“I write for the same reason I breathe—because if I didn’t, I would die.”

–Isaac Asimov

On right, Amy Park (winner of ACCESS Student of the Year).
On left, Fahad Alsumari (winner of Award of Excellence for Community Service)
Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
By: Abdulaziz Alabdali

There is nothing devastating as knowing that a certain grave eventuality could have been avoided. This is in response to the increasing number of casualties and fatalities that comes from drunk driving. Drunk driving causes so many injuries and deaths. Those that survive may have to live with endless pain and permanent life changing circumstances caused by drunk driving. The most noteworthy thing to note is that all the pain and losses can be avoided. People do not have to die in the name of “enjoying themselves”. Taking beer is not wrong if the action itself will not cause personal injuries or even loss of life. All these accidents can be avoided. Over 70% of highway accidents in leading cities worldwide are caused by drunk driving. One of the solutions that can help to avoid this problem is to reduce the allowable level of drinking.

Minimizing the allowable level of drinking has many benefits. First, it could help to reduce the number of accidents people have. Second, save more lives and families because it could lead to a death of one of the family members. Last but not least, lowering the allowable level of drinking can prevent people from getting sick.

Some people might say that this should not be approved because they want to drink as much as they want especially during weekend nights and parties. Most of the accidents that happen during weekend nights are caused by drunk driving. People can drink as much as they want as long as they are not driving after that and make sure that they have someone to drive them or call the taxi service.

Also, bar owners might not like the idea of reducing the level of allowable drinking. It is true that reducing the level of drinking will stop the customers from buying more drinks and that will decrease their profit, but if they look at the problem from the other side, that could change their minds. For example, one of their family members or a friend could have an accident because of another person who was driving while this person was drunk. Saving lives is more important than saving money.

In conclusion, drivers should only drink up to certain limits to avoid troubles that result from this problem. Also, drinking to a certain limit could help to prevent diseases. In addition, I would recommend that people who are attending parties where alcoholic drinks are served, or night clubs, to hire cabs or have a designated driver.
Teachers V.S. Technology
By: ‘Mark’ He Liu

There is an issue about whether or not teachers are important nowadays. Because a host of data resources have been innovated and used in educational activities, some individuals believe teachers are not as important as before.

Admittedly, with high-tech information resources being developed extensively, they have brought a vast number of benefits in education. For example, in the past teachers only depended on their personal knowledge to teach students, but in modern society, it is quite easy for teachers to gather new information and knowledge through different kinds of tools such as internet and newspapers. Thus, some people might think that teachers could be totally replaced by these kinds of tools some day.

However, it is obvious that teachers still play the most important part in educational activities for three reasons. First of all, the aim of education is not only to teach theoretical knowledge to students, but also how to instill high moral values in students. Let’s compare information resources and teachers. Information resources are only cold tools which are used to show different data, but teachers can guide students how to be well-rounded individuals in the future. On the other hand, teachers can look after their students’ life. Because most of students are so young, their teachers have obligation and have abilities to look after them, to encourage them to study and live in safe and healthy environment. Last but not least, even though information resources are informative and convenient, if there is no teachers’ correct guidance, students will be affected easily by negative information such as violence and pornography. According to these three reasons, we can see that using only tools to educate adolescences is not enough; teachers are also very significant in education.

In summary, it is a big mistake to believe in one thing completely. For this issue, the important thing is how to use both teachers and data tools better to teach students. Lastly, I truly hope that educational institutions could make correct plans to deal with this problem. This is their duty because education is the future of our motherland.
Following a Vegetarian Diet  
By: ‘Queenie’ Chuwei Chen

In my opinion, following a vegetarian diet is a good choice. First of all, following a vegetarian diet is healthy. According to scientists, following a vegetarian diet can make people live longer, and make people’s skin beautiful. In general, people who follow a vegetarian diet have difficulty gaining weight. It is a good choice for people to lose weight. Next, following a vegetarian diet can protect animals. Animals are humans’ friend, and we should love them. Finally, following a vegetarian diet can save time. Cooking vegetables is easier than cooking meat. These are three advantages to following a vegetarian diet.

Marrying Someone of a Different Religion  
By: ‘John’ Jongrae Park

In my opinion, marrying someone of a different religion depends on the circumstances and the parties’ determination. First, it depends on the intensity of the religion’s dogma. If it is strong, marrying someone who has a different religion should be unfortunate for both of the parties and their families. In this case, people should think carefully in deciding about marriage. If the religion’s dogma is not so intense, there are several methods to have a successful marriage. It is necessary to respect each other’s religion, and it is also possible to change one’s religion. More importantly, it depends on the parties’ determination. I think people should respect the spirit of other religions, and the individuals’ right. Especially the right to love each other should be respected too. Even if, at last, the marriage fails, it is always worth to respect. So, if the parties’ determination is strong, religion may not be a problem. However, it is always difficult to talk about something that is related to religion and it is always true that nobody can foresee the future. So, it always depends on the circumstances, and more depends on the parties’ determination.
The Tree Poem
By: Mohammed Alassiri

We must look at the trees with more respect,
And we can learn many things like patience, Tenderness and greatness.

We have to know that people are parasites on the trees.

People always bend to feed themselves but trees don’t.

Some people are good but all trees are good.

Trees don’t complain although they suffer hard situations during every season.

They stand with more patience and pride.

People take oxygen, food, medicines and shadows from trees.
Also, people burn trees when they want to get warm.

We have to decide who are more useful? And who are unfair? People or trees?
By: Khalid Alamoudi

Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal is one of the most interesting billionaires in Saudi Arabia. The country comprehends his investments companies, for instance, Citigroup, Rotana, Four Seasons hotels and Fairmont hotel and so forth. Above all Rotana is a media and music company, as well as it is one of his biggest successful businesses in the Middle East. Rotana has many of the best singers in the Middle Eastern world. In an interview Bin Talal said, “It has around 45% of all the movie industry and around 75% of all music,” (Zendrian, 2010). Rotana sponsors many famous singers such as Amr Biab and Haifa Wehbe who have sung in many countries and have fans around the world.

Among his current businesses is Citigroup. The latter is one of the largest financial companies these days. It has 200 million customer accounts and does business in more than 100 countries. Some examples of this company’s services they are offering deposits and loans, investment banking, brokerage, wealth management, and other financial services. Prince Bin Talal is a member in Citigroup and one of its important shareholders. In 1991, Bin Talal helped Citigroup because of bad investments in U.S. and Latin America real estate by investing $600 million. His investments returned billions of dollars (Marcus, 2008).

However, Bin Talal’s business doesn’t stop at investing his money in other companies or ongoing investments in his own different companies, but he always surprises the people in Saudi Arabia and the world as well by his tremendous vision of future projects. For example, establishing towers in Saudi Arabia with other businesspeople. Bin Talal has started a project to transform Jeddah city. His dream project is Kingdom Tower Jeddah, which will be the tallest building in the world, exceeding 3,80 feet (Dolan, 2009). “It will be the epicenter of Jeddah. It will be a magnet,” boasts Bin Talal. It will earn him a return of at least 20% a year on his investment,” (Dolan, 2009). All Saudis think it is awesome to have the tallest tower building in the world.

In addition to his money investments, Bin Talal does a lot of philanthropy. He is involved at doing charity work inside and outside the country, helping poor people. There are some areas in Saudi Arabia that are poor. Prince Bin Talal has always been helping these areas by building new houses, hospitals, schools, and so on. He has his own charity foundation just for charitable work around the world. According to the article “Saudi telethon raises $77 million,” Bin Talal gave the biggest donation, which was $17 Million (2005). In fact he had started doing a lot charities work before he established his new Alwaleed bin Talal Charity Foundation. In addition, Bin Talal gave the ownership to his wife, so she takes care of his philanthropic work, which helps him to focus on his businesses. Also, whenever the King asks the Saudi people to help the Palestinian families, Prince Bin Talal has always been the largest contributor in the country.

Besides his success and charities, he is a target of family politics and society’s opinion. Firstly, in our religious society we see him as a controversial person as his personality and behavior are strange for Saudi society. In fact, Bin Talal’s mother is from Lebanon. His behavior is more influenced by his mother’s origins and culture. However, his last name shows that he is a member of the Saudi royal family, the Alsaud. On the other hand, some of his prince relatives think he cannot be the next king of Saudi Arabia, but in most of his interviews, he mentioned that he cannot wait until to be king. However, that won’t happen, inasmuch as his mom side is not from Saudi Arabia. This is the kingdom of politics.
Caesar Salad
By: Mashari Aljumaiah

Ingredients:
-1 U.S. lettuce
-Home-made croutons (toast)
-Sauce (yogurt, mustard, lemon juice, & olive oil)
-Grated cheese

Instructions:
1. Cut lettuce into small pieces
2. Cut warm toast into cubes
3. Mix sauce and pour over the lettuce and toast
4. Sprinkle cheese on the salad

Churrasco
By: Vera Lucia Oliveira

Ingredients:
-Beef, chicken, pork
-Sea salt
-2 lemons
-2 minced garlic cloves
-2 onions

Instructions:
1. Cut the meat in thin pieces
2. Cut the onions into small pieces
3. Mix the onion, garlic and meat and add salt
4. Put everything on the grill
5. Keep basting with lemon juice until meat is done

Note: Churrasco is served with tomatoes and bread
Level 1, 2 & 3 students listening to a tour guide during Malabar Farm trip

All ACCESS students at Dina’s Farewell party