My Father (1st Place)
Hee Jin Kang
R/W 20

All fathers have an affect on their children. My father is an important person to me. He doesn’t have a good social position or a stable job. He isn’t rich, however, I love him and respect his philosophy of education. His philosophy of education is to teach the child not by remarks but by actions and to also trust and respect the child. He has taught me not by his remarks but by his actions. He has never directly told me “you need to get up early in the morning” or “you need to study hard after school” or “you need to read many kinds of books”. Instead of scolding me, he would get up early and always read many books. Seeing my father I think I’d like to follow his behavior with all my heart. His examples have made me become a diligent person. He also has a strong trust in me. Whenever I met difficulties, he would advise me, encourage me, and show me a higher goal. If I failed the goal, he will still believe in me all the time. So I always have pride in myself. My father’s philosophy of education is not amazing but his action is. He has become my lighthouse and will be my guide for my all life. Although he is not special to all people, he is very important to me. If I should become a parent, I hope that I would become just like my father. He is my hero.

Philosophy in Korea (2nd Place)
ManIk Jeon
R/W 50

In Korea, studying philosophy is the best way to starve. Many people say philosophy is a basis of study, yet only a few students want to study it. There’s only one problem to become a philosopher. Philosophy has various fields, so people think that they can use their knowledge everywhere after their graduation. However, they can use it only when they are studying about it. After graduation, nobody wants to hire a philosopher. They can’t get a job, and they don’t have a bright future. An alumnus has two choices: become a professor or study another field. Neither of them is easy, so people don’t want to study philosophy. The lack of philosophy causes confusion in a human’s sense of values. All young people want to study what can make a lot of money. People think the most important thing is money. These days, there are a lot of serious crimes; old philosophers think that it is because people have no philosophy in their minds. Nevertheless, they can change nothing.

Crisis in the Venezuelan Institutions
Maria Eugenia Menendez
R/W 50

Venezuela is going through a problematical situation these days because its institutions are blindly in favor of the president. Some of the most important governmental organs that have been affected by this problem are Congress, the Electoral Council, and the Supreme Court of Justice.

The crisis in Congress refers to the fact that most of the congressmen are from the same political party as the president. This institution is supposed to make the laws that rule the country and also to work as a counterbalance to the Venezuelan President. Although it has these obligations, it does not accomplish its responsibilities because of its partiality to the president.

The problem with the Electoral Council is that only people that have a very close relationship to the president form its makeup. This is because its members were appointed by Congress. This institution is in charge of the elections in Venezuela. For this reason, whenever there have been local elections in Venezuela, its voters do not believe in the final results that the institution gives it. On those occasions, the representatives of the President in the election have always won most of the seats, and the opposition has not gotten what they deserved.

Another Venezuelan institution in trouble is the Supreme Court of Justice. This power must be an impartial and apolitical one because it is the institution delegated to apply the law. Nevertheless, this court today is also like a part of the executive branch because all of the judges are very close friends of the President. This is a huge problem for the justice in Venezuela since wherever a case refers to the executive branch, the executive always wins.

In summary, all this blind partiality that is present in some of the most important Venezuelan institutions is in part responsible for the crisis in this country. However, based on all of these aberrations, the Venezuelan situation has changed the Venezuelans’ minds about politics, so the upcoming election promises a recovery of those institutions.
A Place That Is Special to Me

Stefania Desideri (Stefy)

In Venezuela my parents have a catamaran. The catamaran’s name is Karacoli. Frequently my family, friends and I go to many islands, such as Las Aves, which is the most beautiful one for me.

At the time you arrive in Las Aves you can see a change in the color of the water sea. Las Aves Island is the name of an archipelago with five islands. The first island, which is the bigger one, is where the coastguard lives. The second island has two palms in the middle of it, and everybody remembers it because of these two palms. The third island is long and narrow. The next one is where you can find the lighthouse. On the last island you can usually see many turtles and their eggs. Also, around these islands you can observe a big reef barrier.

The one island that I like the most is where the lighthouse is. Here the sand is very white and looks like talc. In the middle of the island is where the big lighthouse is located. You can climb on it and enjoy the beautiful sight of this paradise. In this island big trees or palms are not allowed because it will be an impediment for all the boats to see the lighthouse. On the backside of the island little trees grow, and they have many nests and birds. It is easy to swim from this island to the other one where you can find turtles because they are very near each other. Lighthouse Island is special for me because it is quiet and relaxing.

In conclusion, Las Aves is a romantic place because it is like a desert in the middle of the sea. Wherever you are on these islands, I’m sure that you are able to see the most spectacular sunrise and sunshine you have ever seen.

Instructions for Going up a Ladder

Alejandra Dovat

You ask yourself: “How simple, and yet at the same time how complex can the action of going up a ladder be?” Generally, the first thing to have in mind at the time of use is the size and the height. These will be the two fundamental elements for a successful use of this tool. The instructions have to be executed in the proper order or you might run the risk of falling and failing at the exact instant when such an intricate Odyssey finally arrives at its culmination.

The ladder is a special device which reaches a desired possible altitude. Because of this, its size is extremely important. One might be reminded that all sorts of ladders exist in the market. You can find them made out of wood, aluminum, fiberglass, etc. They can be painted in every color, depending on one’s taste and use: classic (or usual one), simple and complex forms too. Stores also have them in small, medium or large sizes. Make sure that your selection is a good one. But don’t be fooled; their use is always the same: reaching a height that our normal anatomy will not allow us to achieve.

The upper end of the ladder rests on the wall, reaching a thirty-degree angle between the wall and the ladder. Some modern ladders have a base which enhances their stability. This base would then be parallel to the wall. Having finished this movement, one can continue to check its stability. Generally, people take it with both hands and give it a big shove against the wall. The individual’s position has to be in the following manner: standing in front of the ladder holding it with both hands of its sides, so one would hold the two parallel rods of the ladder perpendicularly. Then put your right foot on the first step, reaching a minimal height (this order may be altered for the user’s convenience). Now, take a deep breath; savor the moment. The Odyssey would now be a new way of spending time. After this, put the other foot, the left one, on the next step. This movement has to be alternated or the risk of tripping and falling down is present. Continue the movement until you reach the altitude that you want.

Give yourself some time to contemplate your surrounding, analyze what you have done and congratulate yourself from up top because you have learned how to climb a ladder. That’s what one calls accomplishment!

The Negative Influence on Modern Art

Oscar Mendoza

The intention of this paragraph is to get the new art through some of its distinctive strokes. It is not easy to exaggerate the influence that the past has on the art of the future. It always produces inside the artist a crash or reaction between his original sensibility and the art already made. The modern artist could feel he is bordering with the past and he could perceive himself like an heir to that past. Some people usually forget that they have always been without difficulty; in a work of one epoch the desire is to look more or less at the other previous epochs. On the other hand, the negative influence of the past is hard work for almost everybody, and they see that a new style is formed, many times, for the conscious negation of the tradition. But the trajectory of art hasn’t been from Romanticism until today; instead it isn’t borne in mind as a factor of the aesthetic pleasure that negative posture, that aggressiveness and gibe of the antique art. Baudelaire enjoyed his black Venus precisely because the classical Venus was white. It would be interesting to analyze the psychological mechanisms through which the art of yesterday negatively influences the art of tomorrow. That is, the fatigue, the repetition of one style, tires the sensibility. And, as would say Ortega y Gasset, Cicerón to talk in Latin says latine loqui, but in the fifth century Sidonio Apolinar had to say latialiter insusurrare. These were too many centuries to say the same thing in the same way. Therefore, that born of the modern art as an answer to all the conventions is not a simple style; instead, it is a social mirror that wants to repeat the past mistakes so as not to forget them.
Differences and Similarities Between Friends
Jacklym Barboza
R/W 50

In your life you do not have to wait to find your soul mate in order to make a real friend. In my case, I enjoyed sharing moments with a special friend. His name is Fabio. Although he has a different personality and culture from mine, I consider him one of my best friends.

At first glance, it seems that Fabio and I have a lot of things in common. First of all, Fabio and I love to go out. We like to go to clubs, parties, restaurants and friends’ houses. Moreover, I enjoy talking with people, and Fabio does, too. We are very friendly, so we can spend time talking with anyone, hours and hours. Just like in class Fabio is a very happy person, as I am. I always have a big smile in my face, so I show it to everybody, like he does. In addition, neither Fabio nor I are bad students. Both are hardworking people. We try to learn new things day by day. Most importantly, Fabio and I have excellent reputations among our friends.

One obvious difference between Fabio and me is our native language. He is from Brazil, and he speaks Portuguese; in contrast, Spanish is my native language. Accordingly, Fabio started to teach me Portuguese. At the beginning we looked like Scooby Doo and Shaggy. Nobody could understand us, but we were able to communicate our ideas. Now, I can read, write and speak some Portuguese. Although we are both from South America, Fabio has a different culture from mine. His favorite sport is soccer, whereas my favorite sport is tennis. So, I was able to watch the Soccer Cup with him. It was a wonderful experience. He impressed me because he enjoyed and felt a big passion to see all the soccer games. In addition, I am a graceful dancer. I can dance meringue, salsa, tango, ballet, flamenco, while Fabio does not know how to dance meringue. Although he stepped on me many times, I kept teaching him how to dance meringue and salsa.

In brief, I have a wonderful Brazilian friend. Fabio and I have several things in common that make us enjoy our time together. You do not have to find a person that has the same characteristics as you in order to be a big friend. Even though we lived with these differences, we work out to keep them unnoticed.

The "Parasite Single" in Japan and United States
Kaori Iwataki
R/W 50

The phrase "Parasite Single" was coined by Masahiro Yamada to describe a new social phenomenon not only in Japan but also in the United States. It means an unmarried adult who lives with his or her parents for basic support, such as food and other living expenses, although he or she can afford to live by him or herself. However, the number of parasite singles is smaller in the USA than in Japan. In 1995, parasite singles in Japan from age twenty to thirty-four were roughly ten million, and that number is still increasing every year. In the United States, where people are independent from the age of eighteen, now there are four million people from age twenty to thirty-four living with their parents.

In Japan, considering the depression of the Japanese economy, parasite singles choose to live with their parents to have a comfortable life. They live in their parents’ home so they don't need to pay for expensive rent, food and utilities; therefore, they are able to spend much of their income on themselves. In United States, employment conditions are harsh. If parasite singles want to have a job which pays well, they need the minimum requirements of the master’s degree. Furthermore, the real estate market rose suddenly, so they could not afford to buy houses in their twenties. These things delay them from becoming independent.

Parasite singles’ parents in Japan seem to be delighted to live with their children. They are glad to spend time with their children, pleased to communicate easily and happy to talk with them face to face everyday. They also wish to spend their last days with their children. Parents prefer being looked after by their children to going to an old people's home. On the other hand, in United States, most of the old people go to a home for the aged. Brown University sociology professor Frances Goldscheider has researched co-residence in American families and found that few parents want their adult children to stay at home. If children stay with their parents for a long time, parents' funds for the aged are going to children's funds. It means co-residence leads to poverty in the United States. In this way, parents in United States would rather their children live away from the house; on the contrary, in Japan they are willing to live with their children.

Parasite singles are a new social phenomenon in both United States and Japan. They are not able to be independent economically and they depend on their parents. I think parents behavior toward their children when the children were kids is very important. Parasite singles’ parents seemed to be a bit too protective toward their children. Parasite single’s parents are to blame for making them lack decisiveness, action and spirit of independence. Parents need to show the step for independence and make children think of the future. I think this issue of “Parasite Singles" will become much more serious in the days ahead. Parents need to speculate on the future before their children become parasite singles.

Honolulu
Ji-young Cho
R/W 40

Honolulu is the capital of Hawaii. Hawaii consists of several islands which are different sizes. Honolulu is located in one of them which is called O'ahu, and it is famous for its beautiful landscapes, nice weather, blissful beaches, a lot of fun places, volcanos, etc.

There are a lot of beautiful places like Waikiki beach, Hanauma bay, Kapiolani Park, and much more. One can see
beautiful sceneries which have natural resources. There are plenty of trees in the streets like palm tree, coconut tree. Therefore, one can feel like one is in nature.

The weather is great because it’s very warm and hot all the year round like Florida. As a result, it is called City of Heaven. In the summer, the weather is so hot but in the other seasons one can feel fresh and warm. That’s why people want to go there.

In addition, there are a lot of beaches which have clear water and soft sand. For example, Waikiki beach and Hanauma bay. As an important one, Waikiki beach is the most famous beach in Hawaii because the color of water is very beautiful. Hanauma bay is the place where one can snorkel and surf; the water is so clear that one can swim with lots of fish.

Moreover, there are numerous fun places in Honolulu. For instance, Sea Life Park, Dole pineapple plantation, Polynesian cultural center, and so on. Sea Life Park is like Sea World in Florida in which we can see many sea animals and water shows. Furthermore, one can taste many kinds of pineapple products in Dole pineapple plantation. Polynesian Cultural Center is a huge place which you can have a lot of fun. One can learn how to hula dance and how to make a crown with plants.

Hawaii is made of lava. As a result, there are a lot of volcanos like Diamond Head which is like a mountain which was made of lava. Though there is no tree, no plant, no water, one can feel the ground when one climbs to the top.

As a result, Honolulu is a great city to travel or to have a break. That is demonstrated as it has a lot of places. I like Honolulu in Hawaii, U.S. and I think you should visit it too!

My Great Sister
Gulbatu Akgun
R/W 40

My sister, Banu, was born in 1966 in Ankara, which is the capital of Turkey. She has studied in a university, been in numerous cities in Turkey and the world, went to England, Taiwan, Australia, and the U.S. etc. She also has a very social life. When she was three years old, she came to the U.S. with my family. After two years, the whole family including Banu went back to Turkey and moved to Van, which is located East of Turkey, when my mother was pregnant with me. There she studied in an elementary school in Van, Maras and Ankara.

Then my parents decided to move to Mersin when she was in sixth grade. There she started to middle school. She has always been the most intelligent person I know. I know she tried to get in to one of the most well known schools, but I don’t remember for some reason she did not go to it. Nevertheless, she has always been a good student. Whenever she came home from school she ate her lunch and would start to study until my mom called her for dinner. She is good at mathematics. After high school she kept going to study to school of business administration.

After her university degree, she started to work in a bank in Istanbul, Turkey. After 2 years she wanted to learn English and she went to London, England. Her opinion is: If you want to learn a second language you have to go to the origin. That means: Where they speak a language you want to learn. After two years she went back and got in a bank as a manager. She had worked there eight years until she resigned. Right know she is working at another bank.

My sister is the most social and outgoing person I have ever seen and heard. Some of the things are that she has learned scuba diving, hiking, and camping. Moreover, she’s a good photographer, and has two awards for this. Her dream is to take a trip around the world, but she has already stepped on almost all entire continents and consequently, a bunch of countries such as Taiwan, Thailand, England, the U.S., Peru, Australia, New Zealand, etc.

In addition, my sister is a great person who knows every thing, and helps me every time in my entire life. She is educated, social, and perfect friend for everyone. A good life she has lived, good friends she’s had, a perfect sister I have.

The Transition in Awaji-island
Yoshikazu Shimizu
R/W 40

Akashi-bridge brought good effect and bad effect to Awaji-island. Awaji-island is a small island that is located on the Osaka-bay in Japan. Akashi-bridge is a big bridge that was built in 1998, and connects Awaji-island and the mainland. This big bridge made this island dramatically convenient to everyone. On the other hand, this bridge caused traffic problems and terrible crimes.

Before this bridge was built, life in this island was not convenient. There was no 24 hours shopping mall. If people in Awaji-island wanted to get something special, they had to go to the mainland by the ferry. It took long time and it was sometimes prevented by bad weather. Although life was a lot different from life on the mainland, it was improved by Akashi-bridge very much. Transportation was reformed and many products were brought from the mainland. Therefore, many 24 hours stores were opened and now people can buy a lot of things at anytime.

Unfortunately, after the bridge was build, car accidents increased. Akashi-bridge made many people feel free to come to Awaji-island. Since this island has many leisure spots, there are a lot of tourists from the mainland. Also, most of them come to this island by car. That caused the traffic to be confusing and terrible car accidents occur.

Crimes also increased because of this bridge. Awaji-island was a peaceful place. People didn’t lock their door in their house. They believed that their neighbors would not steal anything. After Akashi-bridge was built, many kinds of people moved into this island. It caused some crimes such as robbery, deceit and murder. Now people lock their house everyday.

Life in Awaji-island was changed and people are going to adapt to new life. This life has become almost the same as the one on the mainland. This is a welcomed change for people in this island, but people keep worry about crimes. Indeed, before the bridge, Awaji-island was a real excellent island.
Is It a Good Idea to Have a Zoo?
Yi-Chun Lin (Deanna)
R/W 500

Visiting a zoo is a common experience for most people during their childhood. Parents and teachers view it as an important part for either education or family activity. Besides, people will have the chance to see the animals that we don’t usually have in our daily lives. But, is a zoo really a good idea for everyone?

The function of a zoo, first of course, is for education. There are so many kinds of animals existing in various environments; some are active in the daytime while others are nocturnal creatures; some can tolerate extreme cold weather while others are suitable to live in deserts. There are even differences in species from continent to continent, such as tigers and elephants. A zoo provides an excellent opportunity for people, including children and adults, to learn more about animals around the world. Without a zoo, the people in Asia would never have the chance to see a koala, which is found in Australia.

Another benefit a zoo can offer is for entertainment. It is a nice place where people can share their time together and have a sweet warm day. Not only do kids get excited when they see the animals, so will grown-ups, especially those unusual animals. Visiting a zoo can be a beautiful memory for a family, and also for friends and lovers. Spending one day there with people you care about, hanging around to see all sorts of animal, having lunch in front of monkeys will all make you relaxed and happy.

In addition, zoos take care of some endangered animals and people there do research for animals. Because of the changing of natural surroundings, some animals are unable to survive, which results in the decline of population. Zoos protect some of these species from extinction by providing a safe and optimal environment. The captive breeding program that many zoos run has been proved successful. According to National Geographic reports, 17 red wolves remained in North America bred so well in captivity that more than 60 have been returned to the wild. Through studying the behavior and characteristics of animals, researchers also get to know animals better. The more we are familiar with the animals, the more we can do for them.

But, there is something worth our serious consideration, which is about the animal rights. Once they are put in a zoo, they have lost their freedom. In the wild, a Siberian tiger needs 100 square miles (260 sq km) of forest but while in the zoo, the territory is no bigger than a house. You may think it comfortable to stay in a safe place without worrying about food and enemies; yet the only problem is nowhere to go. The point is, those animals don’t have choices. They don’t live the lifestyle voluntarily; it is all because we humans make it this way. Maybe they hate that but they can do nothing about it!

Besides, no matter how similar the artificial environment is to nature, it is not anyway. Animals are assigned to live there and show people everything they do everyday, including eating and sleeping. They are just something on display. How would you feel if you’re caught and locked in a house where you would be watched whatever you do?

To have a zoo is a good idea for human beings, whether from the point of view of education, leisure or protecting those facing extinction problems. On the other hand, a zoo may be a tragedy for those animals who unfortunately got stuck there.

Reasons for a Healthy Diet
Maria Virginia Vargas
R/W 40

For a long time, the people have worried about what is the best diet to follow. This is a problem for most people in the world because there are a lot of different diets. Depending on the diet, it can be good for some of the people but not for all. There are three main reasons why eating healthy can be good. First, it is good for keeping a good body, the second reason is for good health, and third is to obtain the necessary daily energy.

First of all, eating healthy helps to create and keep a good body. This means that eating healthy with a good and balanced diet helps to keep or reduce the weight. In addition, the people feel better when they have a body as they like. There are a lot of fitness diets such as point’s diet, p diet, carbohydrates, etc.

Second, eating healthy is good for health because if the people eat good nutrition food, the body can work better. As a consequence of eating a lot of fat, salt or sugar, the body cannot work appropriately. The health reasons for a diet depend on the people. For example diabetic people’s diet is different because they cannot eat carbohydrates and the people who have heart diseases cannot eat fat and salt.

Third, eating healthy helps to obtain the necessary daily energy. This is the most important reason because the body needs energy to work every day. As a result of eating healthy the body can work better; this means that the body can work without a lot of unnecessary fat, salt, or sugar.

In conclusion, eating healthy can be the best way to keep a good body. There are three main reasons why eating healthy helps the body. It helps the fitness, the body health, and the daily energy. For these reasons people in the word have for a long time worried about what will be the best diet to follow.

Hypoglycemia Effects
Maria Catherina Contreras
R/W 40

People talk about hypoglycemia when sugar in your blood is excessively low; this means fewer than 50 mg. The symptoms of this disease are: cold transpiration, shakiness in hands and body, hunger, especially for sugar, rapid palpitation, nausea, confusion and difficulty to concentrate, unclear vision, and lost of consciousness. People who present this kind of
air pollution. Because of the amount of cars driving. Cars contribute a lot to the world. Above all, air pollution becomes more serious houses.

First reason for air pollution is many vehicles all over the world. Above all, air pollution becomes more serious because of the amount of cars driving. Cars contribute a lot to air pollution.

As a result of factories, air becomes dirty not only around, but also in the whole world. After the Industrial Revolution, people’s life has become convenient, air has been polluted, and it doesn’t stop being polluted. Therefore, strong sanctions for factories are needed to keep our earth clean.

Fuel from our houses is an important reason for air pollution. In the winter, when we use much petroleum, air pollution increases. Therefore, all of us have to prevent our earth from pollution. We have to think about the effects every time we turn on our heaters.

On account of transportation, factories and fuel of houses, we need alternative energy. There are many reasons why earth becomes polluted. And there are many methods of how to keep our earth cleaner.

**Miami**

**Zuleyma El Charif**

**R/W 40**

Florida has important and exciting cities such as Tallahassee, Tampa, Jacksonville, Miami, etc; however, Miami is one of the most beautiful, famous and visited cities by tourists because there are many different places to visit and enjoy. If one has any plan to visit it, one must buy a map and enjoy the trip because it is a big city. Visiting Miami could be an unforgettable experience by following these simple ways.

First, visiting malls could be a tiring and an amazing experience. There are many big malls where one can find different kinds of stores. For example, big stores such as Burdines, Sears, Macy’s and small stores such as Express, Limited, Wet Seal, etc. There are many different things that you can do and buy such as shoes, clothes, etc. The most popular malls in Miami are Ventura, International Mall, the Fall, and Dadeland Mall.

Second, tasting delicious dishes in a variety of restaurants may be an nice experience such as Pelican where one can enjoy delicious fettuccini with shrimp cream or a marinated filet mignon, and at Niki Beach where one can eat diverse kinds of international dishes such as Cebiche, Lomo Saltado, etc.

Third, in addition to visiting malls and tasting delicious food, swimming in the beach and getting a tan is another thing that one can do in Miami. Miami has a beautiful beach on Ocean Drive where one can practice various water sports such as scuba diving, riding waves running, etc.

Finally, Dancing is one of the most exciting things that one can enjoy in Miami. The most essential characteristics of the city of Miami are its bars and clubs. They are nice and exotic discos where one can drink, dance and meet people. For example, Bongo, which is a big disco on Bayside, and is a nice Latin place where people enjoy the view and share having a good time with friends.

Indeed, Miami is a beautiful, exciting and interesting city where one can spend long time visiting malls, tasting great food, swimming in the beach and dancing in a pretty disco.
American Culture in Japan
Mayu Kagawa
R/W 40

It seems that Western culture, which is from Europe and America, influences lots of countries. Nowadays, it seems that the United States especially influences directly and indirectly other countries. Japan is also one of the countries which is influenced by the United States. Our life style in Japan is similar to that in the United States. That is to say, we imitate American culture in many aspects.

On one hand, our original culture is quite different from American Culture, and the way of thinking in Japan is opposite to that in the United States. For example, we think that it is polite not to insist strongly on one’s opinion. However, in the United States, it appears that it is okay to express one’s opinion.

On the other hand, recently, Japanese’s ways of living gradually have changed to that of the Americans. For example, a long time ago, when they sat down, people always folded their legs under themselves in Japan. However, now we usually use chairs and tables, eat bread and meat and listen to American music.

We think that American culture is nice and cool, though there are actually a few exceptions. We have taken over American culture for a long time, so both young generation and middle age generation are affected by American culture. Our original culture has reduced, and our culture is difficult to be distinguished from American culture.

In conclusion, nowadays, we can find many similarities between Japan and the United States. Not only life style but also the way of thinking has been changing in Japan because of influence of American culture. Another country, which has taken over American culture might have the same situation.

Agricultural Pollution in Japan
Shingo Yoshida
R/W 40

Agricultural pollution is a serious problem in Japan. Agricultural products are concentrated in production in order to increase the harvest per one square meter since this country doesn’t have large amount of land. Therefore, it exerts various harmful influences on the environment, such as agricultural chemicals pollution, livestock wastes pollution, and acid soil pollution.

The agricultural chemicals pollution is due to sprinkling surplus of agricultural chemicals. Air and rivers are contaminated, which is a bad influence on creatures. It is possible that the agricultural chemicals will remain on the surface of agricultural products.

The livestock wastes pollution is caused by much droppings and urine of livestock. Generally, the livestock wastes will be matured to make manure, and then they will be put on the field. However, the quantity of livestock waste has been too much to deal with as the number of livestock increases recently. They are heaped up on the ground, after that, they pollute the environment by soaking into the soil and running into rivers because of rain.

Soil acidifies because of excess fertilization. The fertilizer makes acid as a result of a chemical reaction on the field. It gets the soil barren and the harmful insects to increase. Therefore, the vicious circle that more fertilizer is needed may occur.

In conclusion, there is some grave agricultural pollution in Japan. It is necessary to change the present style of agriculture in order to solve these problems. Agriculture which has consideration for the environment by circulating resources will be asked for in the near future.

Effects of Air Pollution
Daisuke Takenouchi
R/W 40

The ecosystem is influenced by several human activities. Air pollution is one of the most important recent global problems. It has three effects which are global warming, acid rain, and ozone depletion.

First of all, air pollution is related to global warming. The surface of the earth temperature climbs every year because of increasing carbon dioxide. If an average of temperature differs just one degree, insect distribution and breeding are influenced by it.

Second, air pollution leads to acid rain. When fossil fuel is burned, sulfur oxide and nitrogen oxide are produced, and then they change to sulfate and nitric acid. As a result of acid rain, lakes and marshes are an acidity, fish become extinct, and forest affected by it.

Third, air pollution has to do with ozone depletion. The ozone layer is destroyed by particular kinds of fluorocarbon. Due to ozone depletion, much ultraviolet rays pour into the surface of the earth, and then a lot of people get skin cancer and cataract.

Finally, air pollution has several effects, such as global warming, acid rain, and ozone depletion. Each country has to be cooperative, and as soon as possible, so we can cope well with the problems. This way ecosystem keeps suitable for not only human but also animal and plant.

Pressures of Being a Student
Stefania Desideri (Stefy)
R/W 30

People in their lives have different kinds of pressures. It is believed that only old people can have them, but it is not true because these strains depend on the environment and not on the age. For example, younger people, especially the ones studying in a foreign country, are under pressure in their studies. Their stress can be caused by their parents, their future, and their English as a second language.
The first pressure and the most common one is caused by parents. They put their children under pressure because they are interested in their future, expecting a big effort and excellent grades from them. Also, they pay expensive private schools or private teachers looking for the best way to give a good education to their kids. In this way children feel the responsibility to study hard.

The second reason for a pressure is the future. Students can be stressed in two different moments in their life. First, from the moment that students get into a high school, they are pressured when they have to choose their major. Second, when they finally are university students, they are stressed about the competition in the real world. When students think about their life after school or university, they feel pressured.

The last cause of pressure is due to the requirement of learning English as a second language. Nowadays, to do business worldwide, it is necessary to communicate in a universal language which is English. Consequently, it can be stressful to think about learning another language in order to find a great job.

In conclusion, parents and English can be linked as ways to determine the future for an international student. Unfortunately, these ways create pressure on students’ life. Although imagining a world full of pressures can be insane, the real world demonstrates the opposite. Pressure is necessary to create the character of the person, so in the future she can live on their own and be independent.

A Place That Was Special to Me
Maria Alejandra Nunez
R/W 30

I lived in a very big house in Maracaibo two years ago. I liked that because the house had many rooms and places where I spent a lot of time. But I had a special room that was a studio. I spent a lot of time there. That room was very comfortable because it was radiant, brilliant, and very big. Therefore, I felt tranquility, calmness, and delight.

When I entered I could see many things. The things that I liked were my fish tanks. These tanks were to the right of the room. One of them had many small fish of different colors. The other fish tank was smaller but it had medium fish, which were feisty. The last fish tank had two red betas.

On other right side of the room I had a television, a VHS, and radio inside a bookcase. In the front of it I had a big sofa. I could spend the whole day on the sofa watching television. Furthermore, the bookcase was next to the desk. On the desk I had a computer, printer, and other things. Also I had there a lot of books. Although that room was sometime untidy and messy, I felt happy there.

Finally, the studio room was special to me because I had many things in that room. I felt very relaxed and comfortable when I stayed there, so I would like to have that room again some day.

A Place That is Special to Me
Janina Oliveros
R/W 30

My family has a farm near to Valencia; we go there every weekend. The farm is called La Lagunita. There are different kinds of animals, as for example: horses, cows, chicken, dogs, and ducks. It is a big, beautiful, relaxing, and quite place.

First, when you arrive in the farm, you can see a small house. As you enter, you will see the house is white. There are narrow paths and there are a lot of trees. Behind the path, there is a swimming pool. Next to the pool, there is a small lake where many ducks live. On the left of the house, there are horses, cows, and a little chicken house.

In the morning, you can hear different songs of the animals. For example, the cock always sings at 6 o’clock in the morning. When I wake up, my mother is cooking breakfast for us. Frequently she prepares eggs, bacon, toast, and orange juice. The food is very delicious. After that, I feed the animals and I often ride the horse with my father. We go for a ride around the farm. Then, we pick up some oranges, bananas, and lemons.

Finally, I enjoy this place with my family and friends because this place is very relaxing and quiet. For that reason, it is a place that is special to me.

Shrimp in an Earthenware Cooking Pot
Sheyda Taylanli
R/W 30

If you want to eat some delicious seafood, you will find below a recipe of shrimp that is cooked in earthenware cooking pot. Please remember, earthenware-cooking pot is very important detail. If you cook in another pot, you will not reach the same taste as in the other one.

First, when you arrive in the farm, you can see a small house. As you enter, you will see the house is white. There are narrow paths and there are a lot of trees. Behind the path, there is a swimming pool. Next to the pool, there is a small lake where many ducks live. On the left of the house, there are horses, cows, and a little chicken house.

In the morning, you can hear different songs of the animals. For example, the cock always sings at 6 o’clock in the morning. When I wake up, my mother is cooking breakfast for us. Frequently she prepares eggs, bacon, toast, and orange juice. The food is very delicious. After that, I feed the animals and I often ride the horse with my father. We go for a ride around the farm. Then, we pick up some oranges, bananas, and lemons.

Finally, I enjoy this place with my family and friends because this place is very relaxing and quiet. For that reason, it is a place that is special to me.
My Dear House
Sheyda Taylanli
R/W 30

When I was nine years old, I lived in an old wooden house that I loved very much. The front of the house used to face a wide road and there was a small garden with flowers and grapevine in the backside. The sea seemed from the backside. There were two floors that were used like two flats. There was a wide, high, and carved main door in the entrance in front of the house. The big iron doorknob was on the door. When we entered the main door, we saw a big hall. There was a main kitchen opposite of the main door. That kitchen was used like a pantry at the same time. There were two stairways on both sides of the entrance. The stairway that was on the left side was quite a bit lighter then the other one because there was a window that looked at the outside. The other stairway climbed up to the second floor so it was high and also illuminated with a little light two-wall lamp. One of the lamps was at the bottom; the other one was at the top. I always used to be afraid when I was in the middle of the stairway. We used to live on the second floor. There were a lot of curious marks on the wall of the rooms. Some people who lived there before us said that there was a treasure behind the marks. One day I carved one of them. There was a small tunnel that I could not see its end and nothing inside of it. Furthermore, my mom was angry with me that I carved it. Generally, I used to see a lot of ships when I looked at the sea and wanted to go on the long journeys with them. This house that I lived in my earliest age has bewitched me. I still see it in my dream.

I Love Nature
Yaser Al-Ajlani
R/W 30

Last month, I rented new apartment in NW Gainesville, Florida. It is a quiet and beautiful place. It is not only cheaper but also bigger than what I rented before. It has two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom, and a large living room. Inside the apartment, the walls are painted with two colors, yellow & orange, which gives me a nice feeling of warmth, happiness, and energy. The outside of the apartment is painted brown. I think the architect wanted to match the nature around with the house. Wherever I turn, I find an amazing view. I get a sense that I live inside a big park. I can smell a pure air because it is far from traffic. In the morning before the sun rises, I can hear the birds sing and see the father and mother of the little birds bringing the food for their children inside the nest. My apartment is wonderful and comfortable place to live in if you like nature.

Ginseng Chicken Soup
Poong Hee Kim
R/W 30

Ginseng chicken soups are Korean specialties for summer. According to the moon calendar, the summer is divided to three parts such as starting part, middle part, ending part. Most of Koreans eat the ginseng chicken soups in every part of summer.

The main ingredients are ginseng, chicken, jujube, garlic, chestnut, and rice. You have to prepare the whole chicken, but you can prepare the other ingredients as much as you want. First of all, you have to wash all of the ingredients, and empty the inside of the chicken, and put all of the ingredients in chicken, and close the chicken with stitches. Secondly, you have to put the chicken in a large pot, and pour the water. The amount of water is twice of the chicken’s height. Finally, you bring the water to boil and wait until the water reduces as low as the chicken’s height, and put the chicken in the bowl with the water. Now, you can eat it with salt.

The ginseng chicken soups are very good for your health. Koreans believe that this food can make people endure the hot weather during the summer season.

Triple Chocolate Fudge Brownies
Maria Alejandra Núñez
R/W 30

The world famous triple chocolate fudge brownies are now here in your kitchen. It is easy to make if you have the right material. First, in a bowl, over simmering water, melt 2 tbsp butter with 9oz bittersweet chocolate, and 1 oz unsweetened chocolate. Stir until smooth. While the chocolate is melting, grease bottom of a 9 in. by 13 Pyrex baking dish. Put wax paper on the dish. Grease the paper, and flour bottom and sides of dish with flour.

After that, pour melted chocolate into a large bowl. Add 2_ cups of the sugar, stir, and mix with a whisk. Add 6 eggs one by one while mixing it. Add 1 tbsp. vanilla and mix well. Next, sift 1_ cups of flour with 1_ tsp of salt and add to chocolate mixture. After, add 1_ cups of pecans. Meanwhile, pour into prepared baking dish and smooth top. Bake in a preheated 350 degree oven for 25 to 30 min., for a fudgier cake just bake for 25 min.

Finally, let cool for 30 min. or until cool down. Cut into inch by 2 inch portions with knife. After, serve it as desired. This brownie is very rich, so you will find these serving portions just right.

Enjoy!
Venezuelan Cachapas
Stefania Desideri
R/W 30

This recipe is specially written for all ladies who want to win a man. It is important to know that every man loves good food. For this reason, ladies need to cook delicious kinds of food. If you don’t have enough time to prepare complicated recipe, cachapas can be your solution. These delicious cachapas are one of the typical Venezuelan foods. Cachapas is easy to prepare, you just need some specific ingredients and follow these simple steps.

Cachapas is easy to prepare if you have the right ingredients. You just need to buy corn flour because I am sure that you have the rest of the ingredients at home. They are: eggs, milk, and oil or butter. The most difficult ingredient to find is the corn flour, but you can find it in Latin Market or in Publix. I recommend you to buy Del Grano Corn Flour because it is the best corn flour. All of the ingredients are inexpensive.

In order to prepare cachapas you have to follow these steps. First of all, pour 2 cups of milk, one spoonful of oil or butter, and one egg in a bowl. Then, stir all of these ingredients with wire whisk until a homogeneous mixture. Next, add 250 gr. of corn flour and stir again. After that, let stand 5 to 10 minutes to thicken. Subsequently, pour small quantity of this mixture into a frying pan. When the cachapa is brown on both sides, it is cooked enough. Finally, enjoy your cachapas with your special man.

Now you are ready to eat cachapas. I recommend serving it with white cheese. I’m sure that you can surprise that special person with these delicious cachapas. Remember, it is very easy to prepare this recipe and it does not require too much time.

Yesterday and Today in Weddings
Hyun-Jeong Jang Lee
R/W 50

“What’s up on wedding day? Did you reserve the wedding place? A bridegroom woke up late. A bride didn’t finish doing her hair. Both parents didn’t prepare a party, flowers, food, and invitation cards. What do you think from happening to them, who would be you? Do they have to cancel a significant event of their lives? Don’t worry. Be happy. Here are some solutions for these special events. Just call ‘Special Day’, if so, it is going to solve everything, even awaking a lazy bridegroom.” People can see an advertisement like above. Today's wedding styles have changed ever since people developed lots of businesses, even for the weddings.

A long time ago, wedding preparation was a big job for parents or a host, either in the Orient or the West. They chose the families for the marriage, not the spouse. They sent a matchmaker, who was usually a woman, to those who would be their child’s family-in-law and not only asked their opinions about which they had concerns and interest, but also gathered information about their clans, who they were interested in. After that, they chose the one clan who had the best relatives for marriage. If both parents of a couple agreed with each other, they held a party to introduce their child. Especially in Korea, they determined a wedding date, not just any day, but only one auspicious date that had a lot of good luck. Also, they arranged gardens, halls, tables and a palanquin for the bride and horses for the bridegroom, with guides, and they prepared food, drinks, gifts for relatives, a band for the wedding ceremony and even a room that the newlyweds would stay in. In this age, bridegrooms and brides didn't have the privilege to choose anything about their weddings or even their spouses to love, even if those were their marriages. They had an obligation to obey their parents and follow their decisions. Therefore, unattainable love stories were created such as "Romeo and Juliet" and "Gahbdori and Gahbsuni," similar between the West and the East.

Now many wedding styles are changing within the new age, new types of business, and wedding fashions. The wedding is not a parents' big job anymore.

First, the young new age has a new idea about the wedding. They have many choices for their marriage and do choose their own way of life. Even though their parents don't agree with them, they go their own way. They are independent. They have freedom. Furthermore, they have privilege in their families. They are not affiliates anymore. That’s different from old weddings.

Second, today, new types of businesses and many fashions in wedding are generated because of computer development, cultural development, and economic development. Therefore, there are many different couples in outlooks on marriage: cyberpunk couples, independent couples, weekend couples, and enjoy-life-without-kids couples. And in the diversity of wedding styles, there are many different fashions: sky weddings, marine weddings, hiking weddings, combination weddings, garden weddings, shipping weddings, and climbing weddings. According to economic development, people gradually want to solve everything with money. That encourages commercial spirit and produces new types of businesses. These new types of businesses make wedding ceremonies easy to hold. Also, due to cultural development, they give many options to brides and bridegrooms as their hobbies. Moreover, people can get wedding information and reservations from the Internet because of computer development.

Indeed, true to the generation, people’s weddings have been changed. That will change continuously in the future. The commercial spirits sometimes attract people and steal their minds and time for their business likewise deceiving people. However, people often can’t evade their temptations with their smiles. In spite of change of the wedding keeping pace with the time, the memories of the beautiful wedding day will last forever inside the brides’ and the bridegrooms’ hearts.
Two Magic Syrian Foods
Yaser Al-Ajlani
R/W 30

If you like to eat delicious and magic meals, you will love this recipe. The two kinds of food are hummus (chickpea mixed) and black beans with yogurt. You can eat both of them any time of the day. But traditionally, Syrian people eat it on the weekend. Making a delicious black beans and hummus is not difficult when you follow these steps.

The black bean with yogurt consists of three basic ingredients: beans, pieces of tomatoes, and sauce. First of all, put the beans in the pot and boil them. Then cut the tomatoes into small pieces and add them to the pot. After that, you need to make the sauce. Mix the yogurt with flour, tahini in Arabic, and some garlic, salt, olive oil, and lemon. Finally, you mix all these things together and add some chopped coriander, and again olive oil. Additionally, you can mix some chickpea in the mixture.

Secondly, hummus consists of chickpea mixed with a little garlic, flour, and lemon. You can add some spices like (pepper, salt, etc.) and also a bit of olive oil.

As you can see, it is easy to prepare these delicious meals if you have the right recipe. They are old and famous foods in Syria. When you eat them, their taste takes your mind away. Syrian people use these meals in a saying. If you do something wrong throughout a day, people will ask you, “Did you eat beans for breakfast?”

Thanks from the Editor
Thank you students for allowing us to share your writing. I hope you enjoy reading your fellow students’ essays, paragraphs and recipes. Also thanks to Noreen Baker and the HUB for arranging the gift certificates, to Todd Allen for publicizing this issue of Student Voices, to the Reading/Writing instructors for supporting their students in their writing, and to Karen Eberly and Darion Hutchinson for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone!

Steve Flocks