

Portland Community College: Sylvania Campus

ESOL

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*The ESOL
Ambassador*

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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: Fahad Alogaidi

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student work.



ESOL Level 1 Students Write about their Cities

I am from Guadalajara, Jalisco. Jalisco is in the west of Mexico, and Guadalajara is in the middle of Jalisco. It is a big city. The winters are a little cold but the springs are very beautiful. There are universities in Guadalajara so there are a lot of students from different towns. The most important university is the Universidad de Guadalajara (UDG). Near Guadalajara there is a beautiful and small town named Chapala and there is a big lake there called lago de Chapala. West of Guadalajara there are a lot of beaches I like and I miss my city. But I live in Tualatin, Oregon now.



Written by: Maria Cinto Ibarrola

I will visit Kuwait City next week. Kuwait is small country. Kuwait is located on the west tip of the Arabian Gulf. The winters are not rainy. They are cold. The summers are hot, dry and humid. In the spring it is very beautiful, and the weather is cool.

In their free time, people go camping, and have picnics. They go to the parks for walks, to play ball, and go the beach to swim. All my brothers and sisters and their families live in Kuwait.

Kuwait is a beautiful country. It has very clean, sandy beaches. There are many parks, shopping places, and entertainment centers in Kuwait. Now I live in Portland with my family. I am happy to have my family with me. I am glad to be a student at Portland Community College.

Written by: Safia Othman

My name is Guadalupe. I am from Guerrero, Mexico. The population of my city is about 3,600,000. It is not the capital of my country. Guerrero is in the west of the country. There are rivers and an ocean in Guerrero. My city is medium-sized and interesting. There are several famous aquariums in my city. They are the Magical Aquarium and Marine World. The people in my city are busy and friendly.

Written by: Guadalupe Sanchez Ines

I am from Taiwan. The population of my city is about 7,700,000. It is the capital. It is in the north of the country. There are mountains and rivers. My city is big and interesting. There are many famous places in my city. The National Palace Museum is an art museum. The people in my city are busy and friendly.

Written by: Ali Ali

ESOL Level 2 Students Write About Their Perfect Days

My perfect day is Saturday. I always get up at 8:30 in the morning. I can get up late, because my daughter doesn't go to school and my husband doesn't go to work. I always take a shower 20 minutes. Then I make breakfast and juice for my family. My daughter gets up at 9:00. We eat breakfast together. Then, we brush our teeth. They play half an hour. I make lunch in a box, because, we have a picnic! We sometimes go to the park in Newberg. The park is very large. My girls can ride bicycles! My husband and I walk Micky (Micky is my dog). Micky runs on grass. We have lunch at noon. My girls are tired. They eat lunch, then, they sit on the grass, and we play UNO. Micky sometimes takes a nap. If my youngest daughter sleeps, my oldest daughter and my husband go fishing. But they never catch a fish! In the evening, we come home. We take a shower, watch TV. I cook dinner. Also, I cook Chinese food. After dinner, we read books. My dog always sleeps at that time. He is 12 years old. My daughters go to bed early. They are very tired. In a few minutes, they sleep! I am tired too, but I can't sleep, because I have homework. I like homework. I finish it; I go to bed at 10:00. I go to sleep. Good day!

Written by: Linda Liu



My perfect day is on Sunday. I get up at 8:00 am. I take a shower. Next I get dressed and have breakfast. After that, my husband and I go to church. Next, we have a picnic and eat lunch maybe sandwiches or salad and fries. Then we go to the movies. After that I call my family and walk with my husband and my dog. At 7:00 pm, we eat dinner and go to buy an ice-cream. After that I come home and I go to bed and I watch TV. In my perfect day we don't have problems or bad moments. In my perfect day, my family is with me too, because my family isn't near now. In my perfect day I go to the mall and buy many things, maybe clothes and shoes. I have a lot of time for me and my husband. In my perfect day I eat all food that I like.

Written by: Nadia Sanchez

ESOL Level 2 Students Write About Their Families

My Family

My name is Inocentes Matus. I have lived six years in Oregon. My whole family lives in Mexico. We are a total of six in my family.

My two younger siblings study and my older siblings work and are married. My brother Uriel studies in Mexico City. He studies in the University of Mexico (UNAM) to be an architect. My younger sister lives in Oaxaca and studies to be a veterinarian.

Both my older brother and sister work and are married. My older brother has two kids; he works as a taxi driver. Our sister is married and she lives in Puerto Escondido. She has two daughters and one son. She also has one granddaughter, she is one year old.

My parents enjoy visiting my older sister. Sometimes my whole family gets together in Puerto Escondido and has dinner by the beach.

Written by: Inocentes Matus



My Siblings

I have five siblings, and they all live in Libya. I have two sisters. My older sister studies economics and she's 20 years old. She's the oldest of all my siblings and she's thin. My younger sister is still in high school, she's 16 years old and she would love to study at a college in the USA like me when she finishes high school. She's thin too like my old sister.

I have three brothers. My older one of my three brothers is 14 years old. He likes to play football and video games. Maybe next year he will come to visit me. My middle brother is 12 years old and he wears glasses. He's smart. He likes to study much, he also likes to play with my little brother. My younger brother is 6 years old. He's my beloved and spoiled! His favorite city is Portland and maybe he will visit me next year too.

Written by: Zarroug Jellala

My Small Family

My name is Gabriela and I have a small family. My husband's name is Aaron, and we have two children. Their names are Pamela and Eduardo. We live in the city of Tigard. My husband Aaron and I work Monday to Friday and sometimes Saturdays. On Sunday we like to watch movies at home, but sometimes we take the kids to a fun center.

Everyone likes enchiladas. For my husband, his favorite hobby is soccer and for my kids it is watching TV. I don't have a favorite hobby, because I am always busy all day.

Written by: Gabriela Lopez

ESOL Level 3

Hello

My name is Barbara Campos. I am from Guatemala City. I came to the United States 8 months ago. My parents, sisters and brothers all live in Guatemala, but I live here with my husband and my child. I talk with them every weekend. I make a video call. I miss them a lot, but here I have a better life.

I work 20 hours a week. I started my own company for cleaning services. I love it, and is a good for me because I can organize my time for study and work.

I like rock music and I like go to the gym three times a week. I enjoy spending time with my baby.

Written by: Barbara Campos

Dear friend,

You should come to visit my country, Iraq. Iraq is a country in the Middle East. It lies at the north end of the Persian Gulf. It has a small coastline in the southeast of the country. It is surrounded by Iran to the east, Kuwait to the south, Saudi Arabia to the south west, Jordan to the west, Syria to the northwest, and Turkey to the north. Iraq is one of the most interesting countries in the Arab World. It has one of the most famous places from the Seven Wonders of the World called: “Hanging Gardens of Babylon”. It was built during the reign of Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar II, to please his wife the Queen of Babylon through the construction of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, in order to live in the city of Babylon. It has arranged of well-made terraces connected by marble stairs up to 75 meters high.

Written by: Iman Alshaheen



My Story

My name is Beneham Mengesh, and I am from Dilla, a small city in Ethiopia.

I came to the United States three years ago. I'm living with my parents and my two sisters Betty and Meron. You know what? I'm a lucky person because I found a great chance for my life.

In 2009 I was in middle school. My mom told us that our family got a chance to come to the United States. I was so excited when she told me about that. It was like a dream to me because I never thought about coming to the United States. We quickly went to Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital city, to do all of the paperwork. That took us a couple of weeks. Then, it was time to go to the United States, but something happened. When we entered the United States Immigration Office, the employee said that only my mom's name was on his list--not my father, and not the kids.

At that moment my mom was confused because she didn't know what was going on. The sad news broke all of our hearts. At that time my youngest sister was 8 months old. My Mom was sad. She asked, "Why, God did you give us a chance and then take it back?" My Mom cried because we lost everything. My mom was strong and she didn't give up. After that year my mom tried a second time, and that didn't work. Then she tried again a third time. Finally, we got our chance in 2014.

We did the paperwork again. When this happened, I was in my freshman year in Ethiopia. The plane trip took two days. We arrived at the Washington DC airport on September 23 2015, and then we came to Oregon.

After I came to the United States, I didn't go to school for four months because I didn't have a green card or my shots. I started sophomore year at Oregon City High School.

The first school year was hard for me because I didn't know how to speak English. Later, I improved my English a little bit. I played soccer for two years when I was in high school, and I saw many different high schools in Oregon when we had games. I studied at Oregon City High School two and a half years, and I graduated last year.

Now, I feel like the United States is my home. I plan to stay here. I'm really happy that my mom didn't give up and we got the chance to come here.

Written by: Beneham Mengesh

ESOL Level 4

My Lovely Husband!

I think that I'm very lucky because he exists in my life. His name is Alaa. He is 44 years old. He is tall. He is beautiful, especially when he smiles. He is helpful, caring and honest. When I have difficulties he always does his best to help me. Also we nearly have the same tastes, interests and characteristics. He is very optimistic and responsible. He always pushes me forward. There is mutual trust between us. I think that as time goes by our relationship will deeper and deeper. I think that when you meet him, you will like him.

Written by: Hiba Albehadili



ESOL Level 5 Students Write About People They Admire

Frida Kahlo

I admire Frida Kahlo because she was a Mexican woman who broke barriers. First of all, she is an example of how to face the most difficult situations in her life. When she was a child, she suffered from polio. Also, Frida Kahlo was in a terrible bus accident. She had to stay in bed for two years and the illness forced her to be isolated. Second, she was a pioneer of Mexican painting art. Frida Kahlo was the first Mexican artist to exhibit her famous painting “The Frame” in the Louvre Museum in Paris. Finally, she lived passionately. She was an example of struggle, optimism, and strength. Frida Kahlo transformed joy, love, pain, and sadness into art. Her paintings reflect creativity, fantasy, and realism. Her inspiration was the Mexican popular culture. For all these reasons, I admire Frida Kahlo. She was a strong person, and she left us a legacy of art and literature.

Written by: Arely Ordonez

Yuna Kim

I love Yuna Kim because her skating and the whole process have impressed me greatly. First, she was a brilliant figure skater who set a new world record 11 times. When she skated, her act was very artistic, and people were fascinated by her beautiful expression. People use to call her “Queen Yuna” because she showed a wonderful ability to win so many competitions such as the Olympics, the World Championship, the Grand Prix Series, and the Four Continents Championships. Second, she had mental strength and had great control over her mind. Figure skating was an unknown sport. However, she never gave up, and the results of her efforts started to appear as her first win on the world stage in 2004 at the age of 14. She used to be compared to Japanese skaters because they were the same age, and they competed in every competition. This was a big interest in Korea and Japan, so she felt enormous pressure from people’s expectations. I really admire how she could control her own mind and win the Olympics. Finally, now she had retired as a figure skater, but her influence goes on and on. She contributed to opening the Pyeong Chang Olympic, and she helps her skating juniors in the development of figure skating in Korea. Also, she continues to do good deeds and make donations to the needy. In conclusion I respect her inner strength, beauty, and effort.

Written by: Minjung Kang

My Father's Positive Attitude

I admire my father's positive attitude. He had a lung condition, bad motion sickness, but yet a warm-hearted personality. First of all, he was a weak child, and he couldn't walk fast or run. He often went to the hospital when he was young and learned about his physical condition and boundaries. However, he never complained about his problems. Second, he dreamed about traveling even though he had bad motion sickness. He couldn't go far away from his house or sit in the passenger seat of a car, but he didn't give up. He was patient. When he was eighteen years old, he got a motorcycle license right away. He went everywhere on his beloved motorcycle which give his freedom. Lastly, he had a warm-hearted personality. He studied Chinese medicine, acupuncture, and meridian massage. He loved to help people especially those who lived in the small villages. He often said, "Life is good. Every single problem has answers, but you must be patient and turn on the positive switch." Unfortunately, he passes away five years ago at the age of seventy-four. His spirit lives in my heart to this day. I'll always admire his positive attitude and his problem solving skills.

Written by: Sally Ku



Steve Jobs

I admire Steve Jobs because he changed the world with his creativity and determination. First of all, Steve Jobs changed the way we use computers, In the past, there was only one way to use the computer which was through command-lines. In 1984 Steve Jobs introduced the Macintosh system, which was the first successful operating system with graphical user interface. Then he released several types of products, such as iPod, iPhone, iPad and iMac. Second, he never gave up. He didn't complete his education in college, but it didn't stop him from following his dreams. He was the chief executive officer and co-founder of Apple. Finally, during this life, he also decided to play a role in the animation industry. He bought Pixar studio, and he merged the technology with animation. His creative ideas led him to win an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature. Steve Jobs was very creative and always thought outside the box. Because of all these reasons, he has inspired me to do my best in my life.

Written by: Aziz Alenzi

ESOL Level 5 Students Write About Portland

I like Portland for many reasons, but there are 3 important reasons that I love Portland. First, I like the people because they are kind and helpful with others. They are friendly and they like to talk no matter if they don't know you. I like them because they are free to dress as they want and be as they want. Also, Portland is a green city and for me it is something beautiful. There are many parks where I can go just to relax, walk or ride a bike and take my time to breathe. I like the green areas. That is why I want to live in Portland for a long time. The weather is another thing that I love about Portland. I like the gray days. I love when it rains all day, and I like to walk in the rain. Although in winter it is very cold, I think Portland is a good and beautiful city to live. I love Portland.

Written by: Karla Henriquez



Portland in My View

Portland has multiple things and places to enjoy that make me love this city. Firstly, I like downtown Portland. I easily see many food carts in downtown that are special to Portland. Additionally, there are many things to do: a great number of good restaurants with views, tax-free purchases, and famous buildings. Portland is beautiful at night when all the colorful lights that light up the streets. Secondly, I love the Grotto. It is one of the peaceful places in Portland with the gorgeous nature. I am happy each time I go to the Grotto to pray and celebrate. Thirdly, I love spring and autumn in Portland. In spring, many roses bloom, trees are colorful and make Portland amazing. Every single year, Portland has the Rose Festival. I would call Portland a city of roses. Besides that, Portland looks romantic in autumn by the cover of yellow leaves. Autumn leaf color always catches my eyes. Moreover, people in Portland are friendly. They tend to wave and say hello to the strangers on the street, and they usually welcome me when I need help or ask them for directions. Lastly, I like the pretty parks in Portland. I often go to Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden, it is a wonderful place to take pictures, and Forest Park is one place I like to go for a walk. Finally, Portland is a big beautiful city in my view, and I recommend people to travel to this city.

Written by: Tram Nguyen

Beautiful Portland

I like many things about Portland. When I traveled from my country to Portland, there were many uncertain things. I arrived here, and I realized how beautiful this city could be. To get started, in my country many areas are terribly dangerous, but here I was so impressed by the safety. I could walk through the street with total security, and I could safely carry my phone in my hand with peace of mind. Something that would be impossible in my country. Second, when I came here, I expected to meet many more white Americans. Here you can engage with many people from all over the world and with some of them, I could make very good friendships. The diversity that spreads across Portland is simply beautiful. Having so many people from so many different places let me learn about their delicious food to their interesting customs. Finally, something that I consider not as important as the previous points, but I want to mention it. It is the convenient public transportation in Portland. Here with a ticket, I can travel and know new places in this beautiful city. For these reasons and many more I love Portland.

Written by: Luis Martinez Alanis

ESOL Level 6

My Warm House

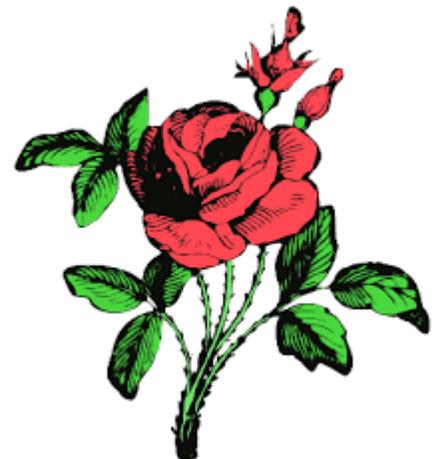
What kind of house do you think is the ideal house? Is it big, expensive or independent? Different people have different answer. As a Chinese old saying goes, gold housing and silver housing is not as good as your own cottage. Six months ago, I rented a house in Lake Oswego, OR. It is an apartment. It has one bedroom, one living room, one kitchen, and one bathroom. It is only 500 square feet. But it has sunlight, fragrance of flower and pleasure sounds. All of those let me feel the small place warm more than the any other place in the world.

My house is warm in winter and cool in summer. It faces southwest. After 12am in winter, there is a lot of sunlight shine into my house through the window and the patio glass door. The orange-color sunlight falls down lazily on carpet of my living room. It looks like some pieces of gold on the ground blinking and dancing. Sometimes, there are reflections of the neighbor's window glass on the ground. It has seven colors, red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple. I like to sit in the sunlight, recline in a rocking chair, make a pot of good tea, and to read a book or to listen to music.

In my house, there are various plants or flowers in each room. There is a tub of tulips in the bedroom, green lily flowers in the living room, and roses in the kitchen. Wherever you go, you always smell a slight scent of flowers. In the same way, these flowers make you feel the house closer to nature and make the house feel more alive.

I live with my daughter. She is a junior high student. She likes to laugh. She often asks me many questions. When she gets the answer, her laughter is like silver bells fills in the whole house. When she makes a video chat with her mother, who is in China, she always laughs loudly too. I think that where we have family is where the warm home is.

Although my house is not very big, and it is not my own, it meets all my requirement for ideal house, not too big, even if you own your home, it must let you feel warm. I love my home so much.



Written by: Joe (Zhoudong) Jia

Paradise on Earth

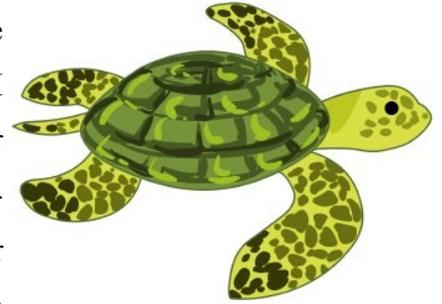
You could only get there by airplane, but there is no airport to land there! It was incredible to spend my honeymoon somewhere I have never been before: the great Maldives. It took us around 20 hours to get to the island from our home in Portland, but totally worth it. We could watch the diverse and spectacular palette of colors of the ocean, we tasted the exquisite and enormous buffets and plates from unique restaurants and swam closely to a huge amount of petite, medium and jumbo sea life animals. The Maldives is a place where it feels like being in paradise.

When we took the sea plane from Male, the biggest island from the Maldives, to our island resort we could only see turquoise ocean below us and miniature pieces of land floating on the ocean. After 15 minutes of flying we started to descend and prepare for a sea landing. We touched the sea and ocean waves splashed all the side windows as if we were on a speed boat. I was really scared to land on the ocean, but it did not feel as bad as I thought. Now, I can say it feels gentler to land on the sea than on the ground.

We stepped out of the sea plane and the colors from the ocean around turned brighter. I could see the different blue colors. Deep in the ocean was a dark blue color, in the middle a turquoise blue and at the shore clear water. The sand was white, soft and thin as baby powder. I walked on the shore and could see my feet through the transparent water, felt the salty taste of the breeze through my hair and the sand between my toes. I experienced the most relaxed and tranquil moment far away from the city as there was no sound but the waves crashing on my feet. I wanted to stay there forever!

Our bedroom was a spacious comfortable wooden cabin above the clear ocean. Inside the cabin we had a mini modern living room with a T.V., a petite refrigerator with snacks and drinks, on the counter table a basket full of sweet fruit and inside the bathroom a white tub and a shower. We had a terrace with a table made of wood to eat, beds under the sun to get great tans, a jacuzzi and stairs to get in to sea. The view from the large clear windows in front the bed was infinite ocean and gorgeous multicolored sunsets. There was a perfect made king size bed in the middle of the room. Our first night the staff decorated the bedroom with a bunch of flowers and made a nice sign that said, "Happy Honeymoon". All staff were super nice, polite and helpful, and they spoiled us with anything we wanted. We took the snorkeling tour to go visit the coral house reef and it was one of the most interesting and fun activities to do in the island, but it was also exhausted. The coral reef looked like a group of sponges expanding and shrinking under the sea. The diverse aqua plants near the coral reef seemed like they were dancing together with the fish at the rhythm of the waves. Someone screamed Shark! and a white little shark was swimming under the warm sea close to us. I tried to take some pictures but were not so

good, as the shark swam at 1000 miles per hour when he noticed we were there. Something similar happened with the manta. The only one I took a good picture of was the slow turtle. We were always seeking for something rare to find. At night white little toothless sharks, purple giant jelly fish, fish of any color and size and grey mini mantas visited our sea terrace. Every animal had its charm. It was great to get the chance to swim a few centimeters from them.



After five days living in paradise it was time to return home. Sad to leave but happy to get to know such an unbelievable place full of new things for me. It was the perfect place to spend a honeymoon. If you ever want to plan a vacation with your partner you should go to the Maldives. I bet you will enjoy every piece of what nature has to show you.

Written by: Adriana Lopez

My Favorite Vacation Spot

We all have been to so many beautiful places in our lives, but there are some places that we can never forget. My favorite place that I can't forget is Disneyland in California. Disneyland is both magical and the happiest place for everyone during a Christmas.

My favorite vacation spot is Disneyland in Los Angeles, California. I went there last winter for Christmas holidays. Disneyland at Christmas is one of the happiest places for everyone. I spent three days in Disneyland with my family. The whole time seemed to be a dream that could never be forgotten. There was the biggest Christmas tree with the most beautiful decorations. The feeling of the excitement and anticipation between people in Disneyland was unbelievable and indescribable. The sound of happy children riding the rides and seeing the smile on their faces was joyful and festive.

The whole place was shining with colorful ornaments. Watching the magical fireworks under the moonlight with the sound of enjoyable music was my favorite part of the trip. The sound of music was filling the air with happiness and joy throughout the area. Hearing Christmas songs and watching the parade filled the atmosphere with excitement. Meeting with Mickey and Minnie Mouse and taking a photo with them was very fun and unforgettable.

I walked the whole adventure park on the first day. The park was very crowded, and there was a very long wait for rides. Peter Pan's flight ride took me back to my childhood memories. I felt like I was a kid for a short time. After walking for a long time, the smell of fresh warm cinnamon sugar churros

made me super hungry. When I got back from the park, my feet were in pain, but it was ok since I had a great time there.

Disneyland in California is a wonderful place for people of all ages especially at Christmas time. Everybody must visit this place at least once in their life because this place is full of joy and happiness all year long. Everyone can enjoy this unbelievable and dreamy place regardless of their ages.

Written by: Farah Mohammadi

ESOL Level 7



Volunteering Provides Satisfaction to All

During my life, I have always loved to help others. Volunteering is a great experience. It not only helps the community, but also the person doing the volunteering. However seeking happiness is not the only reason to volunteer. Volunteering can help you get experience and skills in different fields. Perhaps you do not know what you want to do for work. Volunteering can help you get some practical experience and help you decide if you want to do that job. It also improves community life by giving people a sense that they are part of something. And it helps people to learn to respect one another. Finally it can give the volunteer a sense of purpose.

Volunteering is what makes a community better because people are working together to reach a goal. Community life is important to improve the behavior of future generations. Volunteering makes people respect each other by helping others free of charge. That makes people so powerful and united. Amy Henderson, a child care volunteer at an English language school, says she loves to volunteer because she sees the improvement in people's lives from many volunteers helping them. Amy helps the community by watching people's children while they learn English. She has been volunteering for four years and has helped many families.

Volunteering helps develop skills and makes it easier for someone to find a perfect career. It gives the person a lot of experience for a future career. That can help make someone's job in the future easier because they have gained practical experience by volunteering. It also can give a person confidence. For example, if someone is planning to work in education, volunteering at a school or mentoring students would be a valuable way for them to gain the skills and experiences necessary to pursue a career in higher education.

Volunteering helps the person to find his (or her) purpose. A lot of students do volunteering at their college to find courses they want to take and to figure out which program is best for them. For example my sister volunteered in a hospital and then decided to become a nurse. The volunteering helped her a lot in making that decision.

In the end, volunteering benefits those who receive and those who give the services. It can help people directly - for example someone who brings food to homeless people and can also help promote a community feeling. Volunteers can also benefit by gaining experience in different careers and programs before they decide what they want to do.

Written by: Esraa Alnabelsi

Educational System in Afghanistan 20 Years Ago and Now

Do you understand what was going on in Afghanistan educational system 17 years ago? 17 years ago, when I was in school I wore a turban because the government enforced me to wear a turban. Also, you had to have long beard if you were over 18 years old. We had very smart students. However, they didn't have facilities for education. In Afghanistan educational system has been changed dramatically in the past 17 years.

In the past, we didn't have professional teachers in schools and universities because experienced and good teachers didn't want to continue teaching in the Taliban government because a radical Taliban forced teachers to wear a turban and they had to have a long beard. Then teachers decided to quit teaching, and intended to stay at home or move to other countries. Also, the vicious Taliban enforced them to learn religious books; otherwise, they were unable to get teacher job. Eventually, our schools and universities had to shortage of good and professional teachers. On the other hand, when the dark empire of the Taliban collapsed, our new government established new rules for teachers. Through that way, a new government recruited good and skilled teachers. Also, a new government provided a lot of opportunities for teachers. Now they are independent, and there are no need teachers to wear a turban and keep a long beard. Also, new government opened many workshops for teachers. Moreover, many have returned from the neighbors countries like from Pakistan and Iran because they are independent now.

Another big change protection and security for teachers in schools because between about 1996 and 2000, good and experienced teachers weren't safe and the Taliban threatened them, so a Taliban administration didn't want to develop our country education. For instance, Taliban punished instructors if the students didn't wear turbans. Also, they compelled teachers most part of lecture give to religious sub-

Even though the teachers didn't understand religious subjects, still Taliban forced instructors to teach religious books. When any teacher failed students, the students asked them why they failed the exam. Eventually, teachers understood they can't continue teaching anymore and instructors realized they will face with many troubles in future. Also, instructors weren't independent; moreover, they couldn't work by their choice. They were not safe and protected in area where they had jobs. Finally, they quit teaching. Some teachers went to Pakistan and some stayed in Afghanistan. However, when the dark government (Taliban) regime collapsed, then the teachers felt free, independent and safe because now the new government has brought many facilities for teachers. Moreover, now, they are happy with their jobs. There is nobody able to harass them because the new administration supports them. Also, other people respect instructors, so they think this is a teacher who will brighten our country's future. In Afghanistan, now day by day experienced teachers' numbers are increasing because the people have understood that they cannot be succeed except education.

Finally, there was a huge change in the compensation and salary for teachers. From 1995 to 2000, instructors couldn't get that much money because Taliban dark regime didn't give salary to instructors. That government didn't want to work for a public people, and for education, so they wanted to keep Afghanistan's education level low. Also, they had come to deprive our country's people from development, an improvement, and promotion. All Instructors collected money from students, and individual students needed to pay \$6 for a month. However, most students didn't pay their monthly fee because they were poor. Sometimes instructors enforced by a Taliban to teach free. However, today, all instructors' monthly salary raised, and they received fair monthly salary for teaching. All students able to study free now because current government wants to promote education in Afghanistan. Most instructors feel delightful, peaceful, and comfortable because now they are able to earn money from teaching.

In conclusion, Afghan government has brought many changes in the Afghanistan educational system because in the past, Afghanistan people were repressed by Taliban. For instance, they harassed teachers without reason, and they didn't pay instructors for teaching. Also most of the time Taliban didn't allow educated people to work for an education. However, today, Afghan instructors and people have many opportunities, and they are able to complete their education in the peaceful an environment. I hope in future Afghanistan's education become more successful because still Afghanistan educational system needs many things to standardize or regulate it.

Written by: Amin Chamkaniwal



How Has Discipline Changed

I will never forget the day when my dad hit me with a belt. It was a very painful moment that I still have feared for. In the past 10 years, discipline was a very powerful method that parents used as a strategy to educate children. There are 3 ways disciplining children that have changed in the past 10 years.

First, children used to be given very specific rules which they had to follow. Children had to do almost everything that parents told them. Some parents still believe in rules but other parents don't. For example, house rules were written on paper and posted on top of the refrigerator, so everybody was able to see them and obey them; moreover, parents were strict to the rules. For example, if children disobeyed one of the parents' laws, they would be in trouble. Children were spanked after he or she had done something bad; although, now there are no rules at all! Children can or not respect the house rules. Everyone is free to live in his universe.

However, now there is a lot of confusion because the rules aren't always clear. Children do not take seriously the new discipline; moreover, parents are busy and get tired after a long day at work. Parents' rules are becoming useless for this young generation. Now children have more liberty than they did in the past 10 years. Children can do whatever they want. For example, they can go out and come in later, or they can argue with their parents, which was not the case in the past. Children should not debate with their parents. Just eye contact used to be enough for parents to get children's attention instead of screaming at them. Now parents have to scream at children, and talk and talk in order to get children to stop what they were doing.

In addition, physical discipline was more common in the past 10 years. Parents used to hit their children hard with a belt. Some parents still consider the physical discipline but most of them don't do it anymore. Children also were punished if they did bad thing. For example, children were asked to sit down on the step for a while, or spend some hours in their bedroom. Children didn't have the right to talk or give their opinion while parents were speaking. Children were like slaves to their parents because there were no children's rights at the time. Children couldn't defend themselves; although now there are children's rights. Children can talk and give their thoughts in the house. Parents are no longer allowed to treat children like they were in jail. Children have freedom and are happy now.

In short, there are several ways of disciplining children that have changed over the years. Many years ago discipline was all about rules; parents were assured that punishing or spanking children was the best way to educate; however, now discipline has become more confusing. We do not know who's doing what. Children take advantage of their parents. Therefore, there is not as much physical discipline as

before.

Now that children's have rights, parents are not allowed to spank or to isolate them. If parents could just have nice communication with their children, there will never be trouble between parents and children. Everyone would have a great understanding and would live in peace.

Written by: Nanou Lombo

Effects of Divorce on Children

Marriage is an important part of human life. It is a connection between two people who are not the same blood to become as one. Marriage is also the bond between two people, connecting them to become a family. However, it is not easy to have a happy marriage. Around the world, we have many young couples who divorce. The number of divorce family has increased a lot in the last few years. Divorce may affect a lot to children's life. There are three main effects of divorce on children, including family relationships, children's education and the government.

First, divorce affects the parents and children's relationship right after their parents get divorce. After divorce, it often leads parent to worry, exhaustion and stress. It makes more difficult for children to trust their parents. Then, some children start to think that they have no one to share or give them advice whenever they need. Divorce also means separation. Children have to pick who they want to live. Some of them live with dad, and some live with mom. That means they receive less emotional support, parenting and financial. When people decide to divorce, they move out and have different place to live. According to Ching Phillips, who works in Northwest Family Community, children of divorced mothers have poorer and less safe home environments. They cannot have a good environment to grow up in the same way as children in marriage family. Moreover, most of children want to spend time with mother more than father because mother is an easy person who they can share with. When they live with dad, it becomes more difficult for them. Dad often has less contact with his children. Especially, children turn to teenager. Their hormones changes and they need someone who is same sex and close to them to teach them to be right in the process of becoming adult. It is challenging for parent live in separate house with their own children.

Second, divorce affects children's education. This point is so important. Children of divorce fall behind in their math and social skills. Also, they may not peer good with their friends because they're shy and they want to leave them alone. These things become more and more challenging for them along with feelings of sadness, loneliness. Moreover, when their parents' divorce, they have to move

schools, and they may fall behind making friends and adapt with a new environment. According to Larry Lawson, who is a teacher of City Christian School, children whose parents divorced skip nearly 60 percent more class periods than children from normal families. Also, they are less likely to complete high school.

Third, divorce affects the government. When parents divorce, most children lack of parenting and they are sad, lonely and stressful. They start to get bad behavior, such as using drug, alcohol. Then, children become alcoholic as young people and they don't work and don't have any money. They start to steal and abuse others to get money. That's one of the reasons in our social life increases crimes, use of drug and alcoholic.

Family is a foundation for every child. Consequently, divorce has a big effect on children through their social life and their spiritual life. Every child deserves the right to have a family. In conclusion, whenever we decide anything we should think deeply about it to avoid negative consequences.

Written by: Nhi Hoang

The Magic Box

I was seven years old when my six siblings and I finally convinced our dad to buy a TV. I was very excited because I could watch it in our own house. Before then, we had to go to other people's houses to watch TV until we got kicked out. It was mind-blowing how what we watched was different from what our life was like in the village. For instance, in cartoons animals would talk and act just like humans. It was just like the stories our grandparents told us but with pictures and sound. We could never imagine how all the things fit in that tiny black box, that might have been why we called it "the magic box". However we never imagined that it could change children's communication rapidly in the next twenty years in Karagoz, our small village in eastern Turkey.

First of all, children's communication with the older generation has significantly changed since TV appeared in the village. Kurdish was the only language that was spoken in Karagoz. Therefore, I did not have a hard time communicating with my grandparents. During my childhood I spent most of my time listening to stories from my grandmother. Now, every house has a TV which only shows Turkish channels, thus children learn more Turkish than Kurdish. Since the older generation grew up without hearing or talking in Turkish, they only speak the local language, Kurdish. Consequently the old generation and the new generation speak different languages. For example, my mother and her grandchildren live in the same house, my mother speaks Kurdish and my niece and nephews speak in Turkish. Now the

that I listened to from my grandmother are lost in history.

Secondly, the communication between children and their teachers has shown a remarkable change with the introduction of TV. In Turkey, the official language is Turkish; therefore, the curriculum is too. We were not allowed to speak Kurdish in school because it was illegal and we would get punished violently if we did. We could not speak any Turkish; teachers could not speak any Kurdish. It was very hard for me and my generation to communicate with our teacher therefore, we did not learn a lot in elementary school. When we finished elementary school, we could barely read and write, some of my classmates did not even learn how to write their names. Many of them did not continue their education after elementary school. Nowadays, since children learn Turkish from TV, they don't have difficulties communicating with their teachers. Therefore, students start learning to read and write from the first grade. Today in our school there is no violence towards students because they understand what their teacher is teaching them. Moreover, when they finish elementary school, they can easily read and write, and are much more likely to continue their education.

Another change that TV brought to Karagoz is children's interactions with each other. Prior to TV, we knew all the other children in the village because we would play soccer together almost every day. We would go to our friend's house, and sometimes spent the night there. My childhood friends and I built strong friendships that have lasted for decades. Now children are always inside of their house watching TV during most of their time rather than interacting with other children. They barely go to their friends' houses and when they do, they just watch TV together. Nowadays, children in Karagoz don't try to find a new interesting game to play together, instead, they look for another cartoon to watch. They don't hangout after school because they run to their house to watch a new episode of their favorite cartoon.

When I was in elementary school, I had no idea what I was going to school for because I was always punished and I didn't understand why. Our teacher would lift us up by grabbing our ears or hair, because we couldn't speak Turkish. I think our teachers thought that violence was the only way to teach. It wasn't, It never is, I am very happy that this ended in Karagoz. That being said, I am also sad that our language is dying. I wish we had a school that taught us in our own language. I also wish we didn't have a government ban on Kurdish channels. That way, there wouldn't be communication problems and the children would learn how to read and write earlier and faster. I know my mom would be happier because she'd be able to talk to her grandchildren in their native language.

Written by: Ramazan Yigit



Causes of Homelessness

For those who live in big and busy cities, it is easy to become familiar to the homelessness problem around us. We see homeless people on the streets, asking for change or collecting bottles. It is important to understand homelessness as a problem. Most of them do not choose it as an option. Instead, it is a result from a social system which fails to support people who are at that risk. The three main causes for homelessness are drug and alcohol abuse, lack of affordable housing, and physical or mental health issues.

One cause of homelessness is drug and alcohol abuse. Addictive disorders can end relationships with family and friends, and often cause addicts to lose their jobs. For the ones who are already struggling to pay their bills, and are dealing with addictions may lead them to lose their housing and end on the streets. According to Alana Gayel, who has been homeless for one year, people that report drugs and alcohol abuse were a major reason for their becoming homeless. People who are homeless often turn to drugs and alcohol to cope with their situations. However, substance dependence decreases their ability to achieve employment and get out of the streets.

A second cause of homelessness is the lack of affordable housing. The monthly payments of rent, which absorb a high part of income, put a large number of people at risk of becoming homeless. Many families work service jobs that pay minimum wage. They live paycheck to paycheck and just don't have enough money. They find themselves having to choose between paying rent and paying for food or medicine for their family. Oftentimes, they choose to pay for food or medicine, and their landlords kick them out because they have not paid the rent.

A final cause of homelessness is physical or mental health issues. It is common that homeless have disabilities, disorders or other chronic health conditions. Most people experiencing homelessness may have a serious mental illness, and create difficulties in accessing and maintaining stable and affordable housing for an individual or an entire family.

For those battling homelessness, it is almost impossible to get a job, to achieve treatment for mental health, or to battle against substance abuse and addictions issues. Solving the affordable housing crisis is the first and most necessary battling homelessness, mental health and addictions.

Written by: Mel Herrera



ESOL Level 8

The Current Political Climate vs. International Students

In the article “More Evidence of Trump Impact on International Admission” Scott Jaschik is trying to say that the current political climate is not welcoming International students. Those students are concerned about the future of their school if they decided to have it here in the States. According to a survey made by Royall and Company, while the majority of international students have not lost their interest in studying in the U.S., there is a concerned minority who has. It is a disturbing issue if things keep going in this way for the whole cycle of the Trump presidency. Jaschik concludes the article by advising American colleges that it is in their hands to show future international students that they do not share the president’s opinion. Colleges must show they will welcome them and are ready to include them as they do native students.

This article displays a deep concern of the message that has been sent and keeps being sent to the rest of the world. As an international student I don't like the language which Trump uses. It scares me, I have been here for years and I know American people are nice and friendly. But if someone sees the US through Trump, it would be a real future concern for them. They might ask how their schooling future would be. On several occasions my family back home has asked me to return. They said, “be careful it seems it is not safe there” But honestly, I have had a lot of support from the local people around me--friends, neighbors, and even people I do not know in supermarkets. President Trump does not reflect the people’s attitude towards the international students.

That was in terms of the language. Another big concern--at least for my people--is the new rules and the decisions that have been taken. One of the Yemeni students I know was here last year fall, winter and spring then in the summer he went to Saudi Arabia to visit his family. When he tried to come back for the fall term, he could not, simply because he is Yemeni. Yemen is one of the countries whose citizens are banned from entering the States. This poor student lost a couple semesters of college. It is sad. Now, this boy’s future is uncertain and he does not know what to do. Stories like these are troublesome. A student might think, “if I am accepted to an American college, I may not be able to see my family for years, or I may lose my chance of studying in USA.”

For now, the surveys do not show big numbers about international students changing their interests in studying in the States. Well, it is like the snow ball that starts small, but with time it grows bigger. If there are students who are not interested in studying in the U.S. it should be for other reasons

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I really see it is wise from the writer when he gives advice for colleges. Although it seems that we can't do anything politically regarding college enrollment, at least schools can take the initiative to correct the message. This is very important to the student. This will give a welcoming message and nowadays with social media a lot of positive information can be spread and the whole mood of society can be changed.

In conclusion what the Trump administration is doing regarding the international students is not smart and the negative political message should stop. Meanwhile it is very smart if the colleges take it into their hands and try to fix what is possible to be fixed.

Written by: Fatin A. Alariqi