up, according to a number of environmental scientists twenty percent of the creatures on the earth may be exposed to extinction by 2050. This change can lead to a lot of medical problems and can harm the agricultural crops as well. Additionally, climate change can affect the percentage of water on the globe. However, there are several reasons why climate can change: pollution, human activities, and natural disasters.

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Stress on College Student

Zahra Alquraini
Rw44

When I was a student in college, I spent a long time studying, and I worried about my future. These two behaviors caused me and all students a lot of stress. After that, I discovered that studying too much often does have negative effects of stress on college student.

One negative effects of stress on college students is frustration. The students want to be proficient in all the subjects. Then they discover they cannot perform any tasks, and sometimes they cannot do anything. Consequently, they feel stressed. For example, when my friend had a lot of homework, he is absent because he was worried. Then, he could not do it.

Another negative effect of stress on college students is caused by wanting to get a high score to get a great job. Then they concentrate on one side in their life that is studying. As a result, they neglect another bright side which useful for them such as a dressmaker, and penmanship.

Finally, studying too much often make some students isolated, thus, they do not connect with their families or friends. Moreover, they do not have news about their community like world issues. For instance, when I was a student in college, I did not know anything about world issues. Sometimes I was embarrassed because of that.

Stress on college students is a problem for many students. They face a difficult situation. Then some students will become insane. I think if all students relax when they study that is very good for their health.

Improving Safety on Campus

Hyejin Park, Henrique Soares dos Santos, Amal Alamri
RW50

1. Introduction

Crimes are committed in new and various locations every day in the United States, as well in colleges across the country. One in five undergraduate women nationwide will be the victims of a sex crime, but 40 percent of colleges in national sample have not conducted appropriate investigation (McCaskill, 2014) possibly because women students aged between 18 and 24 hesitate to report their attack fearing a reprisal (Lepri and Leonor, 2015). Florida universities have common interests with these problems in other colleges in the US by showing a shameful record of failure in protecting students. The statistics from the Annual Security and Safety Report 2014 by UFPD clearly show that thousands of

crimes, such as robbery, rape, theft, burglary, domestic violence and dating violence, take place on campuses daily.

In order to solve these undesirable circumstances, there have been vigorous arguments whether students need to be allowed to carry concealed deadly weapons on a college campus in order to protect themselves from crimes. Meanwhile, federal and state governments and colleges have made utmost efforts to protect their vulnerable students from crimes, as The Violence against Women Act, reauthorized and signed in 2013 by President Obama. However, new efficient solutions to prevent on campus crimes need to be put into practice as a continuation of security measures. The University of Florida (UF) is located in Gainesville, a town in north central Florida. The UF is one of the five largest universities in the nation with over 50,000 students, and more than 4,000 faculty members. The student body includes 6,000 international students from more than 130 countries around the world. The ratio of women to men is 54/46, and 32 percent of students are graduate and professional students as of 2014 (University of Florida, 2015a).

Minority students constitute nearly 30 percent of the student body, with African American, Hispanics, Native American, and Asian American or Pacific Islanders. UF is divided into 16 colleges and more than 150 research, service and education centers, bureaus and institutes, offering more than 100 undergraduate majors and 200 graduate degrees. These figures have allowed for UF to be named one of the most comprehensive and academically diverse universities in the nation (University of Florida, 2015b).

In the University of Florida the most common crimes reported over the years have been rapes, burglaries, and thefts. UFPD defines rapes as: “the carnal knowledge of a person, forcibly and/or against the person’s will; or not forcibly or against the person’s will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her temporary permanent mental or physical incapacity (or because of his/her youth)”.

Burglary is defined by UFPD as: “the unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony. Theft is the generic term for all crimes in which a person intentionally and fraudulently takes personal property of another without permission or consent” (UFPD, official website, 2014).

Crime news is common in the media. We can observe a series of reports that show us those thefts, burglaries, robberies and sexual assaults are still happening on the UF campus over the years. In 2009 at UF, four cell phones thefts were reported at the Southwest Recreation Center, according to reports filed with the University Police Department one of the cases occurred inside the building (Stewart, 2009). According to Thomas Stewart, in “Thieves target cell phones at campus gym”, from The Independent Florida Alligator, the incidents occurred between Sunday and Tuesday, one of the phones was tucked in a shoe, another one was inside a backpack, and the others were laying on the ground.

In 2010, a case of someone robbing a female UF student at gunpoint was reported on campus near the Broward tennis courts at night, just after getting out of the RTS bus. The security camera caught the suspect who is considered black male. The crime occurred around 11:30 p.m., the criminal pointed a semi-automatic handgun at her stomach, and the victim gave the suspect a black bag, an iPod and a cell phone (Flechas, 2010a).

A sexual battery case at a fraternity house was reported in 2010, around 2 a.m. at Nine Fraternity Row. The victim was a female and not a UF student; in this case the suspect was a male UF student (Flechas, 2010b). In addition, one-year suspension from its national organization was received by Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity in November 2008, after 36 pledges were found kneeling shirtless on the basement floor (Stewart, 2008).

According to University of Florida Police Department, in Annual Security and Safety Report 2013, burglary, aggravated assault, the motor vehicle theft, forcible sex offenses, and robbery cases were common crimes happened inside UF campus, where the UFPD exercise their jurisdiction. Importantly, this annual report showed that 24 forcible sex offense cases on campus buildings or property, while other 10 cases happened at non-campus building or property between 2010 and 2012. The University Police Department, in their website, also shows that in the last few years the campus security has increased by officers in bicycles, UFPD K-9 team, Health Science Center Police Office, Motorcycle units, among other services.

Given those conditions of on campus crimes at the University of Florida, it has been important and critical challenge for university administration, security authorities, and even students and staffs to improve on-campus safety issues, and thus protect students and staff and their assets from crimes. In this regard this project attempts to understand the current patterns and trends of on campus crimes in the University of Florida. In addition, we explore the current programs and strategies to prevent on-campus crimes, and find potential implications to improve on-campus security issues. Through these analyses, this study aims to suggest effective and efficient solutions that can solve crime issues in the University of Florida.

2. Methodology

In addressing on-campus crime issues in the University of Florida, this project uses three methods: 1) analysis of past crime reports and statistical data, 2) review of current crime prevention programs and strategies, and 3) a field survey. First of all, we analyzed past crime statistics that have been reported in various sources. This project presents various on-campus crime data in depth, and compares them to identify problems.

Secondly, we review the detailed programs and strategies that have been made by the University administration, police department, and other stakeholders in the University of Florida, such as officers in bicycles, UFPD K-9 team, Health Science Center Police Office, motorcycle units, among other services. In

order to increase the understanding of the university's efforts to build safer campus environments, we summarize presentations made by a university safety program officer and a university police officer.

Third, we present how a small sample of students, faculties, and staff on campus think about the current campus security system, and how they think security problems can be improved. For that, we conducted a survey with students, faculties, and staff on the campus focusing on their understanding of crime cases on campus, crime prevention efforts made by security authorities and police department, and suggestions to improve campus security system.

3. Discussion

3.1. Crime Reports and Past Statistics

The Violence Against Women Act, reauthorized and signed in 2013 by President Barack Obama, requires cases of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking that are reported to campus or security and occurs within campus grounds to be reported in the statistics. Therefore, crime statistics are much more transparent than ever before. However, it is difficult to compile various numbers of crimes committed on college campuses because the data reported to campus security authorities and/or police agencies vary depending on sources (Students for Concealed Carry, 2009). Some statistics are, for example, different from police authorities because they are provided by non-police authorities, such as administrative authorities and denounces anonymous. Thus this project attempts to present as many available crime statistics as possible to present important characteristics of on-campus crime at the University of Florida. Some important figures include:

- The crime data reported to the U.S. Department of Education (2011 and 2014) showed that on-campus criminal offenses recorded its highest at 76 cases in 2009 and another peak at 67 cases in 2012. Among crime types, burglary has occupied the most common on-campus crime position over the period from 2008 to 2013, but it has been decreased from 86 percent in 2008 to 36.7 percent in 2013.
- Motor vehicle thefts were the second most common crime on the University of Florida campus over the same period. It recorded the peak at 38.2 percent in 2008, and decreased to 16.4 percent in 2012. However, its share in total on campus offenses increased to 36.7 percent in 2013.
- In addition, forcible sex offenses and aggravated assaults have occupied the third and fourth most common crime positions over the same period. It should be seriously noted that on-campus forcible sex offenses have shown rapid increases from 1 case in 2008 to 14 cases in 2013, while burglary recorded the lowest level in 2013 by decreasing over the past six year. In addition, on-campus motor vehicle thefts have been chronic factor that threaten on-campus safety.
- Interestingly, the share of criminal offenses that occurred on-campus student housing facilities has increased from 2009 to 2013.

In particular, the data showed the highest record of 27 cases in 2013, and forcible sex offenses, among crimes, increased significantly between 2010 and 2013.

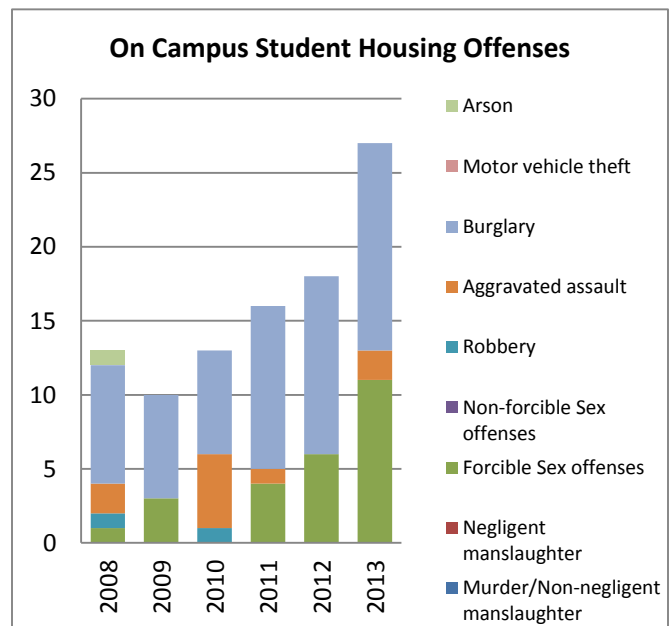
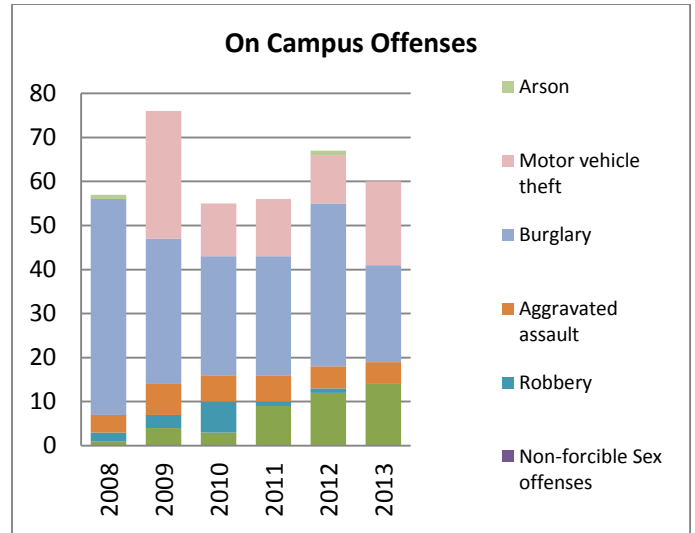
- Among on-campus offenses, rapid increases in forcible sex offenses on campus student housing should be considered seriously by the university administration and security authorities. In addition, programs and strategies are needed to prevent burglaries in the University of Florida campus.
- Table 1 shows on campus and the share of on-campus student housing offenses reported to the US Department of Education by type of crime.

Table 1 Numbers of Criminal Offenses between 2008 and 2013

Criminal Offense		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
On Campus	Murder/Non-negligent manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Negligent manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Forcible Sex offenses	1	4	3	9	12	14
	Non-forcible Sex offenses	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Robbery	2	3	7	1	1	0
	Aggravated assault	4	7	6	6	5	5
	Burglary	49	33	27	27	37	22
	Motor vehicle theft	0	29	12	13	11	19
	Arson	1	0	0	0	1	0
	Total	57	76	55	56	67	60
On Campus Student Housing Facilities	Murder/Non-negligent manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Negligent manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Forcible Sex offenses	1	3	0	4	6	11
	Non-forcible Sex offenses	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Robbery	1	0	1	0	0	0
	Aggravated assault	2	0	5	1	0	2
	Burglary	8	7	7	11	12	14
	Motor vehicle theft	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Arson	1	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	13	10	13	16	18	27

Source: US Department of Education, The Campus Safety and Security Data Analysis Cutting Tool, Retrieved from <http://ope.ed.gov/security/GetOneInstitutionData.aspx>

Figure 1. On Campus Offenses between 2008 and 2013



- There are other reports that have presented crime statistics in the University of Florida campus. In 2013, the University of Florida reported high number of crimes such as 15 cases of rape, 13 cases of stalking, 2 cases of dating violence, 2 cases of forcible foundling, and 20 cases of domestic violence. In 2012, UF reported 8 cases of rape and 16 cases of forcible foundling, but domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking was not included (Head, 2014).

- The University of Florida saw high numbers of on campus larceny in 2012, of which 28 cases were on-campus

burglaries. With these, among other crimes, 88 arrests were made at UF in 2012 (James, 2014).

- The 2014 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report reported a total of 7 crimes (2 aggravated assaults, 1 burglary, and 4 domestic violence) in 2013, which increased by 5 cases in 2012. In addition, 3 people arrested for liquor law violations, and 7 people were arrested for drug violations (UF Health Science Center, 2014).

3.2. Crime Prevention Programs and Strategies

In order to promote a healthy and safe environment for all students and staffs, UF offers many educational programs and resources open to the public including presentations, information, and literature promoting responsible decision-making and concerning the use of alcohol and drugs. For example, Gatorwell offers confidential screening assessments for alcohol and drug use and referrals to campus and community agencies for recovery assistant (UF Police Department, 2014).

According to Rita Lawrence and Anna L. Armitage, in their presentation: “An Overview of Interpersonal Violence”, offered by STRIVE & GatorWell Health Promotion Services, women between 16 and 24 years of age experience the highest rates of sexual assaults, and alcohol is the number one cause of raping cases. They explain that to avoid acts of sexual violence the person could involve law enforcement, tell others about their cases, notice more suspicious acts around them, and anticipate and interpret the event as a problem. In this presentation, they emphasized that the behavior of the victims is not the principal cause of sexual violence, but the violence of the aggressor.

Also the University of Florida Police Department Community Services Division offers educational programs, presentations, and literature promoting responsible decision-making and providing education on the legal consequences of alcohol and drug use (UF Police Department, 2014). In the presentation: “Safety Program, Services and Tips for Staying Safe at the University of Florida”, offered by the University of Florida Police Department, police officer Chad Holway explained that the UF campus has 3 bicycles officers, 4 officers in motorcycles, 4 K-9 units, and that all campus comprises a total of 18 police officers to serve the whole UF campus at any given time.

Among other services offered by UFPD there are emergency blue phones around campus, RAD (self-defense) program for women, programs to walk safe (SNAP) that comprises 15 people on the crew, property registrations, Tap Shield App (GPS panic button), voluntary inspections programs, and personal and property security presentations, like this one. Officer Chad Holway thinks that all these services are more than enough to keep campus in safety, and that registering personal properties is the best way to avoid theft and burglaries, as well the Tap Shields Apps, that could be used in emergency cases and to locate cell phones.

Other programs include free bicycle registration to prevent bicycle from theft, Operation Identification (OP-ID) which promotes identification of personal properties, “Gator Watch

Crime programs that introduce concepts of personal responsibility and how an individual can positively affect crime”, Stall Stories which publish stories about personal safety, crime prevention, and special security issues, and the “Voluntary Inspection Program (V.I.P.) which encourages apartment complexes and rental properties to practice safety standards” (UF Police Department, 2014).

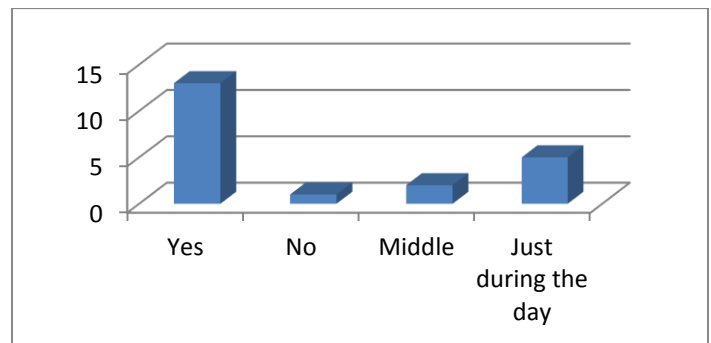
3.3. Surveys

As presented above, crime statistics have shown that the UF campus is not free from crimes, thus the UF administration, police department, and other security authorities have implemented various efforts to protect students and staffs from on-campus crimes. However, individuals’ awareness of potential threat and understand of programs would be the most important factor that can make those policy efforts to be successful. In this consideration, this project conducted a survey to identify how individuals think about on-campus safety issues.

A survey was made with 21 participants including students, professors, and staff on the Plaza of the Americas, UF campus. The place was chosen because it is a square high movement of persons. The following questions were made to them: “1) Do you feel safe on campus? 2) Have you ever experienced any crime on campus? What type of crime? 3) Do you know anybody who has experienced crimes on campus? What type of crime? 4) What could be done to improve security on campus?” The results are as follows:

As the Figure 2 shows, the survey shows that majority of the interviewed people feel safe on campus, while some of them think campus is not a completely safe place. 13 people out of the 21 people interviewed answered that they feel safe on campus. Five participants responded that they feel safe just during the day, while 2 people said that they are in the middle. In other words, they don’t feel campus as dangerous place, but they also don’t completely feel safe. Only one person said that campus is not a safe place.

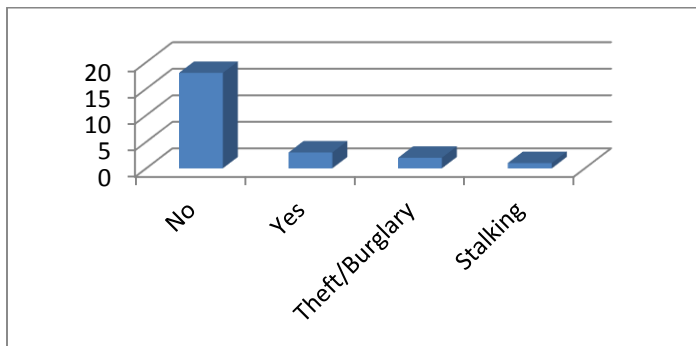
Figure 2. Responses to: “DO YOU FEEL SAFE ON CAMPUS?”



The result of second question is presented in Figure 3 below. The majority of the interviewed people, 18 of the 21 of them,

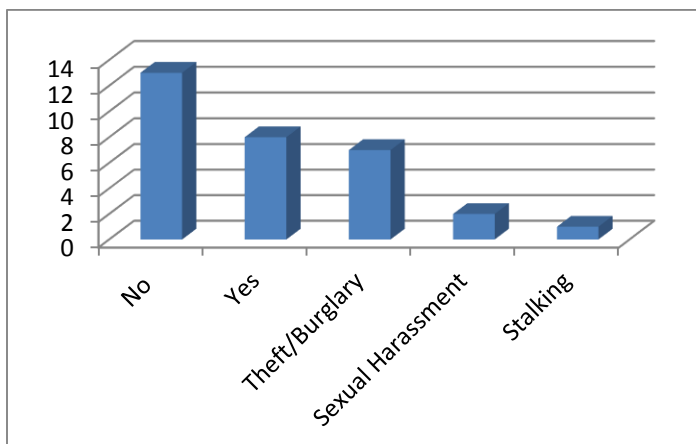
responded that they have not been exposed to any kind of crime cases. Only 3 people answered that they were victims of crimes on campus. Two out of three experienced thefts or burglaries, while one of them experienced stalking. Figure 3 below presents responses to the second question in our survey.

Figure 3. Responses to: “HAVE YOU EVER EXPERIENCED ANY CRIME ON CAMPUS? WHAT TYPE OF CRIME?”



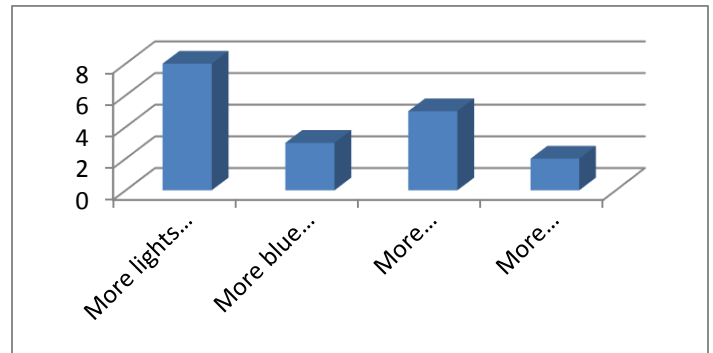
The next question asked was whether they know anyone who experienced on campus crimes. Large portion of the interviewed people, 13 out of 21 interviewed people, responded that they have no one who encountered on campus offender. Meanwhile eight answered “Yes” meaning that they know someone who was a victim of a crime inside campus, of which 7 experienced thefts or burglaries. Other 2 responded they know sexual harassment victims, and one interviewed person knows someone who is a stalking victim. Figure 4 illustrates the survey results of question 3.

Figure 4. Responses to: “DO YOU KNOW ANYBODY WHO HAS EXPERIENCED CRIMES ON CAMPUS? WHAT TYPE OF CRIME?”



Our final survey question aimed to find out how people think on campus security and safety should be improved. The results obtained from the final question are described in Figure 5. The results show that 8 out of the 21 interviewed people want to have more lights at night, while 5 people asked for more police officers and SANPs. Other 3 suggested more blue emergency phones, and just 2 interviewed people asked for surveillance cameras.

Figure 5. Responses to: “WHAT COULD BE DONE TO IMPROVE SECURITY ON CAMPUS?”



The on-campus crime statistics revealed that large number of crimes occurred every year inside of the University of Florida campus. However, the surveys revealed that the majority of interviewed people may not aware of potential safety threats on campus. This finding suggests that the statistics and reports about crimes are not coming to the attention of people or that they feel that authorities are doing enough to prevent crime.

Meanwhile, a significant number of people in the survey do not feel safe on campus or feel an imminent danger to all who attend the UF. The number of people who presented concerns on campus safety issues could not be ignored, and thus their suggestions for security improvements should be carefully observed by UF authorities. The people in the survey expressed that the darkness of the campus at night and the low number of Emergency Blue Phones around campus are the most problems.

4. Conclusion

Since university campus safety is a real concern for the students, staff, and employees, it has been an important challenge for university administration, security authorities, and individuals to sustain safe on-campus environments. Given these conditions, this project aimed to find effective and efficient solutions to improve on-campus safety problems. For that reason, this project attempted to understand the patterns and trends of on campus crimes at the University of Florida. This project also explored current programs and strategies to prevent on-campus crimes, and find implications to improve campus safety problems.

In order to address on-campus crime issues in the University of Florida, this project adopted three methods: 1) analyze past

crime reports and statistical data, 2) review current crime prevention programs and strategies, and 3) field survey of students and staffs. In order to increase the understanding of university's efforts to build safer campus environments, this project summarized presentations made by university safety program officer and university police officer.

Reports about crime news are often published in local medias; the University of Florida Police Department publishes an annual report every year with statistics and number of crimes committed, and a significant number of interviewed people on campus report that they have already been victim of a crime or they have already known anyone else who had this experience.

The crime statistics of the University of Florida show that there are chronic crime issues in campus. Among crimes, burglary occupied the largest portion, but its shares in total offenses have decreased over the past six years, from 86 percent in 2008 to 36.7 percent in 2013. In addition to burglary, motor vehicle thefts and forcible sex offenses are common crimes in the University of Florida. In particular, the increase in forcible sex offenses is serious problems for UF authorities to provide safe campus environments. The statistics in recent five years showed that forcible sex offenses have increased from 1 case in 2008 to 14 cases in 2013. Therefore, more effective programs should be implemented to prevent sex offenses in the university campus. For example, it may be essential for victims to easily get help of law enforcement or other specialists who can deal with sex offense victims. It should be noted and improved that law enforcement officials at 30 percent of institutions in the national survey receive no training on how to respond to reports of sexual violence. More importantly, over 70 percent of institutions do not have protocols regarding how the institution and local law enforcement should work together to resolve sexual offense cases (McCaskill, 2014).

UFPD shows that they have various services to keep safety on campus, and say that they believe that they are doing more than enough to prevent crimes in the university. However, part of the UF students, staff, and employees who were interviewed respond that safety on campus could be improved. As they have expressed they feel that some locals of campus became real dark at night, what could facilitate a crime act, once the criminal can suppose that he doesn't have "an eye on him". Also, part of the interviewed people suggested for more Emergency Blue Phones around the campus. This response shows that the numbers of emergency phones are not enough to keep such a big campus as the University safe.

Maintaining a safe environment on campus is a big deal for authorities, and thus the idea that they have already been doing more than enough to prevent crimes does not correspond to reality. In addition, since types of crimes and the forms of action of the criminals are constantly changing, it is necessary for security authorities to always keep improving security services for the campus. Installing more lights and more Emergency Blue Phones

around the UF campus could be a good start rather than loud but ineffective programs.

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