
ELI STUDENT VOICES

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Saying Goodbye

Ricardo Saez Graterol
R/W 61

(1st place)

Saying goodbye is probably one of the hardest things to do. It should be taught in college, but as I heard it through the grapevine, funds were reallocated, and the whole department of melancholic sciences was fired. Regardless, life took charge and has enrolled us in a lifetime class that, unfortunately we never get to pass, because, no matter how hard we try, it's always impossible not to feel sad when someone you appreciate leaves you. Regardless of the reasons why someone you love goes away, the result remains always the same, you will miss them. So what can we do? Should we transform the fibers of our heart into something less sensitive like iron and just stop caring for people, so we don't feel sad when they leave? I don't think so. What I think we should do with that ferrous material is construct a safe box that can endure the onslaught of time (and sometimes distance). There we could keep safe all the memories and teachings engraved on our hearts that helped to make these people special for us in the first place. Most importantly, this special safe box would keep memories handy, so we could always retrieve them to bring along with smile. Yes, saying goodbye may not have a perfect solution, but this little DIY project can help ease this fatidic class that life has forced us to live. To conclude, I would like to quote a proverb by the renowned philosopher Dr. Seuss, "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

A True Hero

Nopporn Charoenkitraj
R/W 5

(2nd Place)

There are a lot of heroes that can inspire you, or you can choose one to be your own role model. Some heroes have superpowers and can do extraordinary things beyond human beings capabilities such as Superman, Spider-Man, and Iron-Man. Some heroes merely are normal people same as us but they changed or did something that we never forget such as Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Aung San Suu Kyi, and Steve Jobs. To me, my mother is a true hero, not only for me but also for my family and my neighborhood. The reason is because my mother possesses three crucial factors that led her to be a hero of mine. Those decisive factors are a brave to make controversial decisions, a life of sacrifice, and a capacity to face in physical risk.

Firstly, true heroes must have a bravery to make controversial decisions and an acceptance of the consequence of actions for such purposes. My mother, Sarah, was born in a

large agricultural family in 1938. She has more than 20 siblings. At that time, only men could study in a University while women could study until high school and then had to work in agriculture business of the family. This is not uncommon in Thailand, where my mother was born. Thai society believes that it is the right thing and Thai people regularly do. Conversely, my mother thought that education is very important for herself. In 1955, after my mother graduated from her high school, my mother decided to leave her family to pursue her goal to go to study in the University. But life was not too easy. She had to work and study hard. She told me that she usually slept only 4 or 5 hours per day while she attended the 4-year University. This proves to me that my mother has a brave heart and admits the result of her actions for pursuing the right thing that she thought.

Secondly, true heroes must have a life of sacrifice. This is to say heroes must persistently sacrifice themselves over a long period of time rather than suddenly happening only one time. My mother raised my sister and me by herself. She worked very hard as she was responsible for all expenses of our family, including mortgage payments. I remember that, when my sister and I studied in an elementary school from 1985 - 1990, my mother left her work several times in order to take care of us when we got sick. Because of these, she almost was fired from her job. More importantly, my mother was of the view that education is very important my sister and myself. In this regard, she have consistently encouraged and supported us regarding our educations for more than 25 years even though all responsibilities have fallen on her shoulder. These question to my mind how my mother can do everything by herself.

Finally, true heroes have a capacity to confront physically risky situations while ordinary people may consider doing nothing or stop fighting in the same situations. Ten years ago, my mother and her friends initiated an educational project to build a small school in our neighborhood. The purpose of this project is to teach outside-class room knowledge to children after their elementary school classes. However, this project was opposed by a powerful local manufacturer who wanted to expand their plant into the area where the school was located. It tried to stop the school project by threatening my mother many times such as posting note in front of my mother house saying that "stop the project otherwise someone will get hurt", sending a group of harmful man to negotiate with my mother, and throwing rock or solid material into my mother house. I thought that my mother will stop the project soon. On the other hand, she did not stop and tried to gather people in my neighborhood who support the project to fight with them. After long fighting and confronting with the magnate who threatened and tried to use their influence to stop the project over a year, the small

school was built. This project still remains to be a “hope” of several children in my neighborhood up until now.

In light of the above, my mother is a true hero of mine. This is because she possesses three significant factors; a brave heart, a lifetime sacrifice, and a capacity to confront with situations involving the possibility of physical danger and harm. I strongly believe that heroic imagination of my mother not only inspires me to have motivations and determinations to use my lives for doing the right thing, but also inspiring my family and my neighborhood. Why don't you pick your own hero whom you can learn from, or who can inspire you to use your life for benefit of yourself and your society?

My Family

Jacqueline Alfaro Casique

R/W 10

There are many people in my typical, professional Venezuelan family. I live with my mother, my father and my sister. Their names are Ingrid, Eduardo and Jennifer. I also have a brother. Both my parents and my siblings are older than me. My mother and father are in Venezuela at the moment with my brother, his wife and their two grandchildren. My sister and I are living in the United States. All the members of my family are professionals. My siblings are accountants. My mother, father and I are lawyers. We have three pets we have one dog whose name is Alaska and two fish named Doris and Nemo. In conclusion, my family is a big and very, very beautiful South American family.

My Family

Mai Abualkhair

R/W 10

There are seven people in my immediate family. My family lives in Saudi Arabia (K.S.A). I have two parents and three brothers and one sister. My big brother is married. He has a daughter. My sister is married and has a baby. I am married, too, but my husband and I do not have any children yet. My big brother and sister are doctors. I study English now and later I will study nursing. My two younger brothers are students. This is my Saudi Arabian family.

The Little Vampire and the Ghost

Jesus Cabrera

R/W 43

A long time ago there was a small village in Europe where people believed in vampires, ghost, and werewolf. In this village there was a little shy kid that everyone feared because he always went alone at night; people always thought it's was weird for a little kid to go out alone at night and they excluded him from everyone child in the village. The villagers started calling the little vampire of the night and whenever they saw him outside they will run to protect their children. But our little vampire had a reason to go out alone at night, he wanted to

make friends but he was forced to work at his house all day. The only time he had to go search for friends was at night. He was very sad and alone till one night; he heard a small voice coming from an abandoned house that was outside of the village. At first he thought it was his imagination, but every night he always heard the same voice until he decided to go check the house. Maybe someone was trapped in the house and couldn't get out. This was his chance to make a friend. When he entered the house he couldn't see anything but in a moment all the candles in the house got lit all of a sudden. He was very scared. However, he keeps searching for that small voice believing he will meet his first friend. At last he found where the voice came from. It was in a small room in the second floor. When he opens the door he saw a small crying and the little vampire tried to cheer her up. Then they started talking about lots of stuff and our vampire was very happy, he said “is so fun talking with a friend”, she said is fun for me too I have been alone here for so many years. So many years but you are the same age as me. Yes I died at this age 50 years ago in this house. When he heard that he so scared that he wanted to go to his home as fast as possible but even if she was a ghost, it was his first friend and he won't lose it because of her being a ghost. Every night our little vampire will go to the house to talk and play with the ghost. One day a villager saw the little vampire and was curious why now he don't appear at the village at night. And he followed to the house and found about the ghost. He ran away in fear and told to the entire villager, that the little vampire was trying to take over the village with the help of a ghost that lived in the abandoned house outside the village. They decided to take action and kill the vampire before they got killed and waited the next night. Our vampire was in his way to meet his ghost friend in the abandoned house but he got ambushed and was surprised by how people were holding torches and axes. They chased him for hours but they couldn't catch with him. He was very scared and sad because he didn't do anything so bad that would make people want to kill him. Then he remembered that rumor about a little vampire that always went at night alone. When he found a chance to hide the house he meet his ghost friend and asked him to help him scared all the villagers so they won't kill him. The ghost accepted and they started their scary night. When the villagers found out he was in the house with a lot of courage they entered the house. There they saw the ghost and the little vampire and were scared to death just by seeing them together laughing at them. One of the villager shouted die you dreadful blood-sucking monster. However he got hit himself and the villagers started to panic till they gave up and run away from the house. The ghost and the little vampire were so happy that they fled, but at the same time he was sad that everyone feared him and that now won't have a place to go back home. The ghost said why you don't live here; you won't have problems with them again if you start living here. Then they started living together and no one ever heard of the little vampire again in the village, but now there was different rumor that said that a very old women got out at night searching for his son that had disappeared at the same time as the little vampire, could this be the start of a new tragedy or a new story in the village only the time will know.

My Family

Hussain Al Otaibi

R/W 10

There are five people my immediate family. I live in Saudi Arabia with my wife and three children. I work in the Ministry of Finance. I am a lawyer for the Ministry. My wife works as a teacher in Riyadh. She helps my children in their lessons in my absence. She also takes care of my household. Sarah and Fahad are students in the district elementary school. Mohammed does not study so far because he is small. Sarah is 10 years old. Fahad is 7 years old and he is in his first year at school. I am happy with my Saudi family and I miss them.

Authentic Beauty

Moulaye Brahim

R/W 43

The way we appreciate beauty depends on the context, culture, and time. In my opinion, talking about this controversial matter amounts to differentiating between men and women because of the nature of each of them. Some women would do anything in order to make themselves beautiful and more attractive, but men may be much more restricted in terms of what they can do to improve their physical appearances. However, the question that inevitably comes to mind in this context is this: Which way ensures the best result in terms of improving one's physical appearance? Is it the natural or unnatural approach? I believe in natural beauty and the relativity of its values.

The appreciation of beauty was certainly not the same through history. Each culture has its own definition and values, depending on time and other factors. In our present days, some factors exceed the limits of cultural tolerance for methods to alter one's looks; some examples of such factors include, but are limited to, the new aesthetic technologies, such as plastic surgery and thousands of kinds of make-up.

The nature of women makes them in favor of any natural or unnatural attempt to appear charismatic, but the unnatural ways may at times end up in failure. For example, having plastic surgery on the face cannot change the authenticity or originality of the person's face for a long time. It is often temporary and may be ineffective. In addition, it is very expensive in terms of cost.

Using natural methods of beauty makes people more attractive than people who use unnatural ways because people look better with their own original features; thus, they should not try to use chemical or artificial means of beauty. Using unnatural ways to become beautiful leads only to slight changes with time limitation. In this regard, people who use these false appearances deceive themselves and others, and then both will say one day, "What disappointment!"

Men in several countries around the world today have to use make-up like women, in particular, actors, artists, journalists, etc. The reason of this exception is the consequence of the promotion of artificial products of beauty in the media,

and this is done most of the time for short activities such as movies, television programs, theater, etc. Although some men accept the use of cosmetics to improve their appearance, the majority of men, who are well balanced, do not like to use make-up because they believe it is a feminine behavior; therefore, they have to be presentable without using any cosmetics.

Despite the intensive promotion and advertising for becoming more attractive and younger by using cosmetics and other unnatural ways, I believe in originality of beauty. Also, I cannot understand why people spend a great deal of money on falsehood. It is unbelievable! Based on the universal laws of the Creator, the different steps of aging are unchangeable.

My Family

Abdulmajeed Alghamdi

R/W 10

There are eleven people in my Saudi Arabian family. My father works in the Ministry of Finance. My mother works in a school. She is the director of an elementary school. I have four older brothers. Two brothers work in financial companies. I have two more brothers. They work in the Ministry of Finance with my father. My older sister is a doctor. My three other siblings are students. I have a sister and a brother who are both students in King Saud University and my youngest sister is in middle school. I am a student, also. I study in the United States. I want to study financial management after my study of English. I love my big, Saudi family.

The Worth of a Hero

Andréia di Camilla Ghirghi Pires Sudano

R/W 5

Hero seems like a simple word that everybody knows because it is related with Hollywood movies, superpowers and strange colorful clothes. However, we often can't identify authentic heroism. There are some similar qualities that real heroes share: courage, self-sacrifice and pursuance of a noble purpose that can inspire people to be better. Even though, do we know the heroes of our own country? If you ask about Aracy Guimarães Rosa in Brazil, a lot of people wouldn't indicate her as a hero. For decades her name was only related to her second husband, Guimarães Rosa, who is one of the most famous writers of Brazil.

Aracy worked at the Brazilian consulate in Germany at the visa section just before the beginning of the Second World War. There, she met Guimarães Rosa, a young deputy consul who was married in Brazil and had left his wife and two daughters because of his work in Germany. They fell in love and, after the war, returned to Brazil as a couple. They lived together for 30 years, until the death of Guimarães Rosa. During this period, Guimarães Rosa wrote his most famous books, including *Grande Sertão Veredas*, which was dedicated to her. She had a discretely life and never claimed her importance in the life and in the literary work of her husband.

But her history had more chapters. In 1937, it was published in Brazil for the president Getulio Vargas a circular that prohibit the visa for persons of Jewish origin. Even knowing it was illegal in Germany and Brazil, Aracy helped several Jews get their visas to Brazil while she was employed at the consulate. She replaced their passports with others without the letter J that indicate Jew, and included the papers of visa under others to be assigned for the responsible consul without his knowledge. She put in danger her life to save others during the five years that she worked there.

She is cited in the museum of the Holocaust in Israel, in honor to non-Jews that worked for the preservation of Jewish lives from Nazism. However, her history was widely published in Brazil after 2008, and even so, most Brazilians don't know her or what she did. Instead of looking for role models of bravery and values in fiction characters of movies and TV, we should spotlight heroes with true histories from our own country. They indicate that common people can make difference in the world.

Aracy is a hero for three reasons: she sacrificed her job for a purpose, she had courage to risk her family lives for it, and her actions helped to save a lot of people. Even without recognition, she is established into the hall of the Brazilians' heroes. To embody heroism, a person has to be an ethical model that follows a purpose to help others even in dangerous or tough situations. Into all the characteristics that heroism should have, recognition for the heroic acts is important but not essential because we still have to learn how to value a real hero.

My Family

Munseok Kim

R/W 10

I want to write about my family. I have four people in my family who live in Korea right now. My father is a Korean taxi driver. He likes sports, such as football and baseball. My mother is a career woman. She is very pretty and she looks very young. My brother is a cartoon storyteller. He likes to watch soccer. The last person in my immediate family is my wife. She is an ELI student now and she wants to study nursing later. She is very smart and she likes to study. Right now I live with my wife (and her sister) in Gainesville. I miss my family in Korea.

Causes of Divorce

Daniela Caldera

R/W 42

From the past to present, people all over the world have determined to live together, which is called "getting married", so that they depend on each other for living. Nevertheless, some couples are unable to maintain their relationship; therefore, they choose divorce, which is one of the solutions to cope with problems between husband and wife. Furthermore, most people think carefully before they get married. However, the divorce rates tend to continually increase nowadays. Thus, it might be argued that divorces can take place

easier than in the past. There are three main causes of divorce: changing woman's roles, stress in modern living and lack of communication, which are highlighted below.

The first significant cause of the recent rise in the rates of divorce is that women completely change in roles. In the past, men have to earn whole money to afford the expense of family, whereas woman only do housework, hence women have no money leading to depend on husbands' money. Because of these situations, it is too difficult for most women to separate from their husbands. Nonetheless, these situations entirely change nowadays. The equality between men and women in roles are very clear at the moment, thus women can work outside to earn money, while men share the household tasks such as cooking, cleaning, washing as well as caring for children. It can be clearly seen that women are independent from money as they can earn money by themselves to support their living cost. Accordingly, the divorce rates recently rise.

Another cause to confirm the recent increase in divorce rates is stress in modern living. Many people, who live in globalization, have considerable pressures to earn money. It can obviously be seen that the stress has occurred since they are children. For instance, in United States, students generally want to go to famous school so that they take advantage to go to well-known universities. Studying in celebrated universities mostly causes having a good opportunity to find a job or earn a lot of money. This circumstance not only happens in the United States, but also occurs in many countries. Some people are laid off from their companies; consequently, the stress occurs in their family, which leads to divorce. Some families can earn money, but inadequate for covering their expenses, therefore it is easy to think about divorce. Nevertheless, the rates of unemployment tend to continually increase; as a result, the divorce rates can also rise. It is no doubt that the stress in modern living may lead to recently increasing divorce rates.

The final cause of recently increasing divorce is lack of communication. Owing to financial status in each family, many people are fairly busy. For this reason, they have inadequate time to talk about the problems with their partners, which produces the likelihood of divorce. Some couples are often quiet when they have problems with each other; as a consequence, little problems can be expanded to probably become huge problems, resulting in divorce. It is quite clear that the more communications are used the more divorce rates are reduced.

Although these three causes of the recent rise in divorce rates are expressed above, there are also two effects of the recent increase of divorce rates: negative effects and positive effects.

Firstly, the effects of recent enlargement in divorce rates are negative effects. Most couples normally have children when they get married. Accordingly, divorces can directly effect on children. Children living in single parent families more probably get pregnant as teenagers, drop out of high school, abuse drugs and have aggressive emotional and behavioral problems, which lead to social problems. Some children decide to go out of their home when their parents separate from each other, and subsequently they become homeless children. They do not have good opportunities to find

a job due to shortage of education. Consequently, crime may likely be the end result. These are significant negative effects of recent expansion in divorce rates.

Secondly, on the other hand, other effects of rise in divorce rates are positive effects. People who divorce by consent from their partners want to have better quality of life, since they are unhappy with their spouses. Accordingly, they can work efficiently, which results from fine mental condition. They not only have more free time to do many things, but also free from their spouses' murmurs. In addition, divorces also get rid of the violence of quarrel between husband and wife, hence everybody in family gets better in physical and mental health, particularly for children. These are the advantageous effects of increasing divorce rates.

In conclusion, a family is one of the important parts of society, thus many people had better aware of the significance of relationship in family. At the moment, divorce has become a substantial problem because of changing women's roles, stress in modern living and lack of communication.

Nevertheless, there are also the two different ways in effects, which are negative and positive effects. Some couples which have no children divorce by consent; therefore, divorce should be a good solution for couples to deal with this problem. On the other hand, some couples having children in their family should think deliberately before they end their marriage in divorce; otherwise, innocent children probably become victims for this situation. Although people tend to think carefully before they get married, the rates of divorce continuously rise nowadays

My Family

Misfawr Alqahtani

R/W 10

I have a big happy family My family lives in southern Saudi Arabia. However, I now live in the city of Riyadh with my immediate, small family. I live with my wife. Her name is Fatima. She doesn't work but she has a Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology. She knows some English. I don't want her to work outside the home. Fatima works inside our home. She takes care of our children. I have three children, a one son and two daughters. My oldest son is Fares. He is 7 years old. The names of my daughters are Sara and Samar. Sara is 6 years old. Samar is the youngest. She is 5 years old. This is my Saudi Arabian family.

Box or Bucks?

Soo Wol Kim (Gloria)

R/W 60

This is a funny story of a famous Korean comedian, Seokjin Ji. He was traveling to America. It was his first time travelling abroad. He was a little bit nervous, but quite self-confident because he was good at speaking English when he went to school. One day, he wanted to test his ability to speak English. He went to a drug store to buy a cigar and asked, "How

much?" very arrogantly. The clerk answered, "Two bucks." The comedian was puzzled and said, "No, I want one box." The clerk said, "No, two bucks," thinking the comedian wanted a discount.

(For ten minutes....)

The comedian: No, only one box (I need only one box of cigars).

The clerk: No, two bucks.

The comedian: One box.

The clerk: Two bucks.

The comedian: One box.

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The comedian couldn't buy a cigar and had to go out of the store desolately and miserably. The comedian had to take part in ELI courses...

Running for Beauty

Fahad Saleh Albarrk

R/W 43

Are you satisfied about your appearance? Do you think that you need cosmetic surgery to become more beautiful or handsome, but you are afraid of undergoing these surgeries? Nowadays, cosmetic surgery has become one kind of fads for some people. Despite the risk, high costs, and sometimes frustrating results, the rate of these surgeries has rapidly escalated. This number upset seriously rational people in our society. Thus, people have been divided in their opinions about cosmetic surgery into three groups. Some are strongly against these operation, others believe that anyone can have them, while some take their place between the two and they see it as acceptable surgery in some instances. I'm partial to the ones who believe that those who are willing to undergo these operations should take into consideration: necessity, risk, and positive results.

Some people in some situations are in dire need to undergo such surgeries. In particular, people who survive from serious accident or horrible disaster may have facial distortions, and they cannot fix it but undergo these surgeries. Such people cannot live normally with this deformation, and it is unfair to prevent them from these surgeries; this may cause them to live inside a cage without real interaction with the community. This not the only case, but also people who are born with birth defects, such as missing organs or severe distortion, may have difficult social and working lives. After all, people should be as they are, "natural"

The second restriction is risk of the surgery. Those people who decided to undergo any cosmetic operation should compare the advantages of it with the disadvantages of it. This comparison should include consulting a trusted doctor or specialist in the cosmetic field. Moreover, asking people who have had this operation about their experience may give some help. In addition, some studies have shown that some procedures of surgeries may cause post-operative problems, such as disability, distortions, chronic deceases, or even death at

worst. In other words, make sure that the decision you have made about getting this surgery is worth this risks.

Indeed, the main goal of having cosmetic operation is to change one's appearance, to look better, and to improve one's social life. Therefore, it is important to be certain that the surgery will give you what you desire. In fact, some commercials of cosmetic surgery exaggerate the results of these operations which manipulate people's mind and tempt them to make their decisions quickly regardless of credibility of the results. In addition, according to survey conducted by researchers at university of Ohio, 70% of those who have had cosmetic surgery are unsatisfied with results and they wanted to get their appearance back before having the operation if that was possible. Also, they said that they were deceived by the exaggeration of commercials. Others attributed that to their doctors who lacked enough expertise.

In conclusion, people should be careful when they think about having any of these surgeries. Also, they should take into consideration these three points that I have mentioned above. If they do not pay attention to them, the consequences may be too expensive and irreparable.

My Family

Jennifer Alfaro Cacique
R/W 10

There are five people in my immediate family. We are a typical family in Caracas, Venezuela. My mother and my father are lawyers and my brother is an accountant. He lives with his wife and they have two children. I live with my younger sister in the United States. Her name is Jacqueline. She is a lawyer and I am an accountant. We go to the University of Florida English Language Institute to learn English. We are a modern professional family.

The Good Teacher

Fahad Alqahtani
R/W 43

There are many different opinions among people of what a good teacher is. Most people agree that teacher capacity or teacher power is different between teachers, but there are bad teachers and good teachers. A good teacher has many good characteristics.

The first characteristic of a good teacher is that he has good body language which helps the students understand. For example, he has good eye contact with the class, hand moving, and moves around the class. This helps a good teacher influence his students. And also a teacher should move during explanations, and he should make eye contact with every student in the class. A good teacher ought to walk around the class. He can discover a lot of things when he walks around the class, such as talents of students, common mistakes between students, and make sure about students situations.

A second characteristic of a good teacher is eager and interested in helping students learn. A good teacher should be

eager for his students to learn. He should explain and give them practice, example, and many exercise. A good teacher communicates with his students by phone or e-mail about their questions or inquiries. Some of these provide help of other problems when it happened out of study form.

The third characteristic of a good teacher is that he possess good manners. He should show respect to his students and his friends at work. A good teacher is compatible with his students and his friends and shows courtesy to them. A good teacher doesn't interfere in the affairs of others, unless asked. There is pride from his students and his school about a good teacher who possesses the beautiful qualities. He is good an example for good teachers.

Most people agree about qualities of a good teacher. Sometimes there are different opinions, but the end they agree on most of characteristic of a good teacher. Many students prefer this pattern of teacher and they like to study with a good teacher who has good skills and beautiful characteristic.

Gainesville And Ouagadougou

Abdoul Konseiga
R/W 31

Gainesville is located in North Central Florida close to Tampa and Orlando. It is a small city with 120,000 people and it extends on 5,000 km² and it is sunny and very hot in Gainesville. It is like that we call it Sunshine whereas Ouagadougou is a big city and then is located in West Africa close to Bobo Dioulasso, Dori, and Sapone etc. Ouagadougou counts many people like 6,852,690 million people and extends on 135,000 km². Most important Ouagadougou is the capital of Burkina Faso. Gainesville and Ouagadougou have many differences and only a few similarities.

Ouagadougou looks like Gainesville with the same climate. In Ouagadougou, there are two seasons. First season counts six months where it is sunny, very hot but in December and January it is cold. Second season it is raining and humid. There are many different places to visit in Ouagadougou like museum, king's palace, etc. And then people are friendly. They are usually curious when they see new people. Sometimes they invite you to share meal with them in family. Many people from different country live in Ouagadougou like Japan, France, US, Indonesia. Also in Ouagadougou you can do more activities to hang out. There are many clubs and then very big. They close at 5 am. You can go out and hang out overnight. I often go in clubs each Saturday. Most important there is the safety in Ouagadougou. Ouagadougou is not developed like Gainesville.

Gainesville has the same climate too. It is also sunny and very hot in Gainesville. It is raining and humid. Gainesville has two seasons. In these seasons we have spring, summer, fall, winter. In Gainesville, people are very friendly and you can talk anyone and ask anything. Most important Gainesville is a city study. There are many people from different countries in Gainesville. But most are students and then come to study at UF or to learn in English at ELI. All students in Gainesville maybe 20 percent are international students. Students are between 20 to 30 years old. In Gainesville you don't need a car to ride because

if you have ID you can take the bus. There are many places to visit in Gainesville too like Lake Wauburg, and Itchetucknee. Also in Gainesville there are many buildings and they are built wood wood and red bricks. You can see century tower, stadium etc. Gainesville is a small city you cannot do more things. There are no activities to enjoy. I always study at home because there are no activities to enjoy. The clubs are small and crowded. They close very early. For example at 2am

In summary, as you can see there are many differences between Gainesville and Ouagadougou and then a few similarities. There are many places to see in Gainesville and Ouagadougou whereas to Ouagadougou, Gainesville is a small city no activities to enjoy. I think if you want to study only study Gainesville is a good place for you. But you want study and have more fun Ouagadougou is good for you. Most important when you visit Ouagadougou and Gainesville you need water and Umbrella. Also you need a map in Gainesville.

Industrial Engineer or Administrator

Daniela Caldera

R/W 42

One of the most important decisions of your life is choosing a career. When you have two main options to study you can compare them in order to see the advantages and disadvantages. The purpose of this essay is to examine the differences between being an Industrial Engineer and being an Administrator. These are two similar careers, but each of them offers you different opportunities as a student and as a professional. Three main aspects comparing these two careers are the job opportunities, the specific skills you acquire and the work areas.

One of the main aspects you should consider in selecting a career is the job opportunities. As an Industrial Engineer you have a very wide open field. You can work in many different areas. Industrial Engineers can work as administrators, manufacturers, and in departments such as human resources. As an Administrator you are more specialized, and the work field is more reduced. You can only work in departments such as human resources and economics but not in manufacturing or productivity departments.

Another very important difference is the knowledge you acquire. As an Industrial Engineer you will obtain more objective and specialized reasoning abilities. You will have to study subjects such as Physics and Mathematics and other kinds of subjects such as Human Resources an Administration. As an Engineer you will obtain both a social and a mathematical perspective. As an Administrator you have subjects such as Finance and Private Rights. You will obtain a better social perspective, but not a very critical or specialized mathematical reasoning.

A third aspect to consider is what you would like to do after graduating. Both careers are good to be an entrepreneur. Engineers are able to work in the manufacturing process in order to offer good quality. Administrators are able to work checking the economic and material resources in order to produce. An Administrator is specialized in the financial

aspects, and the Engineer is specialized in the productivity. It depends which you like most.

Definitely, both careers are great options. Both are needed in industry and business. It is very important to analyze if you are more into business or if you are more into manufacturing. Engineers use a very high level of critical thinking and analysis talking about productivity. Administrators use a very specialized reasoning talking about economics and resources. Both are similar, but they focus on different aspects within the enterprise. It is a matter of knowing yourself and finding out what kind of student and professional you want to be.

My Family

Antonix Quiaro

R/W 10

My family is not very big. My father and mother were separated about six years ago. My father has three children with his new wife. I live with my Mom when I am in Venezuela. Now I study at the ELI so my mother is alone at home. I have a sister. She lives in another city. My Mom travels to visit my sister and she also visits the home of my grandparents. Later, when I am older, I want to return to Venezuela and love another person. We will create our own family together.

Argumentative Essay

Soo Wol Kim (Gloria)

R/W 60

Topic: Does Gainesville fit the definition of a sustainable urban environment? Why or why not? Please state your opinion and support your position.

In modern society, most people are worrying about the destruction of natural environments all around the world. There are massive extinct species, worldwide pollution and growing threat of environment deterioration in this world nowadays. However, I can strongly maintain that it's not the case of Gainesville. Do you know what "Gators" stand for? "Gators" represent Gainesville and it means this city is eco-friendly. These days, the notion of "sustainable development" is on the rise and it means a pattern of economic growth in which resource use aims to meet human needs while preserving the environment. I think Gainesville fits the definition of sustainable urban environment for 3 reasons.

First, we can see many animals around Gainesville. Look at the alligators, lizards, squirrels, frogs and snails around you. Especially my children can catch lizards from all parts of this city at any time if they want. As a Korean, it's an extremely amazing thing to be experienced. We can walk to school while watching squirrels climb up the trees. In addition, we can enjoy the songs of colorful birds in the trees during the day time and we can have fun with the sound of different insects and frogs throughout the night. It is true that we can have a meaningful

time with all the animals and it is right that we are living in the sustainable urban environment here in Gainesville.

Second, there are many clean beaches, springs and natural habitats in Gainesville. If you see the sand on the beach and notice that there are no trashes or pollutants on it, you will see how fit those beaches are with the sustainable environment. Moreover, you can be full of admiration for the marble blue springs. They are clean and cool enough for you to throw yourselves in the attractive springs. More importantly, there are many gardens and lawns which are take good care of. How about the peaceful farms where cows and horses are roaming? People in Gainesville have many chances to enjoy themselves with this beautiful natural habitats and animals.

Last but not the least, Gainesville has people who love the nature. They let the alligators, which all the other people can be afraid of, live peacefully in the pond in UF and other places in Gainesville. They save some room for nest to have birds take a rest. As a resident in Gainesville, I even make some room for the beehives at the corner of my garage. Although the bees can be a little bit dangerous for my children, I'd like to let them know the importance of preserving nature.

Some opponents worry about the noise of animals and less development of this city, but it's not good enough to overcome the merits of this ecofriendly environment. Do you want your children to live in the barren and dreary (lifeless) circumstances?

In conclusion, we are living in Gainesville with an ideal nature. Even if we can sorry about less modernization, we can enjoy nature in our whole lives instead. Moreover, if we really care about the preservation of nature and if we will be creative, we can make another Disney World in Gainesville. While keeping the nature as it is, we can also make money. Yes, with one stone, we can kill 2 birds and it's what sustainable development means. To what extent can we keep our environment healthy? The answer is "AS much as we can be conscientious (well-intended). We will have to follow our own well-natured voice inside us and try to do our best to protect our friend, out nature. We are intended to coexist and it's time to be harmonious with our nature. Go Gators!

The Biggest Challenge in Ramadan

Amal Abdulrahman

R/W 31

Do you know why Muslims fast during the month of Ramadan and not in any other month? This is one of many important questions about fasting in Ramadan that I read. During my travels many people asked me about fasting in Ramadan. They don't have any idea about the reasons and the objectives of fasting in Ramadan. They just know that Muslims don't eat and don't listen to music. So I would like to write about fasting in general. And I will write about a few of the reasons and the objectives of fasting in Ramadan. However, I will not write about the reasons or the objectives or the benefits in the religious aspect.

Before the first big celebrations in Islamic calendar, Eid Alfeter, Muslims have to fast for Ramadan. Ramadan is in the

ninth month of the Islamic calendar, or lunar calendar, and the holiest period of the Islamic year. During this month the Quran, the holy book of Islam, was revealed, So Muslims should not listen to music because Ramadan is the month of the Qur'an and we have to respect and read the Quran. Fasting is not new to Islam; it is in many religions like Christians observe lent before Easter and Jewish people observe Passover. Ramadan is (an incumbent on every adult Muslim have mind and health and who is resident, from sunrise to sunset).

Non-Muslim think that fast in Ramadan is very difficult. Perhaps for a few Muslims, but it isn't for a lot of Muslims. There are a lot of positives courage them to fasting every year. Even children who don't have to fasting, they often like to fast with their families. There are exceptions from fasting like children and menstruating. Also pregnant and nursing women, sick people, they don't have to fast during Ramadan if they can't, but they need to made these days up later.

There are many objectives of the fasting I will mention some of them. One of the objectives is regularity in eating and increase human health, Muslims should start eating with some dates and water. Another objective is to think about poor people and exactly feels like them and urge to charity, and encourage charitable works. Some other objectives are it increases self-control, discipline at a time, teach patience, purify the hearts. Also in addition to it is stresses equality: both the poor and the rich are equal.

All in all, fasting in Ramadan taught me that if I don't change my self and improve my behavior to better, I don't have to fast, because I don't prove the gist of fasting in Ramadan.

Effects of Television

Thierry Kabore

R/W 49

The world would be boring without television. People spend a lot time watching TV all over the world; enjoying their favorite programs or shows, or getting information. The influence of TV on people is a fact, and it has both good and bad results.

Since TV was invented, it has become one of the main sources of information. As people watch TV, they can know what's going on in the world at any time without leaving their seats. As a result of watching TV, some people get to know and understand different cultures in the world. For example, documentaries offer a look at Europe, Americas, Asia and even Africa from the comfort of couch.

Watching TV can also influence people negatively. Some people want to look like actors on TV. Consequently, they will try to act like them in some bad manners. For example, some people will try to pay at any cost for clothes and jewelry that people on TV wear, and in most cases, they can't really afford to do it. Another problem with TV is violence: movies and shows are getting more and more violent. Some research has shown that some criminals have been influenced by what they saw on TV. Because murdering people is too detailed and seems so easy to realize, we have already

seen that some serial killers have used methods seen on TV to commit their crimes.

Watching TV makes people unhealthy. Some people experience eye issues because they spend hours and hours in front of the TV. Moreover, as a result of watching too much TV, some people become inactive and can no longer go to the gym and work out. This contributes to making them obese. Obesity really hurts people, mostly adults and children who spend a lot of time on the couch eating and watching TV.

The invention of television has changed people's ways of life. Watching TV is really important to adults and children; however, watching TV has also some bad influences on people, and it is imperative and crucial for adults to reduce their TV watching time and control what their children watch on TV.

How I Became Myself

Mairelsy Motta

R/W 52

Is there someone in your life who has influenced the person you are? When thinking about this question, you may consider friends, girlfriends, or boyfriends. Certainly, our personality and achievements in life are usually influenced by someone from childhood. My mother has been the key opening many doors in my life. Even though she is very strict and difficult sometimes, from her I have learned how to be independent, appreciate everything that I have, and pursue my goals when they seem impossible to achieve.

Being independent is difficult to learn, and it cannot be found in books. When I was a child, my mother did not use to help me so much with my homework. She would only check my textbooks and lead me if I did not understand something. By the time I was in high school, she did not even check my textbooks or ask me if I needed some help. She would just oversee that I was studying and being responsible. I would think that she did not care about me, but I realized that everything had a purpose when I went to the university. By then, I already knew how to face my problems and handle all kinds of hard situations on my own. University was very tough for me, but being independent helped me to be on top of my commitments.

Appreciating what I have and I do not in my life is a distinctive trait of my personality. My mother has thought me this in a hard way. Even though my parents could afford my studies at a private university, I was sent to a public one. I agreed with them since public universities in my country are usually better than private ones. Because they did not have to pay tuition, I expected they would have enough money to get me a car. However, my mother refused this idea, and I had to take the bus every day to my classes. An important thing to consider is that most of the buses in Venezuela are old and are not well-maintained. I used to get angry with my mother because there were five cars in my house, but she would never pick me up. I always remember myself walking from the bus station to my house at noon in extremely hot weather, tired from all my morning classes, sweating, and then hurrying to go to the university in the afternoon again. When I was about to arrive home, I felt powerless when I saw all those cars in front

of my house, and no one was willing to give me a ride. Later, this experience made me appreciate the moment when my mother decided to give me a car. Since then, I have learned to be responsible and love every single thing that I own.

My mother has always been supportive and encouraging in every difficult moment or situation that I have had to undergo. She has taught me to not give up when my goals seem impossible to achieve. For example, I changed schools in my two last years in high school, so I had to adapt to a new environment, different habits, and another group of friends. In the beginning, I was struggling with my classmates to get along with them. Most of the guys in my class were snobby, and the girls were only interested in parties. I would come home depressed and tell my parents that I didn't like my new school. However, my mother was always encouraging me to be patient and give it my all for getting good grades. What helped me to keep my way until finish high school was surely my mother.

I used to think that some situations were unfair, but the truth is that all of them have been worth it. Now, I believe that the more difficult moments in my life have been the best ones for helping me to grow as a person and as a professional. Certainly, my mother has been in each of these moments. Her strict and difficult way has allowed me to resolve my problems by myself, appreciate my family and possessions, and not give up when I would struggle to achieve my goals.

Are the Saudis Smoking?

Amal Abdulrahman

R/W 31

On June 8, 2012 in grammar class Ms. Victoria said the stereotype about Saudis people is SMOKING! Is that right? I'm Saudi, so I want to tell Ms. Victoria and all people if this true or not. Also the smoking is very risky so I would like to explain about it.

There are sturdy relationships between smoking and many religions. Smoking is a rite in some religions like Shamanism. On the other hand, the true stereotype and the real about Saudi people are: all Saudi people are Muslims. Also there is a strong relationship between Saudi culture and Islam, so it is a bad habit in Saudi culture. Islam doesn't allow them to do anything risky that can lead to death or disease like smoking. It is very strange to see someone smoking in Saudi Arabia, because that is contrary of their religion. If someone from Saudi Arabia smoke that means s(he) is a bad Muslims (who doesn't follow Islamic instructions) and s(he) outcast person especially if he want to married.

In Gainesville some students from many countries are smokers. When I came in Gainesville I was surprised! There are many smokers from Saudi Arabia! So I agree with Ms. Victoria in a particular situation, most of the students I have seen in ELI are from Saudi Arabia and SOME of them are not serious about studying. They just want to travel and try new things even if they are risky. They chose Florida because it has many tourist cities. That means stereotype doesn't depend on a few Saudi people.

Everyone know that smoking is very dangerous, even the companies who make them. To make sure read what they write in cigarette boxes, they always write: (smoking seriously harms you and others around you). Last, international statistics confirm that more than a billion of the world's population is smokers. The number of deaths as a result of smoking was more than five million people last year.

There are hundreds of scientific studies which prove the risky of smoking. Professor Srikumar Chellappan and his team from the University of South Florida discovered the cause of lung cancer. The nicotinic receptors, nAChRs, are the key that make relationship between smoking and lung cancer. From University of Manchester Richard Edwards talked about the risky to eyes from smoking. He said smokers exposed to blindness more four times than others. There are a dangerous results from exist smoke in the surrounding environment of smokers, it called passive smoking and it causes a lot of diseases for people even if they aren't smokers.

Before finally, I would like to say for every smoker: PLEASE follow my advice,

-Don't smoke when you walk with someone.
Don't smoke in offices or elevators.-

-Don't smoke at the bus station or any place that has people.

-Don't smoke in front of the; elderly that is very rude.

-Don't bother pregnant and breastfeeding women with your smoking. It is risky for them and their children.-

-Don't smoke in front of children or teenagers; they will think you are very happy.

-The gist for all advice is: DON'T SMOKE, keep your life, and if you want to smoke think about other people.

Finally, smokers should read and follow the policy statement (smoking and tobacco use are prohibited all facilities and areas of the university of Florida campus with no exception) we need to penalize anyone who smokes because he is a nuisance. He doesn't bother just himself; he also bothers everyone around him.

Thanks a lot for Ms. Victoria. She is the reason that makes me write about smoking.

The TV's Influence

Rafael Rodriguez

R/W 49

Is it a good idea having TV's in our home? Most people spend a lot of money to have the newest TV at home. They also spend too much time watching it. But is that ok? Television is one electronic machine that has a lot of bad effects.

One of these reasons is TV can create psychological problems for people. Actually, there are a lot of TV shows that the people watch every day, but they don't know how these TV's show produce subliminal messages that are introduced in their brain. Consequently, the people alter their behavior as a result of TV's programs. Moreover, people can be depressed because they spend a lot of time watching dramatic programs like soup operas.

Another negative effect is how much the television could mold the children brain. Children spend too much time watching TV instead of playing outdoor games. At The same time children could be allowed to watch violent movies or adult program that can alter their brain even more. They could begin acting different such as being more aggressive.

One of the primary reasons that make it a bad idea to have TV at home is the time that the people spend sitting in front the TV. The addiction to watch television is increasing all the time. TV's companies every day are producing more programs to catch the attention of the people; consequently, the people are getting fat because they don't have to work out. Moreover, the people could stop to share moment with their friends and family because they only watch at the leisure time.

In conclusion, the people have been influenced in a bad way by the TV, and they don't note this because they are already obsessed by TV programs. The influenced by the TV is increasing every second. The people think it is a good idea having TV's at home you can relax and get entertainment. However, they don't know about the big damage that they are receiving because of that.

Abha and Gainesville

Amal Abdulrahman

R/W 31

I remember the first day when I came to Gainesville from Abha in a long trip. I was very sad because I left Abha, but after many days I like Gainesville. The beautiful thing is when I visited my family I was very happy but I also sad because I missed Gainesville. Both of them are small cities and have thousands of friendly people. The population in Abha is about 202,000 people whereas it is about 120,000 people in Gainesville. Abha and Gainesville are two of my favorite cities but there are many differences between them.

The geographical nature is the important differences between them. Abha is located in a high area in the south part of Saudi Arabia. On the other hand, Gainesville is located in Alachua County in central Florida on the sea level. Abha has mild and cold weather with constant winds and some snow in winter. In contrast, the weather in Gainesville it is hot and mild with a lot of humidity. The geographical nature also makes differences between the agriculture crops in Abha and Gainesville.

There are a lot of differences between the buildings in Abha and the buildings in Gainesville. The buildings in Abha are built with concrete because it always has strong winds and thunderbolts. A lot of buildings in Gainesville are built with wood and concrete because it doesn't always have strong winds. The buildings in Abha have a lot of colors, and many of them have more than three colors whereas the buildings in Gainesville have specific colors, like maroon and brown colors.

Food and coffee in Abha and Gainesville are very different. People in Abha like to eat the food that consists of wheat and margarine and honey. On the other hand, a lot of people in Gainesville are international students so they like to eat fast food. The most popular coffee in Abha is Arabic coffee

which has a light brown color, and they drink it without sugar. However the most popular coffee in Gainesville is American coffee which has a dark brown color, and they drink it with sugar. The most common fruit in Abaha is pomegranates. However, the most common fruit in Gainesville is orange.

There are different between Abha and Gainesville in many things, but both of them have a place in my heart because I get a lot of benefits especially in my education when I live in them.

Genghis Khan vs. Catherine the Great

Paola Magallanes

R/W 51

Life in the past was mostly about emperors, power, and conquerors. Two controversial leaders were Genghis Khan and Catherine the Great, who were not only powerful, but famous in different ways.

Genghis Khan was born in Mongolia, and received his power from his family; in other words, he was born to be a leader. He built his empire throughout Asia in the 1160's, continuing into the 1200's. Although he wanted to expand the Mongol Empire and make it stronger, which he did, but the methods that he used were not the best by today standards. He used the military to conquer other lands, and was violent and murderous. On the other hand, Catherine the Great was born in Prussia, which is today Poland, and gained power by marrying a Tsar (Peter the Great), which allowed her to become the empress of the Russian Empire. She started to have power after the death of her husband, who was murdered by her followers. Her Empire started to develop in the 1700's in Europe and Asia. She improved the Empire from the inside through social reform, and she only used the military once to end a rebellion, which made her sad because she did not like to use force.

Both Genghis Khan and Catherine the Great were great leaders and were looking to improve their homelands, make their Empires bigger, and help their people be happier and live better. Genghis Khan is considered a controversial figure because of the way he gained power by conquering other nations, which he did in a very violent manner. He made other people afraid of him. Also, Catherine the Great is considered a controversial figure, but for different reasons: people remember her more because of her love of life, and because she felt empty emotionally and tried to fill this emptiness with many lovers that she called her "favorites." Even though both of these figures had great power, their leadership styles were very different. Genghis Khan stole information from different parts of Asia, like China, to improve his Empire. He also destroyed almost everything in his path. Catherine the Great, however, improved her country by reforming it, building and creating new opportunities, and using their own knowledge.

Unlike Genghis Khan, Catherine the Great was seen as a "Little Mother" because she really cared about her people; however, her sentimental problems affected her behavior which suddenly changed from caring for the Empire to just caring for herself. In contrast, Genghis Khan did not have these kinds of problems, but rather the problems for his Empire came after his

death, when several of his sons came into power. One after another, they tried to behave or maintain the same leadership style as their father. Catherine had the bad luck to have a child who resembled her husband, who treated her with disrespect by insulting her and ignoring her. However, both Genghis Khan and Catherine the Great had loyal subjects who respected their leadership. Even at the present time, they are respected, not only because they were famous and powerful, but because of what they did during the times they ruled their Empires. Proof of this is if you ask a Russian when the best time to live in Russia was; they will refer to the time of Catherine the Great because of all the good things that she did that were essential in developing the nation, such as the educational programs that she created.

In the end, both of these historical figures showed that their ambitions were great enough to make their Empires grow like they did. Although both developed their powerful Empires, they each did so in different ways that maybe were more suitable for each situation and Empire in their respective times, in both situations, is easy to note the differences between their leadership styles and what they did to make their Empires so powerful in those days and maintain the respect they still receive today.

Poetry from R/W 49

Mohammed AlAhmadi

Summer moon
When I look towards it
I imagine your face on it

Sultan Alzahrani

Fighting and flying
Smoking and relaxation
eating and enjoying

Ghadah Alharbi

my parents are missing
my heart is bleeding
I need them

Bandar Alanazi

When I am hurt
I tell you my pain
When I am lost
You are there to show me the way

something precious
all of my life
family is my future

Menghan Lee (Mark)

Fly in the sky
Open your eyes
World in your mind

Work in class
Walk on road
Keep going

Thierry Kabore

Summer in Florida:
Shorts and beach time,
Crazy weather

Rafael R. Rodriguez

Beautiful sounds
Relax my soul
Increase my passion

A mesmerizing smile
Perfect eyes
Woman of my life

Delicious Smells
Continues Memories
I Miss My Home

Jassim Alnaama

playing bowling
never win
mean loser

playing with the horse
sometimes it is dangerous
but you still like it

Thanks from the Editor

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