I am very pleased to be the new Editor-in-Chief of Accents! Magazine. It is an honor to be able to offer a dynamic publication filled with excellent heart-felt and vibrant written and artistic work created by PCCC’s ESL students.

Accents! is a bi-annual online publication intended to showcase creative talents and to create a literary community of ESL writers, readers and a student-centered audience. Accents! can and should be used as authentic material in writing, reading, grammar and speaking classes.

We will keep encouraging and supporting our ESL students who have added so much to the diversity of our society.

To our ESL students, we are all very proud of you!!!

Ana Paula Lawrence
Editor-in-Chief/Layout & Design

In an effort to acknowledge top writers, submissions for each issue are juried by a committee of full-time faculty. Awards are given in the following categories:

- Best Interview
- Best Fiction
- Best Non-Fiction
- Best Poem
- Best Art / Photography Composition

A very special thank you to:

Dr. Steve Rose, President, Passaic County Community College

Dr. Jacqueline Kineavy, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Dr. Bassel Stassis, Dean of Academic Affairs

Nancy Silvestro, ESL Department Chair

Dr. Laurie Moody, Associate Professor, ESL Instructor
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Another Ending of “Freak the Mighty”

ALEJANDRA MORENO — ESLR 002-05

On Christmas night, Freak was taken to the hospital and put in intensive care again. The doctor spoke with Gwen and told her that there was no solution at this time, but it could be easier to find a solution to the Freak’s case in the future. Then Gwen looked at the doctor and she said, “My son does not have much time. What are you telling me? ... Are you kidding me? This is not a good moment to play doctor!” The doctor said to her it was not a joke about this advanced science to freeze Freak.

“If you approve that Freak will be frozen until science has a cure his problem, Freak will be a normal child at the end,” the Doctor said to her. “And what if it a long time passes before they unfreeze Freak?” Gwen said. “But who cares, what’s more important is that he can become a normal child. Just think about it,” the doctor said.

The next day… Gram went to Max’s room and she told him what happened last night with Freak. Then Max went to the hospital to visit Freak. Max met with Gwen at the hospital. He asked her about Freak’s health and she told him about her conversation with the doctor about Freak’s problem. Maxwell couldn’t believe what he was hearing in that moment. Max was very happy that they had found a solution to Freak’s problem, but Gwen wasn’t totally sure about that.

Then Max went to see Freak in his room. They were joking for a while. Then Freak gave Max a book for him to write their adventures together, but Max told him that he couldn’t do it. Freak said to him, “You can do it, Max.” Then Max told Freak about the solution that the doctor had to save him. When Max asked Freak about freezing him until the medical science could find a solution for his cure, Freak accepted quickly, but with one condition. Max must have finished writing the book before they unfreeze him. If he did not finish it, the doctors wouldn’t unfreeze Freak even if they had the cure. Then Max went to talk to Gwen and he told her that Freak wanted to be frozen. Gwen accepted Freak’s decision.

Freak was frozen the day after his decision. Later, Max went to his room and sat at his table. He began to write his adventures with Freak. Max finished writing the book on a spring morning. The book was called “Freak the Mighty.” Later, Max continued going to school.

Twenty years later… Max had become a Doctor because he wanted to find the cure for Freak’s problem and then he would be able to unfreeze Freak. Max got married and he had a daughter. Max found the cure and he unfroze Freak. Years later Freak got married with Max’s daughter. They lived happily ever after.
Our New Life

By Ana Barbie

After living at nightmare with my father, he went back to jail a place he never shouldn’t have left. Everyone felt relieved.

A few days later, we planned a small surprise party for Freak’s birthday. Gram and Gwen cooked a delicious dinner and cake. Freak wasn’t as excited for the dinner as he was for the presents, especially the one from Gwen’s a computer which made him really happy. After a while, Freak couldn’t breathe and started to made strange noise. We rushed him to the hospital where Dr. Spivak checked him.

While we were waiting to know about Freak’s condition, the Dr. Spivak came out and told us that it was time to do the “Special Operation” the one of the “Bionic Body” in which the heart will grow up according to the size of his body.

The surgery took 12 hours. We were very worried, we prayed, and I was nervous walking from the waiting room to the main lobby. All the nurses from the ICU were looking at me. They knew about Freak and me.

Finally Dr, Spivak came to let us know the good news about the operation. We were very happy.

We went home, but Freak stayed in the hospital for a couple days. I and Fair Gwen went to the hospital to visit him every single day.

A couple days after looking totally different, Freak got this smiling face, the same one when he invited me for supper the first time in his house when we talked about robot history.
He was walking. He looked great and he told me you don’t have to carry me anymore on your shoulders, but we still are Freak the Mighty.

He had to go the hospital every month for therapy. I went with him all the time. We were still having good times his body was growing and my brain was learning more. He taught me how to use the computer and to use the dictionary and read books.

Together we wrote the book, the one he gave me before the Special Operation. We wrote our real adventures happy, sad and dangerous moments, all about Freak the Mighty all about The Truth, The Unvanquished Truth.

Fair Gwen decided to look for a job she started working with a writer who used to published books. He read our book he loved it and published.

After our book was published, a lot of people read it. We became very famous we even had our own movie called “Freak the Mighty”.

When Max returned from the hospital that night, he put the empty book in the pyramid box for good luck. He was praying all night. He prayed, “God, you know that I never had a friend. My mother is with you and my father is in jail. My grandparents are very important for me, but you know Freak and I are one part of each other. Through you, everything is possible and I would like you to make a miracle with Freak’s surgery. I promise to be smart and learn everything. Thank you God.”

The next morning Max went to the hospital by himself very early. Grim and Gram were sleeping, but Max could not sleep all night because he was worried about Kevin and he preferred to be in the hospital.

He walked the long way to the hospital. Everything was quiet. When he arrived at the hospital, he found Fair Gwen next to the ICU room sleeping in a sofa that the ICU unit had for the families of the patients. She looked tired and Max sat next to her. She held Max’s hands and told him “I really appreciate that you are here. Thanks for being Kevin’s best friend. I need your support because Kevin is very sick and Dr. Spivak said that she cannot guarantee his life.”

Max was crying but he told her “Gwen everything will be okay”. One hour later, Dr. Spivak came and told Gwen about Kevin’s situation. She said, “His surgery is very dangerous and delicate. I promise that I will do my best. I don’t have a choice. It is the surgery or his life. You can come and see him just for five minutes before we go to the surgery room.”
In Kevin’s room, we tried to look happy and calm for him. Kevin said, “Fair Gwen I have ants in my pants. After this surgery I will be so full of energy. Max remembers that I told you this is a minor incident easily corrected by biogenic intervention.” He had his smart look on his face and said, “I’m ready for my quest.”

Max and Gwen were devastated. After two hours of waiting outside the surgery room, Grim and Gram came to the hospital and everybody was nervous. Inside the surgery room, Dr. Spivak was worried because Kevin was having a lot of complications.

After six hours, Dr. Spivak was outside and spoke with Gwen and told her “everything is okay!” Max was running around, hugging and kissing Gwen, Grim and Gram and he said, “THANK GOD! THANK GOD! THANKS A LOT FOR MAKING ME THE MIRACLE!”

Five days later, Kevin went home. Max, Gwen, Grim and Gram had a lot of balloons for him. After six months, Kevin was back to normal.

That summer, they started writing in the empty book. Max learned and read with enthusiasm because he had promised God he would work hard if he saved Kevin’s life. They finished the book and raised their fists in the air chanting, “FREAK THE MIGHTY! FREAK THE MIGHTY! WE SURVIVED!!!!!!”
The Miracle

By Sandra P. Martinez

After Christmas Eve, Gram and Grim tell me what I will do if my father comes to our house one day. I was thinking about it all night until Grim called me, “Wake up Max. You have to go to school.”

Gram says, “Maxwell, we need to talk to you after school.”

“OK, Gram. I’ll see you.”

During class I couldn’t think about what Gram said. When I come home, Gram and Grim look just as excited as me.

Gram says, “Maxwell, we have news about your father. He is out of prison, and he wants to talk to us. We are disappointed with him, but if you want to talk to your father, we don’t mind listening to him.

I reply that I would like to talk to my father because I want him to explain to me why he murdered my mother.

In the morning when the sun is shining and the birds are singing, I see the mailman coming to my house with a package in his hands. He asks me, “Are you Maxwell?” I say, “Yes sir. How can’t I help you?” He replies, “This package is for you.”

I open it and I see a beautiful frame with the picture of my mother, my father and I when I was little boy, and I find a letter which says, “Hi, Maxwell, It was an accident and I love you. One day I will explain everything to you. Now is not the moment.”

The day after, I go to Freak’s house to visit him because he is sick. My best friend needs a spinal cord transplant to live. He needs a special operation.

Gwen is crying a lot waiting for a call. At that moment I am thinking about my mother, and how she would feel if I were sick. At midnight the phone rings. The hospital calls Gwen to inform her that they found a donor for Freak’s operation.
Freak says, “Max we are Freak the mighty.” and he falls asleep.

We go to the hospital and the Doctor says, “It is a miracle. The donor is the perfect match for Freak. Everything will be ok.”

So early the next morning when Gram is preparing me breakfast, the phone rings. Gwen is calling us to say Freak is ok and he wants to see me.

I decide to walk to the hospital, and I get there in a flash. I see the Fair Gwen with a big smile on her face and she gives me this great big hug. “We did it!” she says, “He wants to see you.”

I go to his room and he gives me a fierce face and he says that we are going to slay dragons and find treasure when he feels better.

The doctor asks me, “Are you Maxwell?”

“Yes, sir. I am Maxwell”

The doctor says, “I would like to inform you how Freak is because we know how much he loves you. Freak is ok. He is going to be with us for many years, and the operation was a success.”

That day I get home and find a letter in the mail box with my name on it. It is a letter from my father.

Dear Maxwell,

I wanted to say this to you a very long time ago, but I was never brave enough to do it, Maxwell I never meant to kill your mother. It was an accident. It must be very difficult for you to believe me now after all these years, but it is the truth.

I hope you can some day forgive me for all the pain and suffering that I have caused you.

Two months later Gwen goes to find out who the donor for Freak’s operation was to say thanks. To her surprise the donor’s name was Kenny Kane, my father.
In the middle of nowhere, people in that there was a splendid village. People in that community were living in a cottage and each cottage had a vast garden. So they have grown all kind of food. Those people have had enough food to live. Morning is the busiest time; the girls helped their mother in the garden while the boys went to school. In that society, the men were the only one educated, so they have been in higher position among the women. However, they were hard worker. Sometimes they went to hunting just for fun. It was a quiet village but at night some family gathered to tell stories and memories, some of them were singing or dancing. Everything was perfect in this village. They never had to worry about noting. Life was a grace for them, they have food, they were happy.

Suddenly people came from another community and then that were the end of peace. Those people started to destroy the community. There was crime all the time. So people had fear to have fun or to hunting because some have been killed when they went to the field. That field they used to be happy is a fear for them. They also brought bad influence in this village. So to survive they used weapons. Before they left that village, they destroy some cottage and also they took with them all the resources they had. After they have fought those enemies, thing hasn’t been the same. They have to start over. They have started to be hungry. They become homeless and poor. There was no peace at all in the family. Everybody was angry; they had no food to eat so they shout at each other. They didn’t have time to gather anymore. In addition they became jealous for a position so they might kill to be in that position. They have more and more fears about anything. To take control in the community, they forbid anybody to go to the field. Let them know the beasts are waiting to eat them in the field. People in village lived with fears. Do you think things will be the same for them in the future? Let’s read Gathering Blue!
My Alternate Ending for The Giver

By Lan Chau — Prof. Moody

"Jonas felt himself losing consciousness and with his whole being willed himself to stay upright atop the sled, clutching Gabriel, keeping him safe. The runner sliced through the snow and the wind whipped at his face as they sped in a straight line through an incision that seemed to lead to the final destination, the place that he had always felt was waiting, the Elsewhere that held their future and their past." (The Giver, pg 178)

While Jonas and Gabriel were slicing through the snow and the wind, suddenly they saw a big forest. That place had lots of trees with bare branches. Because of the snow, the trees had white branches. However, that was still a thick forest. Jonas and Gabriel felt hungry. They went to the forest to find some food there. They hoped they could find something in the forest to keep them alive. They walked and walked though the forest. They saw so many trees that they couldn't find the way to exit the forest. They walked almost a half-day. They felt hungry and tired.

Fortunately, Jonas saw a big tree with dark blue leaves and some fresh fruit. In a state of starvation, Jonas and Gabriel didn't think about anything. They ran to the tree and picked some fruits. They ate them fast because they were very hungry. After Jonas ate some fruits, he felt hot in his throat. He felt very upset inside his body. The feeling was like when he took some pills to treat the Stirrings. After that, he was tired and he slept. He lay near that tree.

Early the next morning, Jonas woke up. He looked around. He was very surprised. Jonas was laying on the beautiful bed in a big room. That room had lots of decorations, they were very luxurious. Suddenly, a couple, a young, beautiful women and a strong man, came to his room.

"Good morning, my little boy," they said.
Jonas was very surprised. He didn't know anything about what had happened, and he couldn't remember what happened to him in the past. The young lady told him everything.

Jonas and Gabriel ate some fruits from "The Forget Tree." That tree always has fruits every season. If someone eats them, they'll forget all of their memories. After that, Jonas understood everything. The memories had slipped away from his thoughts. The memory of his old community had disappeared.

Now Jonas lives with his new parents in the new community, and Gabriel lives with him too. They almost forgot their memory. They are so happy in the new community together.

The community is perfect. Everything is under control. There is no war or fear or pain, and not too many rules. They don't have the Giver or the Receiver to keep their memories. They're in a civilized community like the world in 21st century.
It was snowing hard. Jonas walked slowly, dragging his feet in the snow. His feet were numb, but he knew that if he stopped, it would be the end for him. He wanted to live, live for Gabe, for whom he had realized, so much love. His stomach was cramping with hunger and his body freezing with cold. He really wanted a cozy warm bed and food that they could he eat.

He started recalling the memory of the Christmas Eve and the warm and happy atmosphere the family was sharing together. He felt that Gabe was calm.

Suddenly Jonas’s leg hit a broken tree and he lost his balance. He slid into the snow. A shriek of fear ran through his body. Although he had Gabe in his arms, he tried to grab something he could find to stop himself. Gabe was thrilled by the speed. His little laughter and giggles were echoing in Jonas’s ears. For Jonas the consequences could be different. He tried hard for a solution, but everything was happening so fast that he couldn’t think of anything.

At last the nightmare ended with snow covering their bodies. For sometime Jonas didn’t move. He lay resting in the snow. He quickly checked Gabe who was still enjoying it.
Suddenly he heard something. Some sounds that he had never heard before. He tried to look in the direction from where they were coming. Far away he saw a small cottage with lights. He shook his head considering it his illusion.

He cleared snow from Gabe. He heard those sounds again. These were now so clear that they couldn't be ignored. He started walking towards the cottage as if he was dreaming. The melody of the sound was touching his heart. As he walked closer and closer, everything was clear and visible. He couldn't believe it.

With a wave of enthusiasm he walked fast. He smiled and deep inside he was satisfied that after a while he and Gabe would be living a life full of freedom.
By Anny Puente—ESLR002—Prof. Moody

He is a good person. He always helps Freak and he is a good friend. He is retard.

He is very tall and heavy. He is very shy.

**GRAM:**

She always is sweet about Max. She is old woman. She is prunny. She is a good grandmother.
He is a very bad person because he is in a gang and he hurt a man with a knife. He looks like a punk boy and he has a sharp teeth. He is bad and liar.

**TONY D:**

He is a very good person. He is Max's best friend and he always supports Max. He is very small and squiquically disable, but he is a very smart boy. He is an energetic boy. He is always happy.

**FREAK:**

He is very good person. He is Max's best friend and he always supports Max. He is very small and squiquically disable, but he is a very smart boy. He is an energetic boy. He is always happy.
She is Kevin’s doctor.
She is short and red hair.
She is very serious.

**GRIM:**
He always cares and defends his family. He is pruny and very serious. He never smiles, for that reason, Max calls him Grim.

**DR. SPIVAK:**

KANE: He is very tall and strong. He looks like his son. He is very bad because he killed Max's mother and he is a liar person.

IGGY: He is a gang boss. He has a long hair and he has a beard. He is not a polite person. He always beats Loretta.
She is a beautiful woman. She is freak’s mother. She has a blond short hair. She looks like a movie start. She was best friend Max’s mother. She is a good mother.

LORETTA LEE: She is scrawny. She is a yellow-haired woman with small, hard eyes. She is not polite and she dresses badly, but she is a good person because she was about to die to save Max’s life.

GWEN: She is a beautiful woman. She is freak’s mother. She has a blond short hair. She looks like a movie start. She was best friend Max’s mother. She is a good mother.
Max is an innocent creature. He is big and dumb, but he is Great kid. Sometime he is very stupid.
The financial crisis in the U.S has made it difficult to get loans and credit. That financial meltdown was caused by the frequent approvals offered to individuals who couldn’t afford credit. This led banks to bankruptcy and made people with no credit background afraid to apply for credit cards because they thought they might be rejected. Consequently, parents tell their sons/daughters they should wait until they get a better job in order to apply for credit cards. Parents argue that it is not the time to apply for any type of credit. However, the financial crisis in the country has taught us not to spend so much and to use money wisely. Nowadays, parents should not prohibit their sons/daughters from using credit cards, but parents should teach them how to use credit cards wisely so teens don’t get into debt. Teenagers should be encouraged to use credit cards for three reasons.

First, I think when teenagers start using credit cards, they start creating credit history. If teenagers use credit cards for purchasing items and paying their credit card bills on time, their credit score rises. However, credit scores don’t go up just by buying and paying credit card bills a few times. Teens need to use credit cards many times without ever going over the credit line and paying before the due date. As an example, Delilah Martinez said that she had used her credit card five times to buy food. After five times of paying her credit card bills, she went to apply for a phone plan at AT&T. Nevertheless, she wasn’t eligible for buying the phone plan because she didn’t have enough credit history. After 45 days of using credit cards, AT&T sent a letter to Delilah telling her that she was selected to buy a phone plan.
Second, I feel that applying for credit cards is helpful for teens because they learn how to make better choices about credit cards. According to Julie DeRuu, from Citigroup, reading and understanding credit card contracts make teens able to choose cards that are comfortable for their needs. When teenagers know how to differentiate between the various types of credit cards, they don’t make the mistake that many people have made of getting credit cards with high interest rate.

Finally, I feel that using credit cards helps teenagers to buy things they need when they don’t have cash on hand. According to Ruth Hall, from Macy’s, some teenagers don’t have cash with them, but they use Macy’s card and pay later when the bills are mailed to their houses. With credit cards we don’t take too long to get the cash from our wallets, but we slide our card in order to pay.

Opponents argue that teens shouldn’t have credit cards because they are not responsible enough to pay their bills. Many parents say that teens might go into debt if they use credit cards because they might go over the credit line. Nevertheless, teenagers can learn from the mistakes that many people have made like spending what we don’t have. They should know how to spend wisely.

To sum up, using credit cards is not so bad if teenagers use them wisely. The use of credit cards helps teenagers succeed financially. Consequently, when they get older, they’ll have a better future and make good business decisions regarding such things as purchasing cars or houses.
Why Teenagers Should Not Have Credit Cards

By Anna Krajewska - ENW 107-02 - Prof. Holland

It is not a mystery that America runs on credit. Millions of Americans slide their credit cards everyday, to pay for gas, to pay for their groceries, or whatever they may need at the moment. Basically, credit cards are a huge convenience, but only to a certain group of people, mostly adults. These days, unfortunately, more and more teenagers are able not only to apply, but also to receive their own piece of plastic. Many of them do not even have jobs, or attend college, and yet, they have the potential to get a credit card. Actually, sometimes it is harder for an adult with a stable job to get one than it is for a future student. However, many parents think that this is a good way to teach their children how to manage their expenses. The truth is that only a small percentage of teenagers carrying credit cards learn the lesson well. Because of a great threat that credit cards pose to the future lives of teenagers, they should not be allowed to have one.

Firstly, credit cards give teenagers the potential to spend money without limits. Of course, some parents set limits on how much their children can spend, or cards themselves put limits of, say, $200-$300. However, this is only a credit limit, not a cash advance, and usually cash advances have very high interest rates. Many times, when teenagers go to malls or big shopping centers, they forget how much they have already spent, or they simply overindulge themselves. Consequently, they are spending much more than they are allowed. What they do not realize is that at that moment, they are starting to use cash advance, which can cost them twice as much interest as credit itself. Furthermore, when we add monthly service charges and some hidden interest fees to that, the next bill they get can be a big surprise for both – the child and the parents. This kind of mismanaging of money leads them into debt. It leads them into debt because they do not have real jobs yet, and they have basically been paying off interest only.

Secondly, a consequence of over using credit cards is that teenagers may remain in debt for years. According to Bankrate.com, “Some issuers such as Capital One market lower-limit cards to parents with teens as young as 15.” If teenagers can be in the system since they turn 15, how long will it take to pay off their credit? It seems like forever because they are not going to stop at having just one credit card. Teenagers grow up, most of the time they will go to college, and while they study, they spend more and more money. They may need books – here comes credit cards, they may need food – credit card again, etc. Moreover, students are always tempted by so-called great deals, and sign up for even
more cards. When a person has more credit cards, automatically, he or she has more and more debt to pay. Some of these teenagers with many cards gradually pay them off. Unfortunately, the majority of them are not so lucky, mostly because their way of thinking is irresponsible. “Oh, I am young; I still have time to pay it off.” What happens is they finish school, they start families, they spend more, and bills do not go away. They pile up, and up, until it is almost impossible to pay them off.

Finally, irresponsible usage of credit cards by teenagers may lead to their bad credit history. These days, how high a person’s credit score is, is crucial to his life. This number determines if he “qualifies for loans and mortgages,” or not. What is so important about it is that the higher the credit score is, the lower the interest rates are. Basically, it decides how much money you get to save on things that you buy. Moreover, these days many “employers are increasingly using credit scores when evaluating job candidates,” and when teenagers have bad credit they may not get jobs that they need in order to start their adult lives. So, by over-using, and long periods of time without paying off their debt, teens may destroy their future.

Proponents, like some parents and companies that issue credit cards, say, “that it is better for teens to learn the ins-and-outs of credit and money management” in early stages of their lives. Parents think that giving a teenager a credit card, even a $200 one, teaches him or her responsible spending. However, the majority of teens with cards put themselves and their parents in debt. They take it for granted, and spend without further planning.

To sum up, the machine of debt will go on forever, unless we teach ourselves, and our children, how to properly manage money. To achieve that, we should not give them credit cards, but instead give them cash money with a list of what is most necessary for them. If they have anything left after that, then they can go and spend on things they want “just because”. Of course, their credit history is not improving, but at least they have a great foundation on how to spend wisely. So, parents, before you hand out credit cards to your child, stop and really think about his future. Teach them basics, and when they are ready they will go and get one by themselves.

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Should Online Voting be Implemented?

By Victor Porras - ENW-107-02 - Prof. Holland

Voting is a right that US citizens have. Because of the right to vote, citizens can choose the president they want. Voting is crucial in order to create the future of a nation. However, the right to vote may change in a few years. According to Elizabeth Paneke from the magazine Today, the process of voting may be done online. Citizens from many cities in the U.S are not happy about online voting. They worry that online voting might not be accurate. However, technology has improved so that online voting might be safer in the future. I think that online voting should be implemented for three reasons.

First, I feel that online voting is more convenient for handicapped people. Many people who have physical limitations feel uncomfortable when leaving home in order to do something. It is difficult for many handicapped people to vote because they would have to endure long lines and be rushed by other people who want to vote. If online voting were implemented, those people with physical limitations could vote without having a hard time.

Second, I feel that online voting helps save time. The process of voting is long because there are many people who are in line willing to vote. While a person tries to find her/his name on the lists, three or four minutes are spent. Niki Valacci, manager of the department of production in Yahoo, said “if online voting were implemented, voters could spend just two minutes. If we had the privilege of online voting, we would no longer have to be stuck on lines waiting to vote.

Finally, I consider that online voting will encourage younger people to vote. People between the ages of 18 to 20 like things fast and technologically advanced. If young people had the chance to vote online, they would probably be delighted to vote because they could do it fast. According to Monique Bizerry, journalist from the magazine Seventeen, young people get used to things that are fast. Therefore, if online voting were implemented, young people could vote in the way they want, fast!

Opponents argue that online voting might not be accurate. They think that online voting may result in the stealing of votes because hackers might be online. However, technology has improved during the last few years. If technology is better than before, human beings could invent an online voting system that makes citizens’ lives easier.

To sum up, voting online may have several benefits. Because of this, people may feel that voting is no longer a stressful must. If online voting existed, many citizens could feel delighted when voting!
I remember when I was little; my father would load us all into our auto, a Chatita, the one that you had to start with a handle. There were five of us, father, mother, and us three children. We spent the holidays at grandmother’s house in the field. By the time the whole family was together, there were more than 50 of us. New Year’s Eve was very special. My father, the eldest son, was in charge of cooking the piglets, and the women were responsible for making the fruit salad. They were huge fruit salads! After luncheon, there was an organized nap. You could find people sleeping everywhere, especially beneath trees in the shade. We kids would escape to go play by a pond with a Weeping Willow that was a bit away from the house and barn, which was full of bags from the harvest. After the completed nap, with a meal almost in our mouths still, they put out meters and meters of table covered with fresh bread, nuts, nougats, ice cider, etc. To eat again!!!!

That house of my grandmothers was a typical ranch, but the sheet metal roof was covered with straw to make it fresher. The ground floor was rammed earth, but there was never dust flying about. There was no electricity, and it contained heavy oak furniture with pink marble. There were beds whose backs turned bronze. In the many gardens surrounding the house you could find some 30 to 40 floor high trees of tangerines, oranges, peaches and figs.

Finally, one year my grandmother moved into another home with ceramic floors, lamps, etc.

Most never went back to celebrate the New Year in the new house. The ranch had been something special. One year it was decided that we would no longer celebrate the New Year because a cousin of mine died in an accident. While the pain of my cousin was very large, I think it was just an excuse to end something that ......no longer had the same magic.
Who doesn’t have somebody to admire? Well, I have someone, and he is my father. His name is Miguel Antonio Fillon. He was born on November 1, 1937, in the Dominican Republic. I admire him the most because he is a hardworking person. He is a great advisor and he takes care of our family. These qualities of my father keep me thinking very highly of him.

The first reason why I admire my father is that he is a hardworking man. At the age of six, he started working as a shoeshine boy, helping my grandfather to support a family of seven. He also used to earn money as a storyteller since he was a child. Besides that, he used to help my grandmother iron other people’s clothes for money. In fact, she could get more money because of his help. He gained a lot of experience doing many different jobs. When the economy was bad, he couldn’t find a job. He would learn a new skill that would help him earn his living. For example, he used to work in a factory and when they laid him off because of the economy, he started writing songs and played the guitar in the street, until he was hired to sing in a restaurant and after that, in theaters. This is one of the reasons why I have great admiration for him.

Another reason why I look up to my father is because he is a great advisor. He has a natural gift to talk to people. Whenever there is a conflict and my father is present, he tries to resolve it without violence. In fact, many people turn to him because he always has the right words to say. As a result, many people look up to him. When he meets a new person, he makes them feel comfortable. Whenever I have a problem, he always listens to me and gives me his wise advice. Some of his nicest words are to work hard, be nice, be tolerant, do not get in trouble, have goals, and always succeed in whatever path you choose in life.

The most important reason why I admire my father is that he has always taken care of our family. We never went without food. Now he is an old man and he keeps bringing home food without us asking him to do so. Since his children are now all adults, he pays for some of his grandchildren’s karate school and baseball training. Moreover, my father always worried about giving us a good education. In fact, he saved so that could be a reality for us. My father is used to protecting us in any way possible.

In conclusion, I think these qualities in my father made him a leader to follow. I feel proud of my father for what he has done with his life. Because of these reasons, I will admire him forever.
The Quinceanera

By Antonia Polanco - ESLG-003-E5 - Prof. Holland

In the Dominican Republic, we celebrate an important birthday, commonly known as a "Quinceañera". We make lots of homemade food for our guests and family members. We also buy the cake and decorations for the party. Five weeks before the party, we send out the invitations. We invite around two hundred people to come and enjoy the celebration. The guests are supposed to come dressy to the party. The Quinceañera is supposed to wear a long dress. She keeps the same dress on for the whole night. She's supposed to find sixteen boys and fifteen girls to dance at her party. The fifteen girls are supposed to come out and dance with fifteen boys. The one that’s left comes out with the Quinceañera. Then she's supposed to dance one song with all sixteen boys. As soon as the Quinceañera finishes dancing with the boys and her father, she is supposed to give her speech. The guests bring the Quinceañera gifts and sometimes money. Everyone has a great time!
Are you tired of your job that pays you $7.15 per hour just because you don't know enough English? Are you tired of depending up on someone to speak for you in English? If yes, PCCC offers you the ESL program that will help you learn good English. The ESL program can also help you improve your English. English is the key of success because you can get a better job, and a better future if you know how to speak English, read English, and write in English. You can start to study English from the first level, beginners, or, if you already know English, you can take the placement test so that you can be placed in a higher level, intermediate or advanced. The ESL program at PCCC can be divided into three levels: beginners' level, intermediate level, and advanced level.

The beginners' level is the perfect option for people who want to start to study in the ESL program. This level contains the basic grammar, ESLG - 001, basic reading, ESLR - 001, and basic writing, ESLW - 001. Each course helps you learn new vocabulary, pronunciation, and listening. For example, the ESLG - 001 teaches you how to use simple tenses, and write short and understandable sentences. Also, in the ESLR - 001, you start to read short novels, and in ESLW - 001, you learn to write short paragraphs. In this level, you will learn the base for the next level that is the intermediate level.
The next level is the intermediate level. It contains the intermediate grammar, ESLG - 002 and ESLG - 003, intermediate reading, ESLR - 002 and ESLR - 003, and the intermediate writing, ESLW - 002 and ESLW - 003. Each course teaches you a higher knowledge of English than the beginners' level's does. For example, the intermediate grammar teaches you the perfect tenses, which are the present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect, and you will learn to write complex sentences. Moreover, in the intermediate reading, you will read longer books such as Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes, and you will discuss topics in class. Besides, in the intermediate writing, you will learn how to write compositions, and you will learn how to write an essay. In the intermediate level, you will develop your skills for the next level that is the advanced level.

The last level is the advanced level. In this level, you will apply your skills to do complex homework. This level contains the advanced grammar, ESLG - 004, the advanced reading, ESLR - 004 and ESLR - 007, and the advanced writing, ESLW - 004 and ESLW - 007. Each one will improve what you know. For example, in the advanced grammar, you will learn connectors, types of adverbs, and several prepositions. In the advanced reading, you will start to read longer novels, complex books like The Client by John Grisham, and you will discuss several topics. In the advanced writing, you will do research, and write complex essays. This level will help you, and it will help your future.

The ESL program at PCCC will help you very much, and you can get a better job, and a better future. All the levels, which are the beginners' level, the intermediate level, and the advanced level, contain grammar, reading, and writing classes. However, the complexity of each level is the main difference. If you want to reach the success come to PCCC, and you will learn more than you expected, so what are you waiting for?
Have you ever thought about how many people die of hunger in the world everyday? If you have thought about it...have you done anything about it? You can help people in your community by feeding the homeless, not throwing away food, or collaborating with associations that help to fight hunger through the world.

The first step that you have to take is helping the poor people by feeding them in a soup kitchen. If more people did this, many people wouldn’t die of hunger. At the same time, you are helping poor families stay together, and that’s priceless. You also will feel happy helping them, proud of yourself, and most of the time you will win a smile.

The second step you have to take is not throwing away food. When you cook too much food and nobody in your house will eat it, don’t throw away the food. It is better that you feed somebody who doesn’t have anything to eat. You can put the food outside in a bag. Maybe someone will pick up the food. You can also carry the food to the church and they can bring the food to the hungry people.

The third and the last step you have to take is to collaborate with associations that help to fight hunger through the world. You can collaborate in many ways, like in economic ways, or by giving canned food. These associations take the responsibility of distributing the food to the needy. Is always good to do research on these types of associations before donating anything because many of them don’t really help people. They just want your money.

In conclusion, by following these three steps, feeding the homeless, not throwing away food, and collaborating with associations, you will help so that fewer people die of hunger. Maybe in the future those that you have helped will help you. You should help not just because you are going to receive something in the future. Rather, you should help for the good feeling you get when you do something kind for someone, and to help bring up your community. The whole world continues to turn around. It is time to change our world, and what better than to help fight hunger?
How to Make Pizza

Halina Yahorava - ESLW-003-02 - Prof. Holland

The Greek philosopher Socrates said many years ago, "We are living not for eating, but we are eating for living." I agree. That is the truth. But nowadays, eating and trying new foods are a lot of fun! Food is pleasure. Have you ever tried to cook anything that you like to eat in your favorite restaurant? If you haven't, you must try home cooking. I think that cooking some culinary delicacies is a pleasure too. Don't be afraid to try to make and experiment with something new. It is not difficult to make your favorite kind of pizza when you have a wish to surprise your family and friends. All you need are the right ingredients for the pizza, an oven in your kitchen, and to follow these directions. First of all, you need to buy all the ingredients for pizza. "Shop Right" is the kind of store where you can find everything you need for homemade pizza. You need dough, tomato sauce, and three kinds of cheese. The secret of great pizza is the dough, but I suggest to the new cooking chef to buy already made dough in the store. Don't make it from scratch the first time.

Next, in your kitchen, you are ready to make the pizza. Roll the dough out so that it's 1/4 inch think. Then, spread the tomato sauce on the dough, and sprinkle on the mix of three kinds of cheese. Put the pizza in the oven, and bake it at 400 degrees. When the pizza is ready, you will see a crackling golden crust. It will be ready.

Finally, take out the pizza from the oven, cut it in slices, and serve. Enjoy your homemade pizza with your family and friends.

I think that attempting to make anything special in your own kitchen is a great way to surprise your family and friends. The cooking, like the eating, is a real pleasure. You just need good ingredients, an oven in your kitchen, and your wish to make a great pizza. Good luck and have fun!!!
How to Begin to Draw Manga

By Mabel Cardoza - ESLW-003-02 - Prof. Holland

Do you like to draw? Are you interested in drawing Japanese comics? Have you ever asked yourself how people draw Manga and tried, but you couldn’t do it? Nothing is impossible to do, so it’s time learn how to draw Manga!

First of all, you have to learn the basic theory. For that you need to know a few geometric shapes like a circle, triangle and square. Knowing these three shapes will make your work drawing Manga easier.

The second thing you have to know is how to draw shadows in your comics because when you put shadows in your drawing, they look more realistic. For example, if you draw a girl, when you color the hair (the part where there is no light, like under her hair) you have to put very dark shadows under her hair because the light doesn’t hit there. Obviously, in the part of the hair where the light hits her, you have to draw a very tiny shadow.

The third thing you have to do is begin to draw with circles. When forming parts like the head, you have to draw a circle to form the face. Circles are also the basic form for the arms and the body. At first it is not easy because you don’t have practice. After you know how to give form to the body, you can begin doing the eyes, the nose, the mouth, and the hair. The eyes are important in Manga because the eyes represent the Manga style.

In conclusion, this is just a little lesson about Manga. At first it is a little confusing, but with practice you will learn how to do it. There are schools where you go to learn Manga, but if you don’t have enough money for that, you can go to the internet. On the internet, you will find a lot of websites where you can learn to draw Manga. To draw Manga, you will see other steps in books on the internet, and you can use them as a guide. I learned to draw by myself looking on the internet. If I can do it, why can’t you?
How to Be a Successful Student

Manuel A. Carrillo - ESLW - 003 – 02 - Prof. Holland

Do you want to be the best student in your class without being a nerd? If yes, you can apply some steps to be a successful student which are: being on time, being prepared for classes, and being organized. These steps will help you be an excellent student and person. However, it will take time because there will be something that is going to distract you, and threaten all your hopes. Being a successful student is easy when you follow these instructions.

First, you have to be on time for classes so that you won’t miss anything that your teacher is explaining. In addition, your teacher will think that you are an educated person. For this, you don’t have to be an early bird, and stay out of the college until someone opens it. You need to manage you time. You need to set your alarm to the right time. Second, you have to have a bus schedule to take the right bus at the right time, or if you have car, you need to know how much time it will take you to get to your college so that you can leave your home at the right time. It will help you very much to be on time to any meeting.
Second, you have to be prepared for your classes because all the teachers expect that their students study, and do their homework so that they can continue the class. For this, you don’t need to be a bookworm. You have to study, or read your books, and notes in your spare time. Whenever you have free time, study because nobody knows when your teacher is going to give you a surprise test. If you don’t have time to study, you must manage you time because there is time for everything. You can replace the hours, which you use for fun, for time for your studies. In addition, you don’t have to do it every day because you will become a crazy or a nerd. You can do it four or five times a week.

Finally, organization is very important for a good student. You need to organize your school bag. I mean that you have to bring the right books to the right classes. In addition, you have to organize your notes to study better, otherwise, you will have a mess. The organization will help you take control of your studies.

Being a successful student involves being on time for classes, being prepared for classes, and being organized. These instructions will help you be an excellent student. Besides, you have to be focused on your studies because the studies will make you a success. Studying means expressing what you know in your own words. Besides, you can get the job of your dreams. So, do you want to be part of the success?
A Frightening Experience

By Natasha Penales — ESLW03

Death is a word that makes me frightened. It gives me goose bumps. Death for me is losing someone that I love. It is almost like losing part of my life.

My most frightening experience was when my grandmother died. It was February 4, 2008 at about 12:00 midnight. I was dreaming of my grandmother who was in the hospital. She was sick at that moment. She was lying in bed and was trying to tell something, but I didn't understand. It seemed like a different language. She had a shortness of breath and she wanted to touch my hand but she couldn't. There was also a girl wearing a white dress, who was trying to take my grandmother away from me. I was crying hard. Suddenly, I woke up but continued crying. I saw my mother talking on the phone and saw her crying. She hugged me and whispered that my grandmother had just passed away.

My cousin's birthday was 6 months later on August 11. I was excited to go home to communicate with my cousin on the internet. I was very happy. When I went home, I turned on my laptop and everything was all set. Then my mother talked to me again and told me that would not be able to greet her. She had also just passed away. It was on the same day that she was born.

These two stories are the most frightening experiences that I have had. Both of them makes me think that I should be prepared and enjoy every single day of my life because no one knows when the end will be.
Interview with Timothy Shultz, a Reading Teacher at PCCC

By Yves-Mary Fontin

YMF: How did you start teaching?
TS: I enjoy working with people and helping people reach their full potential.

YMF: What does teaching mean to you?
TS: It means that I am doing what God made me to do. I do what I enjoy and what I’m good at.

YMF: As a reading Teacher, how can you explain that reading class is very helpful for someone who learns ESL?
TS: The main reason why reading is helpful in ESL learning is that it exposes the student to English vocabulary within a natural context; it enables the learner to “experience” the language as native speakers do.

YMF: Did your parents and your wife accept your choice?
TS: Yes, absolutely.

YMF: What is your best and your worst experience in teaching?
TS: My best experience is when my students tell me that they have accomplished things that they thought were impossible for them. The worst is when students try to manipulate me.

YMF: What is your goal for the future?
TS: To finish my career well.

YMF: What do you expect from Barrack Obama, the first African-American president-elect?
TS: I expect him to be honest, righteous, patient and wise.
Reaction to: After Iowa Raid, Immigrants Fuel Labor Inquires
By Raul Pamplona – Prof. Holmes

Most people in the world believe in freedom. However, freedom has been a very controversial matter throughout human history. Still today freedom is questioned in some of the greatest countries of the world where immigrants try to find a better future. Big companies and rich impresarios use their power to hide all kinds of abuses against immigrants’ dignity and freedom. Some of the causes why immigrants are still being abused today are poverty, lack of education and immigration status.

One of the most common reasons why immigrants are still being abused today is poverty. People all over the world are looking for ways to survive. For this reason, many people allow themselves to be exploited, in many cases without knowing that they have been exploited. In my own experience, I was able to visit a farm a few years ago located in a remote area of New Jersey. There, some of the farms’ owners use the economic necessities of immigrants to profit themselves. I had the opportunity to share with about eight men who told me that they came from very poor families from Guatemala, El Salvador and Mexico. New Jersey farm owners traveled to these countries looking for workers because they said “they know how to work the land” However, this is not the only reason why they travel so far looking for workers. The main reason why they travel so far is because they find in these hard workers a tremendous opportunity to profit. They pay them very cheap and use them only for the season. In comparison with workers in the United States who get paid the basic rate and receive benefits, these poor immigrants are paid two and three dollars an hour, and work between twelve to fourteen hours without any benefits. In addition to this, immigrant workers have to pay for their food and sustenance while they are working on these farms. Poverty can lead individuals to be abused and to lose the privilege of freedom.

On the other hand, lack of education is also one of the causes why immigrants are still being abused today. Many people immigrate to the United States looking for a better future. Unfortunately, many of them hardly finished high school, which makes it difficult for them to find a good job. As a result of poor education, big companies and factories use these
perform heavy jobs and many times abuse them making them work long shifts and mistreat them by offering them very unfair salaries. Here, I would like to recall the example mentioned before about the immigrant farm workers. All of them come from remote places in their countries, and the only thing they know is how to work the land. They never went to school or have a good education. They don't even recognize the currency of the United States, which makes it easy for farm owners to manipulate and abuse them. Although this is a cruel reality, it is also a social issue that society is facing today many times with great indifference. Education can be the base for great success for immigrants and their future.

While lack of education is the cause of abuse today, immigration status is maybe one of the most common forms of abuse for immigrants. A great number of immigrants got to the big cities paying a huge amount of money for false documents, thinking that there, they will achieve their dreams for them and their families. However, while being there they find that the reality is far from their dreams, and they find themselves trapped in a web of injustices, in which in most cases, they never receive any kind of support. Illegal immigrants seem to be forced to work in the more dangerous and tedious jobs such as construction, maintenance, cleaning etc, accepting whatever the employer offers them for pay. In addition to this, most of them don't receive any kind of benefits and are always at risk of losing their jobs at any time. Some of these immigrants are even threatened by their employers with calling immigration on them; consequently, they are obliged to leave without pay after they have already done the job. There are also immigrants that are physically, mentally and sexually abused by their employers due to their immigration status, as we see in the article “After Iowa Raid, Immigrants fuel Labor Inquires.” Immigration status can definitely cause people to be abused and to lose their freedom and dignity, truncating the dreams of individuals and entire families.

To summarize, immigrants are very susceptible and vulnerable to all kinds of abuse when factors like poverty, lack of education, and immigration status are their reason to emigrate from their native countries. Many big companies and impresarios throughout the world are always eager to make a profit from the disadvantages of others. Unfortunately, freedom is still a nightmare for the less fortunate people in this world. I hope that one day people will become more compassionate and ambitious to share what they have received from God and not to kill the hope of the less fortunate in this world.
Freak the Mighty

By Maryenis Lopez - ESLR 002-05 - Prof. Moody

Por el mundo vagando andaba Max
Sin rumbo ni dirección, ni amigo con quien hablar
Grande como Goliath pero sin saber cómo su mente usar
Por diferente sendero, andaba, Freak
Queriendo sobresalir, pero con dificultad para caminar.

Hasta que un día el destino los quiso juntar
Y decidieron juntos por el mundo andar
Con la mente the Freak y el cuerpo de Max
Freak the mighty se hicieron Harmer.

Tenían esos amigos cefíida la coraza
Para empezar valiente la divina pelea
He visto cómo resiste el metal de su idea
La furia del escudo y el peso de la espada.

Se sentían con la sangre de la celeste nobleza
Dando vida con sus palabras que siempre crea
Y como el rey Arthur con Excalibur pelea
A los sangrientos dragones daría caza.

Hasta que un triste desenlace los separó
Y Max entonces su palabra cumplió
Duro varios meses pero su libro escribió
Y entonces para siempre su historia perduró
Y ahí es donde Freak the Mighty tocó mi corazón.
By the world was wondering Max
Without course or direction or friend to talk
Big as goliath buy without knowing how to use his mind
In a different path was Freak
Wanting to shine but without strong enough legs to walk

Until one day destiny united them
Decided together through the world walk
With freaks mind and max's body
They called themselves Freak the Mighty

Had those friends very strong armor
To bravely start the device fight
I've seen as resisting the ideal of metal
The fury of the shield and the weight of the sword

The felt the blood of the celestial nobility
Giving life with the his words that always creates
And as King Arthur with Excalibur fight
The bloody dragons they would hunt

Until one day a terrible disease separated them
And his word he kept
It took months but the book he wrote
So then always he's story endures
And that's how Freak the Mighty touched my heart
Fall in NJ...

By Yali Ali — ESLW 003-02— Prof. Holland

Fall entered the doors, fall appreciating summer; wrapping trees of summer’s suns colors.

Bringing quiet warmth he enters.

The sky now in a peaceful rest, and sometimes when I look up high I swear I can see it smiling.

OH fall, you little boy’s cheerful face.

Oh fall, you kissed the ground and turned it to magical paints, to pieces of art.

Here in the garden state your art is breathtaking.

Oh you professional artist with a heavenly brushes in your hands, drawing in yellow and red.
YES, WE CAN DO IT...!

By Salvador Cruzado.

The sky has turned gray,
Bright gray,
Light gray…
Sky and sand.
The whole world is here,
on their feet;
Red circles are slowly being traced
Everywhere on the sky,
As if a giant dagger
Were opening circled blooded
wounds on it.
The circles are falling down,
Leaving holes on the sky…
Another world is seen through
the holes on the sky.
It is another world…
The fear is inexplicable;
So is hope.
We know for a fact the end is there;
Because, after all,
The world has turned gray;
Because we cannot see,
much less know each other;
Because we are together,
But strangers to each other,
Looking for our relatives
But we cannot find them;
Because we are a family,
But we are not related
to each other.
The end is here.
We know this for a fact,
Yet we don’t know each other.
We wish it were different,
We wish we were a real family,
So the end could get us all
Holding hands
Around a white flag.
One nation, one flag,
One heart beat…!
It was a dream…just a dream…
But, yes we can do it…!
American Sky...

By Yali Ali - ESLW-003-02 - Prof. Holland

U.S. nothing is the way I thought it would be…

The places...are just not to be yours…

The faces...are stranger than I used to see…

LANGUAGE...is not what I used to hear.

U.S. you are something, nothing close of what I thought you would be.

Today cars are passing me, but I don’t know who is inside.

There are roads all over the sphere of my place…

In the sky…on the ground, and still I can’t find my way of the crowds…

I am stuck in between.

I can’t find my self a road to walk on, and people won’t stop to look after me…what hilarity.

SCREAMS…loud screams are holding me TIGHT…

In the dark where lights are just; far away stars THEY WON’T EVER REACH ME…

TAER…Oh tear, don’t come down NOW; don’t leave your CAVES…

I don’t want to cry please; I am just longing for a deep sleep.

I’m holding tightly MY PILLOW “which was never min” and praying for these nights to pass me by; for their burden is heavy on me.

DARKNESS once was my friend, but now returns to be the enemy.

Finally, I lifted my head up, and dared to open my eyes

I looked to the AMERICAN SKY, Believe me I found not any different of what sky use to be; stars just still far away, and distance of light miles still separating… I just can’t touch them yet.

People are flesh and blood, not different from what I knew.

I am calling you EYE, stop it please… I didn’t wish the marathon of runny tears on my cheek; not for today…

The SCARS of yesterday are still burning, and I am still lying on my BED, in my ROOM, at the corner of the world that you all belonging to.
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Requirements …

- All writers must be ESL students
- All submissions MUST be original work
- All submissions must be submitted electronically.
- Writers may submit a maximum of one piece of work in each genre: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Narrative, Reaction, Poetry, Art, Photography
- All work MUST be submitted as MS Word files. Art and Photography submissions must be submitted as JPEG files
- Submissions MUST be typed, double-spaced in a 12 pt. font and shouldn’t exceed 2000 words

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please send all submissions to:
Ana Paula Lawrence
Passaic County Community College
ESL Department
alawrence@pccc.edu

NEXT DEADLINE FOR SPRING ISSUE
May 1, 2008