



A politician stands at a podium with microphones in front of her. She is wearing a dark green suit with a blue and white belt around her midsection. Her hair is cut short and is styled very professionally. She is wearing gold jewelry and she is addressing the crowd with confidence and professionalism. Since there are so many microphones in front of her, I think that there are many news stations recording and listening to what this woman is saying. This politician is probably speaking at a press conference to announce a law or new policy that has gone into effect. Beside her there are other members of her team. They also have microphones in front of them, so this press conference must include many different politicians. Perhaps it is a question-and-answer session, so the public can get their questions answered before a big election. The lady standing at the podium is standing with such authority, she will probably be voted into the political position that she is running for. If I were the one standing in front of a lot of people being recorded, I would be very nervous, but it does not seem to bother her at all.





A woman dressed in a long black coat, black pants, and a black hat is ice skating while holding hands with a small child. The child is wearing bright and fun colors. Her ice skates are blue, her pants are red, and her jacket is tie-dyed blue, green, yellow, and white. She has a fuzzy hat on her head. She looks to be having so much fun even though she may be a little bit scared. She is holding on to her mom's hand and to the side of the wall. It is probably her first-time ice skating. I assume it is freezing since they are dressed so warmly, besides the fact they are ice skating, of course. However, this does not look like a frozen lake or pond. It looks like they may be ice skating at a mall or in a park. I see many umbrellas behind them that look like patio furniture for a restaurant. They are not on the ice alone, either. There are a lot of other ice skaters out there as well. Some of them look to be in ice skating outfits and are probably professionals. There are some other people out there dressed in warm pants and warm jackets who are just enjoying a day with their family.



A group of young men stand together at a computer. The man in front of the computer has on a long sleeve purple sweater with glasses and has a huge smile on his face. There are a few other co-workers beside him. One is wearing a blue sweatshirt, one is wearing a red jacket with a black and white scarf, and the other is wearing a black jacket over an orange shirt. They are all wearing name tags around their necks. Since they are standing at a computer, it looks like they are about to check into a conference or some sort of professional development training. It must be something that they are really looking forward to because they all look extremely happy. I think they must do something that is laid-back, because they do not appear to be dressed very professionally. They probably work in video games, or virtual reality, and they are really excited to learn some new techniques to apply to the games or to the software that they develop. It must be an interesting job, but, unfortunately I don't have the skills to work in video games or virtual reality creation.



A group of friends are walking barefoot down the sidewalk. The one boy in the middle has on a blue shirt with khaki pants. It looks like they are returning home from the beach because four of the boys are barefoot and only one has on a pair of sandals. The boy on the left with the sandals is holding a large yellow balloon and the boy on the right, with the yellow shirt and smiling is holding a plastic bag of wet clothes, I guess. From the way they look, I am going to assume they are somewhere in Latin America, close to the beach. It's probably summertime and they are enjoying a day off from school. They look to be about ten-years-old, which is a great age. They are old enough to play sports and hang out with friends without the responsibilities and complications that come when you enter junior high and high school. Anyway, they look so happy, just goofing around and having a good time. They will probably go back to one of their houses to change clothes, wash up, and play some video games. Ah, I miss those days!



Two friends are walking down a tiled sidewalk on a city street. They have shopping bags in their hands like they have already been to several stores. One girl is wearing a black shirt with some writing on it and dark pants, and her friend is wearing a flannel shirt with cropped jeans and some black shoes and has on sunglasses. One girl has on headphones, but only on one side because the other earbud is dangling down in front of her. They look pretty young, so I guess they are teenagers, and they want to make sure they have the latest trends before they go back to school. The friend who has the ear bud in has a big smile on her face, and I assume she is talking to someone on the phone because the microphone is close to her face. The friend that is with her is gazing off to the side hoping she gets off the phone soon so that they can start talking again. I also notice a mother, father, and son behind them, probably also looking for clothes for their son before he goes back to school.



The first thing I notice is a young pharmacist looking down and concentrating on some kind of metal tray. She is wearing a white lab coat and latex gloves, which I assume is to ensure cleanliness. Next to her is an empty pill bottle and a large white bag labeled cotton balls. In the background, there are hundreds of bottles of pills stacked and organized on different shelves. This must be a pharmacy and she is one of the pharmacists in charge of filling orders. It looks like she is filling someone's prescription, preparing the pills and getting ready to move them to the bottle. She must have gone to school for a long time to earn a degree where she could work at a job with so much responsibility. This must be a stressful job since a single mistake could cost someone their life. After work, she will probably go home, take a long bath, and relax in front of the television.

Some people work for large companies. Some people work for small companies.

Do you think it would be better to work for a small or large company?

Explain your answer.

There are countless jobs for people to have when they venture out into the world. People can work for large corporations, or they can work for small businesses. I believe it is better to work for a small company versus a large corporation. I have only worked for small companies, and I would never find employment anywhere else. First of all, I enjoy working side-by-side with the owner of the company because it motivates me to work harder when I can see how my contribution directly impacts their livelihood. My efforts have never gone unnoticed. Furthermore, employment in a small company feels like you're working with family. We get to know and support each other on a much more intimate level. While there might be some positive aspects of working for a large corporation, I would never give up the relationships I have been able to make in small companies.



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Talk about a gift that you gave to a loved one.

- What was it?
- Who did you give it to?
- How did it make you feel?
- Why did you give this particular gift to this person?

I have given a bunch of gifts over the years, but one that stands out in my mind is the Nintendo Switch I bought my 5-year-old son for Christmas last year. Not only did I buy him a Switch, but I also bought him a few extra remotes so he can play with his sister and his friends. I even picked up a handful of games like Mario Party and Animal Crossing. I will never forget the smile on his face when he tore open the wrapping paper and saw what we had bought for him. Even though he was happy, I had mixed feelings about the gift. You see, my son is only five-years-old and I thought he might be too young for video games. I didn't want him to miss out on all the fun he could have playing outside with his friends. However, COVID happened and like the rest of the world, we were forced to spend the majority of our time inside, so it made sense to buy him a game console. He still loves to play outside so, in the end, it seems like it wasn't such a bad present after all.

Describe a city you know about.

- What is it called?
- Where is it located?
- What makes this city special?

I have always lived very close to Atlanta and it is one of my favorite cities. It is located in the United States and is the capital of the State of Georgia. Atlanta is unique because there is no other city quite like it. It is constantly congested with traffic and it sometimes takes up to an hour just to travel five miles. Even though the traffic is a nightmare, I still love the city. I am a huge fan of Atlanta's baseball and football teams and often go to watch their games. There is a famous amusement park called the World of Coke and tourists can visit the Georgia Aquarium, one of the best aquariums in the world. Alongside some great attractions and sports teams, visitors can sample some of the best American southern cuisine like fried chicken and sweet tea. The weather is warm all year round so you can even take your meal to one of the many local parks and relax. This city has a little bit of something for everyone.



Describe a country that you know about.

- What is the country?
- Where is it located?
- Why do you think this country is special?

I was born and raised in America but for the past four years I have lived in Japan. It is located in Asia, east of China. My wife is Japanese and we currently reside in her hometown, a small suburb outside of the traditional city of Kyoto. While most people think of the crowds in Tokyo, I live in a part of Japan that is relatively quiet and peaceful. There are many things that make Japan a unique country, but one aspect of Japanese culture that stands out in my mind is the food. Of course, almost everyone thinks of sushi. When I first came to Japan I had never eaten sushi before, but now I eat it at least once a week. There is a wide variety of raw fish to choose from, but I usually opt for tuna, salmon, or shrimp. The best part about the sushi is that it is affordable. My favorite sushi shop sells two pieces for just one dollar, so I end up eating like a king for about ten bucks. Japan is an incredible country and the food, especially the sushi, is one part of the culture that makes it exceptional.

Talk about an article you've recently read.

- What was it about?
- Was it for school or fun?
- Do you agree with the stance of the author?

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Compare working with a group on a project and working alone on a project.

- Which do you prefer?
- Which one is harder?
- Which one is easier?

Most companies and businesses nowadays value employees who can work well with others. While there are benefits to working in a group, I still prefer to work alone for a number of reasons. First of all, I believe working in a group is more difficult because you have to agree on every aspect of the project. Everyone has to be involved and some may not like their responsibilities or the general direction of the task, which could lead to fighting. In my opinion, working alone is much easier. You have complete control over your work and the finished product. When I was in college, I always earned higher marks when I worked alone than when I worked with others because I could complete everything according to my vision. It may seem selfish, but, personally speaking, I produce much better work on my own.

00:13

Record yourself saying the statement below.



"From the serf up to some high princes, the vast majority of people did not attend school and were generally illiterate."



00:17

Record yourself saying the statement below.



"They also practiced a radical form of pacifism, not paying taxes, bearing arms, or serving in any army."



00:18

Record yourself saying the statement below.



"The abdomen contains the remainder of the body's critical organs, such as the intestines, so it should be checked for potential damage."

00:13

Record yourself saying the statement below.



"The settlement lasted less than two years."



00:12

Record yourself saying the statement below.



"The fleas carried by the rats would leave their hosts and bite people."



00:17

Record yourself saying the statement below.



"Before attempting to remove the fish hook, assess if removal in the field will cause any side effects."

00:17

Record yourself saying the statement below.



"The first thing you should do in any situation requiring first aid is to follow these three guidelines: check, call, care."



#1

Many argue that everyone should drive only electric vehicles to help improve the condition of the environment. Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Electric vehicles are a great new form of technology that I think plenty of people should be buying, however, I don't agree that everyone should have one. The first reason is because I think they work best in certain situations. For example, if you live in a city and plan to just drive to work or your local shops, then an electric car would be a perfect fit. If you live in the countryside, you'll have to drive further and faster, which is not ideal for most electric cars. You might also have to travel long distances just to recharge the battery. My father lives in a small country town and it's not the sort of place where you would find a charging station, so he would never want to have an electric car. He also works in construction so he needs to have a really powerful vehicle that can carry heavy loads for a long time. That's why I think we should not make this a compulsory thing. Even though it can help the environment, it is not appropriate for everyone.

#2

Describe the perfect teacher. How do they teach? What makes them different from other teachers?

For me, the perfect teacher is knowledgeable and patient. He or she will allow the students to actually think of the correct answers and be creative, without pushing them to follow strict rules and procedures. In regards to knowledge, I want a teacher who can not only teach the subject but answer my questions and challenge my assumptions. I remember a teacher in science who told us that we should ask her about any body part and how it functions. That was a really interesting class and it made me appreciate the human body and how every little part has a purpose. She had an answer for everything! It really is important for teachers to combine their wisdom with patience. I think some teachers get frustrated and just want to tell the student what the answer is, which doesn't help anyone learn, and on top of that, it makes the teacher's job less enjoyable. Instead, I need a teacher who will give me hints and assistance but will still let me make decisions, even mistakes, so that I learn over time through trial and error.

#3

It is better for older people to live a senior citizen care center than to live with family. Do you agree or disagree?

There is a lot of controversy about senior citizen care centers and whether children should care for them at home instead. I personally think it is a great idea for the elderly to live in a care center like this because they can maintain a good relationship with their family members. If you are someone's caregiver, then you will start to see them in a different light, which could hurt your relationship. You might get annoyed at the extra responsibility and this will have a negative impact on the bond between you. My grandmother lives in a retirement home and she gets the nurse to come by once a week to help her with some things and in the future she will be able to do this every day. She likes that she has her independence and doesn't need to ask us for anything health related. When we go to visit, it's because we want to see her and not just because she needs something, so we have a really strong relationship with no guilt or resentment. When we catch up, it's to do fun things like taking her to the movies or shopping or just having some tea while sitting in the garden, which is lovely.

#4

Some people think that high school graduates should travel before entering university, while others feel it is best to go straight to college. Which path do you think is best? Explain why.

Many recent high school graduates must make a choice and decide whether it is best to go to college or take some time off and travel first. In my opinion, I believe young people should take the opportunity to travel and see more of the world before starting a college career. When you are eighteen, you have few responsibilities and it is a great time to take advantage of your freedom. I went to college right after high school, but I later travelled around Asia for six months and it was an amazing experience. I had never left America before and I was exposed to so many different types of food, people, and customs. It made me realize how much I took for granted in America and how little I knew about the world. I also discovered that I loved learning about languages and meeting new people. It was through travel that I found my true passion, teaching and learning about languages. It would have been much better if I had travelled first before going into college, which is why I feel most young people should travel first before choosing a major and deciding on a future career.

#5

Describe a country or city you have visited before. Where did you go? What did you do? How was it different from your hometown?

I have been fortunate enough to travel to nearly a dozen countries and countless cities around the world, but the country I know the most is Japan. You see, I currently reside in Japan and have lived here for almost four years now. I live in a small town called Joyo, which is about 20 minutes outside of Kyoto, and that is the city I would like to talk about, Kyoto. I first visited this ancient city, south of Tokyo, about 15 years ago. The architecture is simply incredible. There are literally hundreds of ancient temples and shrines spread across the city and I had never seen anything like it before. Not just the architecture, but Japanese cuisine and culture is so different from America that I really felt like I was in a strange and foreign land. There are a ton of differences between Kyoto and my hometown in America, but one that stands out in my mind is the food. I enjoyed eating sushi, tempura, udon, ramen and a bunch of other Japanese cuisine I had never had the chance to eat before. There are mostly only fast food shops and chain restaurants in my hometown. So yeah, when I think about places I have visited before, Kyoto stands out as one of the most unique, interesting, and ancient places I have ever encountered.

#6

It is better to work for a strict boss with lots of rules than it is to work for a relaxed boss who provides little direction. Do you agree or disagree? Explain why.

Everyone has a different preference when it comes to the type of boss they like to work under. Personally speaking, I disagree with the statement because I would much rather work for a relaxed boss who provides little instruction. The first reason is because strict bosses make me feel stressed. I hate the feeling of someone looking over my shoulder and judging every little thing I do. I still remember when I was student teaching at a local high school in upstate New York and my department administrator would sometimes drop into the class, sit down in the back and take notes on my lesson. Not only did it make me uncomfortable, but it also made all the students feel awkward and stiff. After the lesson, she would list out a dozen things she wanted me to do differently. The problem was that my style of teaching involved more projects and collaboration, while she preferred a traditional chalk and talk approach. So, what I'm saying is that a lot of time a strict boss will tell you to follow a certain set of rules not because they are correct, but because it is a reflection of their own personal style. On the other hand, a relaxed boss will be open to new ideas and have a desire to look at problems from new angles.

Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



A man with a red backpack is standing around a bunch of plants with sand dunes in the background. He is in awe of the ocean before him and the birds above him. I think he is hot because he is wearing winter clothes to the beach and probably regrets this decision.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



The man in the center of the photo is wearing a blue and white hooded sweatshirt. He has a confused look on his face. I think he might be lost and is trying to find a way to get to his next destination.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



Here I see a woman sitting at a table in a white sweater. I think she is eating brunch with some members of her family. She is talking to a person who is outside of the photo.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



The man with a black backpack on the bicycle is further behind than his three friends. They might be practicing for a race and he is already exhausted. It looks like he is in the middle of reaching into his backpack for some water.

Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



There are three people standing beside a United States helicopter. The two men in military uniforms are saluting while the woman in the middle is standing in a respectful position. I think they are waiting for the president to walk down from the helicopter.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



The man with white hair and the woman in the big brown coat are walking up the path to the house. They are dressed in warm winter clothes, so I think they are trying to get home and warm up. I imagine they will start a fire when they arrive.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



Two women are sitting at a fruit cart on a street market trying to sell some bananas, oranges, and watermelons. One woman has on a green headdress and the other is dressed in pink. They don't look very happy, so I think they are hot and ready to go home.

Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



On a cool night a group of friends are enjoying a nighttime dinner. They are all dressed in warm gear and sitting under space heaters. I think they are waiting to find seats indoors to eat since it seems to be so cold outside and they only have drinks.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



The young girl in a blue practice jersey is dribbling the soccer ball. She looks very determined. I think she has been practicing this move for a while and she has almost got it down, so she is working hard to prove to her coach that she is a good player.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



The baseball player swinging the bat in the white uniform is trying with all his power to hit the baseball flying toward him. The catcher behind him looks ready to catch the ball if he misses. The batter looks fierce, so I think he is going to connect with the ball.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



In the picture, there is a young woman dressed in a scarf, gloves, and warm jacket. She is drinking coffee from a cup with a snowman, and I think she bought it at a coffee shop. There are holiday lights in the background, so I am going to guess and say that this picture was taken in December.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



There are three generations of strong women sitting at a table enjoying coffee on the side of a busy street in what I think is Thailand. The granddaughter is wearing a blue and white striped shirt, the mother has on a red shirt, and the grandmother has very white hair.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



The twin boys are perched on top of a wall trying to get straws into their juice boxes. I can tell they are twins because they look almost exactly alike. They are dressed alike as well. I imagine they will go play with their red and yellow toys after their snack.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



Here I see an excited boy in a brown and white jacket. I think he is extremely happy because he is eating a snack at a fair. It looks like he is enjoying some ice cream and a drink too. He will probably go find a game or ride when he is finished.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



This is a picture of a woman riding a white horse. She is wearing an impressive pink, green, and white dress. She is gazing off to the side of the camera where I think there is a group of people waiting to get their picture taken with the horse.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



There is a woman dressed in black yoga pants and a yellow top. She is in a fighting stance. I think she is looking off to the side at a TV and completing a workout program for people who want to get in shape. She looks fierce, so I think her workout is kickboxing.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



This is a picture of a woman in a military outfit showing a large group of children some oatmeal. I think the children are learning about what it is like to be in the army and she is showing them the kinds of food they eat for breakfast.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



In this image, there is a man in a red shirt arranging different fruits and vegetables onto a tray. I can see oranges, cucumbers, bananas, and even a pineapple. It looks like a hotel kitchen, so I think he is making a room service tray.



Write one or more sentences that describe the image. You have one minute.



The man in the white chef's shirt and apron is preparing some fresh salmon and avocado for the customer in the black shirt. She is waiting patiently for the chef to complete her order. I think these are the ingredients for a California roll, but I'm not too certain.



There are two firefighters in full gear fighting an angry fire. They are low to the ground as the heavy smoke looms over their heads. They are helping each other keep the water hose pointed in the right direction to put the fire out.

Imagine that your school requires you to join a club. Would you join an athletic club, academic club, or volunteer group? Explain why.

If my school required me to join a club and I had the option to choose between an athletic club, an academic club, or a volunteer group, I would choose to be part of an athletic club. Being part of a team has many different benefits. First, it would give me the opportunity to be part of a group and learn how to collaborate with others. Second, I think that it is important for people to learn to manage their time and become a member of a team. I remember when I was on the soccer team in high school and all of my teammates expected me to be at every practice and every game. There was no way to skip out with a bunch of phony excuses, I had to show up no matter what, which helped me later in life to balance work and play. Another reason why I would opt for an athletic club is because it would allow me to move my body and keep active so I can maintain a healthy lifestyle. While there may be arguments for each of these options, I think that I would benefit the most from being part of an athletic club.

Many schools are reducing the amount of time spent teaching art and music. These subjects are being replaced with robotics and computer programming. Do you support or oppose this idea? Why? Give specific reasons for your answer.

Many schools are now shifting their focus away from art programs and more on robotics and computer programming. I do not support this idea for a number of reasons. While computers and robotics are indeed important, there are other aspects of student life that must be considered. Art programs in schools are designed to help students bring out their creativity and think with a different part of their brain. When asked a question in art or music, there is usually a diverse array of possible answers that require critical and reflective thinking as opposed to computer and robotics, which typically have a right and wrong answer with little room for error. When students are taught to be creative, they can thrive in any type of environment, but we must give them the opportunity through art and music.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents should read their children's text messages. Provide specific reasons for your opinion.

We live in a world where technology has provided people with a multitude of ways to connect with others. Cell phone ownership is now common amongst children as young as five years old. I believe that parents should check their children's text messages without hesitation. When a child has a cell phone, they have access to the whole world. They can message, send videos, log on to social media, and unfortunately, there are predators who try to take advantage of young children. A parent's job is to ensure the safety of their children. I can recall a time in high school where a friend was messaging a stranger they met off of a website. This happened when she was seventeen and she was talking about meeting up with this person. This still happens today, and with children much younger, so it is in their best interest for their parents to know who they are talking to and what they are talking about.

Describe a time when you were led by a strong leader. Did it have a positive or negative impact on you? Explain.

"Building a public park, library, or school is an important decision for any local government. I believe it is best for the community to build a public park because it can benefit the most people. I remember when I was a kid I went to the Valley Stream State Park almost every day. It was just a five-minute bike ride from my house and it had basketball nets, handball courts, and a huge open field. We used the entire area and played different games depending on our mood and the number of kids. There were also a bunch of older people who used the exercise equipment or jogged around the track. As you can see, building a public park would be the best way to improve the living standard of any community."

Describe your favorite teacher. What qualities did you respect most?

Over the years, I have attended many classes and had different types of teachers. One teacher who stands out in my mind as the best teacher I have ever had was my high school history teacher. He was extremely compassionate and would hold study sessions before tests to help students who may have been struggling during a unit. His lectures were engaging, and he kept the students gripped with intrigue as he taught. Furthermore, he always made sure that there were hands-on projects to help us further understand the material. I remember one time we were learning about the House of Representatives and the Senate, so he turned the classroom into Congress to help us understand how it worked. I still think about that project every time I hear about politics in America today. He was so dedicated to making sure his students found success.