I am Thankful

…the expensive tuition that I pay
Because it means I still have a chance to go to school.

…the less money that I have in my wallet
Because it means I don’t need to worry about someone steal my wallet.

…strangers like to talk to me
Because it means how easy that I could make friends

…those people pick all kind of nick name for you
Because it means they do try to find a way to remember you.

…all the complaining about their life that I hear from my friends
Because it means my friends are willing to share with me.

…the annoying Skype call from my family
Because it means they do miss me

…the busy schedule that I have,
Because it means I won’t be have time to have homesick.

…extremely exhausted from school and work
Because it means I can have a good sleep tonight

When you think you are having a bad day, you should try to think in a different way. When you are complaining about your life, actually some people in the world are dreaming to have your life. Be thankful for what you have; you will end up having more! If you only think about what you don’t have, you will never ever have enough. Life is short, Time is precious. You want to just sit around miserable and complaining or enjoy a good day that you could have? People are going to talk whether you are doing bad or good! So why don’t you put your smile back and enjoy what you have!

I hope all of you have a wonderful day 😊
New School Life
By: Hritey Tasfa Alem Werede
(Freedom)
From: Eritrea

at the end of September. To be honest, it was a lot of fun! We played games and danced like we had never danced before; there was even karaoke and video games! The food was delicious, even though I was more busy dancing than stuffing myself. We took great photos and built memories. I'm sure that 20 years from now, we will be looking at those photos and remember the wonderful times we spent while young. All of us will wish that we could go back in time to relive those moments! This is why I try my best to take advantage of the activities being offered by our school. I believe that every one of us should attend events and participate in different activities. It might sound really boring at first, but once you spend time with the people around you and start taking crazy photos, you will love it! I loved it and can’t wait to enjoy all the other activities which are going to be held soon!

When I found out about the grading system here in America, I was surprised! You actually get points in some classes just for attending! How great is that? Back at my old school, it all depended on your finals, which was one hundred percent of your grade! This new system, where I get graded for homework, attendance, and quizzes, is actually quite amazing. I’m sure that I’m not the only one feeling a huge amount of final’s stress being lifted off my shoulders! Cheers to new school life! I’m sure enjoying it!

This is the first time that I’ve written an article in a while… I’m kidding, although I know it sounds like I’m 50 now! Oops, I forgot my manners: HELLO EVERYONE. I’m sure at least some of you know me! My name is Hritey, but you can call me Freedom. I’m from Eritrea, but grew up and lived in Saudi Arabia before I came here.

When I first came here, school life really intrigued me! It is nothing like Saudi Arabia… I’m talking about the freedoms: getting to wear whatever you want, feeling free, and getting the opportunity to speak your mind! I admit that, at first, I was a bit afraid to speak up, thinking it might bother some people. But recently, I noticed that it is ok to speak your mind! I love my classes and I’m quite excited for the upcoming events planned by the ILSC! So far, I have attended the pajama party, which was held at the end of September. To be honest, it was a lot of fun! We played games and danced like we had never danced before; there was even karaoke and video games! The food was delicious, even though I was more busy dancing than stuffing myself. We took great photos and built memories. I’m sure that 20 years from now, we will be looking at those photos and remember the wonderful times we spent while young. All of us will wish that we could go back in time to relive those moments! This is why I try my best to take advantage of the activities being offered by our school. I believe that every one of us should attend events and participate in different activities. It might sound really boring at first, but once you spend time with the people around you and start taking crazy photos, you will love it! I loved it and can’t wait to enjoy all the other activities which are going to be held soon!

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After graduating from Highline Community College last June, I got a job which required me to stay in Singapore for a month before I started working in Bali (Indonesia).

That was my second time in Singapore. I was in Singapore again, for one month, to train for my current job. Singapore is a very small city and a small country (because the country and the city are called Singapore). Most of them speak Mandarin and I didn’t understand them at all. They talked to me in Mandarin and I was so confused. Even their English is different, and the people call it “Singlish” (Singaporean - English). And sometimes, people didn’t understand me when I spoke “real English” (what they call American-English).

It was a different atmosphere in Singapore, but I loved it because it really reminded me of the United States. It is a very modern city and very clean as well. Singapore has diverse people too. The main Singaporean ethnicities consist of three races: Chinese, Indian and Malaysian people. Many immigrants live there as well, usually to work, and many of them are Caucasian. It really felt like I was still in the USA. But, it felt like the Chinese version of America, since they speak Mandarin… hehe.

People usually go shopping when they go to Singapore. I did too. They have lots of big shopping malls on a street called “Orchard road”. They may have more than 10 shopping malls on that street which, more or less, have the same stores inside. When people want to shop for cheaper items, they can go to Bugis Street, which is located right behind the hotel that I stayed in. Or you could go to Little India for the cheapest buy, but I have never been there.

To get around, people could use the busses (which uses, more or less, the same system as the USA), taxis, or the MRT (it’s like the subway).

I was lucky to be there when they celebrated their
This summer I found out *Seattle is a big stalker*

By: Lily

From: Ethiopia

A good friend of mine once told me that Seattle was a stalker. Well, this summer, after my vacation to Maryland, it was my turn to find out.

At first it was very easy for me to decide whether I wanted to go on a vacation to Maryland or not. If you are irritated by the unpredictable weather in Seattle, then it won’t take you a minute to decide. And if you are like me, coming from a country like Ethiopia where the temperature is 75-76°F, then you will crave a place with a little more sunshine. But after I got my dream, it didn’t turn out to be what I exactly expected.

The first week in Maryland was great. I had fun going to new places, and enjoying Maryland with my cousins. But after I started meeting new people there, I realized that there is no one that can measure up to the people in Seattle. It is definitely true when they say that Seattle is full of friendly people. The only way to prove this to yourself is to go outside of Seattle.

The thing that surprised me most was that I even missed the weather and the rain in Seattle. That was the last thing I thought I would miss. But I actually missed it. I missed waking up in the morning and looking at the cloudy sky. I missed walking for 15 minutes, and not being tired. I realized it takes twice the effort to walk in a humid climate than it takes in a cold climate.

That’s when I decided I had better get back to Seattle. And on my way back to Seattle, all I could think of was my friend saying “Seattle is such a big stalker.”

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After a few weeks in Singapore, I went to the Universal Studios there, which is located on Sentosa island, with my two other friends. We got discount tickets because our friend’s husband works there. I had a really great time playing around at the Universal Studios in Singapore, although it was not much different than the Universal Studios in Hollywood. The normal ticket price to enter is about SGD75, and to get to Sentosa Island, you need to go to Vivo City (another shopping mall) which is connected with the monorail train station that takes you to Sentosa Island. The cost for the monorail station is only SGD3 for a round trip. If you want to take the cable car, you can as well; it costs around SGD26 for a one way trip.

Hopefully, this article will help you understand more about South East Asian countries, which in this case is Singapore. I will write another article about Bali, where I am at right now, when I have another opportunity. Best of luck for the quarter! Happy studying!
Summer Vacation in Taiwan
By: Owen Wang
From: Taiwan

I am finally done with English 205, and I have been waiting for this moment since the first day summer quarter started. Two 15-page papers were done finally. Going back to Taiwan is the motivation to write papers during the summer. Then I can take the first possible flight right after summer quarter. TAIWAN, here I come!!!!!

Before 2010, a male student who studied in community college in a foreign country without completing their military service was not allowed to leave the country after they went back. But this year, that rule has been changed; finally I can go back to Taiwan!!

One thing I miss the most, along with all international students, of course, is the food from home. Taiwan is such a delicious island located in East Asia. Tapioca milk tea, xiao long bao, chicken steak, popcorn chicken –those kinds of foods are easy to get anywhere in Taiwan. However, Americans aren’t so lucky to get these delicious Taiwanese foods anywhere.

In addition to the food, Taiwan is also a beautiful island. During this summer vacation, I went to the east side of Taiwan, Hualien, where there are beautiful mountains as well as delicious food. Also, I went to one of the beautiful beaches in Taiwan with my friends. The only downside that I have to mention about Taiwan would be the extremely hot summer!! It has an average of 83 Fahrenheit during the summertime, and I was burning all the time. Otherwise, I had a really good time in Taiwan. :D
PAST EVENTS

- **PAJAMA PARTY**
- **GLASS MUSEUM**
- **FOOD BANK**
- **ROTATING RESTAURANT**
- **CONVERSATION PAL**

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