“If I don't write to empty my mind, I go mad.”

-Lord Byron
A Horrible Sunday
By: Halah Samarah

One Sunday I woke up very early because my son was crying. My husband was feeling hungry, and he wanted to eat anything. Then, when I was cooking, I suddenly saw a mouse on the plate. I was yelling while my husband was taking a shower. The mouse was running everywhere, and it messed up everything. Because of the noise, my husband hurried out of the shower to kill the mouse. While he was trying to catch it, the latter jumped on his head, and I was screaming. I took a stick to hit the mouse; however, I hit my husband’s head. He was very angry and was screaming at me, and at the same time my son started crying loudly. My neighbor came to help us, but this stupid animal was not alone. Actually, they were more than one, so we made a plan to kill these mice. We put some cheese on a plate to get the mice out of their hideout. So, a few minutes later, they came out to eat the cheese, and very quickly my husband killed these troublesome mice. After that, my house was very dirty and messy. I spent the whole morning trying to clean up the mess.

What is Your Contribution to the MBA?
By: Kevin Li Dong

Why do people want to major in MBA? What is MBA? The answer could be easy or hard, depending on what people think. Maybe people like MBA because it is popular. But what is the original reason in people’s mind? Yes, we could have several responses. That should be helpful for us to know what exactly we want.

As for me, I want to study MBA, because it can supply me with new ideas for my future job. There were many problems about management while I ran my company. I did a lot of research on how to manage the company and solve the problems. To my surprise, the answer was the Master of Business Administration (MBA), which is simply a set of college courses.

There are two things that should be cleared when people select MBA courses. The first one is management experience. That means students should have work experience. It is the most important requirement when people apply for any MBA program. The other one is that people should know what kind of contribution they can share in class.

The MBA offers a big chance to study lots of good business strategies and examples. Some of them are positive and some are negative, but the benefit is significant. In addition, it is also an opportunity for students to share their ideas and work experience. Students learn to think critically, solve problems and discuss issues in a group. Moreover, students from class discussions are possible business partners in the future.

Therefore, the MBA is focused more on what people bring to the class, and what they contribute to the program. Ideas and solutions not only come from books but also from the students’ experiences and independent thinking.
Arabic Food and American Food
By: Mohammed Alassiri

Food is one of the most important parts in our life. It gives us energy and benefits that our bodies need. It comes in different forms depending on the places. Moreover, each country has its special style of food. Some countries became more famous for their food. For example, when you hear “sushi”, you will automatically think of Japan. In addition, you can find many differences between countries in their food especially between Arab countries and their Western counterparts. If we compare Arabic cuisine with American cuisine, a lot of differences can be noticed. These differences between Arabic food and American food are related to ingredients, preparation, and presentation.

The first difference between Arabic food and American food is ingredients. Arabic food uses different kinds of meat from American food. For example, Arabic food uses sheep, goat and camel meats. In contrast, American food uses pork and beef. Unlike Arabic people, American people use turkey meat in some of their meals. Some ingredients are used just in Arabic food like camel milk. In some countries, Arab people often drink camel milk but Americans don’t. In addition, Arabic food uses fresh vegetables and fruits. On the other hand, Americans often use preserved food. Moreover, Arabs usually use more salt and spices in their food by contrast to Americans who use a little salt and a little spice. Another difference is that Arabic food contains many kinds of wheat bread because it has been the main food through ancient Arab history while American food contains little bread because American people eat more pasta and rice than wheat bread in their meals. In addition, fat is a very important difference between Arabic and American foods. Arabic food contains less fat than American food especially the food served in American fast food restaurants such as hamburgers, pizza, hot dogs and French fries.

The second difference between Arabic food and American food is preparation. First of all, Arabic food is cooked over a longer time, and it is well cooked until it becomes softer. In contrast, American food does not take a long time. It takes just little time then it is ready. Next, there are various ways to cook Arabic food especially with meat. For example, the meat is cooked underground in deep hole with fiery charcoal and some plant leaves. Conversely, unusual ways to cook food are not common in American cuisine. Also, Arabic food is usually spicier than American food. For instance, when Arab people cook chicken, they put a lot of red pepper, chili and other hot spices inside. In addition, Arabic food is not reheated to be eaten later but American food is. Americans use the microwave to prepare their food and heat it while Arabic food is not supposed to be reheated in the microwave at all. Finally, different cooking utensils are used in the Arabic cuisine but are not used by Americans. For example, Arabs use pottery pots to cook vegetables and bread and stone pots to cook all kind of meat.

The third difference between Arabic food and American food is presentation. First of all, the presentation of Arabic food is not the same as American food presentation. For example, Arabs usually present the main course in a big dish for everybody to eat from. However, American people usually present their food in many small dishes. Also, in some Arabic countries, people put their food on the floor, and then they sit and eat it together while Americans put their food on the table and each person has their own dishes and plate to eat from. In addition, portions for individuals are bigger in Arab countries. Lastly, Arab people put their food in pottery dishes for presentation and some other kinds of dishes such as steel dishes, glass dishes, but they do not use plastic dishes whereas Americans use all types of dishes to present their food.

In conclusion, Arabic food and its American counterpart have different ingredients, preparation, and presentation styles. In fact, people have a special preference for their food depending on their taste, experience and lifestyle. In the future, foods will be much more similar due to the blending of cultures and globalization.
Robots of the Future
By Vincent

Robot technology is becoming more and more popular all over the world. Specially, Japan has high technology of robots. It’s making a number of different robots which we think they just appear in science fiction.

First, some robots look like humans and speak different languages. Secondly, other robots can help doctors on operations. These robots can play a role of assistants who give operation tools to doctors. Third, another type of robots work on space station. They can gather information about space that would help better know space.

In conclusion, robots will be important in our life. They will be anywhere to help make our life more convenient. I think robot technology will develop highly in the future.

Ancient Egypt
By: Wael Mohamed

Ancient Egypt is considered one of the oldest civilizations on the earth. Throughout the Ancient Egyptian civilization, the Egyptians developed many unique and fascinating ideas that made marks in history. Now modern science proves that ideas can be applied and used in many scientific fields. Really, Ancient Egypt was rich and until now researchers are still discovering new information about it, and Egyptian civilization has greatly affected modern society. In fact, Ancient Egypt was the land of mysteries

Pharaonic kingdoms were the secrets of that age. They led to great historical achievements, starting from Egyptian pyramids which are considered as one of the world wonders.

Inside the pyramids, you can find old mummies and wonderful writings and drawings on the walls called hieroglyphics. Many of these fascinating and ingenious ideas were developed throughout that time. The Nile River was the life’s secret that the civilization originally depended on. Now, people from all over the world visit Egypt and they still wonder how Old Egyptians did all that.
Why Are Students Absent?
By: Gloria Chung

Have you ever been absent from a class in your whole life? I believe the answer is yes. There are abundant reasons which cause students to be absent. If the answer is no, I believe you have at least thought about it before.

First of all, it is important for the teacher to be funny and not boring. It’s easy to fall asleep if a teacher is boring or his/her monotone voice doesn’t have variation. Another reason is that the teacher’s ability to explain the questions is too poor, or the student doesn’t like the way the teacher teaches. All these reasons prevent some students from going to class. There are also some problems of absence which are related to the students. This is a serious problem that students don’t understand much. It’s easy for students to lose enthusiasm to keep continuing with their studies. In the end, they want to give up. Another reason is that sometimes students are sick or wake up late. Sometimes, you will hear some ridiculous excuses for absence even though these excuses are not true, such as attending someone’s wedding, attending a funeral, alien abduction, going abroad, or getting a serious sickness and so on. The teacher is amused to hear those excuses.

There are other reasons that cause students to be absent. For example, the student is not in a good mood, or doesn’t have good relationship with others, or even the student just doesn’t like the way the teacher teaches. Sometimes, the weather is awful. Maybe it’s raining or too cold, and that can force students to stay home and thus be absent. Another important factor of attendance is that the course may be too easy, or the student has already known the material. They don’t have to go to class because they can study by themselves. They believe it’s not necessary. Due to absence, students cannot catch on in class. Also, if the class is too difficult, then the teacher needs to slow down. Sometimes, their teacher may feel sad, angry or nothing because it doesn’t matter. If it’s too difficult, that makes students not want to study anymore. Actually, they give up.

Nevertheless, although it is hard to get them interested once they lose their focus, the problem of absenteeism can be solved. Encouragement is one solution. Those disappointed students need to be encouraged. Another solution is to try to fix the relationship with friends. Also, students should go to sleep earlier. The boring teachers need to change the way of teaching, and improve their ability to explain. Trying to be a funny teacher is easy to make students keep their enthusiastic heart to study. According to those reasons, it’s easy to understand why students are absent. Moreover, there is a solution to fix a problem of student absences. Students can’t change teachers, but they can change their mindset. They can be more responsible and committed to their education. A lot of students must change the way they think about learning and keep a positive attitude. I believe it works, and students won’t be absent so frequently again!
Tips to improve your writing skills:

1. Reading: reading different types of texts helps students expand their vocabulary, get new ideas and also recognize correct grammatical structures.

2. Vocabulary: reviewing vocabulary gained from reading activities is very necessary to commit the words to memory. Remember if you don’t use vocab, you’ll lose it.

3. Brainstorming: brainstorming is an effective way to generate ideas. Try to brainstorm in your free time. The ability to come up with ideas quickly come in handy during in-class writing exams.

4. Grammar: Make sure you apply what you have learned in your grammar classes into your writing. The basics of grammar are the heart of writing.

5. Practice: Practicing writing is very important if you want to become a good writer. You don’t only have to write in class but instead let your ideas lead you to write on your own. Practice every day!
ACCESS Fun Activities

ACCESS trips are a great way to practice your English outside of class and get involved with others on campus. The Washington D.C. group (above) included Dr. Nate Myers, teacher Nate Mills, and Dr. Herb Broda from the College of Education. We had a very diverse group of students from Brazil, Saudi Arabia, India, Serbia, China, Taiwan, Thailand, and the UAE. If you missed out, be sure to join us next time!

Students attended a Columbus Crew soccer game in June
To celebrate the end of the first summer term, students had lunch at Brian Buffet in Ashland.

Students sampling Ice cream from the Red Barn at Brookside Park

Level 3 students enjoyed a beautiful summer evening, attending the Ashland Chautauqua for a class assignment.