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Welcome to the spring 2019 edition of CLIPPERS! This collection consists of student writings across all levels of the CUNY Language Immersion Program (CLIP). The selections in this edition range from a variety of themes and genres explored in our CLIP classes - fiction, non-fiction, narrative, reflection and essays. CLIP Instructors carefully selected their students' most insightful, inspiring and promising pieces of writing as they continued to improve their English during the semester. These selections were made ready for this publication with feedback and revision from the CLIP faculty so as not to change the original voice of each student writer. We hope you find pleasure reading these pieces, and we further look forward to reading more and more enjoyable student writings.

Many people in the CLIP program were instrumental in bringing this publication to fruition. First of all, we would like to thank Dr. Berkowitz for her invaluable advice through all the stages that were necessary from the beginning to the end of this process. Thank you to CLIP teachers in our program who go beyond the call of duty with students encouraging and supporting them all the way in their writing. Through their creativity, hard work, commitment and passion, they help our students believe in themselves as writers and unselfishly share their writings. A great thank you to Danae Martinez, Marie Arlia, Anthony Prato, Eliza d' Amore, Vincent Zompa, Oliver Mann, Jennifer Ault and Simon Kao.

Thanks to our wonderful CLIP students for sharing your thoughts, feelings, dreams and ambitions through your writing. We wish you all the best.

Leila Boodhoo

Maria Teresa Longobardi

Faculty Advisors

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## **A Contrast between Schools in Viet Nam and the U.S.**

**by**

**Kim Nguyen**

Growing up in a socialist country and raising my own child in a capitalist nation have given me opportunity to observe the significant differences between the two countries in terms of education. In fact, there are a large number of dissimilarities in many aspects of educational systems in both Vietnam and in the United States such as teaching methods, schedules or attitude of students toward school; however, one thing that strikes me the most is the difference in the method of helping students with learning disabilities. In Vietnam, schools take care of these cases carelessly. If a student is noticed struggling to follow the lessons or having trouble getting good grades, his teacher will notify his parents or his guardian, and they have to solve the problem with their children by themselves. Most Vietnamese teachers see the poor performance of a student as having nothing to do with his mind. They usually consider that it happens because the student does not try the best he can, or because laziness makes him fall behind his peers. Often, in order to solve the problem, parents ask their children's teacher to tutor them, and they agree to pay extra money. Over time, some teachers take advantage of the system and give tests with tricky questions so that they cause their students to get bad grades. As a result, the teacher can make more money by tutoring these students. Therefore, tutoring by the student's own teacher is a controversial debate in Vietnam.

In contrast to the Vietnamese educational system, schools in the United States take part seriously in helping students with developmental delays. From kindergarten, children benefit from so many services such as counseling, speech therapy, and occupational therapy. When they start reading and writing, elementary schools establish extra classes after school to help children who have difficulties developing their ideas or practicing their handwriting. There are not only services to assist children academically, but also emotionally. Certain children have trouble with controlling their feelings, so they may throw a tantrum or get angry at their friends easily. In this case, the counselor will give them best advice to regulate their temperament. The good thing is that all services are free and easy to access, but the bad thing is that sometimes parents rely too much on school while certain roles are their own responsibility in raising their children.

## **A Great Invention I Would Like to Own**

**by**

**Nury Stella Reyes**

It is amazing how things that were invented hundreds of years ago can still be used today. Benjamin Franklin's inventions paved the way for more discoveries. If I could own one thing that Benjamin Franklin invented, it would be the glass armonica because this invention opened the door for the creation of new instruments that we still use today, and this instrument is beautiful.

Benjamin Franklin had an interesting life. He was a man who left a mark on history. Benjamin Franklin was born on January 17, 1706 in Boston Massachusetts. In 1730 Benjamin and Deborah Read got married. They had a son and two daughters. Benjamin Franklin was a man of many talents. He was a printer, scientist, politician, inventor, and a writer. He founded many civic organizations. He started one of America's first libraries, and he helped organize the United States Postal Service. Also, he was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America because he helped write the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

The glass armonica was an important instrument in that time. This instrument had an interesting history. The glass armonica was invented by Benjamin Franklin in 1761. This invention is a type of musical instrument that is formed by 50 glass bowls, that graduate in size to produce musical tones by friction. It was played with wet fingers, and Franklin painted each bowl, so it was color coded to a different note. The sounds of the armonica made a strong impression on people. The armonica was an instant success. The glass armonica was called the Voice of the Angels because this instrument produced soft, crystalline sounds. An interesting fact is that Mozart and Beethoven composed for this instrument. Also, this instrument was played at concerts in Europe and America for about forty years. However, it developed a bad reputation because everyone who played the glass armonica felt depressed and their nerves were irritated. Besides, some people complained of disorders and convulsions. In the end, it was considered harmful. For this reason, the glass armonica lost popularity and vanished. Now, people know that the glass armonica produced these effects because the glass bowls were made with lead. After this instrument, the flute was created and other instruments like the piano.

I like this invention because the glass armonica is really one of the strangest musical instruments in the world. If I could, I would like to have this invention because this instrument is great and beautiful for me. I admire Franklin's brilliant and creative mind that left a legacy to humanity because he invested time in making his ideas a reality. Ben Franklin left a mark in society with his different inventions. He died on April 17, 1790.

**Hard Times**  
by  
**Mariana Ramirez**

According to the book *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck, chapter 9, Wang Lung had been passing through difficulties with his family. The bad weather made the land so dry that they could not reap any crops. This caused a tragedy for all of them. In addition, his wife, Olan was expecting a baby, but she was not strong enough to give birth. Soon after, Wang Lung's uncle came with two men offering money for his land, but Wang Lung rejected the offer. He felt so devastated that he decided to migrate to the south seeking food and employment because he could not stay anymore in his village where his family was in danger of dying.

Wang Lung's experience makes me remember a family who passed through a similar situation. I have known this family for a long time. The father of two little girls was fired from his job and had so many responsibilities in his house. Furthermore, his wife was not working, so when he became unemployed, it was more difficult for him because he was the only one contributing to his family. Without any income, this family could not maintain themselves, nor pay rent. It reached a point where they were starving and the situation was really devastating for them all. Therefore, like Wang Lung, they had to sell everything to go back to their native city to find opportunities to survive.

I can also remember watching a movie called "Cinderella Man," by Marc Cerasini. This film is about Jim, a man with a wife and three kids. He had a prosperous boxing career. When an economic crisis occurred, he lost everything. He and his family struggled financially. For extra income, Jim sold his boxing shoes and equipment just to provide food and the essential necessities in his house. However, he managed to find a way back into boxing to provide a better support for his family.

Moreover, it is a fact of life that hard times can come to anyone, anywhere, no matter rich or poor, and Wang Lung was not the only one who was having a hard time. This is just one of the many testimonies from all over the world. Many people have to face this situation because of natural disasters or bad choices of government. We also know from the news that people from many countries are migrating to the United States to find new opportunities for their families

because of hardships. Just as Wang Lung had to go to the south with his family for a better life, so do these people.

There is an inspirational quote saying, “God has a purpose for your pain, a reason for your struggle, and a reward for your faithfulness. Trust Him and don’t give up.” This means everything comes for a reason, and we should never lose hope even if the situation seems hopeless. Just trust in God, and he will repair your difficulty. Wang Lung blamed God for the unfortunate circumstances he and his family were going through. However, he needed to renew his faith in God in order to get strength mentally to face his hard times.

## **How Has Life Changed for American Women?**

**by**

**Tohidul Ahamed**

A girl wants to go to school. Her parents send her to school. There she can learn only basic and general education, but that girl wants to learn history and geography. The problem is, she cannot learn that subject because she is a girl. When I was reading about the American women's history, I was stunned. In the past, there was discrimination against women. Women did not have freedom and equality. They were treated badly because they were women. However, in the past 200 years, American women's lives changed in education, and political and economic aspects.

First, American women's lives have changed in education. In the past, in the United States, women did not get the same education as men got from the school. They got only the necessary education which helped them to do work at home, for example, sewing, drawing and dancing. In the 19th century, Emma Willard was the first woman to open Troy Female Seminary School for women in 1821. That was the first school in the United States to give modern education for women. In that school, she taught mathematics, science, geography, history and philosophy. Government also liked her plan so much that in 1826 the first public high schools were opened for girls in New York and Boston. In addition, in 1836, the first women's college in the world was opened in Georgia. Today, we can see that before women did not have the same education as men, but today they have it. Today women have equal opportunities in education and school. Also, today, women can go to college and they can choose any major. Furthermore, Title IX stopped the discrimination based on sex in education. Title IX was created in 1972 and it is still works today. Because of this law we can see that in school and college there cannot be discrimination against sex. So, we can see how women's lives have changed in education.

Secondly, in the past 200 years, American women's life changed in the political aspect. In the past women could not vote, only men could vote. A woman named Elizabeth Cady Stanton was the first woman who fought for women's suffrage. After her death, Susan B Anthony, Alice Paul, and many other women worked hard to change the law, and as a result, government approved women's right to vote. In addition, in the past, black men and women were treated very badly, like servants. At the end of the Civil War, the 13th amendment, which ended slavery, was passed, and

black men and women got their freedom. Moreover, in the past women could not participate in politics. However, in 1968, the first black woman, Shirley Chisholm, was elected to the Congress of the United States. It was a win for women because from that day women started to get involved in politics. Today, we can see that women can vote, and more and more of them are involved in politics. We can see many women as senators. For example, in 2016, Hilary Clinton ran for the presidential election and she is a woman. So, we can see that how women's life changed in the political aspect.

Finally, American women's lives changed in the economic aspect. In the past, women were not allowed to keep their own property. This law changed in 1848, and women can now keep their own property. In addition, in the past, if women had jobs, they had to give their salaries to their husbands because women could not keep their own money. Moreover, the jobs women did, paid less than men's jobs. Black women were treated especially badly. They earned half as much white women earned per hour. That law has changed in 1963 because the Equal Pay Act Bill passed. Furthermore, women could not have bank accounts without their husbands' permission. Today, I believe that women are paid equally to men and black women are too. Women can keep their own property and money. Also, women can have their own bank accounts. So, we can see that how women's lives have changed in the economic aspect.

In conclusion, in the past women were not treated equally to men. Women were treated differently, and they did not have any power. However, in the past 200 years, American life for women changed in education, and in the political and economic aspects. Today, women have power because they can vote. The change in women's lives is very beneficial for country, especially economically. So with time, I hope women will be become more and more successful.

## **Reasons to Emigrate**

**by**

**Sinai Gamez**

Venezuela is one of the richest countries in the world. This is because of the many natural resources that it has. In the past it used to be a destination for immigrants. They went to Venezuela trying to find a better life, leaving their countries due to dictatorship governments, economic, social or political issues, and war. In the present, Venezuela has transformed from a country to which people used to immigrate to a country from which they emigrate. Many people emigrate from Venezuela for three principal reasons: social-political crisis, lack of academic and business opportunities, and lack of basic goods.

The first reason why Venezuelans emigrate is because of the social-political crisis that is happening now. It has been twenty years since the same politicians took total control over Venezuela. The government controls almost all the business. This is because they decided to expropriate most of the supermarkets, industries, and farms in the country. There is where the corruption starts, which is principally responsible for the decline in the economy, making the public establishments fail. As a consequence, Venezuela owes millions of dollars to countries like Russia and China. At the same time, there are many opponents of the government in jail and not just politicians like Leopoldo Lopez and Juan Requesens, but also many civilians and teenagers, and in the worst cases, they are tortured and murdered because Venezuelans do not have freedom of speech.

The second reason why people emigrate from Venezuela is because they do not have opportunities to continue studying because many professors leave the country in consequence of the poor salaries. Many professionals leave the country to get a better salary because a twenty dollar salary is not enough to live on in a country where inflation is more than two million percent, and it keeps rising every day. Also, these professors leave because they need to be supporters of the government; otherwise, they will not be able to find a job or they may even lose their job. Young people are leaving Venezuela these days, trying to find a place where they can have a job, a fair salary and a better life.

The third and final reason why Venezuelans emigrate is because of the lack of basic goods. They cannot easily get food, and not just because of the food shortage, but also because food is very expensive, and they have to wait in long lines to purchase it. They cannot buy food on just any day. The Venezuelans' ID numbers decide on what day they are going to buy whatever the supermarket is selling that day, or they can wait for CLAP, which is a box with basic foods like rice, flour, and sugar that the government sells. It is just one box per family, and every box contains the same food. Parents can find neither diapers nor milk for their children. It is also really difficult for Venezuelans to get access to simple medicines like Tylenol or allergy medicines. Also vaccinations and injections are almost impossible to get in a public hospital. Because of those facts, many people with severe illnesses, such as cancer or diabetes, cannot get treatment and die.

Venezuelans are emigrating due the difficulties they have in the country. Factors such as the social-political crisis, lack of academic and business opportunities, and lack of basic products make them decide to leave their nation and look for a better place where they can live instead of just survive, where they can find a job with a fair salary and raise their children without making them suffer. Consequently, if that situation continues for a long time, Venezuela could lose a great part of its young population, professionals, and also the opportunity to become an industrialized country.

## **The Youngster Businessman**

**by**

**Azizkhon Ikromov**

Walt Disney and Ray Kroc used advertising to manipulate kids so they could sell their products. They made some changes in their companies to sell their products. First, they started to collaborate with other companies for advertising their goods. Second, they made mascots for their companies to attract children to buy their products. Third, they created focus groups to start research in what kind of products children like most. Also they used neuromarketing to understand what kids like best. They started to advertise their products everywhere - on TV, music and on the Internet. McDonalds started to put toys in Happy Meals to attract children. Children wanted that toy. They nagged their parents to buy Happy Meals. They just wanted the toys and they threw the food away. McDonald's started to make billions of dollars. In 1996, Walt Disney and Ray Kroc signed a 10 year partnership contract so people can buy their Happy Meal all over the world. This is how Ray Kroc and Walt Disney manipulated people.

There are many interesting ideas in chapter two of *Chew on This*. The most interesting idea is "Walt Disney was the most beloved children's entertainer in the world." This sentence reminds me of Steve Jobs. He also used advertising to manipulate people in the same way that Ray Kroc and Walt Disney did. He didn't have a university degree. He just came up with a great idea and made a great team like Walt Disney. He also didn't know enough about technology. He made a huge company without having any degrees. He became really popular around the globe.

Steve Jobs was the icon of everything new and prestigious, just like Walt Disney. Every cartoon and movie he produced, became popular instantly. They are both creators of trends; the way their minds worked was phenomenal. Both Walt Disney and Steve Jobs have lived almost the same creative life, but one specialized in technology and the other in art.

In conclusion, Ray Kroc and Walt Disney used several ways to manipulate people. In my opinion, government has to stop this manipulation because everybody has his own choice and no one should manipulate anybody. I also advise you, dear reader, not to follow these companies, but try to stop them. The author of *Chew on This* wrote this book to explain what companies do to manipulate people. I will follow the author's direction and will be against those companies.

## **Thoughts on the Article “Is Stealing Food A Crime?”**

**by**

**Melba Galdamez**

According to “Is Stealing Food A Crime?” by Mike Chery, poor people should not go to jail if they steal small portions of food if they are starving and really do not have a way to pay for it.

There are many interesting ideas in the article. The author says, “Italy’s highest court canceled the conviction of a homeless man who was supposed to go to jail for six months because he stole cheese and a sausage.” This quote reminds me of my country because there are many poor people, and they steal food because they are hungry. Many times the police arrest them, and the judges sometimes understand that they have stolen out of necessity since they are starving and have no other option than stealing because they do not have money.

Also, this quote reminds me of a woman who had a son and they were poor, and her son was very hungry so she had no choice but to steal food for him. Some officers arrested her and said that she would be imprisoned for a few months, but the judge felt sorry for her when she learned that she and her son had not eaten for weeks and he set her free.

There is another important idea in the article: “People should not be punished if, forced by need, they steal small quantities of food in order to meet the basic requirement of feeding themselves.” This quote reminds me of a classmate in my country who stole money from the classroom because his family was poor and they did not have food. My colleagues and I did not want to report it because we understood that he did it out of necessity.

My two examples demonstrate that stealing food should not be a crime because many people do not have money, and they steal to feed their families and their children. They do not do it because they are bad. They do it out of necessity because they want to feed people who they love. In my opinion, stealing food because you do not have money is not a crime, but stealing is not the best way to solve our problems. We would have to be in a situation like the victims to be able to understand their actions.

## **Thoughts on the Article “Quality of Life”**

**by**

**Jaime Prado**

The modern world is comfortable for human beings. However, a higher standard of living can have negative results. Being rich does not mean being happier than others. Also, being poor does not mean that you cannot be happy.

In the article “Quality of Life,” Francisco Orozco explains that we think that money is important, which is correct, but sometimes we only focus on making money, and we do not pay attention to our spiritual side. If you do not know what spiritual life means, it means spare time with your family and your friends for learning about art, music and traditions. Spiritual life and money are important in our lives, and we should know how to balance both sides.

This article reminds me of my life in America because when I arrived, I thought that all the traditions that I learned in my country were going to be with me for the rest of my life in America. But the reality is so different. When my family and I came to America, we started to work and we started to study, and now we do not have time to talk like we did in my country.

This article also reminds me of my own life in my country because the people in my country like to stay together with their families. But here, in America, people are always rushing and they do not give enough time to their families. And that is what Orozco means; we worry about the money, and we do not appreciate our family which, in my opinion, has an important part in our spiritual life.

In my opinion, we often think about what we need to get a better opinion from other people but we never think about what we need to improve our relationship with our family or friends. And we should think about our preferences because every material thing in the world is temporal, but not our family or friends. The difference is that we can replace the material things when they are gone with new material things but can we replace our family when they are gone?

## Walking in the Desert

by

Di Yang

In 2014, I went to Kashmiri, in Sudan, to visit the Little Pyramids. The Little Pyramids are located in the Desert of Kashmiri, more than 240 kilometers away from the capital. Therefore, I had to walk in the desert for a few days.

This was my first day of walking in the desert. Desert days are long and nights are short. The sun was almost at the meridian at seven o'clock in the morning. I put my gear on my back and set out. Although it was early in the morning, I felt the heat of the desert. Not long after I left, I was already sweating. I was wearing a long shirt and trousers and a vest underneath. I took off the long shirt to be a little cooler right away. I felt better, and my steps were brisk; I took big steps, and I was moving fast. The temperature in the desert varies from minute to minute. Soon I felt a burning pain on my skin exposed to the sun. I reached out and touched it. My skin was hot and red. I thought it was a little scalded, so hurried to put on the shirt.

The sun was at the meridian now. The fine yellow sand changed color to glowing yellow and red because of the strong sun. The whole desert was turning into a stove. I took out my scarf, wrapped it around my head and face, mouth and nose, showing only my two eyes. Soon I was sweating like rain. The heat waves became more frequent, one after another. The fine sand stirred up by the heat wave hit me in the face. It felt numb and painful. I struggled to breathe. My throat was dry and cracked. I took out my water. It was still cold in the morning; now the water was boiling. I took a few mouthfuls of hot water and felt a little more comfortable in my throat. By this time the sand had become hot, and my sneakers clung to my feet, and the hot sand burned my feet through them. I kept moving my feet on the sand. I felt hungry. All I had for lunch was Arab pancakes. But I couldn't eat. It was too hot; I was exhausted. I had to replenish my strength. I forced myself to eat the pancakes with the fine sand. I chewed the cakes hard, tears streaming down my face. I didn't know why I came here to suffer. If I hadn't come here, now I might be enjoying a glass of frozen juice at home, lying in an air-conditioned room reading my favorite novel *Dream of Red Mansions*. Or I could order an ice cream in the coffee shop and talk to my friend all day. Wherever it was, it was better than here. Here, there was sand. It was hot. Mummies were buried under the sand. This was a place of death. There was none of the most basic elements

of biological survival; it was like I was there to die. I looked far away; I saw a strange phenomenon. The heat wave turned into a transparent tangible object beating constantly. I was surprised because, according to the locals, it was a harbinger of the desert reaching its highest temperature. I had to move quickly to the next little pyramid to avoid this heat, or I would get burned. No matter what I did, the heat followed closely behind me. I began to trot. It was not easy to trot in the sand; it would consume a lot of my physical strength, but I couldn't think so much and did my best to accelerate, for it was a life race. I didn't want to melt like ice cream.

Finally, I ran to the Little Pyramid, stepped into the porch of the pyramid, turned around and looked at the rising heat wave. I sat slowly on the ground. Oddly, in the pyramid, the heat wave turned into a cool breeze. I enjoyed the cool breeze and looked out into the red world. The world of fine sand, mixed with some beating yellow inner flame, is soft. This world spreads in a circuitous curved way, peaceful and warm, stretching from the sand to the sky, forming a gradual discoloration of red, yellow and blue. The white clouds were reflected in warm red, layer upon layer, hanging in front of my eyes. What a spectacle! If I hadn't come here, I would have never seen such a landscape, so why should I regret coming here? No, there was no regret. Even suffering so much, it was worth it. I took off my shoes, looked at the blisters on my feet that were hot with sand. I was smiling. I could not wait for the morning of the next day.

## **What People Should Eat**

**by**

**Ummay Chowdhury**

Nowadays, people are concerned about whether they should eat organic food or processed food. According to the article, "Organic Food vs Conventional Food," organic food is grown without fertilizer, pesticides, or genetically modified organisms (GMO), which means organic food farmers follow the traditional way of growing by using composts, grass, and no pesticides. The same article states that processed food is grown with chemical fertilizers, antibiotics, and GMO. The system of processing food adds many things which are not good for humans. There are many differences between organic and processed foods.

Firstly, organic food and processed food are different in the way they are produced. We learned from the article "Industrial vs Organic," that organic farming uses natural fertilizers like compost and animal manure. This means that in organic farming, there is no use of chemicals or pesticides. Organic farmers feed their animals natural food, and hormone and GMO-free food. Another article, "Organic food: What You Need to Know," supports this idea. In the article "Sustainable vs Industrial," we learn that animals raised on organic farms are allowed natural behaviors, so they are free to move and free to go outside, which is good for the animal's health. On the other hand, a different article explains that processed food farming uses synthetic or chemical fertilizers and antibiotics, hormones, non-organic and GMO food animals. Furthermore, animals are not allowed access to the outdoors.

Secondly, organic food and processed food have different health benefits. Organic food has more nutrition than processed food. This is shown in the article "Health Benefits of Organic," organic milk has 62% more healthy omega 3 fatty acid than processed food, reduces cancer risk, and is also important for heart health. In contrast, processed food is low in nutrition compared to organic food. According to the article, "Nine Ways that Processed Foods Are Harming People" organic food has synthetic vitamins and minerals that are not a good replacement for nutrition. Furthermore, processed food may increase the possibility of cancer. In addition, it is loaded with sugar, sodium, and fat, which cause many diseases like obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure,

diabetes, and cancer. Moreover, processed food makes people overeat and become addicted to food.

In conclusion, there are many differences between organic food and processed food. Eating organic food is better than eating processed foods because organic food has health benefits. However, people cannot ignore the processed food because it is not possible to provide organic food for all the people in the world, so many people have to rely on processed food. People have to decide on their own if they should eat healthy food or processed food which includes pesticides and chemicals. They can think about what they are buying, and they can read the ingredients in the foods. If they see anything which is not good for the health in the ingredients, they can avoid those foods. In addition, governments can make laws for the processed food system to prevent using chemical or pesticides. If people and governments raise awareness of the negative effects of processed foods, it may change the whole food system.

## **Why South Koreans Emigrate from Their Country**

by

**Hyun Cho**

How many people would enjoy living surrounded by people who speak an unfamiliar language and who have a different culture, far from their own hometown, for their rest of their life? I would answer, "Not many." However, despite homesickness and culture shock, many South Koreans emigrate from their country. Then why would South Koreans emigrate to America? Until early 1990's economic issues were the dominant reason why. However, as South Korea became an industrialized country, there were more diverse, significant factors besides economic issues. I believe that lack of job opportunities for highly educated people, excessive competition, and lack of various educational opportunities are three main reasons for emigration from South Korea.

South Korea cannot provide enough job opportunities for the highly educated. According to research, around 65% of South Koreans who were born after 1980 are college graduates. Yet, there are not enough positions for this highly educated young generation. As a result, many graduates do not have stable jobs. Except for students who graduated from top-ranked colleges, many young South Korean citizens work part-time without any benefits, or they spend extra time and money to prepare to take the test for a very limited number of government job positions. Until the 1990's, getting a government job was not difficult at all. However, nowadays many young applicants want to work for the government because it is a more stable job and provides dependable long-term benefits. Consequently, the possibility of a young applicant getting hired for a government job is rapidly decreasing. Therefore, a great number of South Koreans emigrate to the U.S to seek potentially stable jobs or to give a better opportunity to the next generation.

Excessive competition is another reason for emigration from South Korea. South Korea has neither immense territory, nor natural resources. They have only human resources; therefore, they have excessive competition in business and education. In order to survive in this very competitive environment, Koreans must work longer and study harder than their rivals. In the past, Koreans considered that only if they succeeded materially could they make the quality of their lives better while they rebuilt the economic foundation of their country after the Korean War.

Also, Korean society had an environment in which only people who had a tangible practical achievement had a good reputation and received recognition from others. Consequently, it took away other values from our lives, such as family time. Fortunately, a great number of Koreans started to realize that there were more important aspects of our lives besides finances. Therefore, they emigrated from their country to escape from the competitive lifestyle in small hectic cities and settled down in America for their new life.

Lack of various educational programs is the last reason people emigrate from South Korea. Because entering a top-ranked university is the most important agenda for students and their parents in South Korea, many schools have excellent academic curricula; however, schools rarely combine academic studies with enough physical education, music and art classes. Very few schools have curricula for students who are talented in these areas. Its academically biased educational system causes a great deal of problems. Only students who are good test takers can enter high-ranking colleges. The rest of their qualities and talents are often ignored by college admissions officers. As a result, from the time they are in kindergarten, children in Korea go to math and science academies after their regular school hours until very late at night. Additionally, many Korean parents want their children to grow up and be educated in English contexts in order for them to compete more easily in the global markets. Nonetheless, many parents regret that school curricula and educational systems in Korea are still too localized and limited for the next generation.

A greater job market, leisurely lifestyle, and diverse educational opportunities are extremely attractive to Koreans who decide to emigrate to the U.S. They are eager to leave a small region to go to a big country which has more opportunities. They wish to escape from the desperate competition and stress and also to have the right educational environment for the next generation. Despite the fact that this first generation of immigrants will have an extremely hard time adjusting to their new country, the stream of emigrants from South Korea will continue.

**CLIP STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

**QCC GRADUATES**

**AND**

**PUBLISHED WRITERS**



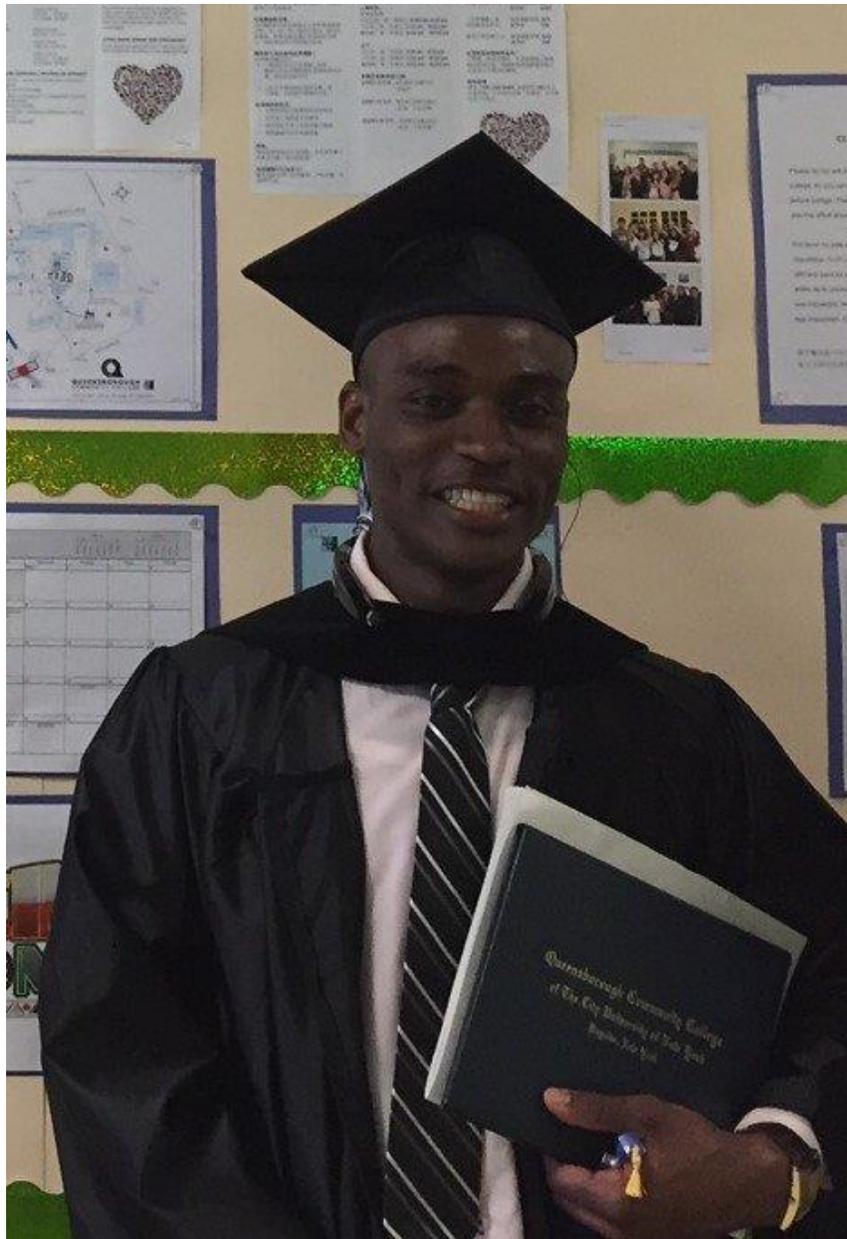
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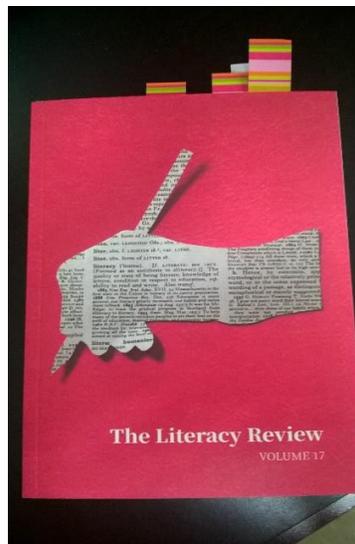
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**Dr. Diana Berkowitz  
CLIP Program Director**

**We are proud of the literary accomplishments  
of our students:**

**Hui Hui Li  
Ummay Chowdhury  
Leidy Bravo**



**whose essays and poems were accepted for publication  
in The Literacy Review 17 in 2019,  
a journal for adult ESL writers.**