

ESL EXCHANGES

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Lingjie Feng

Taste Of Time

China stands in the world as a big country.

Rice wine is made in China and includes Chinese cultures.

Rice is brewed in a clayed pot;

Essence is changed over time.

People wait for the opening of the pot;

It is so clear and colorless,

But the smell attracts people

Bittersweet

Time's taste makes it mysterious.

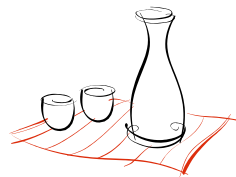
Drinkers find their own feelings;

However, nobody can tell them in detail.

Whatever you feel now,

Raise your cup.

Gangbei!



Ali Almuzayen

Back to My Home

I'm from the city of date trees.

I'm from the city that has no trees.

I'm from the city that has more cars.

I'm from pollution, danger and cigars.

I'm from tasty food, but I'm fancy and rude.

I'm from a city that can tell anything except the truth.

I'm from a dentist who can't take out your tooth.

I'm from a poorness searching for food.

I'm from a richness sitting on expensive wood.

I'm from the hottest region on the earth.

I'm from the coolest place to create worth.

I'm from the hunger game, but that was a movie

And we are in the real game.

And I'd like to mention this to the world:

The mistake made would not happen again.



Ayako Okawa

Karaage

I can be a different person on my stage.
If I prepare very well,
I will be perfect.

I want to be perfect.
So, I have to take time to prepare;
Taking time is very important.
I need something special that others do not have:
Soy sauce, ginger, garlic
It is very important for me.

I need one more day to stand on my stage.
Keep my place to get more experience.

Finally, I see my stage;
I put on my makeup, I powder myself with flour.
Ok, I am ready to stand on my stage.

The stage is very hot because of the light.
I am moving with my teammate,
Dance, Dance, Dance,
I change my color.
I am so confident.

I had a great experience;
My performance was perfect.
Now, everybody is looking at me, smiling
And taking my picture
I have changed my personality;
I look very different,
Because I am covered with many good experiences.



Danyao Lin (Claire)

I Am From . . .

I am from a seed, black and small,

Falling down to the pot in the yard.

Day after day, the sun shines and the water makes me grow up.

I am from a flower, colorful and fragrant.

I watch the woman who makes dumplings with her family.

And chat with the turtle in the pond.

I am from a girl, quiet and introverted.

When I woke up and looked in the mirror, I found the other girl was looking at me.

She was my sister.

I am from a warm family, happy and lovely.



Chunghee Lee



Rice Cake

Able to get along easily with others just as a rice cake mixes with other foods

Able to apply for various roles in different places just as a rice cake is culture based

It's dynamic.

Able to handle a task by itself just as a rice cake does

Able to cooperate with others just as a rice cake adjusts to a menu

It's enthusiastic.

Willing to participate at a global level just as a rice cake seems to be loved globally,

I eagerly get involved in the world.

Hiroki Kawai

Friends

My friends are like cookies to me.

Cookies are not vital for me to survive, but sometimes I really need them.

Friends are the same.

I can survive without my friends, but I would feel very alone without them.

So, just like cookies, my friends are sweet to me.

There are many kinds of cookies and my friends are also different from each other.

Most importantly, I love both cookies and friends.



Aminul Haque

My Flags Are My Food

Fish with rice is the national food of Bangladesh,
And red and green is the color of our national flag.

Green denotes the nature,
And red represents blood of the soldiers.

Because of the patriotism of soldiers,

I was able to be born free.

I admire those people and soldiers
Who fought with compassion for our country,
And got freedom from cruel Pakistan.

The green motherland provides

All types of food.

Because of the independence in 1971,
The motherland and people became free.
They are able to plant all types of food freely.

One of the known foods is the coconut;
Coconut is not only good for our health,

But is used to cure disease.

I am a person similar to a coconut.

My outside appearance is brown

And inside is white.



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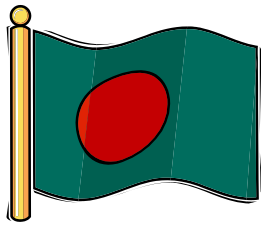
I am sharp as a blade.

I fly two flags proudly.

I feel very happy in my life.

I see the light of the future,

Which would change my life!



Yifu Liu

Effective Violence Video Games

Violent video games cause troubles and bad effects on human behavior, especially on young adults. If you play a lot of violent video games, you would try to do the same reactions as the characters in the game.

So, people would cause more troubles in public places. Students would think that if they get angry, they can hit somebody to be cool as the violent games do; also their friends can join the violent children and become a gang; then they would do the same violence and evil things to somebody they hate. So, the violent video games are not good.



However, some people say that violent games don't cause bad effects on people, because people should be mature and know about the differences of what is and what is not real. They say that parents of the family would help the young adults and tell them how children should behave in public. They don't think children can hide their thoughts and do things differently from what their parents said. So, violent video games do not cause trouble in people's behavior. In my mind, I think young adults would not tell their parents about what they really think, so I think the violent games is not good for them.



Haoran Liu

I Am From ...

I am from an old-redwood table, a heavy-blackwood bed

And my small-whitewood chair.

I am from white camellia, white peony

And red rose blooming in the yard.

I am from a little cute dog, little cute pup

That was fed by me and stayed with me.

I am from place to place, people to people

From north to south, west to east.

I am from a sea of books

One to ten, ten to a thousand.

I am from a big family,

Like four dynasties together in one period.

And now,

I am from novel to novel, cartoon to cartoon and game to game.

Ok, maybe I forget my class.



~

Waleed Binselim

I Am From . . .

I am from a small family with a cute cat.

I am from video games and movies every day on the giant TV with the family.

I am from Ping Pong in the yard with the family and friends.

I am from gathering every Friday to eat sea food.

I am from Burger King every weekend because my dad likes it.

I am from the best food on the planet in my neighborhood, Al Baik, Shaorma and Flafel.

I am from soccer in the field in front of my house.

I am from the soccer field where all the boys gather to play.

I am from the city that everyone should see.

I am from Jeddah the princess of the sea.



Peter Huang

Home

I am from a small town where my dad grew up,

Pure but full of love and memories.

I am from a strict family,

Building me up with a strict personality.

I am from the deep in my heart,

The only place I know.

I am from my mom's care,

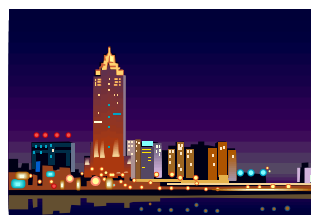
That I start to miss now.

I am from Taiwan,

The paradise that is full of deliciousness.

I am from a sweet family,

And I want to go home.



Sophie Zhai

Should Animals Be Used For Medical Testing

Animals medical testing has been a controversial topic for a long time. Some people think that animals should not be used for any medical testing purpose because of the animal's rights. However, animal testing should be considered based on the situation, such as cancer or the sort of disease that might threaten all human beings.

First, according to biological evolution, only the strong creatures will survive. Thus, when there are diseases that are potential threats to human beings, we naturally tend to find the way to find cures for them, no matter what the way is. The concepts of the right concerning animals are actually made by humans, so their rights also can be changed by humans when they need to cope with some serious disease.

In the wild natural world, there are no such rights. The only thing that has existed since thousands of years ago are the natural rules which indicate that only the strong survive. Humans dominate the world, which is actually the result of successful fighting against other creatures. In this way, it is reasonable to test animals for medical purposes because sometimes we need to sacrifice the small group of living things in order to protect the whole world.

For example, when there is an unknown disease that might threaten human beings and other creatures, the experts have to find a way to get rid of the threat. Otherwise, it potentially will destroy the entire chain of life. In this condition, the experts might have to use the white mouse to have the testing done in order to save the whole world.



Djiby Ousmane

Where I Am From

I am from the desert, where the sun becomes my heat in the winter.

I am from a wide spread house where families stay together forever.

I am from the tribe that brags about their cows, goats and sheep.

I am from the fulah, the warriors, and the nomads.

I am from rice and beans at day and couscous at night.

I am from the long river called “Fleuve du Senegal,” where

Every child comes to swim and have fun every afternoon.

I am from the village, small in the sight of an American, big in my sight.

I am from the soccer fields without grass or carpets.

I am from a team that is less likely to lose a match. The champions

And the winners for many tournaments.

I am from a football game where money is involved.

I am from the cheerful team at the field.

I am from the place where grown-ups get full respect. I am from “No child dare to

Say any harsh word to an adult.”

I am from “Be quiet when adults are talking.”

I am from “Say good morning and greet before saying anything.”

I am from “Help your parents as much as you can.”

I am from “Respect women, children and elders.”

I am from a happy tribe. That’s where I am from .



Yilin Wang

Do Violent Video Games Cause Violent Crimes?

Violent video games causing violent crimes or not is a controversial topic. Many people say that there is no relationship between violent video games and violent crimes. However, violent video games do cause violent crimes because if you play video games every day it really affects people's ideas. Sometimes you would learn many violent actions from video games.

These days, there are many people who like to play video games, especially violent video games. They feel excited when they kill people or fight with people in the game and also they can blow off steam by violent video games. Yet, this is very dangerous. Sometimes you kill many people in the game and then you come back to the real world. You may kill people in the real world because you think you are still in the game and killing people in the video game are not crimes. There are some people who do violent things in the video games so they may want to try to do the same in the real world. People said they just want to try the same crimes in the real world. They don't even notice they are crimes. Also, people would learn many violent actions from video games. It has a very bad influence on young people.

Some people say violent movies will cause more violent crimes than violent video games. But if it's a video game, you would play it and you would think about it. So it has more of an effect on people.

In conclusion, violent video games are able to cause violent crimes. If people were to control themselves in playing video games, the world would be harmonious.



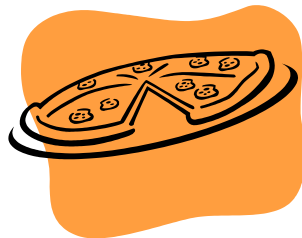
Christian Zoeger

Pizza

Italy, where my great-grandfather
was born, is the place where pizza comes from.

I consider myself a well-rounded person, just as the chef throws
dough to get a round perfection. What is pizza without cheese?
It's me when I am not happy. You can choose different toppings. I can
talk about different topics. The pizza is in slices ready to share.

I am generous and always fair. Extra-large pizza is family size,
So everyone in my family can have a slice.



Yuta Abe

Do Violent Video Games Cause Violent Crimes?

Violent video games are not a sufficient motivator to cause violent crimes because to commit violent crimes depends on the people and how they perceive the experiences of playing violent video games. Basically, video games are just a way to have fun, and they themselves don't promote violence.

Some people claim that realistic violent games, which are called First Person Shooter, can be triggers to violence in the specific environment where it is easy to get guns, especially for the people who have a traumatic experience in their childhood. However, since the argument depends on the people and the environment, we cannot conclude that violent video games really cause the violent crimes. Crimes are caused by people, but not games.

To sum up, violent video games never cause violent crimes by themselves. Other factors must be found for the causes such as personality, family, and gun control in the society.



Sandra Coleman



Feijoada

Seafood “feijoada” is a colorful dish like my dress that I love to wear in the summer. It is made with white beans like the color of sand at the beach in Brazil; the others ingredients are: squid, it does not have much taste but it is like me when I have PMS, but the squid is cut in rolls and looks nice mixed with the others ingredients; octopus, it is like a teacher who wants to protect her students from something bad, like me when I was a teacher of children in Brazil, super protector; shrimp, Hummmmm! The beloved shrimp, it makes any dish delicious like a dish made by a grandmother; and mussels that have a special tinge with an exotic flavor like my accent. Also, to increase the flavor, I fold in garlic and onion that are like my voice in the classroom, strong and insistent; and the last ingredients are yellow and green pepper. Together, they complete my colorful dress of summer.



Ami Kawano

Japan is Anpan!

An and Pan is bean paste and bread.

An is from Japan,

Pan is from Portugal.

Bread is from abroad,

Far across the oceans.

When people traveled by ship

Bread had arrived with a western weapon.

Anpan originated in the Meiji era,

One of the seven tools

Which symbolize westernization.

One Japanese man reflected:

“How can I make bread the way people like?”

He got a hint from sake manju,

Sweet dough buns filled with

A little bit of sake kneaded into the dough,

A popular snack for adults and kids.

He tried, failed and tried again.

At last he made it!





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At last he made it!
Instead of yeast used for bread,
He used yeast for making sake.
Japanned sweet bread,
Presented to the Meiji emperor,
Round and chewy,
Soft and moist inside,
Gritty on the tongue.
Anpan is the fruit of
The mixture of cultures!



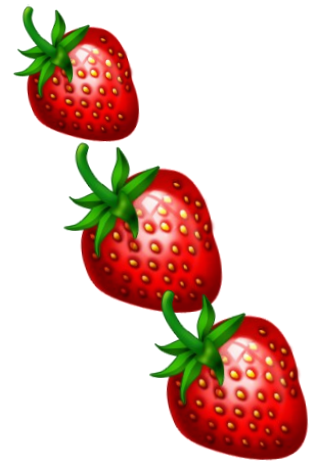
Daniela Zheng Li

The Beauty of the Strawberry

Winter this year in New Paltz was so long,
This made me look forward to the coming of spring,
And spring makes me want to eat strawberries.
Strawberries are riddled with small brown sesame seeds,
The skin is surrounded with many small bumps.
The stem cannot support the whole body,
So it is half on top and half on the group.
Strawberries have a white coat when they are born.
When they are little girls, they dress in a green and red shirt.
When they are mature, they dress in a red dress and have a green hat.
An attractive appearance!

She gets shy when she is mature.
She does not like to look directly into the sun.
She has no confidence in herself;
However, she wants to show the most beautiful part of her;
Not her weak part.

The taste of strawberry is sweet and sour and sour and sweet.
When you taste the sourness, she will give you a bit of sweet;
When you taste the sweetness, she will give you a bit of sour.
Red dress and the green hat,



Yanying Wang

Ice Cream

People in America are much like the different colors of ice cream. Chocolate is black. Vanilla is white and banana is yellow. When I came to America, I ate ice cream every day because American ice cream is creamier than Chinese ice cream. Now, I am on the campus. My friend and I often eat ice cream in the dining hall. We always buy vanilla and we squeeze the bottle of chocolate sauce to cover the vanilla. Both of us smile at each other and then we each lick our ice cream. We suddenly feel happiness. Then we bite the vanilla in its cone. We feel our teeth are frozen, and we become more excited because the cold makes us wake up. Ice cream always makes for a happy time. Though, my face becomes round because of ice cream.



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Ali Ghamri

Ice cream is all I need.

My soul admires the sweet taste of the cream,

And my brain feels the coldness of the ice.

I try to keep the bite in my mouth as long as I can

To feel the ice cream melting on my tongue,

And exploding flavor.

I melt if I am sad or depressed,

And after I freeze, I am happy.

I am always cold.

I eat cold,

And I drink cold.

I do not stop eating ice cream, no matter if it is snowing or raining,

Or if the weather is cold or hot.

I am a child in front of the ice cream section in supermarkets,

Otherwise, I am an adult who is responsible.



Carolina Santamaria Vazquez

21th March 2013

Consumerism from Different Government Policies

Prominent companies and corporations today are in competition for having the best prices to attract customers. Over the last 30 years the globalization movement has grown and this fact is changing the rules of the consumerist culture; because customers want low prices, corporations have had to move their factories to underdeveloped countries. Companies are motivated to impose unfair policies for workers and even sweatshop conditions because American and western European customers want to obtain bargains. Although this is a problem around the world, authors argue that there are differences between the consumerism in North America and Europe. Some of these differences include: social justice and unionization of workers, as well as global anti-sweatshop policies.

There is an educational video, *The Story of Stuff* in which Annie Leonard explains the process of how companies as Wall-Mart are using these sweatshop policies in order to obtain more benefits for the corporations. This often means less rights for the employees. Connecting with *The Story of Stuff*, consumerism is changing all the styles of life, and I like when Leonard says that the model in Europe is different. In the USA people are used to working more than one job and they only use free time to watch television. While they are watching television they are exposed to commercials created by these corporations; these corporations are trying to convince us as consumers that products make us happier.

Moreover, when Leonard argues that Europe is different from America could be true according to statistics and data in “Americans Work too Much for their own Good”. Graaf & Batker explain the different human resources policies between companies in USA and Europe. They compare these policies between the Netherlands and the USA, and we can see how many hours Americans work in contrast with the Dutch. One piece of data shows that American work 400 hours more than the Dutch: while the Dutch work 1400 hours per year, Americans work 1800. Also there is data about what benefits workers in Europe have including health attention, paid vacation





during at least four weeks, etc. Finally, these authors add information about the age to obtain the pension and as we can read it is lower in Europe (Graaf & Batker).

With all these benefits we could think of a possible hypothesis and say that consumerism is stronger in countries with more neoliberal policies. That means, in countries with more social policies in which governments are regulating the behavior of markets and companies there is less irrational consumption. According with this thesis, depending on the policy of one government or another there will be more control over consumerism. Maybe consumerism in America is caused by these neoliberal policies that don't protect workers. So these people use consumerism as a means of escaping from stress and finding peace.

When I was doing the research about the differences between policies and consumerism in Europe and America, I found one term used in the Internet: "Walmarting". So now, we use all kinds of these terms as "Walmarting," "McDonaldization," "Cocacolonization," "Disneyfication" to refer to companies' policies. All these terms sometimes are used in a pejorative sense, and others are just describing part of the process. For example, Walmarting is used to explain the use of homogenization of the retail sector because of those practices. Walmarting is a term or a concept that has been used for describing examples of cheaper consumerism. Inevitably it means that companies will have to outsource. Outsourcing implies more benefits for companies but fewer rights for workers. For this reason, most of the workers in these companies, and speaking about workers in America, know that they don't have fair working conditions but accept these conditions because otherwise they have to search for another job. They don't have right to defend themselves with a union of workers; they don't have the right to health attention. When they arrive to their houses the only thing these individuals will do is use consumerism as way to escape. Probably they will buy from companies with the same unfair policies just because prices are cheaper (Reich).

According to the point of view of the educational video of Annie Leonard, "you cannot run a linear system on a finite planet indefinitely." In these words she argues that we can't continue with this system of political consumerism. I think that using this video in schools is a good way to try to create a critical awareness in the new generations. I agree with the argument in *The Story of Stuff* when it says that governments have to take care of us and





they have to work to give us opportunities for living in a healthy society. There have to be laws and chances for workers, social justice, and letting companies have unionization of workers. Unionization of workers in Europe is doing a great job regulating between the Government and Companies with contracts which will be helpful to define the basic rules, rights, and duties of workers. Unions of workers and Governments in Europe are concerned for creating policies and keeping all workers' rights. The strength of this movement cannot exist in the USA until the Government is more involved as is Europe. So after these arguments the question for us is whether socialism or neoliberal policies can impact the consumerism in countries. And my personal opinion is yes. I think that this connection is there.

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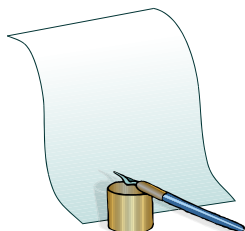
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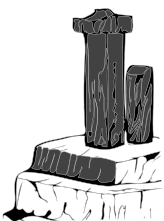


Kong Ri Chen

Cemetery Reflection

Before we headed to the cemetery, I was scared and a little frightened because I didn't feel comfortable being around a graveyard. I always was told by my family that a cemetery is not a good place to go because bad things will follow us home. Only during Memorial Day will we visit the cemetery because it feels like the only day that we are allowed to go to the graveyard. However, I feel like a cemetery is a place that always feels sad and it is not a good place that we should hang out. Especially, at night the graveyard looks extremely scary. I always thought that because the cemetery is full of dead people, a place full of dead bodies seems to be unclean and sadness is all around.

After I visited the cemetery, I felt wired and my body felt very itchy. I still feel uncomfortable being around the graveyard. I hate to say this, but I feel very disrespectful stepping on the graves because I was told that if we do anything that the dead people dislike, they will come after us. I will not be able to sleep well tonight because inside my brain I keep on thinking about the graveyard and the people who were buried there. Even though the cemetery looks very creepy and scary, I learned a lot by walking around the graveyard because there is much historical evidence that we can find about certain periods. For example, every grave we visited we found babies who died at an early age. This told us that during that time, because there was no medication like today, many babies could not survive. Many women died very young because of difficult births or disease. Something that always interested me is looking at their ages because ages tell us a lot of stories behind the dead people. Some grave stones looked very simple and small, but the wealthy family always had the big grave stones or even built a house to represent their richness in their family.



Kaoru Odashima

Today, I went to the cemetery in New Paltz for the first time. I have seen many cemeteries since I came to the U.S., but I did not have an opportunity to visit there. That is why I was curious what an American cemetery is like. Also, I wanted to compare it to a Japanese cemetery. When I got there, I was surprised that the place was huge. Even though there were a lot of graves, there was much more space to build them. Gravestones were the same as I watched in American movies, so it was like as if I was in one of the scenes from a film. My professor walked around these graves and explained some of the historical background. There were many kinds of gravestones, such as a mausoleum and an obelisk. She said that we could estimate not only the historical background, but also social classes of families from the graves. I was a little bit scared because she touched and even stepped on the graves without any fear.

Compared to the American cemetery, the Japanese cemetery is very different in terms of space, the shape of the graves, and size. As you know, Japan is a small country, so we do not have much space. That is why a lot of graves are crowded in a small space, and it is hard to walk on the path and find my ancestors' graves. Even if the path is very narrow, we should not step on the graves because we will get bad luck if we step on them. Also, the shape of the gravestones is totally different from the American ones. Most of them are like rectangular blocks and it is hard to guess whether the family is wealthy or not. However, Japanese graves also have the names of the dead people and the date of their birth and death on them like American ones.



Xiao Xiao

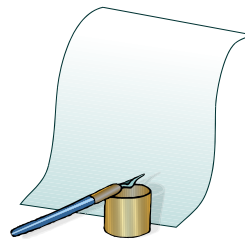
About the Trip to the Cemetery

Every time I go to a cemetery in China, I feel demure, because there are people who are dead that lay beneath the ground. I don't want to offend the dead, so I talk quietly and walk softly. Maybe because of the movies, I think that the ghosts really exist, and they may be around me, but I just can't see them.

About the trip to the cemetery in America, to be honest, I feel the same way as I do when I go to the cemetery in China. But what I see is different than China. In China, we always have the graves on the mountain, and we believe in Feng Shui. The best place for graves will be the place where the tombstone faces the south, has a good view, and the mountain is behind. But I don't see any of those in America, or maybe I don't know the culture concerning cemeteries in America.

I see the cemetery in America like a garden and I like it. It is very convenient for the family to come to the cemetery to remember their family members. But in China, we always put the graves far away from the city, and we don't go to a cemetery often. We have a special day for people to remember the dead. It is called Tomb-sweeping Day. We go to sweep the tomb on that day once a year usually, and we have a long holiday for that. Another difference is that the tomb in China has a little hill upon the coffin and in front of the tombstone, it looks very creepy.

I don't like to go to a cemetery. I think it is a sad place. People don't want to lose their family members or friends, but the cemetery is the place that collects all the sadness. However, I hope the dead can live happily in a peaceful place.



Yinan Hou

An Interesting Cemetery Trip

In my mind, a cemetery is a holy place. In China, my teacher brought students to visit a cemetery every year with hand-made white flowers because she wanted us to remember the heroes in our hearts. Those heroes are the soldiers who died in the wars and people make many tombstones in a park in order to remember them. I am never afraid in the cemetery. It is the same this time. Before the trip, I considered this trip as an opportunity to visit New Paltz. After the trip, I noticed many things that I have never thought about. For example, I never looked at the words on the tombstones, especially the dates. Today, while I was looking at the years and dates on the tombstones, I felt sad because everyone will face death, but some people died so young. Life is really short. The most interesting and touching thing for me is about the Easter eggs. When I saw the Easter eggs on the tombstones, I thought it was so sweet because someone is fussing and remembering the dead people when he/she is celebrating Easter. In addition, I like old tombstones rather than the new tombstones because the old stuff shows history and stories.

To be honest, I do not believe in ghosts. Thus, I am never afraid of the cemetery and I do not have many ideas about what I need to write. I may write a ghost story about the mausoleum since I never saw the mausoleum before and it seems like there are some stories behind them. Actually, while I was looking inside the mausoleum through the glass, the inside is a little bit crumbly. Even though it looks new and clean, it gives me a weird feeling. It is a mini house with dead bodies, but the bodies are between the walls. No one even knows what is going on with the bodies.



Minhuang Chen

If I have a chance to bring someone famous back from the dead, I prefer to choose William Shakespeare, because I think his works are excellent and contain positive power. He wrote literature for people to let gain more knowledge, and clean the human's soul. After I read "Romeo and Juliet," I felt the power of true love. Shakespeare makes me believe in true love. After I read Sonnet 18, I realized that spiritual beauty can remain forever. His works make people see the different sides of the world. He created the new minds and world for readers. He needs to come back to live to save people's minds and offer new works for them. Based on that, I prefer to bring William Shakespeare back from the dead.



Zhixing Hu

The Trip to the Cemetery

Honestly, going to cemeteries are not always good experiences in Asian people's lives. The attitude of Western people to dead people is so different from that of the Orient. People are told to show their greatest respect to their ancestors, especially in the cemetery. People are forbidden to walk on the graves and talk about death; meanwhile, people believe that showing disrespect in a cemetery will bring bad luck to them. However, the situation in America is very different. People are not only allowed to talk and to walk on the graves, but also are willing to live near a cemetery. It gave me a new experience in the cemetery.

I also find some similar points between the Orient and the West. First of all, rich people and powerful people always enjoy better service even after they die. Rich families own mausoleums and obelisks. Their dead bodies can stay together after they pass. However, many poverty level families only have small grave stones. The vagrants' grave stones are unnamed sometimes. Secondly, the views around the cemetery are always very beautiful. We can see flowers bloom beside the grave stones. This is a special trip for me. I learned from this experience.



Iandra Cepeda

Trip to the New Paltz Cemetery

As I grew up, I was told that cemeteries were scary places. They were full of the ghosts of the dead people's spirits. Also, most of the ghost stories I heard would take place in a cemetery or the scariest part of the story would take place in a cemetery. From listening to all these stories, I had always assumed that cemeteries are full of ghosts of dead people and that made me feel afraid of going in a cemetery. Every time I went to a cemetery, I felt afraid and wanted to leave right away.

In this class trip to the cemetery, I felt different from the other times I had gone to a cemetery. This trip was more of a peaceful learning experience, instead of a scary, stressful trip. It was an extremely quiet and peaceful place. Cemeteries are peaceful places instead of scary because they are where the remains of people rest.


Also, on this trip, I learned new things I did not know about cemeteries. For example, I learned what a mausoleum is, which is another way to bury the body of the people, but not in the ground. Also, that probably before the 1960s, there was a high percentage of infants dying because there was not the advanced medical technology there is now. Almost every family had lost a child after he was born or before he was born.



Kanako Takano

About the Cemetery

My family usually goes to a cemetery about once every two months. It is about an hour away from my house. However, we go there often because we are respectful of our ancestors. I do not think the cemetery is a scary place, but I went to the cemetery here in the U.S. the first time and how people do things here is really different. I felt a little afraid because I do not know how to respect the place and behave in the place. Actually, I was stepping on someone's dead body. I felt so weird and at the same time I could see their historical background such as date of the birth, date of the death, their family structure and also being able to guess the age of when they died. Before I went to the cemetery, I was kind of excited to see the different cultural style of graves and cemeteries. However, when I got to the place I had the same feeling like when I visit my family's cemetery. I felt even though the place and style is different, people have the same feelings about having a place to remind them of ancestors.

My idea for a ghost story is about a family who did not visit their ancestors in a long time. Their grave became miserable looking. After a while the family starts seeing their ancestor that they do not even know. Weird happenings start to occur to the family and finally the ancestor's sorrow and anger will cause the family to die. 

Agata Iskow

Boo!

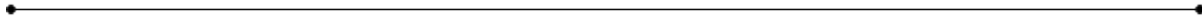
When I was fourteen years old, I went for three weeks to a youth camp. I was in Poland then. The scenery and the surroundings were beautiful. We lived in the forest in the beautiful log houses, very close to the majestic Baltic Sea. I lived in my room with two other girls. During the day, the forest looked so stunning and fairy-like, but when the moon was rising high, the woodlands looked so spooky...

Each night we sat in our room. We were talking about different scary movies, stories, legends and ghosts.

One night I came up with the idea to call up the ghosts from the woods. My roommates were scared and started to panic a bit, but I told them I have the experience with that, so they finally agreed. We grabbed our hands and sat by the table. In the middle of our spiritualistic séance, I started moving the table with my knees and shaking my bed. The girls freaked out! They were screaming and crying. I knew I almost scared them to death, but at the moment I thought it was funny. That very same night, after we went to our beds, we heard a loud knocking on my



my night stand. I froze, because no one was around and no one could do that. I knew I accidentally called a real ghost. From that day I have never scared anybody.



Zhenkang Yao

Five Thousand Years from Now

If I could live any place and at any time, I would like to live on the moon 5000 years from now. At this time, I think humans will already break through the limitations of time and medicine. Time cannot control us anymore. Nobody will die, and no more sickness is around us. We will never lose our friends, family, and loved ones. However, even though it sounds great, we have to have to deal with a new big problem, which is how we can arrange so many people on the Earth.

Five thousand years from now, more and more new babies will come without people dying. The Earth cannot bear so many people anymore. So, we will start to decide to move out of the Earth. We will build a lot of “Living Rooms” on many other planets, such as the Moon, Mars, and even out in the Galaxy. At that time, I would be the 5000 year old person, which means I will have a lot of prerogatives, such as I have the first chance to choose which planet I would like to live on.

I would choose the moon to be my “Living Room.” Not only is it close to the Earth, but is also easy to go to other planets. At that time, the Moon will be the biggest transfer station in the Galaxy. If we want to go to other planets to visit our friends or family, the first stop will be the Moon. Also, if people who live on other planets want to come back to the Earth, they also have to go to the Moon first. So, in order to avoid trouble, I choose to live on the Moon.

That is what would happen in 5000 years and what I am going to do at that time. If you want to see me after 5000 years, we will meet on the Moon. So see you on the Moon!



Tan Minh Truong

The Unknown

Before I went to the New Paltz Cemetery, I was very nervous and curious because this was my first time that I had been to a cemetery. I heard that people could get bad luck after they had been to a cemetery. New Paltz is well known as a ghost town. I was a little scared because I was afraid to see a ghost. I expected the trip would be something with mystery and interest like in a ghost movie. At the end, I was excited for this field trip.

On the way to the cemetery, I saw a lot of houses around that make me wonder if people here are afraid of ghosts. I would be really afraid if my house is right next to a cemetery because there's a high chance that I would see a ghost if I came home late. When we arrived at the cemetery, I saw a lot of graves around. It gave me a weird feeling because I might see a ghost soon. When we walked around, I saw many interesting things that people died from different years and you could learn many things from reading the graves. This gave me a feeling to write a ghost story. I can imagine myself walking around New Paltz Cemetery at night and discovering many cool things that I would not see in the daytime. I would meet many new people. These people would tell me many stories during the time when they discovered New Paltz. They would also talk about their life experience. These people are so nice that they will give me food and I will dance with them. It turned out to be a great field trip because I learned many things from walking around the cemetery.



Xiaofei Wu

I Killed My Older Sister

I killed my older sister when I was a child. I am telling the truth. My older sister sometimes still complains that I took her first life away. I will remember it forever because that was also my first time to get my biggest punishment.

That was a hot summer. I was playing with a syringe. Children at that time had no money to buy water guns, so we played in the water using syringes with needles on them. My mom shouted to me from the loft. She tried to stop me from playing this kind of dangerous game. However, I pretended not to hear her and kept playing with my favorite “toy.” I ran quickly around our yard and shot water everywhere. When I ran to the gate of the yard, the door suddenly opened. I clearly saw my older sister’s head coming onto the needle in my hand. I could not stop my steps because I was running too fast. The needle was pushed into her head right at the temple. One second after, my older sister was yelling out. I dropped the syringe, stood there and cried also. I was totally shocked because I thought I killed my older sister. My mom was also shocked. She ran down into the yard and to my older sister very quickly. She held her head with her hand and shook it from left to right. She was surprised that there was not blood on her head. She checked again and made sure there was no blood on her head. She took a deep breath and picked up the syringe. The needle on it was bent over.

Until now, my sister and I still cannot understand why the needle did not go into her brain and her head was not hurt, even a little bit. My mom told us it was a miracle. Then she also gave me a miraculous punishment, which I cannot ever forget!



Nina Manuel

A Journey to a Delusional Life

Dear Prince Charming,

I am a psychologist, and I am writing to you to warn you that you are about to make a huge mistake by marrying Cinderella. You might think that you found that special one, and you will live “happily ever after” with your beloved Cinderella, but you are living in a delusion. If you take a minute and read my letter you would realize that it all makes sense, and you would be trapped in an unhealthy relationship. So, think about it before you enter blindfolded into one doomed marriage.

There are some characteristics that I want you to be aware of in order to understand the codependent personality that Cinderella possesses. Codependency is a mental disorder. Based on my recent research of the common traits of codependent personality, I found that she fits the profile perfectly. Let’s talk about the patterns that I became aware of that are very disturbing.

My Prince, you need to acknowledge that you are confusing love and feeling pity for her. Cinderella is trying to manipulate you into a marriage, because she is playing with your feelings and emotions by presenting herself as a victim. The research shows that she has the control patterns typical for codependent addiction. The tree, the little turtledoves and you are just puppets in her sick way trying to manipulate you! She tries to make the little turtledoves feel sorry for her in order to help her collect the lentils from the ashes, to manipulate you! She tries to make the little turtledoves feel sorry for her in order to help her collect the lentils from the ashes, so she can go to the ball. “O tame little doves, little turtledoves, and all you little birds in the sky, come and help me put the good ones into the little pot, the bad ones into your little crop” (Grimm 118). The only thing she does is run into the garden, and weep like a little crying baby. Instead of finding a way around the challenges that life throws at her, she



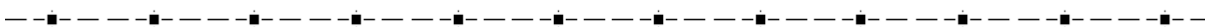
the challenges that life throws at her, she chooses to let them get the best of her and she throws a fit. She needed the tree's help to figure out her problems instead of her, not one, but three times. "Shake your branches, little tree, Toss gold and silver down on me" (Grimm 119). Instead of taking care of herself, she chooses the easy way out and relies on you guys to solve her problems. You are not helping her at all. Wake up! She is using you to bail her out of her miserable life. She is mentally sick, and until she gets help for her destructive behavior, you would not be able to have a functional relationship. She would be an unequal partner, and she always will be a needy and whining person that relies on you for everything.

Cinderella would not be a perfect fit as a future queen because she has low self-esteem.. That is why Cinderella lets her stepmother and two sisters make her life miserable without complaining about even a single thing. She also looks to others like you, dear Prince, to provide a sense of safety, which is a low self-esteem pattern. The bottom line is she needs therapy if you are willing to help her and spend the rest of your life with her. Cinderella is in denial about her obsessive, compelling need to control and she manipulates the people in her life.

Therefore, after you read my sincere concern, I hope you understand that it is not in her interest that you to be an enabler, and help her every time before she even tries to figure things out on her own. If you truly care and love her, you would understand that she needs professional help in order to overcome her codependency. Cinderella needs an intervention from the people that care about her. She might not realize the problem, since denial is another common trait of codependency, but it would be beneficial to both of you if you decide to come to my office for couples counseling in order to deal with her issues. As a doctor, I am concerned and that is why I am warning you to resolve this urgent problem matter. Do not wait! Help her before it is too late! Otherwise, you will have an unhealthy and delusional life together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nina Manuel



Thierno Balde

My Ghost Journey

What I knew

Do ghosts really exist? Are we never alone in our reality because spirits of the dead are around us? When I was young, watching African movies was one of my hobbies. By watching very good movies, I realized that most of the movies were based on reality, things that happen every day in life. One of the best movies I ever watched was called blood sisters. This movie is about two sisters who do not get along that live in the same place. It is an interesting shocker about two blood sisters, born and raised through blood by one mother. After one of the sisters got killed by the other sister, her ghost came back for revenge to haunt down her sister. The things I saw the ghost do to her sister were unbelievable. At night, the ghost would come in the house and make a lot noise and move things around. The ghost would follow the evil sister everywhere she went. That is when I started wondering about the existence of ghosts. I become very interested on researching the types of ghost and their reasons for haunting.

I always believe that after someone dies, their spirit will be around. When I was in middle school, people used to say that my school was haunted. I knew people were right about it and I always wanted to see or feel when ghosts were around. I become very interested about the types of ghost and the reasons for haunting us. However, I did not have any opportunities to do a research about it. My school did not have a library or a computer where I could look for information. Unfortunately, I never found out the truth about ghosts until I left my country.

It was not until last year when a friend of mine got killed in New York City. It was very sad and nobody thought this would have happened to him at a very young age. After his death, I always felt like his spirit was always around and wanting to hang out with me. This made me more interested about researching about ghosts. I feel like researching the truth about the types of ghost and their reason for haunting will make me feel a lot better than hearing other people's opinions which might not be true.





What I want to know

Here in the United States, I have heard of places that ghosts have haunted. Most college campus, prisons and battle fields have its ghost story. Now that I have this opportunity to do research, I am interested more about researching the types of ghosts and their reasons for haunting people. Some people believe the reason why ghosts haunt people is because they are not buried properly. They come back to seek a proper burial. Also some ghosts return to seek revenge, or remain to punish the living for crimes against them or against their descendants.

However, I want know more about the types of ghosts. Is there a good ghost, or evil ghost? Also do ghosts follow you everywhere you go to? Or does it just haunt you in that particular place that you live in. I found out the best way to find out the types of ghost and their reasons for haunting is to use the library resources, and watch credible documentaries about people who have got haunted. Also I will use books because there is always information that people share about their ghost experience and reference sources.

What I learned

Finally, I learned that some ghosts are invisible while others appear with blue light, or in a very foggy place and some ghosts do mysterious things such as moving stuff, opening doors, and making noise. Many times, their reason for haunting is because they seek revenge because they were killed by someone. They are unaware that they are dead, which is their reasons for haunting. Something needs to be accomplished from its life or maybe it was not buried properly so it will not rest until it has gotten a proper burial. Ghosts have unfinished business to complete or an inability to move on. For example, sometimes people die and leave their children at a very young age. However, their souls will always come back and watch over the children. I also learned that some ghosts are very mean. In addition, I learn that there are types of ghosts that haunt people but not the place. In this case, no matter where you go, the ghost will always find you and hunt you down. Moreover, I found out that paranormal investigators use equipment such as portable motion sensors or cameras to find out the existence of a ghost.

My research and experiences has allowed me to say yes ghosts do really exist and there are types of ghost and reasons for haunting. People that experience ghosts' presence in their house, know they are not alone in this world.