

SPRING VIEWS

Spring International Language Center, Littleton, Colorado

December 16, 2013

Adopting Values of Americans

by Ronald Kouna, Gabon

Some cultures or countries share the same values that make them quite similar in certain ways. In contrast, many other countries don't have the same values because of historical backgrounds. As we can see, Americans use and respect many values that make them really strong as a country and appreciated by many other countries. For that reason, I feel that there are several values my country, Gabon, should adopt and embrace.

First of all, I can mention individualism as the most significant value that my country needs to embrace. Individualism is a value that most Americans respect because it has been taught and ingrained in their minds for a long time. They mostly practice self-reliance, which is based on the fact of Light Rail, a familiar mode of transportation for Spring students taking care of your own person.



Photo by Abdulaziz AlKhudaibi, Saudi Arabia

It seems obvious that adopting this value for Gabonese people can bring about some beneficial results for the future. People from my country are too dependent on parents and even on other countries, and I think that dependence holds us back.

Another value that my country should adopt for its own benefit is competitiveness. Being competitive in everything is probably the key to success. According to the article "American Values and Assumption" (Althen, Gary, page 8), comparing yourself with someone with many activities can lead you to be successful. Because of the lack of competitiveness in Gabon, many people don't realize how good they are and, thus, the whole society stays behind. For instance, some countries in Africa describe Gabon as the most vulnerable country the African national Cup because of their lack of competitiveness. For that reason, I feel that we should quickly embrace this value.

Finally, progress and achievement should be valued in Gabon. Almost every country today wants to be recognized as a decent country according to the work they have done. As we can see, America is one of the most developed and wealthy countries in the world. All this progress clearly comes from their devotion, hard work, and achievement. As the article says (Althen, Gary, page 11), Americans think that it is fundamental to work hard in your job and in your everyday tasks. It is reasonable to think that a country like Gabon is not really developed and that progress is still far away because of their lack of hard work. We definitely need to embrace this value because we need that progress.

In conclusion, my country should embrace some values from America, such as individualism, competitiveness, progress, and achievement. I believe that adopting these values can be really helpful and useful for Gabon because this can bring new ways to solve our problems and take care of the people.

LEVEL TWO WRITES

Indescribable Landscape...by Ethel Velasco, Argentina

My adventure is about a real and intense story with my friends at the Grand Canyon in Arizona two months ago. It was an unusual and matchless trip because we walked for 17 hours. We hiked from the South Rim to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, a distance of about 30 miles. We started to walk in the dark, very early in the morning. It was cold and scary. It was very quiet. I was excited because this was a new experience for me. My friends walked a bit faster than I did. We walked without stopping for five hours. My heart was pumping hard. I was exhausted and we were very thirsty. We carried water in our backpacks. Later in the day, our feet and legs felt tired.

At sunset, we were still in the middle of the Canyon crossing bridges and walking along a clear and cold creek. We climbed the slope of the North Rim very late at night. Together with a few Russian hikers, we got to the top at midnight and celebrated with our friends. It was a great adventure for me, and I hope to do it again in the near future. Hiking for many hours was a new experience for me. I am very proud of myself and happy for making new friends.



My Neighbor's Garden...by Hui-Shiang Wu, Taiwan

I live in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. My neighborhood is very quiet, friendly, and peaceful. It is a traditional American community. Every house is similar and most houses have a garden. Even my house has one. In May, after Mother's Day, is my favorite season because it is fresh and green and everybody is busy in their garden. So are we. I have a favorite garden place, and that is my neighbor's garden two blocks away. Every time we go for a walk, we all agree that this neighbor's garden is our favorite. They planted a variety of flowers, bushes and rocks. I love how the colors harmonize. It is so beautiful, I don't know who that woman is, but I do know she is a hard worker and a very friendly person. Every time we pass by her garden, she always says hi to us. I wonder if she is married or single. Why is she always by herself? Does she make her beautiful garden all alone?

I love to take a walk with my family, especially so I can see her garden, chat with my husband about how we can make our garden, and get ideas. I can see different flower colors, and smell fresh, perfumed air. That makes me calm and happy. It has also taught me how to organize and clean my garden. My favorite neighbor's garden is a good example for me.

My Brother...by Abdulla AlMazrouei, Saudi Arabia

Everyone has a best brother or sister in his family. I have a best brother whose name is Saif. He is 24 years old. He doesn't like short hair, so he has long hair. His hair is black. He is taller than me, and he is thin. He can carry anything heavy because he has huge muscles. He got good grades in high school because he is smart. He loves teaching, so he always taught me when I was in high school. His favorite sports are swimming, soccer and volley ball. He also likes watching action movies like "Timeline," "Clash of Empires," and "King 2." He likes to have a new phone every month. He is so kind because when he buys new phones, he always buys one for me. He always calls me to hang out together. Finally, he isn't my best brother because of what he gives me. He is my best brother because he takes care of me and he wishes me the best in my life.

My Favorite Place: My Father's Farm...by Hissah BinLibdah, Saudi Arabia

My father's farm has a lot of beauty. When I am at home, I go there every weekend. It has a lot of white sheep and little goats. They live in a large yard. Next to the yard, there is fantastic grass. My father's farm also has ducks, rabbits and many kinds of birds. The farm has a small garden. It has many flowers and many chairs. There are some trees such as date trees, fruit trees, vegetables and herbs. We have fruit, like oranges, apples, bananas, and pears. We have vegetables, like cucumbers, beans and peas.

In the morning, you can hear song birds, especially in the winter. The birds live in a big cage with many windows. The rabbits live in a small cage that is made of brown wood. Also my father's farm has two horses, one white and one gray. In the south part of the farm, there is a very big tent. In the winter, we cook on a fire inside the tent.

Every weekend morning in winter, I go to the farm because I want to see the sunrise. When I get there, I cook my breakfast. Then I make Arabic coffee. After coffee, I stroll around my tent and smell the fresh air. Next, I like to feed the horses. Sometimes I ride with my father and I take pictures of the horses in the sunrise. In the afternoon, my family and I talk around the fire. My mother usually tells us some old stories about her life. Later, I go off on my own. I sit on the bench and read a book. I love to read in the sunset because I feel calm and serene. In Colorado, I miss the weather, reading, the sunrise, riding horses, and cooking.

My Favorite Place: Long Tong Cave...by Cathy Hsu, Taiwan

In my hometown there is a small place named Long Tong cave, in Taipei county near the capital city of Taipei in the northern part of Taiwan. This place is not very famous. It is small and easy to get to. This cave is beside the mountains and the sea. In front of the ocean, there is a cliff and rocks. On the beach side, you can fish or climb. Also it is a wonderful place to dive. The water is very clear, and the color is deep blue and light green. It is gorgeous. Behind the ocean there is a small mountain. It is an easy hike. It's too small, so you just walk down the country road. Beside the road on the right, there is a small temple. A lot of older people come to visit. On their smiling faces, we see a peaceful and joyful expression.

I have been to this place several times with my best friends. I also bring new friends there. In the summer time, it's the best place to dive. In fall and winter, it's a nice time to walk around. The weather is just good enough; the temperature is not too hot and there is a comfortable wind with sunny skies. The spring is my favorite time to go there. The mountains are covered with wild flowers. When the wind is blowing, those flowers like to shake hands with me. This touches my heart. It is amazing! Long Tong cave is not from my home. To drive by car only takes one hour or to catch a bus takes one and a half hours. When I am sick of the city jungle, I just jump on the bus to go there. It's like visiting a comfortable, nice, warm friend.

Argument Essays: Which Side Are You On?

Corporal Punishment Should Not Be used in the Classroom

by Ibrahim Abu Asidah, Saudi Arabia

Have you ever thought that students would quit going to school one day because of abuse? Some teachers think corporal punishment is the best way to discipline children. In my country, when I was studying in high school, the teachers used to use a strap to hit me on my hand or sometimes on my foot. At that time, I hated to go to school because this is not a place to punish students; it is a place for learning. My experience shows me that there are several important reasons for not using corporal punishment to discipline children: These include behavioral, mental, and physical issues.

First, corporal punishment leads to behavioral problems at school and in the children's future. Students who get a strapping will hate school. Also, they will not go to school any longer. The fact is that students will have psychological problems and hate their studies. I am an example of this behavior. One of my uncles was my teacher in middle school. If I did something wrong, he used to strap me double. I quit going to school until my parents sent me to another school. When students get physically punished, this will affect their behavior. They will be more aggressive. That means they will start to fight with their classmates or their siblings for no reason. Sometimes children will fight back with their teachers when they get punishment. Furthermore, corporal punishment will affect their future lives. When they quit going to school, how can they have a good life in the future? They will not be educated, so they will not find a job, and they will be poor.

Second, corporal punishment leads to mental and physical issues. When children are punished, they will have mental problems. After regular physical discipline, some children cannot be normal. For example, some of them will not be able to speak and think very well. They will have a hard time communicating. In addition, there might be marks on their bodies from the punishment and they will be liable to ridicule from other classmates. For instance, at school, children like to joke about their classmates who have marks on their bodies. According to Dan Frosch, when teachers hit children with a baton, this is maltreatment (15).

Supporters of corporal punishment believe that teachers will be weak in front of their students and lose their power if they do not use physical force. On the contrary, if teachers do not have a strong personality, they will be weak, but corporal punishment is not the way to make them strong. In fact, teachers can discipline children by talking to them or sending them to the principal where he can deal with this misbehavior. The teacher's job is teaching, not punishing students.

In conclusion, teacher should not use corporal punishment. We can see that corporal punishment has many psychological, physical, and mental consequences.

Works Cited: Frosch, Dan. "Battle Over the Paddle. *The New York Times Upfront*, Oct. 24, 2011, 14-15. Print.



Parents Should Be Responsible for Their Children's Moral Education

by Thamer AlSaleem, Saudi Arabia

Parents should be responsible for the moral education of their children more than the schools and society because moral education should be learned by example, for children imitate their parents in almost every way. Children usually do whatever their parents do whether it's good or bad; therefore, the parents should be careful of what they do in front of their kids. It's not strange or unexpected for a child to smoke if one of his parents is a smoker.

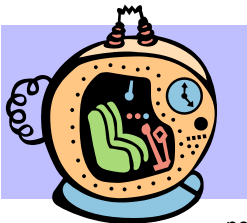
Schools can teach morals, but can't enforce them. If the parents at home do anything that goes against what the child has learned at school, the lesson will be pointless. School and parents should work together in setting the standards for moral education and not make it the responsibility of the school or the parents alone.

The school, parents, and society each has a role in shaping moral education for children, starting with the parents and ending with the culture and the community around them. This means that each one must support the other.

In conclusion, parents are the role models, school is the guide, and society is the field or measurement for moral behavior. However, parents are the most crucial part in the children's moral education because they are the first part of a child's life and moral development. Then comes the school, and finally the society, which is the responsibility of all of us.

Why I Like to Study at Spring...by Rahaf AbuSabah, Saudi Arabia

I like to study at spring because I feel comfortable, and it is a good academic education. It is good for beginners. Also it helps the students. There are several teachers, and the teachers are good. Also, they help the students. It provides comfortable classes, and everything is beautiful. Also, I'm thankful for Missy because she is friendly and passes the peace to the students every morning. I need to thank all my teachers in level 1. I am going to get better because I study at Spring.

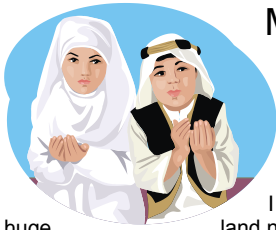


Time Travel: Responses to a Short Story

by Norah AlJohani, Saudi Arabia

If I found the third level at Grand Central station, I would buy a ticket to Al Madinah in 1996 because in that time, I was a child. I was six years old. It is a wonderful place for me because I lived with my family, and felt safe. Also, I did not have to think about life. I thought only about playing. In addition, I did not have responsibilities. I only had to clean my room and help my mother in our house. In 1996, life was very simple. My family and I met with my aunts and uncles in my grandfather's house 3every weekend. My childhood was very happy because I knew all my neighbors and everything in my city. When I arrive in Al Madinah city in 195, I

will be very happy and I will cry because I remember all the beautiful and wonderful moments of my childhood. Also, I will be enthusiastic to see all the old places of which I have great memories. Then I will visit my grandfather's house, and I will tell him I miss him very much. He is a great man. After that, I will visit my old neighbor who gave me and my friend's candy. I will relax and sleep without thinking or worrying about a sense of yearning and separation. Now, the time and my city have changed. For example, my city has become very big and crowded and every member in my family lives in a different city because of their jobs. Also, I have lived in the U.S.A. for one year. I have not seen or met them for a long time. Moreover, I have a lot of responsibilities such as studying and taking care of my daughter.



More Time Travel

One day I found the third level at Grand Central Station and I bought a ticket to Almustay, Saudi Arabia in 1890, that small village which has my grandmother and grandfather's house. I saw their clothes were different style than nowadays and also their talking was different. They had louder and thicker voices, but I love them so much. I saw the small house, but it had a huge love that my father had when he grew up there. Also, all the people who live in the village knew each other and were meeting at a small café, so they drank green tea because it was fancy for them. I enjoyed it so much. I went to my family farm where I saw lots of date trees and many different kinds of fruit. Also, I saw a huge land next to their house with green grass everywhere. All the people were happy and relaxed. I didn't see any sad persons. I was talking with my grandmother about cooking when my grandfather came in from the farm. They had different kinds of food, but it was more delicious than we have now in my house. Their small house was really clean and didn't have any technology, like a TV, but they knew how to spend their free time. My grandmother was reading the Quran in a nice voice, so I felt relaxed when I was listening to her. I would like to stay there because everything was different but more safety, happiness and comfort than now. By Areej AlMutairi, Saudi Arabia

Adopting Values...by Deemah AlSaleb, Saudi Arabia

My family and I have traveled to many countries that have different values than Saudi Arabia. My country has strong cultural constraints. Since I have lived in the U.S., I have seen the differences from my country's values and asked why my country is not inclined to practice these values. There are values that my country should adopt: informality, self-reliance and mixing of genders in schools and work.

The first value that my culture needs to have is informality. Americans act informal because they like casual life to normal behavior (Althen, 9). In Saudi Arabia, people are more serious. As a result, they think that any person they do not know is not amiable. Smiling is hard for people in my country to do for each other. This may be because they have a lot of work to do and not enough time. That makes them seem unfriendly.

The second value that my country must embrace from Americans is self-reliance. People in the U.S. can do everything for themselves. I usually relied on someone else when I was in Saudi Arabia. I had maids and a driver. My driver cleaned my car and put in the gas. Also, he found the directions when I wanted to go somewhere. This has made me not know how to do anything in the U.S. I have to clean my car and pump gas. I had to find out directions where places were. To be self-reliant is to have a strong life.

The third value that my country should adopt is mixing genders in schools and work. In the U.S., schools, work, and any public place we can see men and women mixing. In Saudi Arabia, most schools and work are single sex. People in my country think that women have never been like men, but as we know, all people are born the same as anyone else, and it is not warranted to separate them (Althen, 8). Men do not give women the opportunity to prove themselves. Girls' schools always ignore the talents that girls have. There are many girls who have a special skill that no one knows about. Also, in work, the owners of companies prefer men because they cannot conceive that women can work as well as men. If the schools and work would mix genders, women could prove themselves in front of all men.

In short, informality, self-reliance, and mixing of genders in schools and work are the values that Saudi people could adopt if they wanted, but most people do not want to change because they feel that is wrong. However, in the next five years, I think it will be better than now because some people have started to change their value to treat both genders the same and to live more together. Self-reliance can be a challenge for people living in any circumstances. Women can do a lot of things for their country if they have mixing of the genders.



Winter in Colorado by Saud AlThomali, Saudi Arabia

Spring Views is published each nine-week term to share student writing from all levels of Spring International Language Center, Littleton campus. Connie Shoemaker, editor.