



### 1st Place: Respect

#### Abdulaziz Asswailem (Saudi Arabia)

Respect others to be respected. Esteem is something that we need in our life. It's a beautiful thing in our life. Sometimes respect can be physical or emotional. Imagine life without respect. Everyone would be rude to everyone. People aren't the only thing we have to respect. We should respect people, nature, and public works.

Firstly, people's respect has to be for people of all ages. Especially the elders have to be respected. Because they are old, they need more respect for everything they have done for us and for the country; more respect should be given to them. Furthermore, elderly people need respect and help, for they have done many things for us. So it's like paying them back for all the things they have done for us. That doesn't mean we have to respect elders only. We have to have some respect for everyone in the world. No matter what his/her gender, religion, or race is, as long as he/she is a human being we have to

respect him/her. To illustrate, if you are a boss and there are many employees working for you, that doesn't mean you can be rude with them. Instead, treat them well and respect them. That could be by welcoming them all the time and responding to every question or note they give. That's just a small example not the whole thing about boss's respect to his employees. You will notice that your employees are doing better in their job. Again, respect to be respected.

In the second place, respecting nature is one of the most important things in our life. Respecting nature is not as how people think it is. Most people think respecting nature is a thing related to religion! As a matter of fact, respecting nature is important, hence cutting trees for no reason is bad for the environment because it affects animals and insects that live in those trees. It will make the wood less in case someone really wants it. Moreover, killing animals for no reason is a bad behavior and an example of not respecting the nature. We should save nature from bad behaviors like starting a fire just to party. That may cause a huge fire in the park or jungle. Many animals and trees will die. We don't want to lose all the beautiful flowers and birds. Let us live

green, live green for better life. We are getting lots of benefit from nature, so let's respect it.

Finally, the last part is a thing that a lot of people don't respect. It's the public works respect. Public works could include library, parks, bathrooms, and so on. Some people don't care about anything they don't own! But they have forgotten that it's a place you share with others. In fact, one day you may use the same place, or one of your family member or a friend. We have to have some respect for public works because these places have been there for everyone. Besides that, it will reflect on you as who you are. So we should make sure to be respectful not only for public

works, even for people who work in it. For example, after using a public toilet you should keep it clean as how you want to use it in the future. In the library return the books without writing anything on it. We should not forget this; it's a place that we will use again so let's have some respect.

To sum up, we live together in this world. And we need to respect each other as human beings to live better life. Respect the nature to have green life. Respect public works to have clean happy life. If we respect all that, we will live a beautiful, happy, lovely life. ■

### 2nd Place: Grandfather Ana Claus (Brazil)

Respect means admiring someone. Many people respect someone, and they try following someone's footsteps. I met a wonderful person who I respect. He was my grandfather. I respect him because he was a father figure for my mother, and because he valued education. His name was Arlindo Vanucci.

The first reason that I respect him is because he was a father

figure for my mother. My city had a shelter. This place was for children who did not have a home. My grandfather started work there as a volunteer. My mother moved there a long time ago, and she stayed there for 12 years. In this time, my grandfather took care of her as a father, and he gave her an opportunity to study. He believed in her and all other children. He was a father figure for everyone. This is why my sister and I called him grandfather. He protected us and most importantly, he gave his love.

The second reason is the values education. Even though he only went to school for 4 years. He knew how important this was. Hence, he helped my mother start her studies. Therefore, he helped my mother buy books for my sister and me. This is the reason why education is so important to my family and me. We open

our hand to anyone who studies.

To make a long story short, I respect my grandfather and admire him because he had a beautiful soul. He always told me "you can do everything if you are humble" In my life, I try to help all people that I can. This can be difficult because some people may not understand. There is nothing better than helping someone and not expecting anything in return. ■



**Pictured (from left): Andrew Wilson (CIES Voices Editor); Abdulaziz Asswailem (1st place winner); Ana Claus (2nd place winner); Dr. Patrick Kennell (CIES Director)**

# Thoughts on Disobedience... *A class assignment*

Students provided responses based on the following prompt:

***The following is a quote from writer Oscar Wilde, "Disobedience, in the eyes of anyone who has read history, is man's main virtue. It is through disobedience that progress has been made, through disobedience and through rebellion." Give a response to this quote.***

## Yanfei Fang (China)

Disobedience is a prompt of innovation. History has told us any great progress is made by people who stood up and disobeyed awful situations. For instance, Martin Luther King Jr., a leader of black people, addressed his famous speech called "I Have a Dream" and fought for more equal rights for black people. ■

## Shuichiro Asahara (Japan)

In our history, we won a number of rights by fighting against the authorities. For example, in the mid-century, enlightenment thinkers doubted a reign of tyranny. With their ideology, people began to disobey their kings and governments and fight for freedom. As a result, we won a democracy. ■

## Nancy Mora (Costa Rica)

Last year in Costa Rica, two women got married. In Costa Rica, gay marriage is not permitted. What happened is that one of the girls changed her birth certificate to say that she was a man, so they both could get married. Legally, in papers, a man and a woman got married, but it was really two women. The point is, after this, a lot of people started to pay more attention and fight for gay rights. These girls must have done this in order to make the government start thinking about gay rights. Gay marriage is not legal yet, but now they have more rights in Costa Rica. ■

## Seoyeon Lee (Korea)

Korea was conquered by Japan and they forced us to use only Japanese as our language because they thought we could secretly discuss independence in Korean. However, we disobeyed the law and used Korean to try to get rid of Japan's rule. As a result, we were free at last. ■



Disobedience, in the eyes of any one who has read history, is [hu]man's original virtue. It is through disobedience that progress has been made, through disobedience and through rebellion.

— Oscar Wilde —

## Leo Andara (Honduras)

Oscar Wilde might have expressed through his quote that opposing or contradicting and even arguing against the system we are all involved in is when we realize that things can be done differently and for a better reason. For example, when native tribes in Honduras fought the Spaniards it was a sign of their exhaustion caused by oppression. They fought to free themselves or at least to have more humane treatment. ■

## Minxue Wei (China)

In our history, some good things happened through disobedience and it was how we made progress and how our society developed. For example, the Japanese invaded China in our history, and they set a lot of unfair rules to govern the Chinese. In that case if Chinese people had obeyed them, China would be a different country today or would not exist, so disobedience is a virtue. ■

## Phones on a Holiday Yilin Zhang (China)

Some people believe that if people are on vacation, they should leave their mobile phones at home, to what extent do you agree or disagree?

Holiday seems to be appealing for everyone. From heavy stresses holiday releases people. On vacation, gradually, the old undue grip relaxes and the process of recuperation and repair begins. Consider this point, some people claim that people who are on vacation should leave their mobile phones at home in order to prevent themselves from being bothered by the trifles of work. However, to my certain knowledge, it is by no means a desirable and viable idea.

To begin with, granted, an ideal holiday is a gold opportunity for one to get away from the stress in reality and enter into a new pure and relaxing world. But as a matter of fact, it is the other way around, the existence of mobile phones cannot darken the holiday days. Even for most people who are on vacation, mobile phone is one of the indiscernible requirements. When they arrive at a new resort, for instance, the routes they needed can be demonstrated precisely by the map of mobile phones. Plus, if one gets lost with friends, the mobile phone can make it possible to contact with them swiftly. In many cases, they need the mobile phones to reserve hotels or book tickets for their travel. Everything they needed is to hand. To such reasons, yet another must be added. If they leave their mobile phones at home, even they cannot get up on the morning, which will delay their schedules.

Also, in addition to these practical utilizations which enable the problems to be addressed, to the vacation mobile phone can add more happiness and pleasure. Undoubtedly, it is an optimal mean for people to send messages and give a call to families in order to respond to their worry about us. Provided that people leave

## Success Abdullah Albrazi (Kuwait)

Success is a strong word that means to achieve your goals and dreams like your dream job or anything you dream about. We all have dreams that we wish to achieve but we need to work hard to achieve them. We can define success in three steps: self-confidence, hard work, and family and friends' support.

Firstly, confidence is the key of success. Some people were born with self-confidence. They can do anything with self-confidence. Some people aren't and they have trouble with confidence in some points of their life. Self-confidence can't be taught from others. You can gain it if you believed in yourself and told yourself you can do it. It's not easy to gain it, but it's not impossible. With hard working and others' support you will gain it. If you gain it you will be able to do anything you want and you will achieve your dreams.

Secondly, without hard work you can't achieve success. With hard work you will overcome challenges. Hours of training and working hard achieve success. Success is the reward for working hard and your determination. No one achieved it without working hard and training for

their mobile phones at home, no one can be more objected to this kind of irresponsible behavior than their families. Besides, many people in modern times are accustomed to take photos by mobile phones instead of the heavy cameras. Not only are the mobile phones potable, but also are the prevalent mediums to share our photos and feelings in the form of words on the social software. During the long journey, for example, when people are taking the airplanes or buses, their mobile phones often act an essential role to entertain people and get

hours. As we know every successful person in the history achieved it with hard work. For example, there is a soccer player everyone knows. His name is Lionel Messi. When he was a child he was diagnosed with growth hormone deficiency and his family couldn't afford the medicine. He worked hard and FC Barcelona signed with him and they paid for the medicine. Right now Messi is the best player in the world and his salary is 40 million EUR per year. He worked hard and become a legend. Nothing in

this world is free. You should try hard to achieve your goal. You need time to achieve your goals, so try harder and you will achieve it at the end.

Lastly, family and friends' support is as important to success as self-confidence and hard work. Family and friends will motivate you to be successfully. Also, they will help you to be confident. They will increase your strength to work harder. Without their motivation it's hard to achieve your goals. We need them to support us to overcome challenges.

To sum up, to achieve success you need to be confident and you must work hard and train for days. Also, you need family and friend support to motivate you. If you have these things you will be successful. ■

them away from boredom.

From what has been discussed above, I can easily draw a conclusion that the mobile phone is an optimal and practical tool for people who are on vacation to address the great variety of problems. Besides, it is an essential mean to respond to our families' worry about ourselves and a recreational form aim at prevent us from the boredom. As a result, it is rigid to say that if people are on vacation, they should leave their mobile phones at home. ■



## My Personal Statement

### Faisal Elshami (Libya)

“An ounce of Prevention is worth a pound of cure.” I came across this expression on an exam when I was a student in middle school. I did not understand the expression, and when I got home I asked my parents. Their answer opened my eyes to the importance of preventative medicine and sparked my interest in health and disease prevention. This idea had such a lasting impact on me that I ultimately decided to specialize in the field of health care. My motivation grew even sharper when, in 2002, my uncle was diagnosed with bladder cancer. Due to the nature of my work and that fact that he was my only uncle and had no children of his own, I supervised his treatment and care from beginning to end. He suffered tremendously from the pain that can be experienced by all cancer patients, and I felt utterly helpless as I watched my beloved uncle die in front of me, unable to do anything to save him. As a result, I decided to take more serious steps towards getting my degree to help defeat this epidemic.

I began my studies in the College of Medical Technology, in the Medical Laboratory Department at Misurata University, and later worked in

the medical laboratory clinics of the Red Crescent. Throughout my time there, I noticed the increase in my town of diseases such as Hepatitis B and C and Cancer. This realization inspired me to determine the cause of their prevalence and the manner in which they could be controlled and prevented.

This personal tragedy of my uncle passing led to my pursuit of a Master's degree in Public Health in 2004. In that program, I conducted my thesis on the use of fenugreek extracts as an anti-mutation. In 2006 I went on to be as-

**“Their answer opened my eyes to the importance of preventative medicine and sparked my interest in health and disease prevention.”**

signed as the Head of Environmental Health and Technology Department at the College of Medical Technology.

Within the last ten years since then, my interest in public health has continued to pursue the goals of public health: to prevent the spread of diseases and epidemics while preserving, promoting, and improving the health and well-being of populations. I welcome the challenge of serving a large community and

participating in such a field. Most importantly, during my career as a public health graduate student and professional, I have always strived to find answers to these questions about controlling and preventing disease.

All of my experiences and professional choices have now led me on the path of pursuing my Ph.D. in Public Health. I know this is the best way to assist me in accomplishing my goal. As cancer has proliferated in recent decades in my country, a new cancer center opened in the Libyan city of Misurata. This center requires some researchers and conduct studies in order to curb the spread of this disease, and I plan one day to work there as an epidemiologist and contribute my knowledge regarding Epidemiology Education. I firmly believe that the Institute of Public Health will provide me with the knowledge and experience that will assist me in helping my country in the prevention of cancer. Ultimately, it may also lead to collaboration between the Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University and Misurata Cancer Center. I would love to have Epidemiology department be the place where I can conclude my educational journey that began with one expression in an exam all those years ago. ■

## A very dear friend in my life..

### Eman Jamsheer (Kuwait)

Having a good friend makes you happy and makes you feel that you have a perfect moment in your life. However, I don't like making friendships, and I was thinking before I came to CIES that I wouldn't know anyone. Also, I thought that no one will like me, because I wear a shawl.

Even though I was thinking a lot of being alone, there was a Mexican woman at CIES who is very friendly. This woman changed my mind, and she was very lovely with me. In addition, she respects my culture,

and she likes to learn more about me. She cares about me and my children, and she tries to make me happy as much as she can.

The Mexican woman, Diana is my best friend in the U.S. I don't know what I would do in Tallahassee without her. Furthermore, Diana is like my sister, and she is like a second mother for my children by taking care of them. I have one message for her, and I hope that she will read it: “I love you my pretty”. ■



# Around CIES

# Fall 2016





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### **CIES Writing Competition**

**Center for Intensive English Studies**  
634 West Call Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1127  
Phone: (850) 644-4797  
Fax: (850) 644-7417  
[cies@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:cies@admin.fsu.edu)

[www.facebook.com/CIES.FSU](http://www.facebook.com/CIES.FSU)

*Dr. Patrick Kennell, Director*

*CIES Voices is a showcase of student's authentic writing and compositions.*

*The Center for Intensive English Studies is an Intensive English Program located in the heart of campus at Florida State University. Our students come from all over the globe to enroll in robust and challenging seven-week English sessions.*

*Thanks to our students, faculty, and administration for making the CIES Voices publication possible.*

***Special Thanks to our judges: Luther Brown, Gavin Byrd, Peggy Gary, Lisa McClellan, Jamie Smith, Robert Wickes, Remi Wyszynski***

**Voices Editor:  
Andrew Wilson**

## **Pursuing my Dream** **Nancy Mora (Costa Rica)**

Since I was a kid I had always been interested in learning languages, and my dream is just starting. I grew up in a middle class family, where my father did not finish high school and neither did my mother. My dad is an electrician and my mom takes care of our home and of me and my three other brothers. I have been through many different difficult situations, but my parents have taught me to fight for the things that I want in life and never give up.

When I was finishing my last year of high school I was really excited, because I was going to be the first one of the family that was going to graduate. I finally graduated from high school and it was time to go to the university. I applied and two weeks later I got the results. I did not get in. I felt really bad and I even got depressed. All of my friends were going except me. I did not want to study or do anything; I was upset with myself.

My father started to motivate me to go to an institute to learn English, but I did not want to go. For a week he encouraged me to call the

institute, and I did not. Until one day he literally took me to the place. We went there and they said that the application window had already closed and that there was not a way for me to get in. However, the director asked for my phone number so that she could let me know for the next semester. We left, and thirty minutes later the institute called me and told me to be there the next day to take a test in order to get in. I was nervous because my English was not good. The next day I went and I passed the test. I got in!! I could not believe it, it was something unusual. So, this the time when my dream really started.

Three months before I was going to graduate from the English Institute I talked to family friends, who are like my grandparents. I told my grandma that I was learning English and that I wanted to visit them. She said that it was ok for me to come. But she sent me a link to CIES and told me 'Look at this school, you can come and go study there'. They even offered to cover all my expenses, so that I would not have to worry about anything. I could not

believe it, I felt like it was a dream.

It has been four months since I have been here in the USA. I have been blessed with so many things that if I mention them all it will take a really long time! Everything has changed for the better. My English has improved a lot, and now I am not as embarrassed to talk as I was at the beginning. I have met the most wonderful and kind people in the world here. I have also grown a lot. Now I am an adult and I have learned how to make decisions, though of course I still have a lot to learn. My perspective of life has also completely changed. Even though I am not sure yet what I want to study at the university, I now have an idea of what I really want. Situations are coming and going, but the key is to never give up and always give your best. I have no words to describe how everything has changed in my life in the last year. I have no idea what is going to happen next, but I am sure that if I continue studying hard and doing my best I will get everything I want to get in this life. ■