

Examples of Student Writing

Chapter 1

Activities number 2: Essay (p. 10)

A person usually experiences culture shock in all aspects when coming to live in a country whose culture differs from his or her own. Some people might face serious problems because of the cultural values and new way of thinking, some might not like the big difference in the food, and some cannot get used to living in a new climate. As for me, I have been able to adjust myself to the life in the United States relatively easily.

First of all, I can sympathize with most of the values of the United States. I like the American way of thinking about egalitarianism and individualism the best. I am sure that all people have a right to live in equality. Also, the citizens of the United States should be praised for their achievement in accepting many immigrants and in integrating public schools forty years ago.

Next, I suppose that I will eventually get accustomed to the climate here. Although I haven't experienced all the seasons of Washington, D.C., I have heard that the weather here is similar to that of Japan except for the high humidity in the summer and the cold in the winter. So I am not worried about the climate.

On the other hand, the change in my diet has given me some trouble so far. Japanese meals differ in seasoning from American ones. I can eat most American food, such as hot dogs, hamburgers, and meat loaf. However, I sometimes get tired of the similar taste of the food and miss eating Japanese meals.

In conclusion, I have not faced any major problems yet. I love to live here and meet all the people in the States. I have a great aim to improve my English ability and to get to know the North American culture. I think all I need is a place to study and plenty of time.

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Chapter 2

Case Study Report (p. 28)

- I. Statement of the Problem
 - A. Definition: Mei Chang is experiencing problems because of her low level of English and is having trouble communicating with her English teacher, so she is failing her English course.
 - B. Analysis: Mei Chang is a student at a university in the United States. She does not understand English well, and her English grades are low. She sometimes misses class and doesn't do all her assignments. Being quiet and shy by nature,

she has not talked to her teacher about her difficulties. She had a failing grade at midterm in English. Mei thinks it was caused by the actions of the teacher, who discouraged her, so she went to the department chairperson to complain about her teacher.

II. Suggestion of Possible Solutions

- A. Mei should try to work hard in order to improve her grade in English.
- B. Mei should go to her teacher and ask for help.
- C. Mei should take her English course again next semester.

III. Evaluation of Possible Solutions

- A. Mei should try to work hard in order to improve her grade in English.
 - 1. Advantage: She will feel she is doing her best to pass the course.
 - 2. Disadvantage: She may not know how to improve her writing without help from the teacher.
- B. Mei should go to her teacher and ask for help.
 - 1. Advantage: The teacher may understand Mei's problems, help her with her writing, and give her time to make up her work.
 - 2. Disadvantage: The teacher may tell Mei that it is too late to catch up with the course work, which will make Mei even more discouraged and upset.
- C. Mei should take her English course again next semester.
 - 1. Advantage: This will give Mei another chance to study English and learn more about the language.
 - 2. Disadvantage: Enrolling in the course again will require more time and money.

IV. Selection of a Solution

- A. Choice: (B) Mei should go to her teacher and ask for help.
- B. Justification: Sometimes it is hard for a student to understand his or her own problems and how to get out of these difficulties. If Mei meets with her teacher and asks for her teacher's help, her teacher will probably be able to offer suggestions that will encourage Mei to do better in class. Perhaps Mei will be able to make up the work she has missed and still pass the course. Having a meeting will help both persons, the teacher and the student, to understand each other, and they will be able to communicate more successfully.

E.J.C. and M.D.N.

Chapter 8

Vocabulary: What is your opinion? (p. 120)

In my country, the abuse of drugs is not yet a social problem, but it is becoming more serious. I think it will be a big problem, as it is in other countries, in about ten years. People who have lost their willpower depend on drugs because drugs make them happy and give them another world. Drugs are usually dangerous to a person's health and defeat the body and the soul. Young persons who search for and use drugs may destroy their bodies and make scars on their souls. The government has a duty to prohibit the abuse of drugs.

Chapter 10

Vocabulary: What is your opinion? (p. 152)

When I was in the university in my country, Japan, I studied this problem. According to the college professor, it is difficult to prove that someone has suffered from sexual harassment. If a woman files charges about being sexually harassed, she has to talk to a lawyer about everything that happened. In this situation, women often suffers from “language sexual harassment,” which is called the “second claim” in Japan; therefore, many women don’t want to bring a lawsuit about it even today. In my opinion, the Japanese government should hire a woman lawyer who can help with women’s claims.

I have discovered that sexual harassment is considered a great problem in the U.S.A. In fact, since I have been here, I have heard a lot about it. But I did not care about it before, maybe because in my country, Italy, it is not as common as it is here. I know that it is a very controversial subject. It is hard to prove that a person has sexually harassed another person. I think that this kind of problem should not be hidden in the closet. All victims should bring it into the open in order to decrease this phenomenon.

Appendix A

Questionnaire on Culture Fatigue: Question 5 (p. 218)

I don’t like the way people interpret freedom in the United States. Although I admit that most Americans are very proud of their right to freedom, such as freedom of expression, I think the idea of freedom in the U.S. works in the wrong way, particularly in terms of the individual. It seems to me that many people tend to claim their rights without considering and respecting the rights of others. Moreover, they frequently justify their behavior by referring to the U.S. Constitution, which clearly supports freedom as the right of the people.

However, the exercise of freedom which is not accompanied by consideration and respect for others is likely to become a source of discord, and I think it is one of the factors that have led to the high crime rate. The U.S. is a nation of immigrants, and its government still accepts many immigrants from all over the world. This causes racial diversity, which requires tremendous consideration and respect for cultural differences in order to create social harmony. I think that Americans aren’t ready for this diversity because the right to freedom doesn’t work correctly.

A.O.
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