
PALS ECHO

Program in American Language Studies of Rutgers University-Newark

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My Father

Hun Jeong, South Korea
Bonnie Harley's Beginners Writing

My father is very important in my life. He is the eldest son. He has nine siblings. He is stern and responsible. Sometimes he is very kind and friendly. He is working now in the Agricultural Association. He began working there in 1973 and is still working there. He works hard to support his family. He loves his family a lot. We have great love for each other. He supports me in many things and believes in me. He is a good mentor. He always teaches me things. They are about friendship, work, and money. He is smart and honest. He is my father and also my best friend. I love my father forever.

My Vacation!

Irene Quiros, Costa Rico
Bonnie Harley's Beginners Writing

On March 10, I have a vacation in my school. I am going to go to Maryland and Washington D.C. to my uncle and aunt's house. My uncle is Jewish. His name is Kenneth. He is an engineer and he works at NASA. I think that his work is very interesting.

My aunt's name is Olga, she works as a lawyer in a firm, and I love this work. (After the English program, I want to go on to study here at the Rutgers University School of Law.) On my vacation, I want to visit her work and go to the White House, lakes, parks, and other places that are wonderful. I hope to practice speaking English, too.

Important People

Miriam Morales, Ecuador
Bonnie Harley's Beginners Writing

The important people in my life are my children. I have two children: one son of eight years and one daughter of eleven years. They are in Ecuador studying and living with my parents, but their father visits them frequently.

My children's names are Andreina and John. Andreina likes to dance. Her favorite food is meat. She doesn't like milk. In school she is a very good student. She is tall and thin and has brown eyes. She is very talkative. My son, John, likes to watch TV and play football. His favorite foods are pizza and milk. He is tall and thin and friendly. My children will come for vacation to the United States during the summer. I'm happy because my children will come here soon. My children are wonderful.

My Happiest Memory of School

Yu Ching Wen, Korea

Marisol Garcia's Low Advanced Writing

I was not a smart child. I had to study harder than other peers to get the same results. In Taiwan, every parent hopes their children can enter the top schools from elementary to university, including mine. My parents pushed me to study so much that I didn't like to go to school at all. Life was so boring then.

I felt like a free bird after the university entrance exam. At that time, I found a part-time job at a tea shop. The shop was small; it only had a few brown, wooden tables and chairs. The smell inside was so rich with a fragrance like honey-apple tea. This was the first time in my life when I learned things that were not in the textbooks. I learned how to cook, clean, and make friends with others. I was so happy then.

It is a good thing that we let our children become educated, but sometimes we need to stop and reflect on what we teach. A well educated person should not only be knowledgeable, but also have general sense, and manners.

My Favorite Place

Nelson Yucuma, Colombia

Marisol Garcia's Low Advance Writing

Colombia is a small paradise in a world full of natural beauty, mystery, and magic. It is the place where adventure never ends. I would like to offer three reasons for why Colombia is my favorite place in the world.

First, Colombian people are very kind and caring; they always have a smile on their faces. When someone needs help, Colombian people are always there. They are happy, helpful, cheerful, and kind.

Secondly, you can find the most beautiful natural resources in Colombia, such as the Seven Colors River. You can also find pink dolphins—the only kinds that live in fresh water. There are more than a thousand kinds of colorful birds, different types of flowers, and many jungles full of undiscovered mystery.

Thirdly, Colombia is a place where adventures never end. You will always find a party no matter what time of the year. Colombia also has many festivals and carnivals in different towns and cities, such as Barranquilla's Carnival, Blancos and Negros Carnival, San Pedro and San Juan's festivals, Panales's festival, coffee parties, flower parties, etc.

Finally, if you like adventure, mysteries, and beautiful nature, I invite you to Colombia. It is my favorite place because you can always find something interesting, fun, or nice to do. You will never feel bored and you will discover wonderful places that look like paradise.

Work Produced by Computer and Work Produced by Hand

Xiaowei Bai, China

Tim Kean's High Advanced Writing

Today, computer technology is developing at an extremely high speed, which brings a lot of convenience to our daily lives. More and more work is done by computers and is controlled by them. Therefore, the computer is becoming an indispensable tool and the strongest assistance to our daily lives.

On the one hand, work produced by the computer has numerous advantages. People can save time and do tasks much more accurately. Email is a typical example where the information transmitted by network is faster and more accurate than that transmitted by traditional methods. More and more people now feel comfortable using email rather than ordinary mail. Furthermore, young people who were born in the computer age prefer seeing work produced by the computer rather than work produced by hand. They like typing with the keyboard much more than writing with pen because it is neater.

On the other hand, although the computer is a strong tool of our daily lives and work, it cannot wholly replace work produced by hand. There are still a lot of disadvantages in work produced by the computer. For example, when we use the computer, we must use a mouse. Suppose we move the mouse one inch on the mouse panel, the cursor on the screen cannot actually move one inch and in the same direction. There is a different scale between the movement of the mouse and the movement of the cursor on the screen, which can generate a gap between virtual and real outcomes. Sometimes, when we draw something on the screen, the computer can connect the dots randomly and generate shapes that are very amazing and maybe better than those in our imagination. However, we should not accept a shape created outside of our mind. There are big differences between drawing lines by hand and by the computer. Common sense tells us that lines consist of numerous dots. Hand drawing is a true experience of connecting each dot on a line. In contrast, the computer can only connect the start point and end point of the line. Therefore, people cannot truly understand and experience what the line actually means. Finally, the biggest disadvantage of the computer is that the color of the image on the screen and that we print out cannot be the same. This is why some people still like using film cameras rather than digital cameras.

Work produced by hand, therefore, still has huge advantages. It can keep the pureness of the work and present the intention of the worker directly and correctly. This is why a lot of products are still completed by hand, such as high-priced clothing and cars. The hands and eyes are the first and direct destinations of our mind. For example, when we write an article, our brains generate ideas and transmit them to our hands and eyes. Then, our eyes can always pay attention to our hands. In other words, hands and eyes are combined together and work for our brain. However, if we use the computer, our eyes pay attention to the screen, and our hands pay attention to the keyboard and mouse. Therefore, we cannot actually feel or experience the work. Furthermore, we can more easily see and feel the sincerity and spirit in an article or letter written by hand, and combine it with our own ideas and imagination, than we can with typed articles.

In conclusion, although we are living in an era of high technology, a digital world, we should not get rid of our traditional work methods. Work produced by hand will always be a big part of our lives and keep the tradition and pureness of our intentions.

Ways to Gain Respect

Liana C. Olivella, Colombia

Tim Kean's High Advanced Writing

Respect is indispensable to living in society and having great interpersonal relationships. Being respected by others is also one of the most important ways to achieve success. Nowadays, we have a crisis because the milieu in which we live has become hostile and intolerant. Three excellent ways to gain respect, however, are to value ourselves, instill respect in our homes so that we learn to accept other people, and develop knowledge in a field of interest.

Valuing ourselves is the first step. People must love, protect, cultivate, evaluate, and accept themselves, not destroy their minds and bodies with unhealthy food, drugs, and alcohol. They must also avoid subjecting themselves to painful situations, such as self-insults, or getting tattoos and piercings just for fashion or vanity. If we understand these actions clearly, we realize that one of the most important and beautiful things in life is to learn to respect ourselves more.

Respect must also be cultivated in the family because home is the primary place where children learn to respect themselves and everybody else. Parents are the most important people in our lives because they establish rules, are the role models at home, and also are the first people, together with siblings, with whom one interacts. Children imitate good or bad family behavior, which influences their relationships with other people. Furthermore, it is really significant to keep in mind that a way of showing respect to other people is being tolerant because the world is full of distinct races, customs, behaviors, and ideologies.

Fostering awareness is another good way to get respect. People who take great pains to cultivate their knowledge and become experts in a field obtain not just admiration, but also power. An expert is a person with a high degree of skill in or knowledge of a certain subject and who is constantly staying up-to-date. These people are highly visible, listened to, and borne in mind for important events, such as conferences, symposiums, and excellent jobs. For instance, the best salesmen are those who know deeply about the advantages and disadvantages of their products and can identify the needs of their customers.

In conclusion, people always complain about other people not respecting them, but many of them do not recognize that first they must respect themselves by valuing their minds and bodies and building up knowledge. Then they can respect others by being tolerant and accepting them as they are.

The PALS Echo is devoted to presenting the writings of our intensive English language students.

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