

ELI STUDENT VOICES

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Dedication Makes Difference

Débora Ferreira de Moura
RW21*1st place*

One of the major decisions to make in my life is certainly the choice to have a profession. With the large number of paths to be taken, this task was very difficult. I made of my choice to become a nurse was when I met Dona Maria, a lady of almost 65 years of age, and with 25 years of nursing experience. She worked in the emergency hospital where my brother Diulio was treated after a serious accident. In the early morning on a rainy day, I received a call from a lady asking me if I knew Diulio. I got scared at the news I was receiving, so I immediately asked what had happened. She asked me to come to hospital because he had a very serious accident. When I arrived to the hospital, Dona Maria calmly explained me what had happened. I spent the whole day at the hospital watching my brother, and I saw the dedication and love for her profession towards her patients. This caught my attention and caused me to take the decision to study in health department and become a nurse. My brother recovered well after the accident. After I finished my nursing course, I had an opportunity to work with Dona Maria. Today she is retired, but she set a good example of how one should be devoted in their profession.

Human Ethic Responsibility

Misael Escalera
RW51*2nd place*

“With great power, comes great responsibility”
- Stan Lee

Have you ever wondered what would happen to yourself if you were born on the Antarctica? How about the Sahara? Most animals are equipped according to the necessities of its environment e.g. a polar bear can perfectly survive in the Antarctic because of its fat and thick skin. A camel is absolutely independent walking around the Sahara. Monkeys are strongly prepared to climb and swing between trees all along into the jungle. There are plenty of other examples that can describe the wonderfulness of the nature itself. But when it comes to us, the SUPERIOR MASTER RACE OF ALL THE EARTH KIND we are useless

without tools in our surrounding. I'm freezing cold just because of the bus A/C. We would die in the Antarctic without a huge coat or starve and eventually get eaten by the worms in the middle of the jungle. So what makes us think that we are that SUPERIOR, that we are so IMPORTANT in this beloved place that we dare to call home? It is in our genes. It's in our nature; we are the leaders and responsible for the Earth's changes, thus making us feel indispensable.

Humans are and have always been defined by the capacity of being rational beings. We understand, change and re-use terms and tools among us to help ourselves in order to get through all the difficulties that our lives can present in front of us. Just imagine yourself with a lion, face to face, without any weapon; you would be a cold corpse into the insides of this marvelous creature in a matter of minutes, but the nature gifted us with capacity of create. These inventions, a spear, bow, and some other hunting tools, helped us get through this type of situation. This explains why we made it so far without any natural enhancement, besides, perhaps our hands.

Because of this huge advantage, we left the food chain 2.3 million years ago and changed our goals from survival needs to pleasure as our north star. Now we get tired of going to work 10 hours and blame each other because of the environmental problems. We are not blaming our hypocritical leaders but the people who support them. We began to justify our existence in empty beliefs, money, power, hedonism. When did we lose control of ourselves? Lame. Even though there are hundreds of people who had helped the humanity in many different ways, there are still millions of issues waiting to be solved, by willing human hands.

What makes us so comfortable about this? Why don't we bother about improving and developing our surrounding, society and life standards, even the environment? The answer is the contemporary concept of success. What is success then? Yesterday I gave a poll to 100 students around campus, asking for their achievements and if they feel successful or not. Later, I evaluated the results to see what the definition of success for an average person is. Here are the results. 76% of the people considered themselves successful; the other 24% did not. In both cases, their answers to the why of their consideration was either:

A) “Life goals accomplished/ not accomplished”.

B) “I did/ did not do something meaningful with my life regarding the society or world”.

The surprising finding about this poll is that only the 6% of the group answered B, this means that most of the people mostly care about their own personal goals, justified in money, family, major, which is not bad; but, not more meaningful than being just another animal species trying to survive in its particular human way. Just as a crocodile will wait in the swamp for its next meal or another one will wait in the middle of the lake for a catch, the purpose is the same for us, to survive.

I feel guilty every morning when I realize I did not do something productive the day before, but when I get to my classes and see that everybody is doing the same and keeping their natural behavior spending time in Facebook, watching TV, complaining about the weather and some other meaningless inquiries. It's a call for self-consciousness, we have been gifted with the power of choosing our own path, let's make it count. I dream about engineers solving natural catastrophes, lawyers spreading peace between countries, doctors helping the most needed and not their pockets; I dream about a change.
Stop succeeding as a person, start succeeding as a human.

My Free Time

Ioannis Bougias
RW 10

My free time is great. I play soccer with my friends. I sometimes watch TV. I like to play video games. Also, I often talk with my parents by Skype. In conclusion, my free time is excellent.

Effects of Media Violence

Selin Altunkaya
RW51

Have you ever thought that if the media didn't have any violence, could we have better life. This question is debated by people fervently. Some of them believe that media violence causes people to react more violently in real life. Others believe that violence in the media could be helpful if it is used correctly. Actually, both sides have good reasons to advocate their opinions.

The most important negative effect of media violence is that it encourages people to commit violence. When people watch movies, series, or shows which include violence, some of them could want to imitate the same action. For example, in the past year, a person wore a costume like one of the Batman movie characters, and he went to a theatre to kill people. When you watch the Batman, you will see that it includes a lot of violence. Therefore, it may affect people's behavior negatively.

Another important negative effect is seen with kids. Media violence influences kids more easily than adults because their imagination is stronger than adults. They come up with violence in all media resources such as cartoons, movies, video games, or TV shows. Violence in the media makes children behave indifferently. When children watch media violence, they think that the real world also has

the same amount of violence. Because of this reason, they are getting more indifferent to suffering and pain.

Violence in the media also causes kids to be more aggressive. This is another negative impact of media violence. When children watch any kinds of media violence, they want to behave like the character who is in the cartoon, movie or video games. For example, if the character killed somebody with gun, and became a hero in the video game, children would immediately connect this situation with real life, and they could want to use gun.

On the other hand, media violence has some surprisingly positive effects. According to Jones Gerard, who is the author of the article, "Violent Media is Good For Kids," media violence can be helpful for children if it is used correctly (Gerard Jones, 2000). For example, if a child is afraid of climbing trees, he/she could overcome this fear through watching the Tarzan movie.

Another positive effect of media violence is seen with adults. Nowadays, almost all of the people who have job stress. Even if some people don't have a job, they still have pressure because of some problems in daily life. When people watch media violence, they could get away from their daily routine, and they can discharge and relax. Media violence could titillate them.

When I think all of these positive and negative effects of media violence, I can say that violence can be used in the media, but it should be used carefully and in a limited way; especially if it is used in the shows, which are for children.

When people watch the violence in the media, they will be exactly affected by it, but the question is will it be positively or negatively.

My Free Time

Humod (Moody) Alnojeidi
RW 10

Everyone has free time that he/she can spend doing things that he/she loves. In my free time, I usually go to the pool. However, if the weather is nice, I prefer to go walking. I sometimes read books about history and human civilization. I also like to relax and watch some documentary programs. Moreover, my favorite activity is going out to the park with my children and have some great time with them. This how I spend my free time.

If you could have a superpower

Yejin Lee
RW4

If I could have a superpower, I would want a power which is to go everywhere, anytime and always go fast. Florida is very hot, but I don't have a car. That's why I want this power. I don't have a car, so I always need to take a bus or just walk. It is very hard. When I walk or wait for a bus, I feel my skin is burning. Also, I wet my clothes with sweat. It is terrible. Moreover, if I go to a supermarket, I have a lot of luggage. It is very heavy, so I can't stand a lot of time to wait for the bus or walk to go home. Also, if I have this power, I can go to Korea anytime and come back to the US very easily. Therefore, if I could

have a superpower, I really want the power which is to go everywhere, anytime, and always go fast.

Self-driving cars will change our lives behind the wheel

Luis Stein
RW 60

Cars driving themselves seem like a dream or a sci-fi story; however, they are now a reality on roads. Google and others carmakers are testing driverless cars in the US and Europe. Those types of cars are now legal in Nevada and are also likely to become legal in other states. How does a self-driving car work? An autonomous car is similar to a normal high tech car, but with more driver aids. Some of them are: lane keeping systems which allow the car to keep the right lane by following road marks, adaptive cruise control which controls the speed of the car and also the distance from other vehicles, emergency brakes which can stop the automobile if another car, animal, or pedestrian crosses in front of the driverless car, auto-parking systems, and satellite navigation systems. There are also countless sensors that allow the car to detect its position and all the surrounding conditions like road edges, lanes, traffic signs and lights, pedestrians, cars, traffic status, weather and more. All those driving aids and sensors are tied to software that makes decisions and controls the car. Although this fascinating display of technology and innovation has some detractors, self-driving can offer countless advantages like the possibility of transportation for elderly and disabled people, or the possibility of zero accidents on the road.

People against driverless cars argue that cars controlled by computers have the possibility of major technical failure because of their fear towards technology. Antuan Goodwin, a critic writer on CNET, said that if we are in an autonomous car, we will probably pay less attention to the daily behavior of the automobile, so we won't notice small problems that can develop into big issues. The truth is that cars undergo rigorous tests before being released to the customers. Car makers follow international standards to assure the security of the people who use their products. A car with a proper maintenance schedule can run for an indefinite time on roads without any major failure. Moreover, self-driving cars have an advanced self-diagnostic system which allows those cars to monitor their status and let the owner know if something is not going right. Backup systems allow self-driving cars to function even if for any improbable cause, the main operative system stops working right.

Those cars are going to open new possibilities not only for normal drivers, but also for elderly and disabled people. Doing simple tasks like going to grocery stores can be a real challenge for someone who is not able to drive. A self-driving car can allow these people to be able to do normal activities by themselves. Wayne Cunningham, a well known editor from CNET, believes that "with autonomous cars, senior citizens can retain all the freedom they had when younger." This means that they won't depend on their maybe busy families to do their chores. For instance, a grandma will be able to go by herself to visit her grandchildren. Google has published a story about Steve Mahan, a blind man who tested self-driving cars. He was able to go to

different points in a city without any incident. Self-driving cars will give him and many others independence and freedom in their normal lives.

Self-driving cars are going to reduce traffic accidents and fatalities to zero. Every year around 6.5 million people are involved in car accidents with an average of 45,000 deceased and over 230 billion dollars in financial costs just in the US according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Human drivers are likely to get distracted and make mistakes while driving. One of the main reasons for accidents to occur is the slow reaction time that humans have. Self-driving cars are commanded by computers which have way faster reaction times. Moreover, those cars use 360 degree sensors that scan around the vehicle without distractions. Compared to it, an average person only has a 200 degree field of vision which is usually interrupted by many distractions. Self-driving cars can also have car to car communication, so they can draw a very accurate map of its surrounds. For example, an autonomous car can know the speed and relative position of every car around, so it can make decisions based on reliable information. If for any chance something unexpected happens, like a pedestrian walking in the middle of a highway, the car is able to "see" it and react in consequence.

In conclusion, self-driving cars are less likely to present unexpected technical failures, because of their robust self-diagnostic system, than normal cars. This is, as long as they get an appropriate maintenance. The implementation of those cars on the roads will allow elderly and disabled people, among others, to solve their mobility necessities. In addition, it will make the roads a safer place for drivers decreasing traffic accidents and fatalities. It is only matter of time to see those cars running everywhere making our lives better.

Dreaming Means Working Hard

Jose Rivas Rodrigues
GM30

Very early in our life we began to think about what we want to be, what we want to have, and what can we do? Three simple question but with difficult to answer that only we have or we can get. Each person has a dream or something for fight in this life and we decide as far as we want to go for get it. I grew up around this kind of thoughts and I probe that working hard can get what you want.

To get your dream you have to work hard. My soccer coach always was talking about the importance in believing in something and giving our best on the field; inch by inch, play by play until the finish. Now I take those thoughts and I apply it in my life because the life is like a soccer game; that inches, that time and work for get something is around us in our life. You can do whatever you want, but you need to work hard for that. Greatness is not only in some people, it is something existing in all of us. Most people are successful because they work hard for that. While some people are sleeping, they are working. While some people are eating, they are working, is simple, it not easy get there you have to work no matter the talented that you are, your talent is gonna fail you if you don't have the skill. For this is who I am today and I have never losing and never give up attitude.

Sometimes following our dreams we are going to have obstacles. It can be people say that you can't do something or your fears about the fail. Don't let people stick a finger in your face and tell you are not good. All of us failed in something; that is part of the life. Don't let

fear stand in the way of your dreams. The world is not all rainbows or sunshine. Sometimes the life will beat you so hard like nobody but is not about how many times you failed or how many times the life beat you, its about how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward, but you have to believe in yourself. You will face difficulties in life and you have to get used to it. The easy way doesn't exist. All of us have the power to face our fears and overcome any obstacle in the way.

Ask yourself this What is your goal? What are your dreams? Are you willing to give it your all? Remove the word "quit" from your vocabulary, always focus on your goals, try to be better than yesterday, feel passion for something, work hard to get your goals. Believe in you and your dreams will become are true.

My Free Time

Felipe Palma
RW 10

My free time is very good. I play soccer. I go shopping at the mall. I like to sleep and watch TV. I talk to my parents on Skype. I like to cook and ride my bike. I make time to stop and talk with my friends about sports, women, and parties :). In conclusion, my free time is nice and good.

My Free Time

Javier Prado
RW 10

My free time is fun. I go to the gym at night on Mondays and Wednesdays. Also, I go to the ELI activities often. On the weekends, I play soccer with my friends. I do homework after dinner and I check social media. My free time is excellent.

Positive Thinking

Canedo, Dévora
Grammar for Writing

By Shawn Achor

According to the researcher Shawn Achor, happiness is something that can help us to change not only people's reactions but also people's responses to many different situations or circumstances. The formula of happiness states that in order to be happy individuals, first we need to be successful and fulfill our goals. However, according to Achor, this way of thinking is not correct. He states that people need to be happy first and then they will reach success and achieve their goals. But, how can we reach happiness? Simple activities and tasks such as journaling happy and positive things, meditation, exercise, gratitude, and kindness might help people to be happy and change their way of thinking. Moreover, people who are happy have a better performance since happiness turns on all the learning centers in their brain.

It is amazing how simple and positive thoughts can change our lives. Linking happiness with success seems to be something difficult since we focus on our goals and how to achieve them, forgetting about something simple that is just being happy. Happiness is in our hands; it's our choice whether we want to use it or not.

Trip to Rio de Janeiro

Gustavo Magalhães Pereira
RW4 Summer B 2013

Have you ever been to Rio de Janeiro? I have! During the Christmas of 2009, I decided to visit my brother in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where he used to live. I took a plane for four hours from Recife to Rio, and then I drove to his house. I'm going to talk about the touristic places such as the Sugar Loaf, Christ the Redeemer, and Petropolis City that I've visited during my three weeks there.

My first visit was to the Sugar Loaf, such a beautiful place to take pictures and relax. My brother is an athletic guy; he decided that we should climb Sugar Loaf; it would be better. At first, I thought he was crazy, but in the end it was one of the most amazing things I've done in Rio de Janeiro. After that, we decided to go to the next tourist place, Christ the Redeemer.

The next activity was easier; we didn't need to climb because the streetcar took us to the top. What a great view up there. It is the most famous place in the city. I was in touch with people from all over the world, but my English at that time wasn't good enough to carry on a conversation. My next destination was a small city that I love so much.

One day, we took a bus to Petropolis, a city in a high mountain next to Rio de Janeiro, which is cold and so beautiful. For me, it is the best city of Rio de Janeiro. My brother took me there because he knows that I love museums and this city is basically a museum city. Santos Dumont, the first man to fly and land with an airplane, used to live there and his house now is open for visitors. I visited about five museums in Petropolis. After all, I needed to go back to Recife.

Finally, I went back to Recife with many stories to tell. I had experienced an amazing trip to Rio de Janeiro; I had the opportunity to visit the Sugar Loaf, Christ the Redeemer, and Petropolis. I really loved these places and the city of Rio. You should visit Rio de Janeiro one day and go to those places.

My Free Time

Abdullah Alsubaie
RW 10

My free time is very fun. I listen to music. Sometimes I go to the movies with my friends. Usually I go to Starbucks. I read the newspaper. I often travel to Tampa. My free time is good.

High School Vs. College

Monica Angeles
RW 51

Sometimes it is nice to remember the time in high school. In those times, children did a lot of activities like playing with their friends in the park, laughing about everything, doing crazy things, and causing troubles related with teachers. At some point, people need to stop this behavior, because they need to grow up to go to college and have new responsibilities. It is difficult for many students in high school to learn or accept these new duties because many of them don't like to have responsibilities. High school and college have both similarities and differences like becoming comfortable with new subjects, the social environment, and the independence in their life.

In first place, in both scenarios people or students learn new subjects and that is going to be useful for their life in the future. For example, when you decide to go to high school, in there you learn about a lot of subjects like Math, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Literature, and maybe about health. On the other hand, in college students also learn about this thing but in this place people need to choose a vocation to study. Once the students choose their career, they are going to take a lot of class about that. To illustrate, I already have my degree. I'm an industrial engineer and I took a lot of classes about process, design and control of the production and some classes about business.

Second, the social environment can be similar and at the same time different in both places. In high school students have the same friends all the time, because they go to class with the same people like every day. In college it is different, because people go to take class with different people. This is a good thing in some way because students can learn new themes not only about their career, also about new cultures. For example, colleges in the United States have many different cultures represented by their students. It is important to mention that many students can't deal with the new environment in the college and probably decide to study at home.

Finally, when students graduate from high school they need to understand that it is time to grow up and be independent. The majority of the students decide to study far away from home to find that independence from their parents. If they decide to study in another city or country they need to know about a lot of responsibilities that live alone have. For example, they need to know how to cook, when it's time to go to bed, what clothes to wear, and others important things. It is a good because with that all people can learn how to be independent. Normally in high school our mother does a lot of things for us, but when it's time to go to college the obligations begin to appear. That is the moment when we have to think it's time to be perfect for our parents and show what we learn from them.

To conclude, it is good to say that those scenarios have a lot of good experiences. In high school you found your true friends, but also in college you can find friends for life. When you go to college, you begin to live without your parents and it is good because like that you are going to find your own independence. I have good memories in both places and all I need to say is that the life is only one and you need to live and enjoy your time in high school and college and do whatever you want to do.

My Free Time

Farhood Al-Hajri
RW 10

My free time is nice. I watch TV and sometimes I read. I play video games with my friends. Sometimes I want to go to the mall. Sometimes I sit in my apartment and I talk with my friends. In general, my free time is really good.

A World Without Cars

Jorge Perdomo
RW51

Nowadays automobiles have become the most normal way of transportation all over the world. Since the invention of this motor vehicle, the world has been revolutionized in many ways. People could travel long or short distances when they needed, and transport other passengers with them; or even transport many things like tools, food, and materials. The car invention was very productive and revolutionary at that time, and it is still now. In the present automobiles are quite important, and many people have at least one in their homes. According to the automobiles magazine, "In 2010 the number of automobiles had risen to over 1 billion vehicles" (Sousanis, 2011). The automobiles have become very important in our daily lives we use them to go to work, to leave our kids at school, and to travel around the country. However can we live with out them? Can we imagine our world with no cars?

A world with no car would be very different than it is right now. First, the cities could be simpler without streets and roads, without traffic signs and lights. The cities would be smaller because of that, and the houses would be closer to each other. The cities would have to be self sufficient or independent from other cities because there won't be highways to connect them. In addition, the lack of automobiles could be very negative in the society. It could bring several problems between cities, countries, or regions because some resources could be very far from the cities, so the people would have to settle the cities very close to the resources or the cities would fall apart.

Second, the people would be also very different because they would need to find other ways of transportation, such as walking, biking, skating, or jogging to other places in the city. Therefore, the people would be more "well built" and fit. People also would be healthier because of that the exercise and the effort to move around the cities.

Besides of making people healthy and fit, a world with no cars would also be very helpful for the environment. With no motor vehicles releasing gases every time they are used, the pollution in our world would decrease considerably. According to new international calculations on global emissions published Sunday in the journal Nature Climate Change, last year, all the world's nations combined pumped nearly 38.2 billion tons of carbon dioxide into

the air from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and oil (CBS News, 2012).

To conclude, a world without automobiles would be very different from how it is right now. Cities would be smaller because of the lack of transportation and simply because they wouldn't need streets and roads. However, having no cars would be very helpful for people's health and for the environment. Consequently, some changes would signify many positive effects for our world.

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My Free Time

Mohammed Al -Muaden
RW 10

My free time is beautiful. I go to the beach with my friends. I go to the Starbucks with my friends. Also, I drink Arabic tea in my apartment with my friends. I read a magazine with my roommate. I eat my dinner with my roommates. My free time is very nice.

Surveillance Advantages and Disadvantages

Ricardo Azmouz
RW 51

Today, it is very common to see cameras everywhere. Technology is improving every day and many countries and companies are using this surveillance technology. In cities like Paris, there are road cameras nearly everywhere to help regulate traffic and 2000 cameras on city buses to detect crime. In other places like England there is one camera for every fifteen inhabitants (Maclntyre, 2010). This technology continues to grow because both countries get excellent benefits from it. The surveillance technology allows for many advantages to the companies and countries but there are also some disadvantages.

One of these benefits of surveillance is the security and protection it can offer. For example, cameras can see anything that is passing in the place they were installed. They have allowed countries to reduce to more than half, because they can see a problem faster, and resolve it in few minutes. Another example is when a thief realizes that the government can see what he is doing, he will think twice before he steals because he knows that it is very sure he will go to prison in a few days. Nowadays, there is one amazing debate about surveillance in the United States because one former agent of this country spoke about one machine that was

created for listening all the calls and see all the e-mail. Many people believe that situation has many bad consequences one of these is Douglas Rushkoff who thinks the government the US is stealing the privacy of people, and for him "Snowden is a hero because he realized that our very humanity was being compromised by the blind implementation of machines in the name of making us safe" (Douglas Rushkoff, 2013).

Another reason that surveillance technology is a magnificent choice, it is because in some companies, bosses use these machines to see if their employees are working like they want and if there are good relationships between them. This situation allows having a better production and a friendlier environment. In addition, the surveillance technology is not only for companies or countries it's also an excellent way for the markets to protect their products and control all their merchandise (Guernsey, 2006).

However, not all is good with the surveillance technology. One disadvantage is that many people don't have privacy in their life because they are always being watched all the time and their email is being read. For example, in a company in the United States, the manager, Andrew Quinn, installed a surveillance technology for controlling his employees. However, employees like Karen Trainer dislike this situation, "If someone knows everything you are writing that is not really fair" (Lisa Guernsey, 2006). Comments like this show that there are many people who dislike this type of technology.

Another disadvantage is the expensive cost of surveillance machines. All new technology is expensive and this is not an exception, every camera costs around 150 US dollars and there are countries like England that have 4,000,000 cameras located in stadiums, parks, streets, and many others places. England has spent around 600,000,000 million dollars on surveillance. Now they have one amazing project that is a vehicle surveillance system but its cost is a big problem for this nation (Paul Maclntyre, 2010).

Surveillance technology is an excellent way to control all the negative situations that may happen. It is necessary to use this type of technology in many places because it can help us to have a better life. Technology like this has demonstrated that it can reduce crime in the big cities and protect the citizens like when Poseidon, a surveillance machine for pools, saved the life of Jean-Francois LeRoy (Paul Maclntyre, 2010), and also for controlling the production in a company. The most important point is that people who use or have these machines for the good of all people.

In conclusion, the surveillance technology is a system used everywhere nowadays, and it has given people amazing benefits. People use this technology for controlling their merchandise for protecting of the citizens, and controlling the behavior of bad people. It has its disadvantages like the cost and lack of privacy in their life. However this is a little price we need to pay for getting these stupendous benefits.

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My Free Time

Abdulla Al-Kubaisi
RW 10

My free time is good. I go to the mall with my friends. I do my homework and read the newspaper. I make my breakfast or my dinner with my roommate. I drink tea in the afternoon with my friends. I watch TV or a movie. In general, my free time is nice.

Gainesville, Florida

Felipe Palma
RW 10

I live in Gainesville, Florida and I like it very much. I like Gainesville because the University of Florida is in this city and it is a big, nice school. Many things are free for students. For example, the bus is free and we can search the Internet for the location of the bus! It is amazing! Gainesville is clean and organized. It also has beautiful girls! Gainesville is a nice city and it is a good experience to live here.

My Free Time

Mohammed Alkuwari
RW 10

My free time is great. I play soccer with my friends. I play video games. Sometimes I watch TV. The most important thing for me is I always watch anime in my free time. My favorite is called "One Piece." In conclusion, my free time is excellent.

My Beautiful Venezuela

Giulliana Bello
RW 10

My beautiful Venezuela has wonderful places, good food and friendly people. This paragraph will focus on the beautiful locations for tourists to visit. Venezuela has 24 states. Some famous cities are Maracaibo, Merida, Coro, Caracas, Valencia and San Cristobal. The weather depends on the state, but generally it is really good. The first place is Angel Falls. The location is Auyantepui, Cumana National Park, Bolivar state. It's wonderful. The Falls are on the Gauja River and the mountain is really tall. People always visit it because of its beauty. The second place is the beach. The location is in Falcon state. It is 600 km long. The most known part is the Paraguana Peninsula. People say that these beaches are a dream because they have white sand and the water is turquoise

and the sun always is shiny. These beaches are good for vacation. The next place is the city of Maracaibo. It's very famous for the water because it is always hot and it has a big bridge above the lake. The people visit to celebrate the Feria de la Chinita, a religious celebration that lasts for 3 days in November. Venezuela has wonderful places to visit and is a wonderful country, my country.

Grammar for Writing Survey Report

Luis Stein
Grammar for Writing

This report presents the results of a survey conducted in June, 2013. The main goal of this survey was collecting data about general knowledge of UF student. Specific objectives were: measure knowledge in particular fields like geography, politics and language. The survey was done by two data collectors who went to a popular place on the UF campus in order to interview people.

The survey was paper-based and afterwards processed into a Microsoft Office Word document. Seven randomly chosen people were interviewed without any gender, age or cultural background consideration. The questions were created considering the objectives and were meant to cover a variety of topics. It is important to mention that people who were interviewed had a great predisposition to answer the survey. The questions asked and the answers were as the following:

Table 1: Summary of results from the survey

Questions	# of correct responses	# incorrect responses	% correct responses
1. Where is the tallest water fall in the world?	1	6	15%
2. Do you know which country is the largest oil producer?	6	1	86%
3. What is the name of the prime minister of the UK?	4	3	57%
4. What do you think is the most difficult language in the world?	6	1	86%
5. What do you think is the most widely spoken native language in the world?	4	3	57%

Rounded percentages

The first two questions were about geography. While the first one was answered incorrectly by the majority of the people, the second question was correctly answered by most of them. This

demonstrates that the probability of receiving a correct answer is higher with topics that are related with economics. It's important to highlight that the majority of answers of the first question were Niagara falls instead of Angel falls; it may be because Niagara falls are one of the most well known falls on the world and an good destination for tourism. The third question was about the prime minister of the UK. The results shows that a little more than half of the people consulted were aware of who was the current prime minister. This result shows a clue about how interested people are in politics and how often they read/watch news. The last two questions were a language related inquiries about language popularity around the world. Most of the consulted people agreed on the fact that Chinese is the most difficult language to learn in the world. However, the results of the last question of the survey threw surprising results. The 56 % of the polled people agreed that Chinese is the most widely native language in the world, but 28% think that the answer is Spanish. Only 16% believe that English must be the language with the highest number of native speakers.

In conclusion the survey was successfully conducted and showed with some reservations that overall people from UF have a high general knowledge level. There are, however, certain margin of error considering the low number of questions asked and the

sample size. The results aren't conclusive enough to take an accurate course of action. The recommendations for a new survey are: first, prepare more than one set of questions in order to have a wide idea of the scope of knowledge that polled people have. Second, increase the number of people surveyed in order to obtain more homogeneous and trustful results. Third and last, make a distinction of age and cultural background of the people surveyed so that more accurate information could be gathered.

Thanks from the Editor

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