The ESOL Ambassador

The ESOL Ambassador is a quarterly publication of the Sylvania ESOL Department. Essays are written by students at all levels of the program and submitted for publication by ESOL instructors.

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Editor: Sarah Bailie

Editorial Board: Kate Carney

Graphic Design: Ahmed Ali

Assistant Editor: Neda Ahmadzai

Featured Cover Artist: Masheed Erfanfard

Special thanks to all teachers who contributed student work.
ESOL Level 1 Students Describe Special Things

My Place Favorite

It’s a very quiet place. In this place you can dive. It’s a beautiful place. The cenotes are in the state of Yucatan Mexico. This is a very special place.

Written by: Orlando Arroniz

This is a car. It is red. It is beautiful. It is big. This is a Toyota. I like car. It is a new car. She is from Japan.

Written by: Olesia Stavnichyk.

This is a rose. It is red. It is beautiful. It is small.

Written by: Candelaria Manuel
ESOL Level 2 Students Write about the Food They Enjoy

I am from China, but I am studying English in Portland right now. I don’t like American food because I am afraid of getting fat. I really like Chinese food and Japanese food. I usually make breakfast and dinner at home. I like to make Chinese food. There are many kinds of food in China. Some examples of Chinese food are Sichuan, Cantonese, Hunan, Northeast, touhou and many more.

Written by: Grace Liu

I am from the Ukraine. I like a lot of kinds of Ukrainian food. Ukrainians often cook at home because restaurants are expensive and dishes are small and aren’t as tasty as homemade. The most common food is borsch which is a kind of soup with meat beets, cabbage, tomatoes and sour cream. There is some usual dough food called vareniky which means dumpling. Ukrainians like salo which looks like bacon. Sometimes I cook this meal. I like it, but I have eaten it for all my life, so I prefer American food. It’s more interesting and more tasty for me.

Written by: Slava Medvedska

I am from Rwanda, but I am studying English in Portland Community College (PCC). I really like breakfast in the United States, but my favorite food is Rwandan food. I have many favorites, and five of my favorites are bananas, sweet potatoes, beans, rice and cassava. I sometimes eat rice and beans. Rice is very popular in Rwanda. I usually cook at home. I sometimes cook soup. Beans and green spinach are very important in Rwanda. After dinner I drink green tea, milk and juice. It is good for me. Green tea is good for your health, so it is very popular in the United States.

Written by: Clementine Butera

In China there is a lot of delicious food. My favorite food is dumplings. We make dumplings every weekend. My family eats dumplings together. At that time, our family is very happy. Now we live in America, and we talk to our families on the phone.

Written by: Shawn Tang
The most famous food in my country is Ghormeh Sabze. This is very delicious. When I cook this for dinner most people love it even if they are not Iranian. This food contains beef and beans with vegetables and a lot of spices.

Written by: Akhtar Taghizadeh

**ESOL Level 2 Students Write about Their Future Plans**

In March, I am going to have a vacation. I would like to go travel to Japan, but first I need to talk to my manager to ask if I can take one week off. Next, I’m going to buy tickets because at this time it is cheap. Then I will prepare my suitcase and buy new shoes because I will walk in many places. I will have fun and see a different culture. Finally, I will bring a lot of pictures and presents home.

Written by: Carolina Felipa Garcia

This year I want to learn to speak English well, so I will study more hours a day and practice with my friends who speak English. Next, I want to improve my business this year. My sister and I have already started a cleaning company. Then, I want to visit some cities that I still do not know, like Los Angeles, Las Vegas and Miami. Finally, I will travel to my country to visit my family and friends.

Written by: Mariane Castro
ESOL Level 2 Students Write About Their Daily Schedules

I am a busser at a Mexican restaurant. I have been working there for three months. I work on workdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. On workdays, I get up at 7 am. I dress up in exercise clothes and I go to the gym. At 8 am I take a shower and dress up for work. Before I go to work, I walk with my pets, Frida and Bodoque. After that, I give them their food. At 9:45 I go to work. After my job, I come back to my home and eat dinner with my mom and my little sister. When we finish, we clean the kitchen and wash the dishes. Then I go for a walk again with my dogs. On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, I get ready to go to class at PCC at 6 o’clock. We have class from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. On weekends, I wake up late. I wash my clothes and I wash my dogs. Sometimes I meet with my family and we eat breakfast together. Also on Sunday, we go to buy groceries for the week. On workdays I go to bed at 11:00 pm, and on weekends I go to bed at 12:00 am.

Written by: Stacy Godinez

I have a busy schedule. I am an AuPair. I always get up at 6:00 am on workdays. I don’t work on the weekends. I have breakfast at 6:30 and I get the baby. First, I diaper change and get him milk. I always take notes of my work for my host mom. I give puree when the baby is hungry. We always play something. He usually walks and her wonders about everything. I always help him learn. While he sleeps, I wash his bottles, the dishes and laundry. I collect their toys. I sometimes cook. After that, I usually make a Turkish coffee. Then he starts crying and I do the same things again. My host mom usually comes home at 6 p.m. I give the baby to his mother at 6:30 pm. She comes at 5:30 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday for my English course. I usually take a shower after my work, if I am not tired. Finally, I sometimes sleep at 10 pm, sometimes at midnight.

Written by: Gozde Sivka
I start my Saturday. I wake up at 6:20. When I’m in my bed, I think a little about my day and if it would be good to get up or not. Well, the next thing I do after I get up, is to prepare to go out and go to my work. Then at my lunch time, I talk with my friends and find a good place to go for lunch. Once we finish lunch, we go back to work and continue. Finally, I leave my job at 3:00 pm and it’s time to go home and wait for the night. I go out with friends to a fun time in a nightclub. Once it’s 2 in the morning, it’s time to go home, and it’s that moment when my Saturday schedule is over.

Written by: Walter Hernandez

ESOL Level 3 Students Write About Last Weekend

On Friday last weekend, I went to shop for some groceries at store after class. In the entrance of the store I couldn’t find a basket for carrying my groceries. The WinCo grocery store was very busy that day. Many people in the store were buying things. The weather was more freezing than other days. On Saturday, my family and I stayed home. We had breakfast together and watched TV news about weather. Later, my daughter Vicky and I stayed home to watch movies and prepared to cook for dinner. Finally, on Sunday my family and I were shopping for some groceries and beverages. These days were important for families. Most families enjoyed most of the time together, watched TV, and in some places enjoyed the snow. In Beaverton this year, we didn't see a lot of snow.

Written by: Josefina Yoves

Last Sunday was a happy day in my life. I got up at 9:00 am. I brushed my teeth and took a shower. After that, I picked up my parents to go to the supermarket. The supermarket was Hong Phat, which is on SE 82nd Avenue in Portland. We bought many things for a party. My aunt's birthday was on February 10th. I felt very happy this day. We finished shopping at about noon. And then we came back my aunt's house to prepare the party. We had a small party. Everybody in my family was talkative and fun, and we ate together. When the party finished, we had a trip to go to Vancouver. We took 45 minutes to come there. I had a music party there. We came and we enjoyed it. It was a perfect day.

Written by: Tuan Quan
ESOL Level 3 Students Write About Their Favorite Rooms

My favorite room in my house is the living room. There is a TV in the living room and I watch my favorite sports shows there. I like it because there are a lot of windows and a lot of space. In my living room there are couches to relax on. There is a fireplace that keeps me warm.

Written by: Inocentes Matus Santos

My favorite room in my house is the living room. There is one TV on the TV console. I watch my favorite movies and news with my family there. There is one sofa and one loveseat and one armchair in our living room. When I watch TV I lie on the sofa. There is one coffee table between the sofa and loveseat. There is a big plant and an end table. I often do my homework on the kitchen counter because the kitchen is next to the living room. I can look out at the park from my window. There are many tall green trees and bushes and flowers and two benches in the park. There is a balcony in front of the living room. There is a table and chair on the balcony. I sit there and drink tea and eat cake. I look at the park and I feel relaxed.

Written by: Peimaneh Fatehnajed

ESOL Level 4 Students Write About A Place They Would Like to Visit

France is My Favorite Place

I would like to go to France one day, because it is my favorite place. Paris is the capital of France and Paris is also my favorite city in France. It is the most popular city in the world. It has bustling streets because people are always out walking. Also, they have an amazing language. The French language is the second most popular in the world. The Eiffel Tower is in Paris. It is a huge metal tower. I like the interesting shape of the tower. I hope I have a chance to go to France to visit Paris and the famous Eiffel Tower.

Written by: Nadia Mahnegar
A Place I Would Like to Visit

I would like to visit Hangzhou. Hangzhou is in the Zhejiang province of China. It’s a very beautiful place. It’s most famous area is West Lake. Everyone is amazed by its beauty. West Lake changes and has different scenery in each season of the year. It attracts a lot of tourists. I go there three times every year. I drive two hours to Hangzhou. It’s very convenient for me. Hangzhou also has many legends. Its most famous legend is The White Snake. This story was made into a film. It’s a bit of a sentimental love story. Hangzhou also has many delicious foods. West Lake fish in vinegar and West Lake lotus root starch are its most famous snacks. Hangzhou is also very famous for its silk. They have beautiful silk scarves and skirts. They are very colorful. They are so beautiful. If I go to Hangzhou, I will buy many scarves and skirts. I think you would like it. These are some of the many reasons I would like to visit Hangzhou.

Written by: Wei Sun

ESOL Level 4 Students Write about Important Places on Campus

PCC Sylvania Library

The PCC Sylvania library is an academic space, designed to offer spaces and information resources which inspire, encourage, strengthen, and increase the knowledge of ESOL students interested in improving their English skills. To achieve this mission, the library provides services in many ways every day of the week. First of all, the library lends materials in different mediums, such as books, music, CD’s, DVD’s, and videos. If ESOL students need a specialized bibliography, they can contact faculty librarian Chau Hoang-Fossen at email choang@pcc.edu. Also, it is possible to borrow resources, such as computers, calculators, cameras, and voice recorders. Second, ESOL students have access to 126 academic databases to look for information in all areas of knowledge. Within these, there are resources focused on streaming videos to practice listening skills such as Films on Demand, Kanopy, and seven
E-book collections to choose from. Finally, the library has different environments for studying according to the personality of the students (silent, whisper, hum, and collaborative zones). Those services can be complemented with printing, scanning, and wifi access facilities; most importantly, they are free. The students only need to present their ID card, which proves they are enrolled in the college. In other words, the PCC Sylvania library is an option to help ESOL students with their homework and personal goals in English. An opportunity for all to take advantage of.

Written by: Alexander Vargas

Career Exploration Center

The Career Exploration Center is the best center in PCC which can help students to make a decision if they don’t know what kind of job or occupation interests them or fits them in the future. As an ESOL student, if you want to go to college or find a job after you finish ESOL classes, the Career Exploration Center is a good place for you because it can help you save money and save time. Why do I say this? Some students don’t know that making a decision is so important before they choose a major, so they always change majors to explore things they are interested in in college, or after they finish their education they realize the major which they studied is difficult to find a job in. So, how does the Career Exploration Center service students? First, students can make an appointment to meet a career counselor who can help them use the career assessment tools such as Oregon CIS (Oregon Career Information System) and FOCUS to identify possible majors or career directions which fit them. The career assessments are free. Next there are classes you can choose to learn how to research career information, how to make a decision for a field or program to study, and how to research the salary, job outlook, work tasks, and required education about the occupations. Finally, there are guidebooks in the library of the Center you can read or check out for seven days. This is also free. In conclusion, the goal of the Career Exploration Center is to find occupations that match the strengths and positions for the PCC students and provide them with a living wage that can help them get a bright future and achieve their goals easier.

Written by: Xihua (Hannah) Qian
Multicultural Center

The PCC Multicultural Center is a good place where students can help each other. The Center is in the CC Building, Room 231. The Center opens Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. First, the Multicultural Center serves as a welcome place where all students of color can gather together. The Center creates a space to connect students to one another. Students from different countries have opportunities to interact and speak open-mindedly about what they believe, what they want to change, and what they want to share with each other. Students don’t discriminate, and they help each other. For example, they share about cultures, holidays, and experiences. Second, the Center also supports the academic needs of students with services such as tutoring math, biology, physics, etc. In addition the Center is always available to help students with homework and English. ESOL students can develop their language there. Third, they can play games, read the news, or listen to music on the computer. There is tea and coffee all for free, and there is a small library so students can read many books there. The Multicultural Center creates many opportunities for all students who want to make new friends. The Center is a resource that helps ESOL students improve their English.

Written by: Mai Vo

Child Development Center

The Child Development Center is a great place to serve children for all PCC students and staff. The purpose of the Child Development Center is education of culture, language, and communication for children 3 months old to 5.5 years old. The Child Development Center is located in the HT Building on the Sylvania Campus. In 2018-2019, you can use the program from Monday to Friday. The days and the time depend on your children’s age. If you want to study at PCC and you have children, you should use this center. There are several reasons. First, you can focus on your study while you are servicing your children because the Child Development Center is designed to meet high standards of best practice, and it has the highest standards of quality child care. Finally, it is cheaper than other child care centers, so you can save money. If you want to use the service and have questions, you can contact the Child Development Center office at 971-977-4424 or stop by HT 220. The Child Development Center supports you and your children in PCC life.

Written by: Mariko Tomita
A Good Place for ESOL Students

The Sylvania Student Learning Center is a good place to help ESOL students to practice their English. It is in the library, Room 144. It provides a lot of services for all PCC students, for example, tutoring in math, English statistics, accounting, business, and more. However, for ESOL students, it organizes some English conversation groups and helps students find a conversation partner one-on-one. Most importantly, there are many volunteer tutors who are native speakers. They are very friendly and can help students to practice their English communication for free. The conversation groups are suitable for ESOL students Level 4 or higher. They are usually on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons. For another thing, the better way to improve English skills is having a one-on-one conversation with a volunteer partner. Students don’t need a reservation because the conversation partner is first-come, first-served. Therefore, there is more chance to speak more English and learn American culture. The Sylvania Student Learning Center is a good resource that all ESOL students should use.

Written by: Wei Chen

International Students Office

If you are an international student, you have to know the International Students Office at PCC. First, what is this service? The International Students Office is especially set up for international students, but not limited to just international students. If people have some questions about international students, this service can also help them to answer them. What are some services they offer? First, if students need to register for classes, and they don’t know how to do that, an advisor will them, step by step, and in a very patient manner. Second, if students want to transfer to another university, they can help you to plan, and students can take from one term to two years at PCC then transfer to a U.S. four-year university. Finally, although this is an office, students can also make friends there. There are many events to join. For example, they have “coffee talk” for students to drink some coffee and talk to each other once a week. It’s really helpful for international students because most of them came to the U.S. alone, and they may need friends to help each other. So these are three reasons why international students should know this campus service at PCC.

Written by: Jasper Teng
An ESOL Level 5 Student Writes About his Wife

My Wife

I have a wife who always supports me. I got married 5 years ago, but we didn’t live together in Korea. My job was a safety engineer at construction sites, so I had to move other cities for a long time. My wife is in charge of a marketing manager at international company, and she wanted to get a chance for our family to live together. This is why our family came to America 2 months ago.

My wife is Korean, too. She has black hair and eyes. I think that, her short cut hair style is flattering to her. Her hobbies are reading books and going out with her friends. Her favorite foods are traditional Western foods such as cake and salad. Also, she likes listening to music and dancing. Therefore, she goes to a gym 2-3 times a week and she takes a Zumba class. Her English skill is very good, and sometimes she teaches me English.

We love each other a lot. As a result, we had a baby. Our daughter is 20 months old now, and we give her a lot of love. So, wife and I don’t have enough time for ourselves. My wife loves traveling overseas, but after we had our baby, we couldn’t even dream of a plan. As our baby grows up, we set a plan to travel. Our first trip will be going to Arizona in April. Of course, we will go with our baby.

Written by Jeonghoon “Jay” Lee

ESOL Level 6

Charming Old Havana

Most of people know that Cuba is one of the most impoverished countries in the world. However, when they visit Cuba, they are totally surprised and want to go back again. Why do people want to visit Cuba more than once? It is 10:00 AM in Old Havana, the place where I was born. This small place on the Cuba map is a living example of Cuban culture that people always enjoy.

In the right of this picture, there is Floridita, which is one of the most famous old bar-restaurants of Cuba. Although it was inaugurated in 1817, it is a well-maintained building. It is painted in bright pink, making it more attractive to the eyes. Furthermore, if you want to taste the emblematic traditional Cuban cuisine, Floridita will be the best place to eat. The excellent service of the restaurant offers typical Cuban dishes, such as the Havanera mince beef and roast pork with Mojo Criollo.
Furthermore, the exquisite Daiquiri cocktail is special of this restaurant. It is a historic symbol because Cuban combatants used it as a cure for the injured while they were fighting for Cuba's independence. Indeed, this restaurant is a fascinating Cuban restaurant because it involves the mix of Cuban tradition.

In front of the Floridita restaurant is crowded with people. One elderly man who is wearing black shorts and a white pullover is coming out of the restaurant. His clothes represent clearly the suffocating hot tropical weather in Cuba, but he looks very happy despite the weather. Behind this old man, there are two men talking and smiling to each other. Both are of a different race, and it reflect the mixed races of Cuba, African and Spanish culture. The left of these two men, there is a group of three people looking around and sharing their activities or experiences. They are proud to be there. In brief, the sense of community of Cuban people is evident.

The center of this part of old Havana clearly illustrates the ancient form of transportation of Cuban people. A thin young man is riding a bici-taxi, and he is looking around for clients. The bici-taxi is the cheapest transportation method that Cuban people use. However, they really like it because at the same time they are moving, they can enjoy the sights of typical daily Cuban activities. Behind this sporty dressed young man, there are colorful vintage American cars waiting for clients too. These age-worn cars are so uncomfortable, but the people like because Cuba is the only country of the world where these cars are circulating. In brief, transportation in Cuba is antique and uncomfortable, but people love these rustic means of transport.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that Cuba is going through an extremely difficult economic situation. However, it has many charming qualities that people over the world love more and more. The delicious Cuban food, the peculiar old buildings, the sense of community, and the rustic transportation are some characteristics that make Cuba unique. Clearly, Old Havana, the place where I was born, it is a living example of these aspects. I feel very proud to have been born there.

Written by: Elena Ricardo
How to Be a Successful Student

There are several ways to become a successful student. Even if everybody is different, a successful student should inevitably have three fundamental qualities. These required qualities can be separate in three different points. The first main point to be a good student is to have a correct attitude. The second point is to be diligent in your studies, and the last one is to have a goal. With these three important qualities you can be sure that you will become a great student. In this way I’m going to explain you how these three points will help you to be a better student.

First of all, the successful student should have a serious and respectful attitude. Teachers are the people in charge of giving you an education, so to perfectly get this education from them, the successful student must show respect to his teachers. On the contrary, if a student is disrespectful towards his teachers, he will waste his time, the time of the teachers and the one of his classmates, and he will never correctly get an education. The relationship between the teacher and the student is very important, but the relationship between students is important too. And the successful student knows it. Maintaining a good atmosphere in the class can help you to progress by working together. Otherwise, having a good attitude in class is not only to being respectful, a good attitude is also to concentrating on your work when you are in the class, and to show interest by asking some questions when you want more explanation about something. Therefore, in following these pieces of advice, you will be able to have the perfect attitude of a successful student.

Secondly, the most important point to success in your studies is obviously to be diligent. As a student, you will have some obligations, and one of them is to do your homework. Homework is often overwhelming and even sometimes really hard. But even if it looks hard and numerous, homework must be done. Because by practicing with exercises, you will learn most effectively. Moreover, with homework, you will have lessons to learn. Lessons give you specific details about the subject that you are studying, and it is by learning and understanding these lessons that you will acquire more knowledge to succeed in your studies. Furthermore, the successful student can also work by himself or do some research to find out more exercise to practice his lessons. He can also get some more information about his subject of study by using books or the internet. Thus, it is strong diligence which can allow you to be a successful student.

Third of all, to have a goal is an essential quality to be a good student. For example, sometimes, some people who have a high level of studies do not succeed in finding a job. I think I know why.
These people probably did not have a goal during their study. If they had had a goal, they would have never had difficulties in getting a job, because these people would have already known where they would have liked to apply. To have a goal allows you to be more persistent and helps you to not give up on your studies. With a goal, you will be more motivated to face the obstacles of your life as a student, and in this way you will work better and harder to reach your goal, and be a great student!

In conclusion, to be a successful student is not something that you are, it is something that you have to become. And by understanding these three important pieces of advice, you can be sure that you will succeed in your studies because these three advices are the most required qualities to be a successful student.

Written by: Mathias Hamman

**Interview With Featured Artist Masheed Erfanfard**

**“Who would think that painting could save your life in a refugee camp?”**

Where are you from?

I’m Persian and from Iran.

Why did you start to study English at PCC?

In my view, English language is a main key in my life in USA. It’s necessary for communication, finding a job, for finding friends, and I can say it need for everything. Learning English language is the first important step which immigrants need to do.

Can you explain to our readers how you learned to paint?

I started painting about 4 years ago. Actually, I learned it by myself and on the internet. When I started painting I was in a hard and difficult condition. In fact, I was in refugee camp for more than 4 years. I have 2 kids in my country. I spent hard years without my children there and it was a way that I found to survive.
What does painting mean to you?

Who would think that painting could save your life in a refugee camp? Surviving four years on Nauru was accomplished through painting. I express my imagination and feeling by painting, and it was a way to tolerate difficult conditions in camp.

What would you like to do in future?

Painting is my passion. It’s my dream job. I would like I will have my own gallery or even a coffee shop for showing my art work.
In the Winter Term of 2019, ESOL Level 6 Reading Students Participated in the Illumination Project. Below are the student’s responses to this experience.

The Illumination Project reminds of a time when I worked in a company in the US. Sometimes some people pretend to respect different nationalities or races, but it is not real. I have this experience from my previous job. My boss was Iranian (like me), and I felt like she respected white people more and paid them more than others. It was clear that she preferred to hire Americans for different positions. She hired Mexicans with 10 years of experience at only minimum wage. In my view, racism is not always obvious. Sometimes we can see just the result of their decision.

Written by: Maha Sheer Erfanfard

In the Illumination Project, I learned that people can stop many racist behaviors by asking questions and having confidence. I think everybody should value humanity because we are all human beings. Saadi is one of the most famous Persian poets in the world, and he said: “Humans are members of each other, which is a gem in the creation.” So, it doesn’t matter what color our skin is, or our language, culture or religion. The only thing that matters is humanity, and it’s very beautiful that we are all the same even with different appearances. In conclusion, I hope everybody respects each other regardless of race one day!

Written by: Saeid Ansari

This was my first time in this kind of play. It was interesting and gripping. I learned how to defuse a situation of conflict. For me, the highlight was the job interview. I was shocked by the questions of the president. I wanted to say to him, “How dare you ask this kind of questions?” She is American no matter what her skin color is. I hope that I can interfere if I see this in my job one day. I was too shy to react and act in front of everyone, but I admired those who intervened. We should never let an unpleasant situation exist. We have a voice and we should speak especially when it comes to inequalities or racism.

Written by: Nadia Naitijja
Although the world had fought discrimination, it still exists in many countries in different ways. The Illumination Project program we saw last Thursday talked about something that is very important to many people. I was especially interested in the job interview part because many people who apply for jobs face discrimination based on the color of their skin, religion or race. I have experienced this kind of discrimination many times.

Written by: Mohamed Nalaye
Reasons Why Volunteering is Important

Many people think that volunteering is the kind of work that does not offer money. However, the fact is volunteering offers much more than money. The ones who dedicate their time to this activity can realize how important it is to be a volunteer, and they are aware that money sometimes is not really necessary in work life. There are several reasons why people want to be volunteers, including getting experience, benefiting the community, and adding to their social lives.

The first reason is getting experience. There are many ways to gain new experiences, but one of the most important is volunteering. Volunteering will help individuals gain more experience and perform all the required tasks successfully. These experiences are interesting because they are theoretical training or skills acquired not only through books and lectures, but also through work. Also, it can help volunteers to acquire new skills for the future, which is helpful for them. For example, volunteering is an opportunity to learn time management, good planning, budgeting, setting goals, and supervising and training other volunteers. Noura Alharbi, who works as a volunteer at her University, believes that volunteering helps her to obtain new skills in her life, such as working with groups and time management. As a result, these kinds of experiences can develop volunteer’s skills and help them to find a good job in the future.

The second reason is benefiting the community. Who among us does not want the community to benefit from its experiences? Fortunately, volunteering gives us this benefit as well. In addition, volunteering strengthens our community, so that volunteers can support families when they need help to care for children or the elderly. Volunteers work in schools teaching literacy or even youth support by working in orientation and post-school programs. Another way to help our community is to volunteer to clean up a park or a beach.

The last reason is adding to their social lives. Most human beings like to take an active part in society and feel useful in life. Additionally, volunteering gives opportunities to meet new friends and create a lot of relationships. Volunteering brings together diverse types of people with different cultures and backgrounds, which will definitely provide a great opportunity to connect with different categories of individuals. This creates more relationships either with fellow volunteers or with the beneficiaries of the work being done. These relationships may be useful in many aspects of life, such as enhancing personal skills and learning new industries. It is exciting to stay in constant contact with others from all walks of life. Asma Alharthi, who has joined more than five volunteer groups at a different times and in
different countries, points out that volunteering helps her to be social with others which gives her a chance to make many different relationships with others from different countries, so she gains knowledge of many cultures.

In conclusion, volunteering is not just the work we do in our spare time or doing a job without getting paid. It is actually humanitarian work that helps in gaining experience and benefits the society and social interaction. In the future, creating many volunteer groups could develop our community and help to create a peaceful society, so that is why volunteering is important.

Written by: Somayah Alharthi

Causes of Unauthorized Immigration

Immigration is moving from one country to another. Many people move to new countries by legally crossing borders and following all immigration rules. Unlike this group, there are others who go to a new country illegally by crossing forests, deserts, sea, and other dangerous ways. The question is what forces these people to immigrate illegally. There are several factors that can be considered as the main reasons behind unauthorized immigration.

One of the causes of unauthorized immigration is war. People in the regions that are in the middle of the war choose to immigrate at any cost due to the fear of losing their lives and possessions. According to Sara Jones, who has been an immigration lawyer for many years, war has a direct influence in forcing people to move to another country illegally. They try to move to safer places to take care of their families. They just want to be far away from the disaster zone, so they immigrate illegally due to not having any other choice.

Another factor that might cause unauthorized immigration is poverty. Many countries do not
have a strong enough economy to keep their citizens happy. In these countries, most individuals do not have any job or if they have one, its wage is so low that they cannot afford to pay their living expenses. As a result, they move to countries with stronger economy without being able to concerned about their rules. According to Sarah Jackson, who is an experienced social worker, there are many problems in the countries with poor economy. They have issues with covering their living expenses which constantly put them under a lot of financial stress. Many of them cannot rent a house, or buy enough food for their families. They leave their own home town to follow their dreams of finding a job with high enough salary to keep them alive.

Finally, another reason that forces people to immigrate without documentation is not having the freedom of speech. Many groups do not have the freedom to express their opinions without any consequences afterwards. Their ideas are against their countries’ leaders. Most of the time, they are escaping from their government. They do not have any safety in their homeland because of their beliefs. Sometimes they have fear of getting murdered or being sent to jail. Therefore, they decide to leave their country to both keep their beliefs and be safe.

Despite all these reasons that motivate unauthorized immigration, when possible, it is better to obey the rules of the destination country during the transition because undocumented immigration not only is extremely difficult but also has dangers that could cost people’s lives.

Written by: Zahra Safaei

ESOL Level 8

A TV Show for Everyone

Every person is different. Everybody has different taste in everything for example, the music they listen to, cars, clothes, movies and the T.V shows that they like to see. Just like there is a type of music for every listener, there is a T.V show for every type of viewer. Watching T.V is one of the most common way of entertainment. Everybody has a T.V in their house. Almost like a necessity. The T.V industry knows it, and that is why there is a T.V program for every member of the family. When feeling lonely at home, bored, or even curious, consumers can just turn on their devices and connect with the outside world. T.V shows can also be seen on other instruments, for instance, the computers, cellphones, and tablets. There are uncountable shows and they can be divided in three different categories: for kids, for adults and for the whole family.
For kids, cartoons are the most popular type of shows. These days’ kids spend more time using an electronic device than interacting with other kids. It is also easier for parents to keep their kids entertained this way. There are cartoons for every stage in a children’s live, some of these shows teach kids the numbers, letters, and colors. Other cartoons help them to think and exercise their brain. For example, “Dora the explorer,” is the name of a cartoon where kids have to pay attention and memorize different images so that at the end of the episode they can help her to accomplish her goal. Another type of cartoons are for older kids and they are about killing the bad guys and helping the good ones which can be helpful for children to be a good person in society trying to be like their favorite superhero. This type of cartoon uses more science fiction. Another type of programs are those with real people on them or actors who are mostly kids as well since the show is dedicated for this audience. Most of this programs are funny or teach the kids to make art crafts.

The next category of T.V shows are the ones for adults. Dealing with adulthood responsibilities can be very stressful. Between work and everyday activities, some adults don't have much energy to go out. They just want to get home, rest and watch their favorite show. T.V is full of shows for adults, for example, the “real life” ones. It is very important to know what happens around the country or on the other side of the world, and that's what news are for. According to Ramon Gordillo, watching the news is the easiest and fastest way for him to know about the problems that are happening in his home country. In addition, some viewers like to watch real life drama. For that, there are some shows like “Keeping Up With The Kardashians.” This show is about a famous family of celebrities that films their everyday life, their problems and they basically show their fans all of their real lives and what is like to be famous. Some other programs are more recreational, for instance the cooking show, people can learn to cook while watching T.V from the comfort of their couch. The history channel is another good way of learning as well as the DIY shows. Does someone want to learn how to knit a blanket? Well there is a show that will show them how as well as other many crafts.

Finally, the last category is about those shows designed to be enjoyed in family. A great way to spend a Sunday night is being together with the family watching a T.V. show. Comedy shows are the most popular to watch with the family. Pedro Vaca says that he has made good memories with his family by watching a comedy show called “La Familia Peluche”. Another type of family friendly programs are those about competitions. These shows usually have a host with different participants who compete against each other and whoever wins receives a price. There are many programs about competitions. They can be about singing, acting, showing a skill, and playing games, just to mention some. In
television can also be found many types of series to enjoy with the family. Netflix, for example, is a streaming service where people can watch all kinds of series, they all have different categories like, mystery, romance, horror, drama, and comedy. Having a streaming service like Netflix can be very convenient for the family because you can find not only T.V shows but also movies; this is also a helpful way for parents to be aware of what their kids watch when they are by themselves.

In conclusion, T.V has an extensive variety of programs which are separated in different categories, for kids, adults and family. A great number of information can be found on T.V. There is a program for everybody. Even though too much T.V can be bad for humans, it can also be good. It just depends on what type of content to look at and how much of our time we dedicated to it.

Written by: Gaby Orozco

Many Ways of Enjoying Vacations

Imagine there are no holidays or vacations throughout the year. It makes people very upset and have no desire to work hard. Even at school, there are break times between classes. Students can refresh their brain and gain some energy to continue their studies during break times. Likewise, vacation enriches the quality of life and gives new strength to continue daily life. All people dream about a fantastic vacation but they plan their vacation in different ways based on their personalities and the person who they will be traveling with.

People usually plan their vacations according to one’s personality. Depending on the personality, there are two main types of vacations; planned and spontaneous. People who prefer planned vacation set up the schedule and budget very specifically ahead of time. On the contrary, people who prefer a spontaneous vacation, just leave without specific plans. To enjoy planned vacation, people set specific plans such as how to save money, where to go for the vacation, and the best time to traveling. They spend a lot
of time searching for the best place that can be worth the money and time. On the other hand, the spontaneous travelers might prefer short but frequent vacations. It doesn’t have to be a famous tourist attraction or luxurious resort. These factors are not important for them. Emily Kim, a high school student in Portland, argues that a spontaneous trip is more exciting, because she can enjoy unexpected events while traveling, and does not need to be tied up with a schedule. People in this type really don’t make plans or need a lot of money. They are ready to leave to any destination whenever they have time. They pack their necessities and sleeping bags in a backpack and take trains or buses. Sometimes they go on a bicycle trip just for fun. Emily Kim, a high school student in Portland, argues that a spontaneous trip is more exciting, because she can enjoy unexpected events while traveling, and does not need to be tied up with a schedule.

The other factor that classifies vacation types is the person who they will travel with. If it is a family vacation for all ages, from grandparents to grandchildren, it is more focused on the place. The vacation should be more relaxed for grandparents but dynamic for children. To satisfy everyone’s needs at the same time, cruises or resorts are considered to be a good choice. Children can participate in various activities while older family members relax on a cruise ship by enjoying delicious food. Families can bond together by sharing wonderful time through a vacation. According to Stacey Christensen, a professor at BYU, she prefers family vacation because it can be valuable time for families to build unforgettable memories and tie them together. If it is a vacation with friends, it may involve a lot of activities. It doesn’t have to be cozy and leisurely. For example, they can go hiking, or experience various kinds of water sports or extreme sports. They can go to bicycle trip just for fun. The vacation can be more dynamic. There might be some conflicts with different preferences, but it can turn out to be a benefit that one learns how to compromise each other when there are arguments.

Vacations can vary depending on personalities and people one travels with. However, regardless of vacation types, it is like an oasis in a desert in the repetitive daily life which makes people exhausted and burnt out. Stresses can be thrown away by enjoying new experiences which are hard to imagine in daily life. People can be healed and relax their tension by sharing a good relationship with families and friends while they are spending time together. No matter where they go, it will be a meaningful time with loved ones.

Written by: Eunjung Shim