

Vol. 15 | SPRING 2024

IN OUR OWN WORDS

MAGAZINE

A COLLECTION OF STUDENT ART AND WRITING



ABOUT THE MAGAZINE IN OUR OWN WORDS

Carlos Rosario School’s literary arts magazine is an original collection of adult basic education student writing and art. This collection came out of an initiative to increase student reading and access to high interest material in 2008. Our annual publication is produced by a student designer with staff support.

This year, the student designer was Kevin Oblitas, who is passionate about creating designs that inspire and engage. All students are encouraged to submit their best work through a school-wide multilingual campaign, which results in hundreds of submissions annually!

After rounds of student editor reviews, the student graphic designer collaborates with staff advisors on all aspects of production, including layout, design, promotion, and distribution. We are proud of In Our Own Words for its contribution to our community of adult learners and for capturing the multicultural adult learner perspective and pride.

The mission of In Our Own Words is to provide accessible and high-interest reading material to the adult learning community. The magazine celebrates the creative and exceptional work of our students and provides students with an opportunity to give back to the community of adult learners.

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Head Staff Editor’s Note

“In Our Own Words shows the progression in students’ writing skills. Edits in student writing were made only where errors impeded comprehension.”

Student Judges



Anastasiia Horbachevska
Student Judge



Max Aguirre
Student Judge



Angela Benavides
Student Judge

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ORIENTATION B

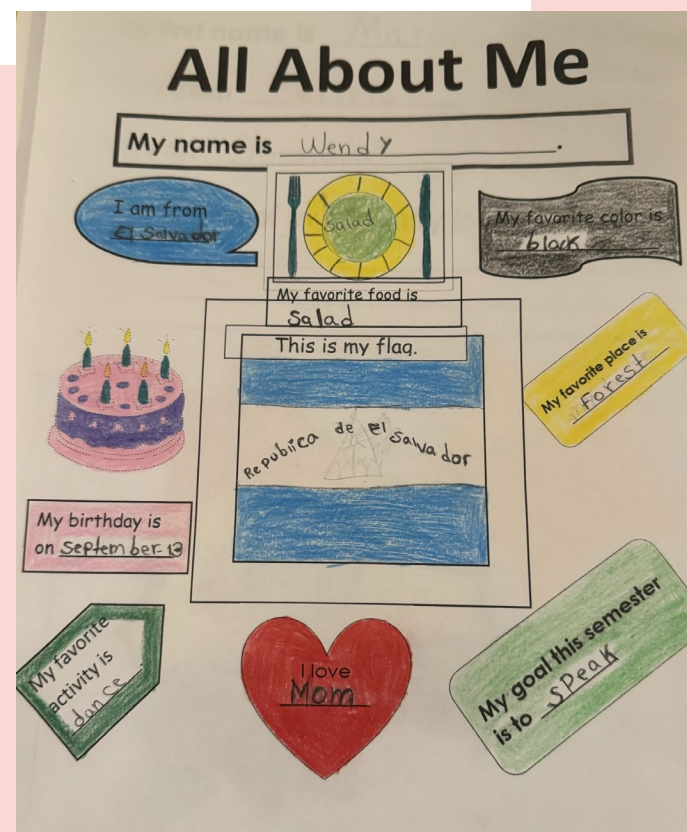
Students in Orientation A learn the basics of English starting with the alphabet and letter sounds. Reading and writing are the focus.

This class is for students who may be learning to read and write for the first time or who have had limited schooling in their home countries. Content includes learning the alphabet and practicing the production of sounds, words, and phrases.

Classes are small and have teacher aides for one-on-one help.



My first name is Wendy.
I am from El Salvador.
The pencil is on the notebook.
The notebook is between the pouch and the laptop.
The pencil is in the pouch.
The notebook is next to the laptop.
I am in the classroom 211.



Students in Orientation B learn the basics of English starting with the alphabet and letter sounds.

This allows learners to move to basic grammar, reading skills, writing, speaking, and listening, with reading and writing as the focus. This class is for students who may not have completed high school in their home countries.

THE STORY OF A DREAMER*

This is a story of courage, of fighting against our own limits, our own fears. When I was a child, I wanted to change the world. Today I feel blessed that the world will not change me.

Things could not be further from the truth! Early in my life I learned that the most important thing I could achieve in this adventure of life is to discover the true purpose of my existence, the reason why I came to this planet we call Earth.

But the most important thing I've learned in life is so simple. To find true happiness the only thing I have to do is maintain that simplicity throughout a lifetime. Never forget the child that I once was and walk with him, with his innocence and with an open mind that nothing is impossible in life.

Life turned me into a warrior in this world perhaps because I chose to listen to the voice of my heart instead of following the advice of the society in which I was born and those who daily tried to hammer into my brain that happiness lies in becoming a millionaire and famous.

Simple learnings but with the power to transform a life. We should always live and never exist. Giving will always be better than receiving. It is better to be than to have and if you have it, share with others who are not as lucky as you.

In this journey called life it is the will of the heart that defines our destiny because to achieve our goals we must not only act but also dream, not only plan but also believe.

Anatole France

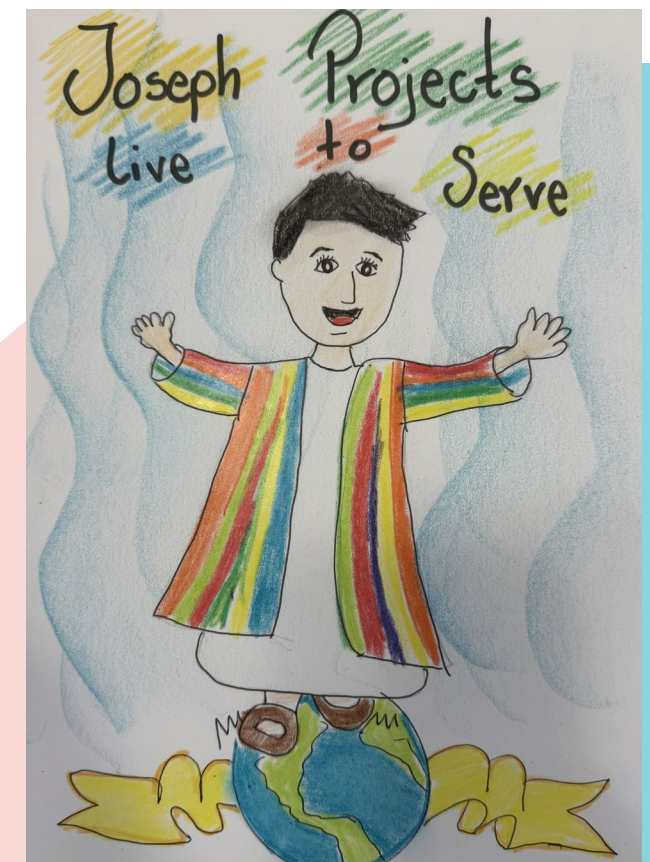


Photo of José M.P.'s Design

*Translated from Spanish by Orientation student M.P.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)

English as a Second Language (ESL) programs offer international students the chance to learn English or improve their English language skills.



ESL 1

Students in the beginning ESL courses learn basic vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, listening strategies, reading skills, and writing skills. Field trips and other activities build students' understanding and the vision of their community.

About Me

By Maria E.

My name is Maria E. I am from Honduras. I am 25 years old. I live with my family. I like flowers. I like to draw. I like to be supportive. I am studying English at Carlos Rosario. I have a friend. Her name is Nelly. I love cats. My favorite color is blue. I love listening to music in English.

About Me

By Martina F.

My name is Martina F. I am from Mexico. My mom is in Mexico and she owns a store in our small town. I have four brothers that help my mother in Mexico. I have two older brothers and two younger brothers. I am the middle child. I came to the USA in 2006, now I live in DC.. I have one child. His name is Bryan. His favorite food is tacos but he doesn't like spicy food. Bryan likes to sleep late. I like the color purple, pozole, tamales, tacos and mole. I like to cook food for people. Sometimes I make tamales to take to church. I like to read books that help me with life.

I Am Thankful For

By Maria D.

My name is Maria D. I am from Venezuela. I like my country. I am thankful for my family, for life, for being here today and getting to know this country and its customs. I also appreciate the opportunity to study at Carlos Rosario School and I hope to learn the language and be able to communicate with people.

My Family

By Fidel S.

My name is Fidel. I am 26 years old. I am single. I have short black hair and brown eyes. My parents are very nice. My father Juan is 53 years old. He has short hair and brown eyes. My mother Cecilia has long straight hair and brown eyes. She is 51 years old. I love my family very much.

ESL 2



My Favorite Celebrity

By Jennifer L.

My favorite celebrity is Chris Evans. He's an actor. He's from Boston, Massachusetts. He's married. He is tall and is 42 years old. He has short brown hair. He has a beard and mustache. He has blue eyes and light skin. I like him because he's very sexy and a good actor in the movie The Avengers.

My Semester Goal

By Irada G.

Opportunity in my work is very important to me. My husband and my children motivate me. My goal this semester is to go to Level 3 and communicate with many people. This is my goal because I want to help my family and I want a better life.

My Job

By Elvin N.

I am a cook. I work at a Japanese restaurant on Massachusetts Avenue NW. I work from 2:30 to 10:30 and 5 days a week. Sometimes I work overtime. I make cold plates with Japanese and American steaks. In the future my dream is to become a DJ in a big discotheque.

My Mother

By Estefany G.P.

I am going to write about my mother. Her name is Siomara. She is 57 years old. She lives in El Salvador. She is tall and thin. She has short brown hair. She has beautiful brown eyes. She is happy and smart.

My Amazing Country

By Reina A.

In my country there are a lot of different beautiful places. Honduras is very beautiful. Honduras has many very beautiful beaches. The names are Roatán Islas de la Bahía and La Ceiba. Typical foods are Chicken with Plantains, Baleadas and Pupusas. The music in my country is Punta. I like this music. There are different religions. I don't like the government because it is not united. People come to the United States because there aren't any jobs in my country. I like the weather. In conclusion, Honduras is very beautiful.



My Amazing Bolivia

By Luis E.F.T.

My country Bolivia has different great places and there are different typical foods. For example, Pique Macho, Silpancho and Falso Conejo. The typical music is Cueca, the Saya, and the Huayño. The Cueca is danced in couples and with handkerchiefs. The Saya is danced in groups and has African roots. The Huayño is a nice dance.

Bolivia has wonderful places to visit. The first is Salar de Uyuni, it's beautiful. Tiwanaku is in La Paz, they are an incredible attraction. The Jesuit churches are very big and beautiful. Cristo de la Concordia is the emblematic monument of my city, Cochabamba. In conclusion, my country has many typical places and delicious foods. I recommend visiting Bolivia.

My Goals

By Edmen G.P.

I have some goals. I want to learn more English. I will go to Carlos Rosario School and also watch movies in English and do my homework. I want to be a better person. I want to change several aspects of myself. I want to tidy my room every day. I want to be a bartender. I want to learn the name of all the liquor bottles we sell and make more money but first I want to be a better worker. In conclusion, I have many goals to achieve.



ESL 3

ESL 4

My Recent Accomplishments By Nelva L.

Hello, my name is Nelva L. I'm originally from Honduras. I arrived in this country 7 years ago. My first job was as a Busboy at a restaurant in Chinatown. At first, everything was super complicated. I had no idea how to talk to customers and, in fact, was scared. My classmate taught me to use two words to speak to people. These were my first words in English, "Hello, how are you?" "Excuse me", and "Can I move your plate now?" I don't consider myself an expert in English but I try to improve every day. Nothing has been easy but I'm really happy that I will finally have my green card in a few months. God willing, everything with patience can be achieved. Fight for your dreams. In my case it's a struggle that lasted for years and I'm still in the fight today.



An Achievement By Yeny M.R.

I live in Washington, DC. I arrived in the United States in 2019. When I arrived, I didn't have a job. I also couldn't use transportation or understand the language. A year ago, I got my Driver's License. For me, it was a very important achievement. I feel that everything is much easier. Now I can go to work without complications. I can also travel without stress. In conclusion, these are the best things that have happened to me.



My Dreams By Jesús J.

In 2021 I returned to the United States for the 2nd time after spending 4 years in Mexico. The way here was difficult because the border was dangerous but I'm finally here and I'm very happy because my first son Jesus was born here in Washington, DC. I wasn't able to care for him for the first 4 years that I was gone. Now my life has changed because I can see my son and I'm able to help him and also help my family in Mexico. At my job I got a promotion about 6 months ago. I was a Server Assistant and now Barback. My goal at Carlos Rosario School is to graduate and receive my diploma. I also hope that I will be able to read and write English fluently. To do this I have to work hard and focus. In my future I would like to be one of the best bartenders in Washington, DC and my dreams for the next 2 years are to get a license and save a lot of money to buy a car.



My Recent Accomplishment By Christian B.T.

This year I got a new job at Walmart. Last year when I came to the USA, I spent 3 months without working. The same year, I found a job but I didn't like my schedule. Sometime after getting my first job, I continued to apply for other jobs. It was really complicated because I worked at night. In the morning, I went in person to look for another job. In conclusion, after some researching I received a call from Walmart telling me to come for training. After this training, I started my new job.



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GENERAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT (GED)



The General Education Development (GED) class prepares students to take the official GED exam and earn a high school equivalency credential. The curriculum focuses on math, social studies, sciences, reading, and writing. Students are advised on their strengths and weaknesses based on preliminary test scores and develop an action plan for focused studying in order to successfully pass the exam.

ENGLISH



Beyoncé

by Emebet S.

GED 100/200



Beyoncé is an incredibly talented and influential artist. She has not only made a significant impact in the music industry but has also used her platform to advocate for important social issues. Her accomplishments in music, film, and fashion have contributed to greater representation and visibility for Black artists. In her music, Beyoncé often addresses themes of empowerment, identity, and Black culture, resonating with many people around the world.

Her artistry goes beyond just her music, as she has also made a mark in the world of visual arts through her visually stunning music videos and powerful performances. Beyoncé's dedication to her craft and her ability to connect with her audience through her art make her a favorite among many.

She has become a symbol of strength, resilience, and creativity for countless in-

dividuals. Through her philanthropy and activism, she continues to inspire and uplift communities, making her a true icon in the African American arts community.

But it is not just about the music and the performances. Beyoncé uses her platform to address important social issues. She has been a vocal advocate for racial equality, feminism, and the empowerment of Black women. Through her music and her public statements, she encourages her fans to embrace their identity, stand up for what they believe in, and strive for greatness. Beyoncé's impact goes beyond the music industry.

In summary, Overall, Beyoncé is a multifaceted artist and public figure whose influence goes beyond the music industry. During Black History Month, her contributions serve as a testament to the richness and diversity of Black culture and the ongoing struggle for equality and recognition.



Bob Marley

by Salem C.

GED 100/200

My favorite black artist is Jamaican singer, songwriter and guitarist Bob Marley. His original name is Robert Nesta Marley. He was born in Jamaica in 1945. Marley came from a poor family and grew up in a poor community in Jamaica. At age 16, he wrote and recorded his first songs. His professional career began in 1963 with The Wailers.

After that time, Marley helped introduce reggae to the world. He is the king of reggae songs. His vocals are about spirituality, freedom, peace, love and human rights. Robert Nesta Marley was one of the most famous, influential, and talented Jamaican reggae artists loved up to this day. He was anti-war and anti-violence. Many of his songs express those ideas.

Today I will try to explain one of my favorite songs from his al-

bums published in 1983 about Buffalo Soldiers. This song mentions the history of the Buffalo Soldiers and their fight for their personal survival in the American Indian wars. This song has a strong message and is motivational.

The work of Bob Marley is interpreted as something especially important for black people and Africans because he speaks about moral values and unity as ideals to many people. Bob Marley shared strong messages to the world and was led by his amazing voice. He produced 164 songs during his life. He received many awards from the Jamaican government before his death and peace awards from the United Nations. His passion to unite that world will never be forgotten and his mission to stand up for equality and peace will live on forever.



Michael Jackson

by Yeti K.

GED 100/200

Michael Joseph Jackson was born on August 29, 1958, in Gary, Indiana. He was an American singer, songwriter, and dancer.

He broke a number of barriers for Black Americans including bringing the first Black artist to have a video in regular rotation on MTV. It also gave Jackson an opportunity to showcase his vi-

sual influences and made statements about what was important to him.

Michael began his professional singing career at age 5. He was known as the King of Pop. When Jackson was 8, he started being the band's main singer with his brother Jermaine. Some of his most famous songs included Black and White, Leave Me Alone, Billy Jean and Thriller.

Racism was an issue Jackson dealt with his entire life. He told stories during his lifetime about hateful experiences his mother and brothers experienced when they were out in public. He was physically and mentally abused by his Father. Although he was a Black man, he had surgeries and treatments done to make him look white.

ESL 5

My Family

The meaning of my family to me is respect and honor. I have many friends in my country but here my friends are my wife and my son. Yes, my family is unique to me. I was supportive but now I am here and my daughter is taking my pension allowance in Ethiopia.

I have good relationships with my family and my family is very important to me. There is no affection for any particular member of my family. I spend enough time with my family. And I spend time by talking to members in different countries. In my family we have the same tradition. Except for my daughter, all my family members are living with me. Even now I haven't gone back to my country. They aren't happy because of the war that is going on throughout the region.

Kifle T.

I have a big and friendly family. My first family is my parents and my sister and brother. My second family is my husband, my son, and daughter. They are all an important part of my life. My husband and kids live with me in DC. My parents and siblings live in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. I'm close with my sister because we grew up together and we know all about each other. She is so kind. Our kids have a good relationship. An important value for me is caring for each other.

The last time I saw my family was seven months ago in my home country Uzbekistan. I miss them so much. When I lived in Tashkent we used to meet every Sunday at my parents' home, get together with the whole family for dinner and eat our traditional food, pilaf. I support my family emotionally. I call them every day. I have a really good relationship with my family. In conclusion, family is more than we can imagine.

Sarvinoz M.

I live with my daughter only. In El Salvador, I have my sister and her children. My grandma is in El Salvador too. My other family is here in the U.S. They are in different states. My father lives in California. My daughter and I enjoy living together.

Some important values for me are to teach my daughter so she can build her future and continue my education to reach my goals.

The meaning of my family for me is strength, struggle, love, loyalty, and trust. My family is small and unique because we love to spend time together and we can trust each other. I try to give my best and support the people I consider my family in everything I can. My family and I have a very good relationship; that is the most important part of my life. I have affection for some people in my family, one person is my partner. He is not close to me, but he calls me and texts me every day. The other person is my daughter. She is the special person in my life.

Claudia T.

Adventuring in a foreign country presents many advantages and disadvantages. The first benefit is that we can copy and import a business idea or concept. For example, in the domain of sports business, we can copy the way that Americans do studio training and develop it in our own country. This can help us increase our income and become rich. The second advantage is that we can increase our knowledge by visiting new places or meeting new people. For instance, in the USA I have visited many places like the Washington Monument, the National Gallery of Art, the National Museum of African Art, the White House and the Pentagon. And I have met many new people that helped me to enrich my life. However, there are many disadvantages to living in another country. First, not understanding local customs can be deadly. As an example, in New York one of my fellow citizens from Senegal was killed because he was confused with a member of a gang from the neighborhood where he lived. He wore clothes that were not accepted by the gang. Therefore his ignorance of the dangers of urban American life caused his death. The second challenge is that we can be uprooted or lose our religious habits. For example, since I came to the USA, I have not prayed all my

5 prayers on time and that's an offense in my religion. By contrast, in my country, everywhere you are you see a place for praying like a mosque or small spiritual places. To conclude, the traveler must first do thorough research of their destination to stay safe and maintain one's identity in another country.

- Mame S.T.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Moving to a New Country

Immigration to another country can be a dream but at the same time a nightmare. One benefit of living in another country is that we can learn to be resilient. For example, when I lived in Mexico, I had to sleep in a park for 3 consecutive nights. This helped me become a more flexible person. Another benefit is that we can have experiences and opportu-

nities that are not possible in our own countries. For instance, in Mexico, I was able to work in my second profession. I was a therapist in a rehabilitation center for drug addicts. This helped me grow as a person, because helping others is a fundamental part of who I am. All in all, creating your new life in another place away from your home can help you expand in all senses of life.

Moving to a new place and creating your life from scratch also comes with its disadvantages and brings its challenges. One challenge is the constant and latent thought of loneliness and homesickness. For example, during festive times, I feel alone and miss my family, friends, and relatives. Another challenge is the style/pace of life in addition to the culture is very different. For instance, I feel a little uncomfortable with now being a waiter and working long hours. For example, although I have worked at many events many times, people tend to be very rude for the simple fact that English is not my dominant language. In conclusion, thanks to the blows of life we learn to be better people that little by little form a new being full of strength and courage to continue on the road of life.

- Kevin M.O.

ESL 6

My Story from Afghanistan to the U.S.

by Latifa H.

My name is Latifa. I was born in a central province of Afghanistan. I lived in our village for 10 years. After 10 years, we went to Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, and then I grew up there. I grew up in a religious society. When I was 11 years old, I attended karate class with my two brothers. After 6 months, they left karate class but I continued. Afghanistan is a war-torn country. Due to that, people go to other countries to work. My father was a refugee in Iran for 9 years. When my father went to Iran, I was a kid. My father and I only talked on the phone, we did not see each other in person. We did not even see each other because at that time cell phones did not have cameras and we used old cell phones. He had plans to come back and buy a house for us, but before he came back to our country, he passed away. My father died of a stroke. I had been waiting for my father for years to see him up close again but the circumstances and the economy did not allow me and my father to do so. When I lost my father, I was 12 years old.

After that our life totally changed. Our economy was too weak. I had to work alongside karate and

school. I found a job at a pasta factory. That was too hard for me because I was only 13 years old. All the other coworkers were adults, and they were strong. Every day I grew older my family believed that I shouldn't continue karate. Unfortunately, one day my family told me that I could not do karate any more because that was too strange for our society. I was the only girl in our tribe who played sports. Many times our relatives told my mother and my brother that this was immoral, sports are not for girls, sports are for boys, and that they should not let me do sports.

Then my mother told me just to go to school. She told me she did not have enough money for my karate class. At that time I did not work so I did not have money to pay for karate class. I left karate for 3 months, and then I found a job. The job was not easy to get. I worked as much as two people and with very little income I could only pay for my karate class and my school supplies. After 3 months, I went back to karate class. I worked so hard and learned karate very quickly because karate was my dream and my future. I really liked karate. I attended the Afghan National Championships, won Silver, and became a member of the national karate team of Afghanistan. After one year, again my family told me that now that because I was young, I had to stop doing karate. It was not good that society did not allow my family to let me do karate but that was only the beginning of challenges.

I managed to tell my family that I could succeed and make them proud of me. Later, I participated in many competitions and won many medals. Many TV programs in Afghanistan appreciated me and my achievements. In 2016, I became the best female karate player in Afghanistan. In the same year, I experienced my first competition abroad, and I won Silver in my first foreign competition. Later, I became a karate teacher in a private school. I became a teacher of the same class where I trained, and began to train underprivileged girls and boys

for free. Until 2019, I participated in Asian and World competitions in the UAE, which was among 31 countries, and I won 3rd place in my weight class. In 2020, I started working for Afghanistan National TV. That was a big risk for me because we had a traditional and religious society. Everything was going well but then...

On August 15th 2021, everything changed again. The Taliban took over the country that day. I was in college and we returned to our home because we were all scared. When I returned home, I burned some of my documents and buried some of them. Then, I went to my aunt's house because it was a little safer. After a week, I went past my karate club, and I saw that all the windows were broken and the photos were torn. I was so sad when I saw all my hard work of many years ruined like this. I saw my mother. Every time she heard a gunshot, she got up like lightning and her whole body trembled. The first thing she said was: *"they came"*. My mother and my family were worried about me and did not have a moment of peace until I left the country.

Everyone has a different story but for me in my whole life, nothing has been more difficult and excruciating than leaving my homeland, burning my dreams, and leaving my family.

I left everything there and left Kabul with a backpack. I did not know where it would end. I went to Pakistan illegally because of an emergency. I lived in Pakistan for 14 months and in October 2022, I came to the U.S. In the U.S. I started a new life. I started Carlos Rosario School to learn English and found a job. There are many opportunities here. I'll try to find a job for my own skill set when my English is great.

Memories of my Country

by Desiree F.

Traditions are very important for people because they represent who they are. They're part of their lives and represent their identity and culture. When people move to another country, they pack all their life in one suitcase, including their important stuff, memorable moments, and personal history.

I'm from Venezuela. I never thought that I would be an immigrant and that I would miss my traditions, the food, some places, my family, and some holidays, especially Christmas, but what is Christmas for Venezuelan people? It is the most important celebration of the year. People feel happy, spend time with family and friends, make traditional food, listen to music like gaitas or villancicos all day, paint their houses, buy new things for home, and exchange gifts. This is definitely the best time to forget all worries and difficult situations people are facing.

For me, Christmas is amazing because it's a flashback of what I experienced when I was a child. For example, I always remember my grandmother. She loved that season and enjoyed spending time with her grandsons, making Hallaca and Pernil (traditional food for this holiday) to share with family and neighborhood, decorating the Christmas tree, and putting out the manger. And of course on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, we decorated the dining table with typical food, fruits, desserts and various types of beverages.

Also, those days were delightful because in my country, there are many traditions. My grandmother taught us things such as taking the baby Jesus in your hands and giving a kiss on Christmas Eve to celebrate his birth and being grateful for all the good things you experience. On New Year's Eve, when the church bells ring, we eat 12 grapes and make a wish for each month of the year. The funniest tradition I remember is when we throw lentil grains out the window to ask for luck and prosperity.

When I think about my country, I also remember some places like Los Roques, an archipelago off the coast of Venezuela with beautiful beaches, crystalline water, and coral reefs. Another place is Mérida, a tourist city in the Andes with a fascinating park, lagoon, square, and wonderful architecture. Those places are very significant for me because I remember beautiful times with my family there.

Also, I miss the food from my country, such as Arepas Andinas, Cachapas, Queso Clineja, Golfeados, Pan Dulce, different fruits like guayabas, ciruelas, guanabanas, and of course, our Venezuelan chocolate. These foods represent part of my childhood and bring back pleasant memories. Just thinking about them makes me feel the scent of my country.

There are many things about Venezuela that I keep close to my heart because they are part of my identity. Although this is my first year in the USA and it is incredible how many things have changed, these memories are still present in me. It's a place, it's a flavor, it's a tradition that lives in my heart and my mind. I'm still discovering things that make me feel at home.

In summary, I can say that the journey of an immigrant is to adapt to a new life and discover wonderful things. I am happy to be here and meet new people, new cultures, and traditions that I am sure will be part of me without forgetting my roots. I'm grateful to Carlos Rosario School for accompanying me on this journey away from my homeland and allowing me to meet people from different cultures.

In this essay, I would like to talk about one experience in my life. Some people judge others by their appearance, language, religion, politics, etc. A few years ago something happened to my health. One day, I woke up, I looked in the mirror and I had white spots on my skin. I was scared when I saw my skin was different. I remember I didn't know what to do at that moment. I just asked myself why that had happened to me, why me? Just looked for answers, but I didn't know who to ask about it. I didn't want to leave the house because of the fear of thinking what people were going to say at that moment. I didn't want to go to work either. I also stopped going to school and playing basketball. Many people I considered my friends stopped talking to me because of my new physical appearance.

My brother told me to go to the hospital, but I didn't have health insurance and if I went it would have been very expensive for me. I made a big mistake by not going to the doctor. I let that problem go, and I thought everything was going to be fine, but things got worse. After one year, the spots on my skin grew a little more, and then I started looking for help because that was no longer normal.

I was afraid of losing my job and my friends even though no one ever disrespected me. I felt desperate but after several days and months of loneliness, sadness, suffering, I got a new job. There, I met a person who changed my life for the better. She dedicated a lot of her time to understand me. Thanks to her, I got my health insurance. I also went to the psychologist. Going to the psychologist changed my life because the psychologist told me many things about life, about the value of people, the value of myself, and she helped me gain my confidence back. Thanks to the help of some people like my friend Korina, Marilyn and the help of the psychologist, I returned to doing many things that I like. One of the most important things was returning to school but also returning to

work, playing sports, riding a bike, going out with friends, and visiting my family. I am a person who likes to improve myself and learn new things every day. A great goal I accomplished was that my boss gave me the opportunity to improve myself and offered me a promotion at work. Some coworkers asked, "Why you?" I don't have the experience but I have shown them that I can do many things. I am thankful to my boss for the opportunity.

I thank God, life, my friends who were with me during difficult times, and also my family for not leaving me alone. Now I'm going back to English classes and I would like to finish school. After finishing ESL 8, I would like to enroll in Culinary Arts and get my certificate so I can have better job opportunities. Learning this new language is hard for me. Something that helps me learn faster is speaking with native speakers of English at work. It helps me learn new words and to feel more fluent when I speak with them.

All people are different, we all know that. I have learned that we should not let ourselves be judged by our appearance. We all have the same ability to do anything we set our minds to. Sometimes all we need is to talk about things that happened to us, and we need someone to listen to us.

My Story

By Jose R.

WHAT FREEDOM MEANS TO ME



Freedom means to me
NEVER STOP DREAMING.
The sun always rises for Everyone.

PEACE

For me **FREEDOM** is FREE...
Freedom means to be able to do
what you want to do.

FEEL SAFE

Freedom means to me
we can do something without fear;
freedom helps us
to lose many fears in our lives,
freedom helps everyone to improve our skills.

Freedom means to me
the choice to live your life.
Freedom gives the opportunity to take risks,
make mistakes and learn from them,
and improve your skills.

Freedom to me means
people can move from one place
to the other freely.
Freedom means
you can do whatever you want.
Freedom means
people can live in any country
or any place in the world without worry.

I can choose my own religion.

Do what I want when I want

Freedom means rights.
I can't say what I am thinking.

**Liberty, Love, Expression,
Peace, Smile, Happy Dreams, Nature,
Purity, Innocence, Cultural Diversity**

Freedom means to be free
from these opinions of this thinking.
Freedom is the right of every person
to choose and make decisions.

Freedom is to let flu
the imagination in every situation.
Freedom is to choose
your political party,
your religion,
gender preference and social status.

Live in a world
without hate and be equitable.

In the end, we are all one race. We all have
the same color blood.

Freedom means to be me.
Liberty of expression.
Ask for equality for everyone.



Written by Phyllis Henderson's class

ESL 7

How I Make Sentences Using Adjective Clauses

Teacher: Adam Fassil



Jossely G.A. ■

The shoes which I bought last week did not fit me.
My aunt has two daughters who like to go camping.
Yesterday I met Gordon Ramsay who is a famous
British chef.

Grace P.C. ■

The woman who was at the meeting yesterday is
Melany's teacher.
I would like to go to the cinema which has a pro-
motion on Tuesdays.
I'm trying to find cheap flights that include at least
one hand baggage.

Azeza A. ■

The pizza which most people love isn't healthy.
Students who work hard get good grades.
Those people whose names are on the list will go
to camp.

ESL 8

Discussing the impact of John Lewis on the Civil Rights Movement...

How do the events depicted in March connect to your life personally? Is there a modern-day issue for which you might be willing to take a stand? Would you use the same techniques as the Nashville Student Movement or a different strategy? Has reading March changed your perspective and if so, how?



By Gaby A.J.

Based on the book, the event I feel I identify with is when John Lewis traveled to Buffalo. I remember when I traveled to the U.S. and sometimes I'd like to eat or want to go to the restroom but this is impossible because people seem different, strange. Climate change, I think, is a problem where all should take action. It is a big problem and this

Some events depicted in March are connected to my personal life and experience. Specifically, the trip to Buffalo is something similar to my trip to Tallinn, Estonia. I saw how gay people live free and express themselves without fear. After this trip, I think my boyfriend and I started to do something similar to counter sitting. We went to restaurants as a gay couple, sometimes holding hands or kissing. I think that non-violence techniques are the best way to change.

By Vadim P.

affects all the world. The nonviolent technique is a good way to start a change in society. It's a different non-violent way to show the society that you can fight for what you believe.

The book shows us when you fight for what you believe in with perseverance, things can change.

The society needs to be different, too, because in Russia it's impossible now. Personally I think that evolution is better than revolution, but it's not possible sometimes. Reading March changed my perspective about the US. I hope I now better understand Americans. I think as country and people transform, this "evolution" continues to liberty.

By Sabrina G.

By Siaka T.

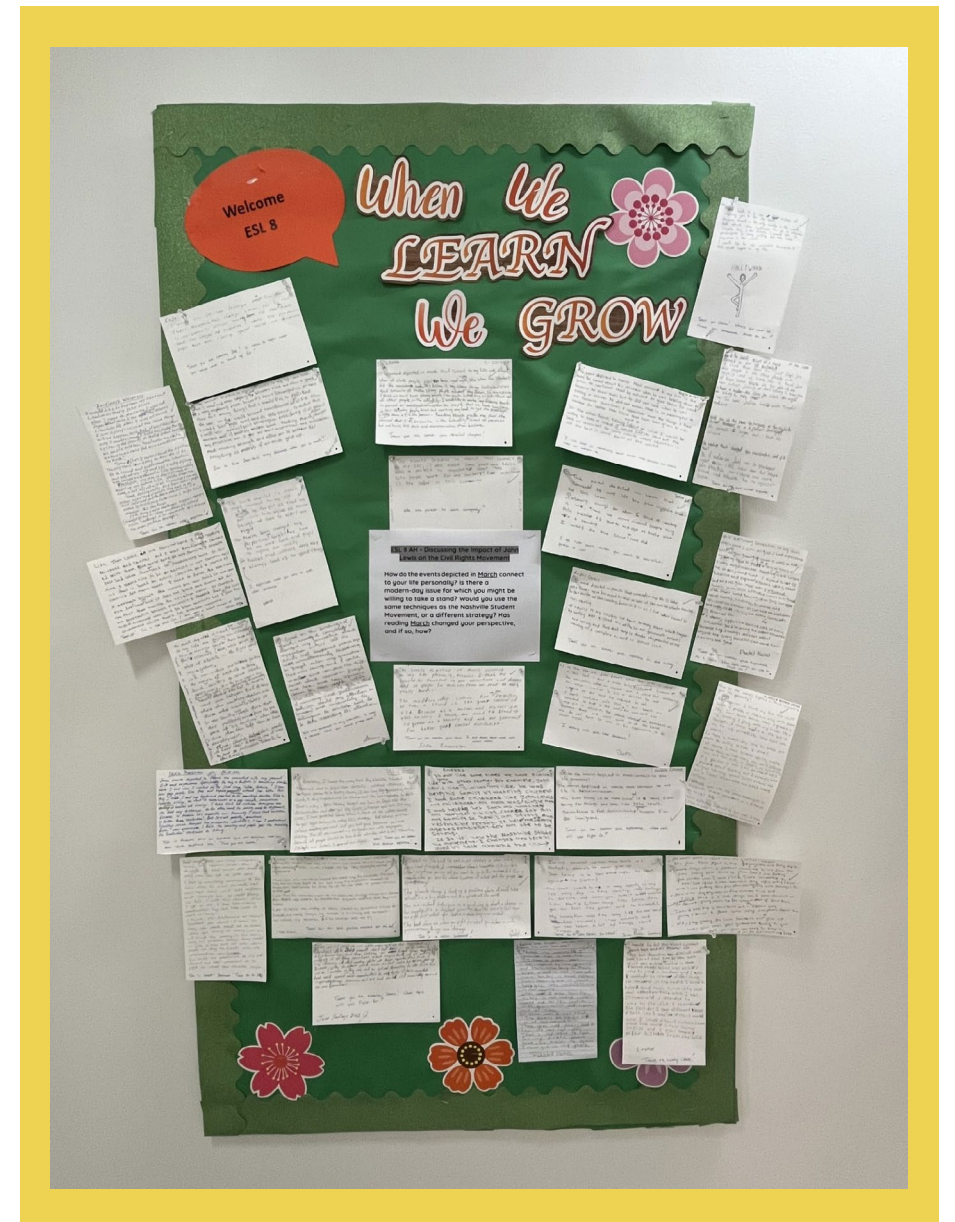
The events depicted in March that connect to my life are nonviolent means, managing groups successfully, those who have different interests coming together, and the place of the Church in the fight against segregation.

When nonviolence protesters pushed the mayor of Nashville to force lunch counters to serve Black customers. It reflected the way people of my country obtained democracy. March showed us also that the government was between two fires: those who wanted segregation and those who wanted to stop it.

In our country, some people think that their problem comes from the presence of "big countries" while others believe these "big countries" can help us develop.

Reading this book was very important to me. The racism and the struggle of black people still happens now but not so in the open. I had a similar experience to John Lewis when he went North and went back home and felt the difference and thought how he would change his life. I felt the same when I got to the US, I saw how many opportunities they had here and that we don't in Brazil. I think the tech-

nique of Nashville students was correct. I mean as long as you don't speak out or show what you think is wrong, no one will think it's wrong. In the same way the Freedom Riders needed to take a bus and sit with white people to try to finish with segregation on buses. In brief the perspective of the book showed me how important it is to fight for what you consider right.



ADVANCED ENGLISH



Students in the Advanced English course work on their communication skills beyond the intermediate level. Students develop skills in reading and listening, grammar and vocabulary, writing, note-taking, oral communication, and technology. Students going to community college or planning to advance their careers will benefit from this course, as will anyone wanting to become more proficient in English.

The Skyrocketing Suicide Rate Among Recent Immigrants

By Igor S.

The recent suicide rate among immigrants in the US increased substantially. This devastating problem affects me personally because I am an immigrant myself who is well aware of all difficulties a newcomer faces in the US. Not only to freeze suicide rates among immigrants, but also to decrease it, the U.S. Government and Non-Governmental Agencies have to be funded with a goal to carefully supporting each immigrant who comes to the U.S.

The number of suicide cases among immigrants has grown dramatically in comparison with the past 10 years. According to research at Harvard University on suicide rates of immigrants in US from 2010–2019, the mean number of suicides per 100,000 person-years was 3.3. In 2020, the suicide rate increased 5.3 times the prior ten-year average to 17.4 suicides per 100,000 person-years. In 2020, the immigrant suicide rate increased substantially compared to the past decade. In order to not only freeze the suicide rate but also to

prevent possible deaths in the future, governments and NGOs that will help address immigrant suicide have to be funded.

Furthermore, the growth of suicide cases among immigrants may point to a worsening mental health crisis in the U.S. Mental health care for migrants in the U.S. has historically been sub-standard. At baseline, immigrants suffer from higher rates of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder, which may also result in the increase of suicide cases. In order to prevent suicide cases, free counseling centers have to be established to provide necessary mental health care to newcomers.

To the contrary of such support for new Americans, former President Donald Trump said immigrants coming to the US are “poisoning the blood of our country,” a remark that quickly drew a rebuke from President Joe Biden, his chief Democratic rival, whose

campaign likened the statement to the words of Adolf Hitler. Even though the current US President does not agree with the anti-immigrant views of Donald Trump, the suicide rate among immigrants continues to grow. To deal with this problem, the volunteer movement has to begin to make this issue visible to society. For example, volunteers need to gather information concerning suicide cases, to inform US society on this tragic situation, and to protest near the White House, demanding action from the U.S. government.

To conclude, a recent study shows that between 2018 and 2020, the proportion of immigrant deaths attributed to suicide approximately doubled. To cope with this fatal problem, the government and NGOs that help address immigrant suicide have to be funded.

Works Cited

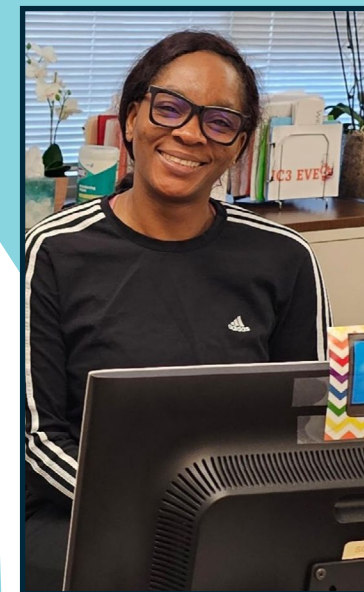
Erfani, P., Chin, E. T., Lee, C. H., Uppal, N., & Peeler, K. R. (2021). Suicide rates of migrants in United States immigration detention (2010–2020). *AIMS public health*, 8(3), 416–420. <https://doi.org/10.3934/publichealth.2021031>



IC3

INTERNET CORE COMPETENCY CERTIFICATION

This class is the next level after Microsoft Office Applications and offers lessons on how to use the internet and popular applications. After finishing the course, students are equipped with essential computer skills and knowledge to compete successfully in the workplace.

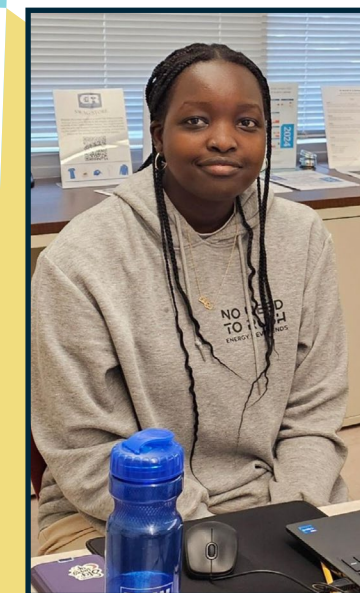


My name is Pulcherie Fomo. I joined the IC3 program because I want to jump into the IT field and switch my career. So far in this program, I learned a lot about hardware, software and the difference between them, troubleshooting, and basic networking. After completing this program I hope to take IT Fundamentals and then will see what should be next. I want to encourage ladies to come and do like us because in this class all of us except one are ladies and it means that ladies want to go far now, before it was not possible but now ladies can do anything they want. So I can just ask all ladies of any age to come and do like us.

Reina A. Pulcherie Fomo

I am Taqwa Talib. IC3 is giving me the foundation that I need to build a career in the IT field here in the U.S. Hopefully, I will be able to join the IT Fundamentals program after this and join college to study computer science or something in the IT field. The reason I want to take another course here at Carlos Rosario School is to be eligible to apply for the scholarship. The skill I am getting from this class is absolutely helpful. So far, we've learned about computing fundamentals. There's a lot of concepts that I didn't know before but know now and I feel more confident in the IT field. My experience has been so good so far, I like my classmates, I enjoy studying and I like the staff, they're very helpful. I would like to say don't be afraid to take the first step, you don't know what's in store for you so just try. You rather try and fail than fail to try.

Taqwa Talib



My name is Victoria Bonilla. I was actually going for the IT Fundamentals but I didn't pass the test to get into that class, Ms. Aracelly suggested this one and I decided to give it a shot. There's nothing to lose so I tried it and then little by little as Ms. Janett kept going with the classes, I realized there was actually a lot of staff that I didn't know and thought I knew. Right now we just completed the computing fundamentals so we learned about the different ports, connections and cables for computers. We learned about the different operating systems, the hard drive, the C-drive, the cloud and things like that. I think I will have a better idea of what I'd like to do once I am done with this. The faculty, you guys do a great job, as far as being there for the students; communication, support, all of that. You (Carlos Rosario faculty and staff) always make yourselves available, you make it known, you always send reminders, make announcements, put it on Schoology. So there's no way that any student can say oh you guys have failed me or let me down, no! It's impossible, students can't say that.

Victoria Bonilla

CAREER TRAINING

The Career Training programs at Carlos Rosario School are aimed to help English language learners earn entry-level certifications in high-wage, high-demand sectors in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Students complete classroom instruction and hands-on work in small cohorts guided by industry professionals. Upon graduation, students receive industry-recognized certifications to strengthen their candidacy for entry-level jobs with family-sustaining wages in high-demand industries. Program supports include internship opportunities, post-secondary education advising, and employability skills coaching.

Education

Bilingual Teaching Assistant Training Program

Healthcare

Nurse Aide Training Program

Hospitality

Culinary Arts Training Program

Technology

Technology Training Program

Entrepreneurship

Small Business Program

BILINGUAL TEACHING ASSISTANT TRAINING



My name is Dania A., I decided to join the Bilingual Teaching Assistant (BTA) program because I always had an interest in teaching and helping students. I grew up and went to school in D.C. so my experience has been all over the place and because I have a disability I want to become a Special Education teacher to help students get a good education. My teacher Ms. Kaylin is good at making sure everyone is getting the material and she is really good at explaining the lessons and if we have any questions, she clarifies them for us. We're going to start our ParaPro so that's going to give us experience being a Teacher Assistant. So far, we've learned about the fundamentals of how students learn how to read and the five components of reading and a lot of technical words like phonemes.

After this program I want to go to a university or a community college and I want to get a bachelor's in Special Education and then after I get my Bachelor's I want to go for my Master's. My end goal is to become a Special Education Coordinator. I think this program is a really good way to start off your journey and Carlos Rosario School has a lot of support for the students. I felt stuck for a while but now being here in this environment I feel like I have everything I need to succeed in my goals.



**SPECIAL
EDUCATION**

by Dania A.

NURSE AIDE TRAINING



Becoming a Nurse Aide

While attending the Nurse Aide Training class so far, I have learned many new things, such as medical terminology and types of diseases. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to gain this knowledge while meeting new people with the same goals and motivation as me. Besides the knowledge and experience needed for the job, the people (teachers + classmates) have been the absolute best part.

by Jordane R.

My experience in my nursing class was amazing. I learned so much that could help me in the future. I learned how to communicate with people and work well with others.

by Joseph C.

Just being a part of CNA class gave me an Excitement for finally my goal had been fulfilled. On the first day of the class, I felt even more excited to know we have a great teacher and friendly classmates. I'm looking forward to more memorable memories to be shared as we attain success in this chosen career.

by Menneah H.

My experience in the NA training class has been amazing! Mrs. Medina is a wonderful teacher! Very encouraging. The program wouldn't be the same without her! My classmates are cool!

by Gwendolyn H.

My experience in this nursing class is going extremely great. My teacher Mrs. Medina takes her time to explain each lesson and skill. When things are hard to explain she helps until you understand.

by Krystal D.

Carlos Rosario School has been very helpful and resourceful not only in the nursing program but in all of my hurdles navigating school as an adult with many daily challenges. Carlos Rosario School actually cares about you succeeding. They help you every step of the way.

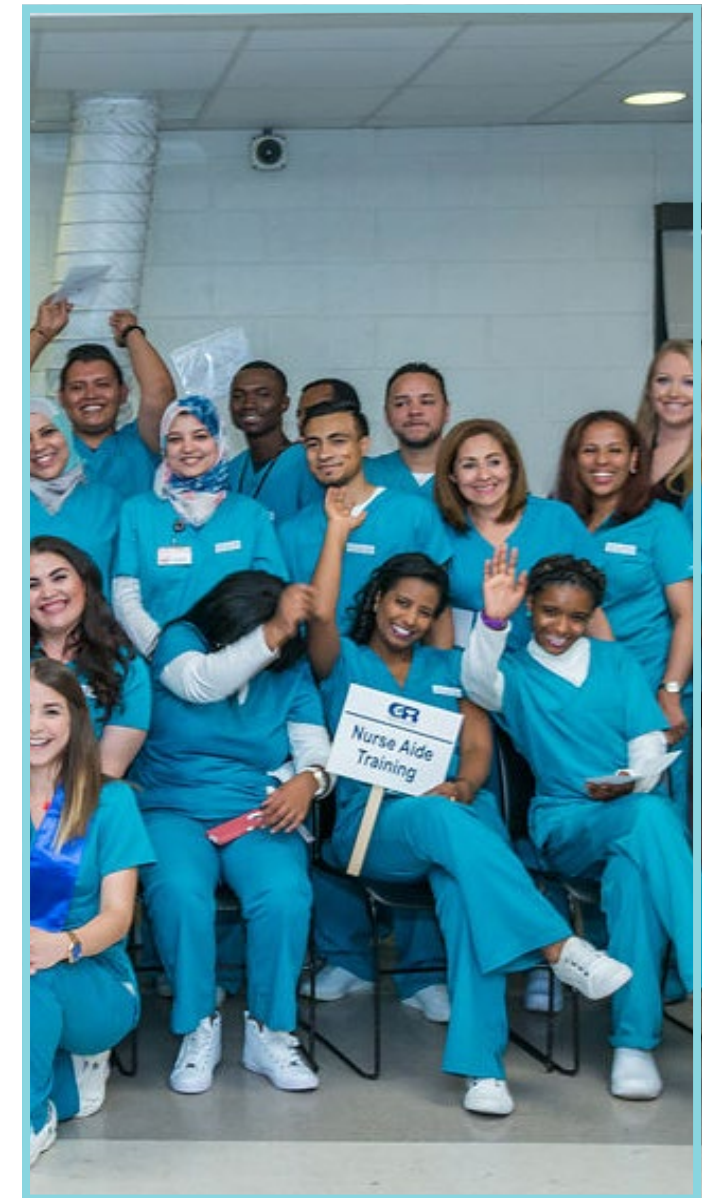
by Yesli M.B.

I have gained knowledge that will be helpful for my life, and as well in my professional future.

by Iara S.

I learned about how to get my future goal to continue nursing education by working hard, with motivation.

by Yodit Z.



CULINARY ARTS

My name is Ilcia V. and right now I am a Kitchen Manager at my work and I want to improve my knowledge. I know Carlos Rosario School is the best place to learn more about the kitchen.

I already passed two exams and the lesson I am getting from this program is going to help me at work. After completing this program I want to continue studying at Carlos Rosario School and I want to start a small business. What I like about Carlos Rosario



School is that we work like a family. Everybody helps each other and I love that and I am learning from the best, Chef Nadia and the other chefs.

My name is Samuel S.E. and I decided to join Carlos Rosario School because it was very accessible for me and at the time I was really looking for a Culinary Arts program for a few years and this happened at the right time. I definitely think that I am getting the necessary skills to succeed in this field because I feel that I have grown just within this year of being here at this school.

I have learned a lot of different techniques and principles about food itself. So far, I've learned how to properly cut things, sanitation, and a lot about the food industry and the kitchen.

Dealing with food itself and making other people happy is the good thing about being a chef. After this program, hopefully I will manage some restaurant, taking the lead. Finally, I would like to say that if you have a dream, never stop chasing it.



My name is Jackelyn C. and I decided to join this program because my mom was actually a graduate from Carlos Rosario School food program. That helped me to take the step forward and also be part of the program. I feel like my agility and overall coordination with not only my knife skills but sanitation as well has vastly improved since I joined this program. I have learned a lot of things that are mainly basics like how to fabricate a chicken. I didn't know how to do that as well as make certain broths like chicken.

I also learned how to make food from different cultures. This week, we're doing a Mediterranean menu and I had never even heard of the dessert Baklava before I started making it so it's a new experience every week.

After this program, I hope to get a degree in baking and pastry at a local university or the Culinary Institute of America. It really comes down to whether I am willing to move from home or and how big of a step into the industry I am willing to take.



Culinary Passion!

Food Services Operations

On Wednesday, March 6th some lucky staff and students got the chance to experience the wonderful hospitality of Carlos Rosario School's Culinary Arts students! The beautiful and delicious drinks and French dishes combined with friendly and efficient service made for a dining experience none of us will soon forget.

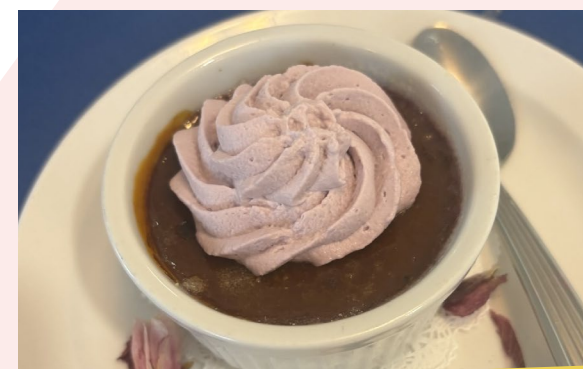
-Samantha Harden, SG Library Assistant



Chicken Consommé
Photo by Martin Pickett



Sole Meunière
Photo by Martin Pickett



Crème Brûlée
Photo by Martin Pickett



Steak Au Poivre
Photo by Paula Alcazar



Steak Au Poivre
Photo by Paula Alcazar



Spring Greens & Goat Cheese Crostini Salad
Photo by Martin Pickett



Mushroom Bourguignon with Cauliflower and Thyme Purée
Photo by Samantha Harden

TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

My IT Training at Carlos Rosario School

IT Fundamentals

Student: Alem B.

As a person who used to write research papers and articles in financial matters for nearly two decades, I had the problem of using a computer in writing my research papers due to my medium-level computer knowledge and skill.

In view of this, I decided to develop my computer skills and joined the IC3 program at Carlos Rosario School in the Spring of 2023. When I started the class, I faced difficulties and challenges in conceptualizing or comprehending the lessons and the hands-on exercises due to my medium level of computer skills. I thus had to seek the support of my colleagues, more specifically Mr. Mauricio, from Argentina, and the IC3 instructor, Ms. Janett Arandia, for building my confidence and developing interest to pursue the IC3 class.

Pushing myself to be better in IT skills and knowledge at an older age, I am now dedicating my time to the training so as to get the IT Fundamentals certificate by June 2024 with a plan to prepare for the certification exam by May 2024.

I want to express my deep gratitude to Carlos Rosario school for providing me the opportunity and support to enhance my IT knowledge and skills which will help me to consider a career in IT and join my four children who are in the same profession..

Even as a person who used to write research papers and articles in financial matters (more specifically in banking, monetary, micro-economics, fiscal, financial intelligence and coffee marketing issues for nearly two decades), I had the problem of using a computer to type my research papers skillfully and in a manner to make my papers look nice and attractive to read. This was due to my medium-level computer knowledge and skill.

In view of this, I decided to develop my computer skills and joined the IC3 at Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School at Sonia Gutierrez Campus evening class in Spring 2023.

When I started the class in January 2023, I faced difficulties and challenges in conceptualizing or comprehending the lessons and the hands-on exercises. I thus had to seek the support of my colleagues, more specifically Mr. Mauricio from Argentina, who gave me the morale, courage and support to continue in the school.

In addition, observing the challenges I faced in keeping up with other students of the class, the IC3 instructor Ms. Janett Arandia, extended her gracious help, which became instrumental in building my confidence and developing continued interest.

As a result, I developed the interest and passion for IC3 and was able to overcome my snags and challenges within a short period of time and later become better skilled and knowledgeable in computing fundamentals and key applications.

Pursuing a Career in Computers and Technology

I decided to join the IT Fundamentals Program because I have always been interested in computers and technology and coming from the IC3 class I feel this was my next step. It's been really a great experience, Mr. Eddy Ceballos is a really great teacher, he has a lot of experience and we're always learning new things and he's passing it on to us.

We have the materials and platforms that we need to be successful and work on our own. So far, I've learned about networking, file systems, operating systems and how to set up different computers and so many other things. After completing this program, I plan to continue my study at UDC and get a job in the

IT field. I would like to say that if you really like technology, this is a great program that you could join. It needs your effort and time because you're going to learn a lot of new concepts that are very useful in day to day life.



Student: Kevin J.

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM



Above: Dessiree Gómez - Multimedia Journalist Photo by @Genicamagazine

Biography

This is Dessiree Gómez, a Venezuelan Multimedia Journalist with extensive experience in radio in her native country. Get to know her through her social networks, where she smartly shares current news and also publicizes the experiences of entrepreneurs and relevant personalities in the DMV, being a VOICE and SUPPORT for the Hispanic community in the United States. Advertising through the NEWS provides prestige, credibility and trust to customers. Her social networks are a quick and effective way to communicate.

Experience in the Small Business Program

It was a rewarding and enriching experience. I thought that I could not continue studying and training in this country but Carlos Rosario School offers this opportunity. It exceeded my expectations and I managed to understand the process of doing business in the area and, above all, I got to channel my ideas. I was able to write and share and receive feedback about my proposal and project.



Above: Dessiree Gómez interviewing Maria Llanos, Small Business Program instructor at Carlos Rosario School



Above: Dessiree Gómez speaking at the presentation of Small Business Program certificates



Above: Dessiree Gómez interviewing in the DMV community

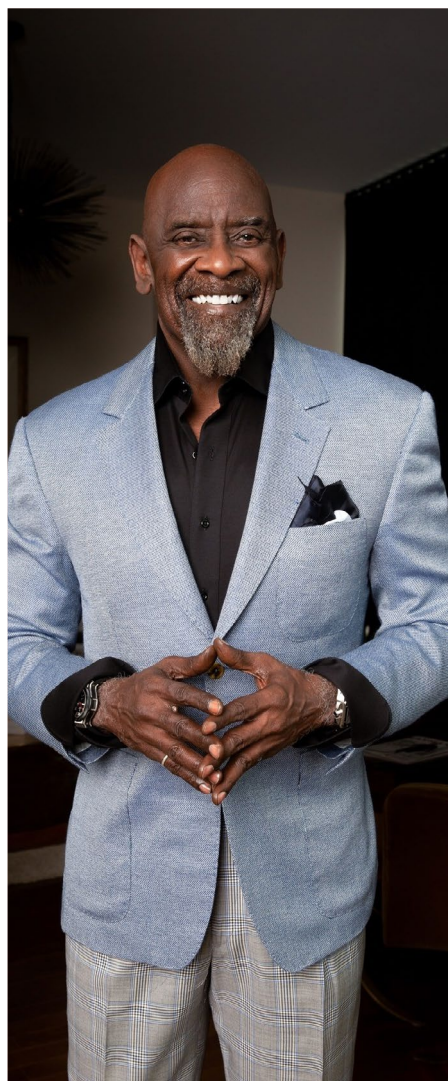


Above: Dessiree Gómez covering the news and events in the DMV area

BLACK HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST

Chris Gardner: Can One Find Happiness in Misery?

Student: Diego Q.



Chris Gardner, a person known for overcoming difficulties and achieving success, is my favorite black artist. His life story shows how important it is to keep trying, even when facing tough times. Gardner's impact on my life, especially since I've experienced homelessness like him, is strong and makes me feel more hopeful. Chris Gardner, born on February 9, 1954, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, had a tough childhood. Growing up in poverty taught him to be strong. This connects with me because I've faced homelessness too, making his story really inspiring for me.

Chris Gardner became famous through his book, *The Pursuit of Happiness*, which later became a movie with Will Smith. The story talks about Gardner's struggles as a homeless single father and how he worked hard to become a stockbroker. It shows that no matter how hard life is, you can still achieve your dreams if you don't give up.

Three main Facts about Chris Gardner's life: Gardner was homeless with his son, facing

challenges like sleeping in shelters and public places. This shows how strong people can be even in tough situations. Even without a formal education, Gardner worked hard to get an internship at a big company, leading to a successful career in finance. Gardner helps homeless people through his charity work, showing that he cares about others who face similar problems.

Chris Gardner's determination and strength are inspiring. He turned hard times into opportunities, showing people like me that we can be strong too, even when things seem really difficult. Being someone who experienced homelessness, Chris Gardner's story has a big impact on my life. His journey teaches me that tough times don't define our success. His example encourages me to keep going, work hard for my goals, and believe in a better future. Gardner's story reminds us that with determination, we can overcome any problem, no matter how tough.

In conclusion, Chris Gardner's life story changed how I see challenges. His success after facing tough times, as seen in *The Pursuit of Happiness*, gives me hope and motivation. Chris Gardner, my favorite black artist, keeps inspiring and helping me as I go through my own challenges. It proves that with determination and strength, anyone can overcome difficult situations.

Building Identity Without Stereotypes

Student: Evelin M.R.V.

People don't need others to tell their stories. Everyone is available to tell the world how they are and how they want to be represented. For some people, this is easier, but for others, it is hard work, especially because they need to shed the labels that others have historically imposed upon them, and this process is far from easy. Sometimes, the way stories are told dehumanizes groups of people. Nonetheless, stories also can help people to build identity in a positive way. For example, is an award-winning Nigerian writer who skillfully uses words to build identities without stereotypes. Her books are powerful and are related to topics as feminism, racism, migration, and politics. Chimamanda Ngozi is skilled at connecting individual issues to public problems. She thinks that always individual situations are a reflection of the big opportunities that society need to fix in order to have a more fair world for all.

Ngozi's books have been translated into 30 languages and her conferences have been heard around the world as well. In 2001 she moved to United States from Nigeria to study Communications and Political Science in Philadelphia. As a Black woman and migrant, Ngozi went through different situations that leaded her to learn about racism and feminism and who these topics are related to identity and migration as well. This knowledge is reflected, for example, in one of her books: *Americanah*. This is amazing fictional novel that explores the meaning of cultural identity for immigrants in the U.S.,

especially Nigerian migrants. In this book Ngozi describes how difficult it is to build an identity when everyone around you has an idea about how you should be except you.

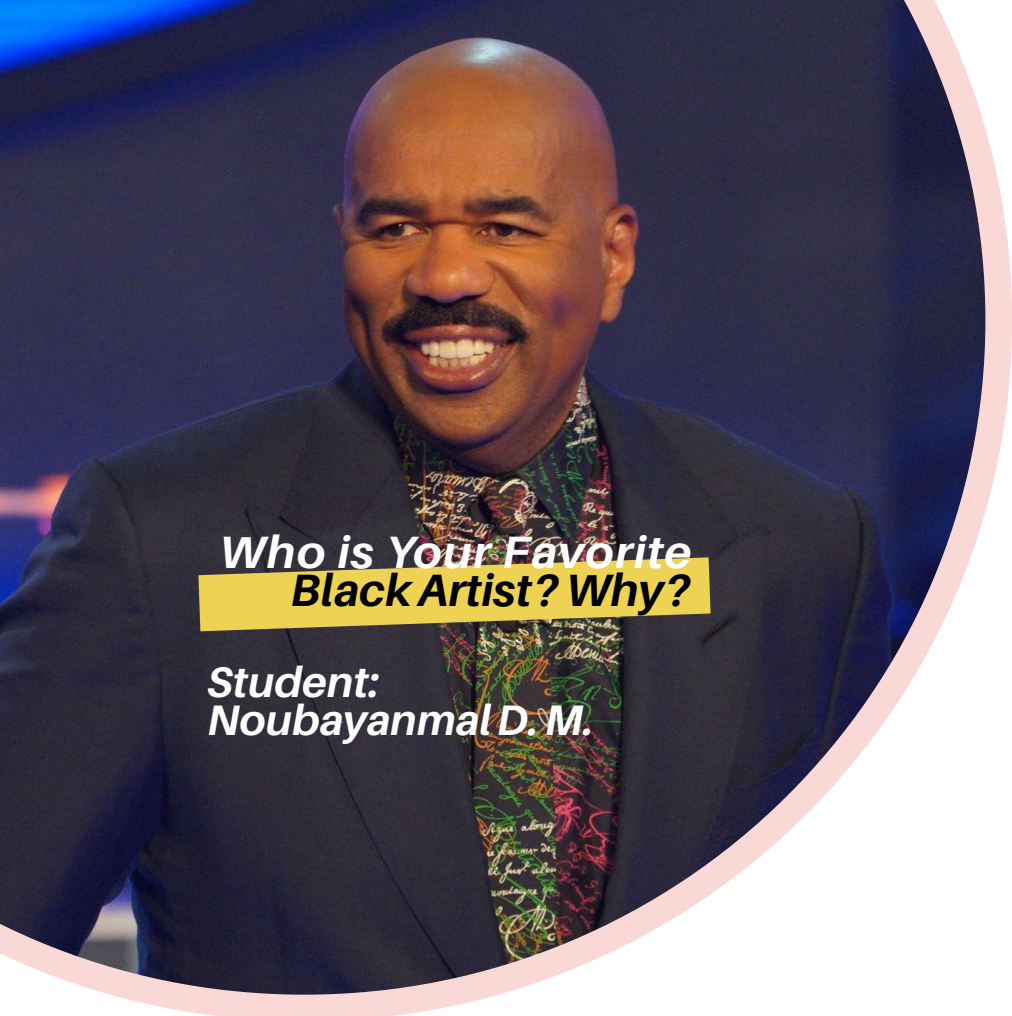
Ngozi has a powerful narrative. She uses intimate human stories to illustrate complex topics. For instance, in *The Thing Around Your Neck*, a short story collection, she brings out issues that people have with topics like love, class, war, homeland, and loneliness. Mainly using women's voices, Ngozi shows the connections presented between private and public problems that need attention to all the groups of society to solve.

After completing her undergrad, Ngozi studied a Master in Creative Writing and then, completed another Master in African Studies. In an interview with the Guardian in 2013, Ngozi said "I write from real life. I am an unrepentant eavesdropper and a collector of stories. I record bits of overheard dialogue. I ask questions. I watch the world," after being questioned where her inspiration comes from.

I strongly believe that Ngozi is making a big difference in the world and that is the reason because she is my favorite writer. As a journalist I have always thought that stories are important. However, after reading Ngozi's books, I understood that knowing how to tell the stories and if it is their own story or they are told by others is important too. History in general has been told by the winners but Ngozi in her books

puts light on the other narratives. In the way that she sees it, history needs different perspectives and new voices.

The words build identities and Ngozi is a perfect example to understand that not one should build it for us. People need to take their own words and tell their own story. The diversity of experiences is the point that all people have in common, and it is from these places that people can start to build a more empathetic and just society, understanding that it all started in a different place.



Who is Your Favorite Black Artist? Why?

Student:
Noubayanmal D. M.

Do you know who said this: *“Failure is a great teacher, and I think when you make mistakes and you recover from them and you treat them as valuable learning experiences, then you’ve got something to share?”*

Yes. No. Maybe a little. The person who says this is one of the hardest-working and most persevering comedians and the one that I like the most. The man is Steve Harvey! An African American comedian. With the birth name Broderick Stephen Harvey, he was born on January 17, 1957, in Welch, West Virginia. Son of Jessey Harvey a coal miner and Eloise Vera Harvey a Sunday school teacher, Harvey grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, with his siblings. He has two sisters and one brother. Their family was raised in faith. As a kid, he seriously suffered from stuttering, a thing that affected his childhood. He is a happy spouse with 7 kids and 7 grand kids. Three of his

kids are from his previous marriages, and four are adopted (*his actual wife kids*). Harvey has this laugh that makes me comfortable and joyous.

Harvey is a comedian, actor, television host, and an author. A dedicated motivator and mentor to many, he is well known for his entertainment and a comedy that is full of counseling, advice, and humor. He started to perform in 1985 at an open mic. It was impressive and beautiful. The audience loved it. From that day on, he took to comedy with both hands. He said: *“you have to jump and take a leap of faith in order to soar.”* He paved his career through tough times and with endurance. In 1990, he won a national comedy competition which resulted in his career taking off.

The first time I discovered him it was in 2016 on television during the show *Little Big Shots* with the

little ones. It was not only fun, but it was made more interesting by discovery of the wonders – *the smartest kids* – that the world is full of. This aired episode echoes with a lot of Harvey’s quotes, one of which I stumbled on a few days earlier. It says, *“Success is not about how much money you make; it’s about the difference you make in people’s lives.”*

Philanthropists Harvey and his wife Marjorie founded The Steve and Marjorie Foundation in 2010. The ultimate mission of their organization is to provide under sourced communities with tools for success. They have also several mentoring programs, including *The Steve Harvey Mentoring Program*, for young men and girls.

Another fact about this comedian/motivator is that he grew up on a farm. When they moved to Cleveland, OH, they had to grow their own food and survive on a small income. There were 13 of us living in a one-bathroom house, Harvey told an audience at a family Feud taping in 2016. A 3rd fact about him, not the last or the least, is that on January 17, 2016, his 58th birthday, a street in Cleveland Ohio where he grew up was rededicated: Steve Harvey Way. The Mayor of Cleveland, Steve’s sister and brother, his friends, and schoolmates took part in the ceremony of the proclamation of Steve Day. A Chadian adage, from my home country, says that some people are born with honey in their hands and others must go

into the bush to find it. Harvey’s path to success was thorny and difficult. For what? He was a stutterer who dreamed of appearing on television. What a dream! Wouldn’t he have anything better to dream of than being on television? That’s what’s interesting about his story.

At school, their teacher asked them to write what they would like to become in life on a sheet of paper.

He was ten years old at that time.

He wrote I want to be on television. The teacher was shocked that a stutterer wanted to be on television. She made unkind comments about him, humiliating him in front of the whole class, telling him he would never do that. Little Steve held on to his desire to be on television and nourished him with hope and life. He believed in himself and in his dream, and today his life is more than a dream come true! From zero to hero, that was the warrior’s path. Steve, my favorite comedian, through his comedy

in addition to putting smiles on faces and joy in hearts, feeds his audience with messages of hope, encouragement, perseverance, love, kindness, etc. Personally, listening to Harvey allows me to overcome my fears, unproductive criticism, and all kinds of barriers, and it allows me to dare to do what brings me happiness and fulfillment. The key is to believe in yourself and make your way!

MY FAVORITE BLACK ARTIST



My favorite black artist is Alma Thomas. She was an excellent painter. We can see her paintings in museums. She became a teacher at the University of Columbia. She liked to paint. She worked in Washington, DC. She did a lot of work that was very beautiful. I have read a bit about her history and I liked it because she was a person with great talent who achieved her goals. I call attention to her history because she was a woman with purpose. She is an example for all people around the world.

Pascual S.

My favorite black artist is June Gloria Beer Thompson. I feel happy and excited about the things she could do being a black woman.

Edwin F.E.

Native Language

Student: Celia K.S.F.



IN STARS

Inglaterra y
España en la lista
al final bajan.

Nacen sueños en
el Mundial próximo de
"CAN, USA y MX".

Sigue Pelé la
luz. Lula, Brasil y el
Pentacampeón.

Tras las estrellas
De Argentina Austral
Reinado del Sur.

Alemania es
el orgullo en Qatar
Por diversidad.

Resta Francia y...
Uruguay, que debajo
atrás quedaron.

Sur italiano
de Copas en pasado:
jugó y ganó.

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50TH YEAR CELEBRATION





Educating Generations, Building Futures