

SPRING VIEWS

Spring International Language Center, Littleton, Colorado

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Newspaper Celebrates Students' Writing

Writing is a difficult skill even in a student's first language. When students write in their second or third language, they are confronted with the use of all their newly-learned skills: organization, sentence structure, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, punctuation, and more. Writing for publication also takes some courage. *Spring Views* was created to encourage composition and to give students of every level a forum for their writing. In this, the eighth issue of *Views*, we celebrate our students' expression of their thoughts and ideas.

A Letter to Spring International... by Mohamed Elmansouri

I do not know where I should start, but I think I will start from the end. It might seem strange to start with an ending, yet all endings are also beginnings. To illustrate, the knowledge that I got from this school through these six months is the result and the ending of my study at this school; simultaneously, it is the first step that will help me to start my academic study at the University. I have finished my studies here with an adequate amount of information that I think will make the beginning of the next stage of my life easy and smooth.

Spring International Language Center, with this perfect combination of expert teachers, excellent employees, and sage administrators, has the magic secret of success. Everything in this school is based on a systematic plan; everything meets a certain level, which is excellence. It never goes below this level. The reputation of this school comes from its exalted goals that are not based on financial purposes. In this school, they concentrate on the education process, the best methods to improve a student's level, and the schemes that must be followed to enhance student's ability to understand the English language.

While moving from level to level in this school, I was learning many aspects of this beautiful language. I have learned how to write with good grammar, how to read comprehensively, how to listen to main ideas, and how to speak fluently. This school opened to me horizons to see the language from a wide perspective. In this school, I discovered that language is not just some words you have to memorize, but it is interactions, feelings, and emotions. My teachers have taught the difference between learning the language passively and actively. They have taught me how I can use personal feelings in writing and speaking, and how I can combine all of the English language's elements to reach the proposed goal: understanding the language in the right way.

I am in love with this school. I am in love with each corner and each class. I am in love with each member of this extraordinary staff. I think there are no words that represent my acknowledgment to those teachers who helped me along this time to improve my language skills extremely. Thank you, Susan B., for your help in level 4 writing and grammar. You gave me the main steps to develop my writing, and you gave a real chance to get better.

Thank you, Linda, for your notes and advice in Level 4 reading. You made me able to figure out the main points of any ambiguous reading. Thank you, Tricia, for your significant help in level 5 grammar. You gave me the ability to easily understand the difficult subjects in English grammar. Thank you, Gunilla, for your unlimited help in reading and writing class in level 5 and level 6 research class. In your classes my skills improved sharply, and with your amazing ability to teach, I reached the required level. Thank you, Rebecca, for your assistance in improving my listening and speaking ability in Level 5. With your smart notes and perfect advice, I feel confident with my speech.

Thank you, Sarah and Tom, for your great help in the TOEFL class. With your help, I got what I was looking for, and I passed this test with a high grade. Thank you, Todd, for your guidance in level 6 grammar. With your instructions, I am able now to handle the tricky stuff in English grammar. Thank you, Shirlaine, for your encouragement and assistance in level 6. Your class is not just a reading and writing class; it is a reading, writing, listening, speaking, vocabulary, reading skills, research and grammar class. I have learned many things from this class, and I have developed new abilities and skills in this wonderful class. Thank you Missy, Niki, and Debby, for taking care of all the students. You do your jobs perfectly. I appreciate your efforts. Thank you, Pambos, Susan, and Connie for your wise guidance. You are always keen to make this school in the lead.

Thank you all Spring International teachers. You are open-handed, jolly, affable, affectionate, smart, sage, and expert teachers. I will never forget your favors and help. I love you.

Level Two Writers Express Themselves

Two Butterflies, A Fable...by Richu Gao, China

Long ago and far away in a castle, there was a little boy. He was a modest son of a proud king. One day a prince walking by and saw a poor girl. He said to her, "Why are you crying?" She said, "I am poor and I don't have good." So the prince was sorry for her and invited her to the castle, but his father was angry and said, "Why do you always bring poor people home?" The son said, "We must help the poor people." So the poor girl lived in the castle and served the king and prince.

One month later, the prince fell in love with the girl because the girl always helped the poor persons. She was very kind-hearted. The prince told his father that they were in love, but his father disagreed. He told his soldiers, "You must put the girl in jail, so they can't see each other again. While the girl was in jail, she was very sad. She cried every day. She didn't want to eat anything. She wanted to meet the prince because she missed him. The prince couldn't find the girl, so he was almost crazy. He asked his father, "Where is the girl?" His father said, "Maybe she didn't love you and she left." The prince couldn't believe this, so he was very sad.

One day the prince was sick and his father was very worried about his son's health. The king found many doctors to cure his son, but the prince didn't want them. In his head, he only had the girl. The king saw this and he told his son, "The girl is in jail. You can go there and find her." The prince went to the jail, but the girl was dead. The prince saw this, and he cried. He wanted to go with the girl, and he didn't want to leave her.

In a wink, the girl and the prince changed into butterflies. They left the castle and they flew in the sky to the forest. They looked very happy because now they could live together and nobody could separate them.

A Beautiful Gift...by Roaa Al-Saigh, Saudi Arabia

When I graduated from college and received my degree, I told my family. They were very happy. This day was special for me. First, I had a party and all my friends came. We played, danced and ate. Before the day ended, I opened my gifts.

I loved all the gifts, but I had a favorite gift. It was from my mother. She got me a beautiful necklace of pearls. They were white color, middle-sized, and they were my grandmother's. They were very valuable to me. I was very happy because I knew how much my mother was proud of me. I will always remember this moment and this day.

Marriage Is Great...by Hazem Al-Rajhi, Saudi Arabia

I was married in 2003 when I was 21 years old. When I came to the U.S.A., I noticed a lot of differences between being married in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (K.S.A.) and being married in the U.S.A.

For instance, in the K.S.A., people stay married 30-40 years, but in the U.S.A. people stay married 20-30 years. Another difference is that people don't get divorced in my country, but in the U.S.A. divorce is more common. Another difference is that we have many children, but here you usually have two or three children. Another difference is that in the K.S.A., people get married between 22 and 27 years of age. Here, a lot of people get married when they are between 26 and 35 years of age.

There are a few similarities to the K.S.A.. For instance, being single I didn't have a schedule and here single people don't have a schedule either. Also, when the family goes to dinner the man pays for the meal. It's the same in the U.S.A. Another similarity is that men work a full-time job to support their families.

Finally, even though there are some similarities between marriages in the K.S.A. and the U.S.A., there are really more differences.

The Legend of Ayar’s Brothers...by Diana Valdez, Peru

The legend of Ayar’s brothers is a legend in the Inca cultural tradition, in which the story tells about four brothers who came to Cuzco after spending a series of adventures. One of these four brothers, called Ayar Manco, found the city of the Inca culture called Qosqo (Cuzco). He was the first leader of the Inca Empire and his name was Manco Capac.

The legend says that the sun was seeing the painful condition of the men, and then it created a couple: Manco Capac and Mama Ocllo, who became his wife and sister at the same time. The sun gave them a golden Sceptre and ordered them to go forth in the world to civilize the settlers. The sun entrusted them to found a kingdom.

Then Maco Capac and Mama Ocllo came out of the waters of the Lake Titicaca in the Island of the Sun, and they advanced towards the north. The golden Scepter would serve them to find the ideal place for the foundation of the Empire by sinking down, and disappearing, and the place where they were supposed to start the new civilization.

Level Four Examines Cause and Effect

The Effects of Language...by Lena Kim, South Korea

Do you know how many languages are being used in the world? There are roughly 6,000 languages. If you look in detail, you can find some languages are similar to others and their cultures are similar, too. Many scholars say that language affects culture because language has an effect on a human beings thinking and, in turn, that has an effect on their culture, too. We can find the effect of language on culture in Korea. This country is very small and people use only the Korean language. Therefore, we can find the language and culture relationship through this country.

First, many Korean people like to speak indirectly; in other words, they usually use indirect discourse. For example, the word order of Korean is subject, object, and verb. Therefore, you have to listen carefully until someone finishes speaking. As the verb appears at the end of the sentence, you do not know what the speaker’s decision is before you listen to the whole sentence. Another reason for indirect speech is that Koreans like to use two negative verbs. They do not like to express themselves directly because they feel it is not polite. Therefore, they use two negative verbs to make a weak positive.

Second, in Korea there is a very strict etiquette culture between elder and younger. That is the reason they use a polite language and a common language. This rule is very strict. It is applicable to nouns, adjectives, and verbs. Therefore, in Korea age is a very important thing. When one Korean meets another Korean for the first time, he has to use polite language, and ask each other how old they are. After they have confirmed their age, they decide which language to use—polite or common. Sometimes this rule is applicable for even one person one year older or younger than another person.

Finally the Korean language affects the consciousness of possession in Korean culture. For instance, we usually use “our”—our home, our family, our school, our country. In contrast, in America they usually use “my.” However, in Korea if you say my house, my family, many people will regard you as a very selfish individual because “my something” is a very personal thing. Therefore, many Koreans are conscious of community rather than individual consciousness.

As you can see, the Korean language has many affects on Korean people. For a long time, Korea has been called “the country of politeness of the East.” Maybe the big reason is the language we use. This happens not only in Korea but also in other countries. If you are interested in how language affects culture, you can look at other countries and you will find that their particular culture is related to their language.

Overweight and Obesity...by Mazen Ali Al-Maqbul, Saudi Arabia

Nature has provided us with the means to overcome hard times by controlling our bodies to conserve energy in the form of fat and reducing our action when food is scarce. With a normal diet, for many people this efficient action has become harmful. Overweight and obesity are amount the major nutritional problems in the world today. Some 58 million adults, and for example, one third of all Americans, are seriously overweight as are 21% of all teenagers. There are 300,000 weight-related deaths per year. Statistics show that people of average weight have a longer lifetime, have more energy, and usually feel better than those people who are overweight. The question is how and why people get fat and what are some of the causes for obesity? There are a lot of causes, but here are some of them.

First of all are fast food and a love of food. Fast food is the main cause of obesity. For example, one single small cheeseburger as 120 calories and more than 30 grams of fat. That is too much for our bodies, and it is hard to burn it up easily. People sometimes have fast food because of time. They do not have time and they have a lot to do, so they right away think to grab a bite from any fast food place without thinking about what the physical damages are after that. And sometimes people are looking for what is cheaper, and we all know that fast food is very cheap and provided everywhere. On the other hand, fast food is very tasty, such as pizza, hot dogs, and burgers. Furthermore, it is hard to avoid that delicious taste if you are addicted to it.

Secondly, we all know how much exercise is important for our bodies and how much it makes our bodies healthier, thinner, and more active, so without all these benefits from exercise, we may have bad health, such as high blood pressure, kidney trouble, and disease. Obesity can result in all of these bad things. Some people do not exercise because of time or because they are so lazy and would rather sleep after work than do exercise. Another reason is that most gyms are very expensive and even the equipment is too.

Thirdly, people can get obese by experiencing more anxiety and stress than they need to. Deep thinking and being anxious can easily cause obesity. People always get anxious about many things in life and they can't forget their worries. People are anxious about how to live and make a better life or sometimes people worry about how they can be the best mother or father to their children. In fact, there are a lot of depressing problems in our lives and everywhere.

In conclusion, obesity is a big problem that we can avoid by our daily behavior, actions, and even thinking. These things can easily be under our control, so let's overcome obesity together by taking care of ourselves and choosing what is suitable and best for our bodies.

Limiting Children's Time on Video Games...by Bashir Aboubaker, Libya

Do you know that video gaming has become the most popular activity for people of all ages in the world, and many children have spent large amounts of time playing them? I agree strongly

That that time should be reduced because children who spend large amounts of time playing video games can have many problems. Because of these problems, parents must limit the time children spend playing video games.

The first problem that children can experience is that they will stay away from family time and from schoolwork. As a result of that, they will get lower grades in school, so if parents are concerned that their children are spending too much time on vide games, they should set limits on the time they play. An example of that is playing games for one hour after all homework is done. In addition, parents have to watch them carefully instead of staying away from them outside the home. Also, if parents organize their children's time, this will help them to improve their grades in school.

Another concern is children will do less exercise and then will become overweight. It is clear that children who spend too much time just eating and sitting in front of the TV or Internet playing games will become overweight easily. Parents also should encourage their children to participate in other activities that are useful for them and make a schedule for them to exercise weekly or on weekends that will not let them get overweight. Indeed, to get exercise they should participate in the activities in their schools.

Not only do they become overweight, but also they will get aggressive thoughts and behaviors because of the violence in video games. One example of that is what happened in primary school in the U.S. in 1999 when a student killed nine children. Detectives figured out that the killings were due to the violence in video games. I strongly agree that parents should talk to the government to force people who industrialize violence in video games to stop this industry now. Also, instead of making violence in games, they should make useful games, so children will improve their skills positively.

As you can see, parents should limit their children's time playing video games and should make a connection between them, the government, and the companies that industrialize these games to solve this problem as soon

as they can. In fact, if they don't do that, in the future, children will be worse because of the large amount of time they spend playing video games.

Human Rights...by Sultana Sultan, Saudi Arabia

God created the earth with its natural resources and accommodated it to help human beings benefit. Human beings live in this land to develop it by their active work and diligence so they can attain their goals and requirements. With the passage of time, changing ways of life and expansion of the population and urbanism, different levels of society spread across the earth, such as the high ruling class, middle class, and low class. From ancient times till the present, human beings have had effective roles in different fields to create a prosperous earth and to receive all the social and financial human rights.

The requirement of a satisfactory income has caused human beings to work with diligence in economic, industrial and commercial fields. Therefore, the working class needs to get sufficient income from the higher class to cover their life needs and demands, especially in republican and democratic countries. So, the higher class takes advantage of the workers' weakness for their own interest and benefits and that leads to capitalist union and mutual benefits from the higher ruling class. This causes ignorance, sarcasm and aggression of the workers.

There will be disappointing consequences and effects to the working class, both psychological and tangible. Their overwhelming grief and suffering, hatred and desire for revenge, lack of loyalty and despair will cause a violent response, such as local religious and ethnic wars. Crimes and social corruption, theft, forgery, and suicide always occur between these needy classes.

In addition, there are some reactions which are taking place in the current time that I did not touch upon but have a role in destroying thousands of innocent victims in wars at the expense of strategic, political capitalists from countries that have the dominant military force but do not care about human rights, people who want to colonize vulnerable countries in order to satisfy their needs. They are like monster predators who are looking for a victim to satisfy their desires.

The painful thing is that allied countries who have a dominant military force do not commit to the policies of peaceful organizations, such as the Global Alliance. Consequently, these actions are considered high treason to humanitarians.

I believe if we propose principles, which are based on preserving human rights, this will reduce the difficult constraints on human beings. For instance, imposition of taxes on the people based on analytical studies of the Ministry of labor and Housing according to material inputs, participation by the rich people, exploitation of the energies of young people by providing them the necessary resources because they are innovators and creators of any community. There must be intellectual, political, economic, social, and cultural awareness, such as achieving equality between all classes. We should also initiate clerics to motivate people to become integrated social, constructive units.

In conclusion, according to what is mentioned above, my personal viewpoint is that we must apply these solutions to help improve human rights. These are considered the keys to future studies that will overcome the difficulties that occur between republican and democrat. But the question is the definition of humanitarians or human rights. In other words, why are innocent human beings the victims of these changeable wars?

Be More Colorful

"Knowledge is power," said Bacon. Everyone admits the power of education, of course. Especially in my country, South Korea, enthusiasm for education is very prevalent. However, lots of problems exist in education. Therefore, many people have said that Korea has to reform their system of education, and the Korean Government has tried to do this, but the system of education is still a big problem in Korea.

The regular school education of Korea is elementary school, six years of middle school, three years of high school and university for four years. The elementary school students are usually seven years old. They are very young, pure as white drawing paper. Whatever they want, they can draw on their paper using various

colors. However, unfortunately, after they enter elementary school, they cannot use various colors anymore. The school gives them only black and white. They slowly forget what color is. After elementary school, they become worse. In middle school, they are restricted in all things: clothing, time, thinking, behavior, etc. They usually have to wear school uniforms and cannot have long hair, colorful hair, or any accessories. They have to concentrate on studying so they can go to the best high school. After they enter high school, their only goal is to enter the most distinguished university. They spend all day studying. They do not have time for thinking about their futures, their dreams. They look like they have been made in a doll factory—school. There are varieties of color anymore. Every student has the same mind, the same thinking, and the same goals: University. They do not think of Korea as a very small country in a world that is huge. They compete just in Korea; they do not look at the world. Korean education just gives them a fish; it does not teach them how to catch a fish. They lose their own opinions, inventive thinking, and ideas. They just follow the rule—destroying all of the color.

In the world there is no perfect system, of course. Every system has a defect. However, we can approach perfect if we do not give up and still go on to our goal. Therefore, I hope the system of education in Korea will let all Korean students keep their own color and let them draw on their paper using various colors.

Spring Views is published five times a year to provide its students with a forum for their writing. Edited by Connie Shoemaker