1. Parents always seem to be there to offer guidance and advice for their children. However, their advice is not always right. Worse, sometimes they can deliver misleading or outdated suggestions. Many children like to complain about their pushy parents who are eager to control every aspect of their life, from clothing to relationships with others. Because of parents who nag their children and issue endless warnings, many children now prefer to ask for help online. It is an undeniable fact that the internet offers them far more information than the older generation possibly could. However, when it comes to the problems like how to deal with people in relationships, parents’ advice usually works. Their experiences would provide their children with more practical solutions for dealing with a social crisis than anything their children would find online. As a result, it becomes crucial for the younger generation to learn to distinguish between useful opinions and meaningless chatting from their caring parents.
2. Angelina Jolie, one of the most well-known actresses around the globe, is also marked by her humanitarian efforts, for which she has received many awards and honors worldwide. She promotes various causes, including education and woman’s rights, and is most noted for her advocacy on behalf of refugees. As a public figure, Jolie has been cited as one of the most influential and powerful people in the American entertainment industry. With the help of her own influences, she has successfully brought public attention to children’s education and women’s rights issues. She has funded many schools and educational programs in different countries and has campaigned against gender inequality. It is widely acknowledge that she has achieved much more acclaim for being a philanthropist than being an actress.
3. Pets can provide us with companionship. When we come back home from an exhausting day, our little buddies provide good reasons for us to take a walk outside. Obviously, pets could bring us relaxation and refreshment, not to mention the feeling of being needed and relied upon. Keeping pets is an effective way of keeping us from feeling lonely. Besides, pets can enhance positive behavior in children. Research shows that children who play with pets are more caring and they would know how to take care of other people. Children will become affable because of the love they give to their pets, which in turn will create far-reaching implications for their future. To conclude, pets are just like our friends who help us drive away loneliness and satisfy some of our mental and spiritual needs.
4. Blogs, one of the most popular technological tools, have become a great way for students to develop their creative thinking and writing skills. In detail, students use blogs to post, share and comment upon all types of information and materials. They can write on topics that intrigue them and express their ideas without having to worry about being graded or making grammatical errors. Additionally, through volunteering to organize and manage a class blog, students can use it as a common source of expression for the entire class. There is no doubt that blogging makes students feel responsible for their own learning, and at the same time, they are encouraged to incorporate creativity into their learning process. Blogs have therefore created a new and unique way for students to learn.

Uniforms, especially those having color and style requirements for every part of the outfit, are not easily affordable for many parents. Families who have elementary aged school children often face further financial difficulties as younger students participate in excessive physical play and are not always careful to protect their clothing. Additionally, young people of all ages change their clothing styles on a regular basis and grow rapidly, resulting in the abandonment of old clothing and requiring the purchase of new accessories. Also, it is important to note that even with uniforms, parents still need to purchase ‘regular’ clothes for when students are not in school, thus creating an additional expense. A 2012 presentation by North Brunswick Township Public Schools in New Jersey reported that the average cost for families to purchase uniform was approximately $300 per student each year. This expense constituted a financial burden for most families.

Thanks to the enforcement of stricter regulations in schooling and the reinforcement of the school management, many issue have surfaced based on the proliferation of the Internet. Cyber bullying is definitely one of the most influential issues. Students are now using social networks to conduct cyber bullying against their peers. It is the same as the traditional way of bullying, both of which isolate classmates and then attack them in a malicious way. Undeniably, cyber bullying should ring alarm bells for both teachers and parents because some serious consequences could arise for the young victims. It is reported that some teenagers committed suicide because of the abusive words and threats they had received. Since the Internet is not an easy forum to supervise, it is the responsibility of teachers and parents to teach children the fine line between free speech and cyber bullying in order to protect anyone who may get hurt from this new type of school violence.

Walt Disney designed Disneyland in a way which encourages visitors to flow through different lands in a particular order, with each land exploring a part of the United States that is indicative of American’s rich history and culture. As a result, visitors could easily learn about America’s past, present and future. More importantly, Disneyland is not only a theme park, but rather a symbolic place that encapsulates American idealism. Disneyland is located in a small, historical town named Anaheim as opposed to a much larger city such as LosAngeles. Anaheim’s location contradicts the concept of a ‘big America’ that values money and material wealth over communities and families. The construction of Disneyland in Anaheim indicates that the ‘real America’ truly exists in small towns and communities across the nation. The ‘idealism’ rather than ‘realism’ that the park represents creates a national fervor among visitors.

When it comes to the issue of career paths, children are strongly influenced by their parents and other family members. Our parents define us not only genetically but also in the background they provide for us as we grow up. It is easy to turn down the advice they offer, but it is almost impossible to avoid the influences they have instilled upon our way of thinking. Many political families, such as the Bush and Kennedy families, are a perfect illustration of this point. Although none of them were born to be president, growing up in the West Wing and making friends with such a powerful class of people would leave no other choices for the younger generation in such families.

1. Globalization has never been so desirable as the whole world is seeking a way of solving some unprecedented complex issues like terrorism, climate change and economic recession. This integration on an international level is receiving increasing attention right now. For example, the heads of the industrialized and developing economies have already formed a new type of forum named the G20 to address economic issues each year. This is not only an alliance between advanced and emerging nations, but also a crucial chance to find a way to unite the world on certain problems. When the most influential political leaders are gathering to discuss global issues, people are seeing the determination to confront our most challenging and complicated problems. It was these combined efforts that helped the world get thought the financial tsunami of 2008. With more cooperation and less confrontation, it is reasonable for us to believe that globalization will only bring us more benefits.
2. As the truth is sometimes difficult to confront, there are times when a white lie or the absence of some key facts becomes appropriate. The problem is that people have different standards for when, why and how the truth is shaped. These divergences will unavoidably cause miscommunications, breakdowns of trust and other dysfunctional behaviors. That is why white lies are common under some circumstances. For example, when children receive low grades in a math examination, their parents usually encourage them by telling them that they have worked hard and what they lack is just a bit of luck. In this case, parents attempt to avoid hurting their children’s feelings and confidence by ‘hiding the truth’, and, in the process, they support their children in an unwavering way.
3. Khan Academy is a non-profit educational organization created by educator Salman Khan who provides a free, world-class education for anyone in the world. The Academy is the start of an online education revolution that will change the life of many students. Imagine an African children, who lives in a rural area, having access to tutoring from the top universities through this website. For the first time, education is not as expensive as we have come to expect. Once theses beneficiaries of free online education enter society, the potential effects can be unimaginable. Khan Academy, with the assistance of the Internet, has made many students’ dreams come true. These achievements perfectly embody the core spirit of the Internet, which is quality and sharing.
4. Consumer motivation is associated with Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs Theory. According to his theory, motivational forces have different levels of importance. The most common needs are physiological needs (including food and shelter) and safety needs, both of which are tightly connected to basic survival. Higher-level needs include social needs (including relationships and love), esteem needs (including recognition and status) and self-actualization needs (also known as the needs to fulfill oneself). In Maslow’s view, individuals must meet their lower-level needs before being motivated to fulfill their higher-level needs.

The Giant Panda Protection and Research Center of China was established in the early 1990s to help keep giant pandas in existence. The Center, in collaboration with the central government and many world’s leading wildlife conservation organizations, has spared no efforts in expanding panda reserves, improving panda breeding management and conducting extensive scientific research on the reintroduction of captive-bred giant pandas to their natural habitat. Simultaneously, strict laws against panda poaching and fur smuggling have been stipulated. The public is now equipped with the knowledge disseminated by the center and is increasingly aware of the importance of animal protection. All these measures are so effective that the panda population has increased to 170 in China. This accounts for 60% of the total number of the captive bred giant pandas worldwide.

Peer influence is almost undetectable, yet it enormously impacts people’s behaviors. This psychological phenomenon happens to anyone who belongs to a certain group, especially young people who are just beginning to develop their personality. For example, if most of the students in a class own an iPad, the remaining students would also want an iPad to avoid feeling ‘inferior’ to their classmates. Some people may argue that people are driven by peer pressure in almost every situation. If we are better able to understand peer pressure, we may make rational use of this inside motivation. To specify, peer pressure could serve as an effective tool of leadership. Instead of delegating tasks directly, it is advisable to create a comparable and competing atmosphere in order to inspire innovation in people. As a result, the whole team tends to work with higher efficiency and team members are more likely to feel rewarded accordingly.

Pre-school education constitutes the crucial stage for children’s early development since it occurs at the time when children are learning basic social skills and building self-confidence. The benefits of pre-school education are that they provide students with the opportunities to take part in group activities and learn the basics of education before officially attending primary schools. One feature of pre-school education is that educators need to combine interesting subject matter with practical knowledge, in order to ensure that young students will not be tried of studying even before they step into the first grade. As a result, during the early stages of education, students are encouraged to learn from playing in conjunction with studying. Obviously, this learn-while-play process requires much more patience and a higher skill from teachers.

People from different occupations have benefited from the advancement of modern technology. For example, the electronic calculator has liberated accountants from complex and repetitive calculation that are time-consuming and exhausting. CT-scans and B-type ultrasound Scans often aid doctors in diagnosing illnesses for patients which may even include fatal diseases. The advent of computers and the Internet has provided easy and ready access for people to search for relative information in a short period of time. Before computer technology became readily accessible, anybody wanting information had to rely on searching through countless books and periodicals to find the information they were looking for.

1. In 1973, the Indian government initiated a tiger protection campaign called ‘Project Tiger’ which was designed to help protect the diminishing tiger population. The tiger population was declining due to habitat loss, poaching and other human-related factors. During the campaign, twenty-five tiger reserves were established where human development and inhabitation was forbidden. On these reserves, the breeding of tigers has been facilitated, and mature tigers have been transported to other regions with the goal of increasing their worldwide population. At the same time, the campaign has organized the Tiger Protection Force to catch poachers and relocate villagers in the rural areas so that they are no longer living within natural habitats. As a result of these efforts, the population of Bengal tigers in India has increased from about 1,200 in 1973 to an impressive 3,500 in 2007. Due to this fact, they are no longer on the brink of extinction.
2. Established in 1964, the Shinkansen, a network of high speed railway lines in Japan, has expanded to link most of the cities on the islands of Honshu and Kyushu. Carrying over ten billion passenger per year, it has transported more passengers than any other high-speed line in the world. Between Tokyo and Osaka, the two largest metropolises in Japan, up to thirteen trains per hour with sixteen cars each (1,323-seat capacity) run in each direction with a minimum headway of three minutes between trains. More importantly, the Shinkansen has a significant impact on Japan’s economy. Switching from a conventional to a highspeed network has been estimated to save 400 million travel hours annually, which equals an economic influence of 500 billion yen per year. In terms of environmental benefits traveling by the Tokyo-Osaka Shinkansen line produces only around 16% of the carbon dioxide that a car would produce on an equivalent journey. This adds up to 15,000 tons of carbon dioxide each year which is no longer dispersed in to the atmosphere.
3. SoHo, a district of the New York City, is one of the best case studies illustrating the influence brought about by the renovation of traditional buildings. This community is a must-see for almost all of the people who visit the New York City since everyone who has been there was amazed by the interesting combination of the architectural style of industrialization and the edge culture of modern society. After the abandonment of the highway scheme, the city was left with a large number of historic buildings that were unattractive to the manufacturing and commercial buildings that survived in the city in the 1970s. Pressured on many sides, the city abandoned attempts to keep the district as strictly an industrial area. This place is now better known for its variety of shops, ranging from trendy upscale boutiques to national and international chain store outlets. The history of this area is a good example of inner city regeneration, encompassing socio-economic, cultural, political and architectural developments.

Imagine a society with more walker than strollers. This is the sign of an aging society. As the proportion of elderly people increases, the social structure will experience significant changes. Since they are unfamiliar with the latest technology and advanced skills, the elderly members of a family are more likely to feel isolated and abandoned especially when the pace of modern life has been accelerating ever faster. It is crucial for senior citizens to feel they are still active in society and teaching them some new skills can be helpful. Grandparents may receive a sense of accomplishment after mastering the use of an iPad. Also, they could become more independent without bothering their children about IT problems. Evidently, new innovations would bring as many benefits to the elderly as they would bring to the younger generation.

Although it seems more convenient when people talk to each other via emails or phone calls, face-to-face communication is still the most complete way for us to communicate with each other. Finding out information via an email is impersonal and it is like reading an article in a newspaper because we do not receive an instant response from the other side. Also, the effectiveness of non-verbal cues, such as gestures and facial expressions, can never be underestimated. We can estimate when a conversation is concluding by noticing if the listener keeps checking on his/her watch. Body language transmits key information is a subtle yet effective way. Imagine how embarrassing it would be when you receive an email with sentence like ‘I am done talking to you.’ Obviously, there is no other way that we can replace the value of face-to-face communication.

Located in the heart of new York, the Metropolitan Museum of Art is the largest art museum in the United States and among the most visited art museums in the world. Its permanent collection contains more than two million works, ranging from European paintings and sculptures, crafted during the Middle Ages, to American modern art, as well as from traditional Australian musical instruments to Africa tribe porcelain. The Asian section is of particular interest as visitors can see exhibits from nearly every Asian civilization. There are Japanese paintings and calligraphy, Nepalese and Tibetan handicraft and Chinese bronze wares. A complete Ming dynasty style garden court provides visitors with the experience of living luxuriously in ancient China, and has become one of the most favorable places in the museum.

Art, the mirror for an advancing society, can reflect every aspect of our life. Movies, the most popular cultural medium, impact people’s life in personal ways. Viewed by millions of people, movies can create a fantasy world or they can depict the cruelty of the real world. *An Inconvenient Truth* is one of the excellent productions, which unveils the seriousness of climate change. Today’s younger generation has no choice but to confront this crisis head-on. This movie rings the alarm that our climate will change the course of history far beyond our imagination. As the producer of this movie suggest it is far more than a simple environmental problem to solve. The main theme of this movie is that people around the world need to work together in order for this problem to be solved.

1. Inevitably, multitasking is becoming a must for today’s work force due to the accelerating speed of life. Some employees must deal with hundreds of emails and interoffice communications every day. Because of this employees must learn multitasking in order to use time with higher efficiency. Instead of focusing one’s attention on various and countless assignments, multitasking allows one to switch the focus from one task to another in a relatively short time. For example, the ability to schedule a meeting while waiting for an employee’s response is a fundamental skill for any manager. Those without the ability to multitask will be buried by endless phone calls, emails and paperwork.
2. With the widespread application of sophisticated information and communication technologies, the concept of creating a ‘smart city’ has been proposed as the ultimate goal that large cities would seek in their future development. A ‘smart city’ could largely improve the quality of life and the performance of urban services. For example, it has brought local residents a more efficacious and user-friendly public transportation system. In Barcelona, a new bus network has been designed to utilize vertical, horizontal and diagonal routes with a number of interchanges, based on the analysis of the most common traffic flows. Also, when smart traffic lights are set up and the traffic management software is installed, the number of green lights on each street has been optimized to avoid traffic congestion as well as to allow ambulances to reach incidents without any delay.
3. The debate over different parenting techniques has never stopped. Modern parents are divided between a permissive style and a tiger style, and the latter seems more effective. The burning topic of a Tiger Mother illustrates how a Chinese mom cruelly, yet successfully, raised two prodigies. However, controversies and rumination surfaced soon after the mother proudly introduced her parenting methodology to the public. It is difficult for people to ignore the negative impacts on children when adopting such a ruthless form of education. Children are not given the rights to decide what they want to do after school, which always leads to their poor time management ability. Worse, they are usually motivated by the fear of being punished instead of the desire to learn. Relationships within such families usually deteriorate due to the lack of communication.
4. Politeness makes it easier to leave a good first impression on people in social or professional settings. People who speak to others in a courteous manner are more likely to make a good impression than those who have bad manners. Being polite is especially important when communicating with customers. In Japan, retail clerks and customer service representatives are very polite when they greet customers, handle money and escort customers out of their shops. Their politeness puts customers at ease and makes their shopping experience more enjoyable.

Thanks to advanced technology, people today can enjoy an increasingly professional yet relaxing working environment. Advancements in computers and the Internet are allowing people to work from home, which can provide many benefits. Among them, the flexibility to meet family needs and the responsibilities of daily life is probably the greatest. More and more people are starting to realize that their job is only a small part of their life. Flexible schedules in working time and more choices for job locations provide employees with precious time and opportunities to pursue their own interests and to be with their families. Employees will feel more motivated and engaged in their working environment and will therefore be more productive. Companies that provide such options for their employees would also be potential beneficiaries. Apparently, the happier employees are, the less costly mistakes they may make. This win-win situation is exactly what modern business management is aiming for.