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Many decisions are being made during daily life. Those decisions can be as small as choosing a restaurant for lunch or picking a present for a friend. On the opposite side, some decisions are important, such as choosing a house or a job. School is one of the significant life issues since school may cause different outcomes. When I graduated from high school, I was faced with making a decision about my future educational plans. Then, I chose to go to PCC, and I am heading toward my goal of transferring to UCLA step by step.

I made up my mind through a tough process. When I graduated from Mark Keppel High School, I had two choices. The first one was East Los Angeles College. I heard that ELAC's classes were easier than PCC's, and we could rent textbooks for some high-level classes with a low price. The most important thing was that it only took half hour to go to ELAC from my house by bus. Distance would play a key role because my mom and I had not planned to buy a car yet. On the other hand, I needed to spend one and a half hours to get to PCC. Despite these valuable factors of PCC, ELAC had already defeated PCC in my mom's view. My mom said she did not want me to waste three hours on transportation. On the contrary, my sister preferred PCC, for it had higher transfer rate, nicer buildings and infrastructures, and higher quality classes. After considering the advantages and disadvantages of PCC and ELAC, I chose PCC since the quality of classes were the most valuable point of this school.



My experiences and grades showed me that I did not make a wrong decision. I am so lucky that my classmates drive me to school a few days a week. It really saves my time. Also, I feel I have been acquiring knowledge from classes and homework. By using resources like the ESL center and LAC, I am getting good grades. Also, I know what classes I need to take in order to transfer, and I am working hard to finish those courses. Outside the class, I joined clubs and participate in volunteer activities.

When there are some obstacles on a path, people could choose another easy and clean way. PCC is one good example. I could have chosen ELAC for its nice geographic position. However, I was not intimidated by all the difficulties. I am glad that I did not give up, or I could have lost a way to approach my goal.

Getting into Trouble at School

Zifeng Lan (Philip)ESL 33A

Prof. Anwar El-Issa



In my childhood, happy things are unforgettable. Nevertheless, this was one of the worst things in my memory, and it remained in my mind. Whenever I went by the elementary school, the sight recalled the day of getting into trouble at school.

When I was a child, I was full of curiosity. When I was a new at the elementary school, I hated to attend classes. I looked out of the window and subsequently found an empty room behind the playground. This room excited my curiosity. Despite my focus in class, I knew I had to run out. After the bell was ringing, I came to an empty room as soon as possible. Fortunately, the room was unlocked, so I pushed the door. It was for confiscated toys and comic books from teachers. Some extra tables and chairs were piled up near windows. If

you were outside, you would only see some furniture which was near the windows. You might not expect that there were such interesting things in this room. I locked the door and was quiet. Afterward, I picked up a comic book. I sat behind the door; however, I didn't realize that a big trouble was coming. Suddenly, I heard someone coming. I hid under the table so that they couldn't find me. It liked a hide and seek game. I felt nervous at that time until they left. When the bell rang again, I opened the door. I found that my mother and my teacher stood in front of me. I remembered my teacher was staring at me angrily and plucked me into his office. Both me and my mother were reprimanded by my teacher. He said that he looked for me for an hour, and he was worried about me. I saw the tears coming

down my mother's cheeks. My classmates mocked me outside the office's window. Finally, I was punished to say sorry to my classmates instead of suspension from classes because it was my first mistake. After my mother and I went home, she didn't rule me with a rod, and even her rebukes didn't amount to scolding. She just said that I wasn't a kid anymore. "Did you feel my punishment?" How should I refrain from my tears? So far, I have never been absent from classes without excuse.

Every time that I recall this stupid thing that I have done, I would remember my mother's tears. I kicked off my naughty behavior since that thing happened. It was the most unforgettable punishment in my childhood.

Interview with a

Successful Classmate

Yuhong Xin and Shiwen Fang Shirley

ESL 33B Paulette Koubek- Yao

My previous classmate Nang Y. Hom is now working as a preschool teacher in an elementary school. She took ESL 33A and ESL 33B years ago, and we have the same professor. She spent 4 years at PCC as a full time student before she transferred to Cal State. We interviewed her in a friendly conversation at Starbucks. We asked her some questions about her student life, transfer and major. She gave us some useful suggestion for current students.

(continued on page 3)

(interview continue from page 2)

Xin: What are the differences between an ESL class and English class?

Nang: The English class makes you cry! (Laughing) I'm kidding. But it has a lot of writing and much more reading than an ESL class. After you get used to doing it, it is not as hard as you think.

Shirley: A lot of students feel confused to choose a major, would you like to give them some suggestions?

Nang: You have to choose your major as soon as possible; it is important. Don't waste your time and money. Choose your major mainly based on your interests, and personal skills. Being practical is important here. Some students speak two or more languages, so they especially have the advantage of an international career choice. Students could also do some online examination to find out their interests and the area they will be perfect in.

Shirley: Which class do you think is difficult at PCC?

Nang: No class is easy, even the GE classes. Once I took Physical Science and I lost weight. And in Math, I spent 18 hours in getting tutoring. So there is no easy class; you have to work hard, but it is worth it for your transfer to a university.

Shirley: When did you start preparing to transfer?

Nang: I wasted my time a little bit at the beginning after I transferred to Cal State. I spent two semesters in the classes that did not match my major. My suggestion is to plan ahead as soon as possible. Otherwise, you will waste your time. Once you decide your major and the university, you'd better see the counselor and get some guidelines right away. PCC has some great counselors, and they will tell you exactly what you have to do to transfer fast.

Xin: What are the differences between PCC and a university?

Nang: A university is harder to go through than PCC. Some of the universities use quarters but not semesters as in PCC. Other than 16 weeks a semester at PCC, some universities only have 10-11 weeks a quarter. Also, there will be more presentations and research for you within a shorter time. The university will make you more stressed, but they prepare you to get ready for your career. |

Xin: Is there any advice you would like to give to current students?

Nang: NEVER try to do this all by yourselves. Whenever you feel a struggle or confused, go find help, don't waste your time. College time is precious, enjoy it !

We finished our interview feeling some depression and more excitement. Nang is a successful example for PCC students. We realized there is no easy way to succeed; however, we will succeed if we have our goals and can constantly work hard.

“NEVER try to do this all by yourselves.

Whenever you feel a struggle or confused, go find help, don't waste your time. College time is precious, enjoy it !”



Film Review: Django

Benjamin LaFarge

F1 ESL Level 3 Block

Prof. Savas

LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF VENGEANCE



The movie *Django* by Quentin Tarantino takes place in the South of the United States in the 19th century before the Civil War. The movie deals with slavery and shows the revenge of an African-American slave, Django, who escapes slavery with the help of a German doctor.

There are three main characters in the movie. The first main character is, of course, Django, played by Jamie Foxx. He is an African-American slave who has endured a great deal of punishment because he has tried many times to escape the plantation with his wife, who is also a black slave. He has many huge scars on his back and an iron-brand tattoo on his cheek due to punishment. He loses his wife when he gets deported to another plantation, and he is very determined to find her. He learns how to shoot with Dr. King Shultz, and he is very talented. It is said that Django is the fastest gun in the South.

The second main character, Dr. King Shultz, is played by Christopher Waltz. He is a German dentist who has become a bounty hunter and immigrated to the United States. We do not know much about him except that he is very compassionate toward people and devoid of any racist thoughts and behavior. He frees Django because he needs his help in order to recognize the persons whom he is chasing. We find out that he is a very diplomatic person and also very talented with guns.

The third main character in the movie is Mr. Calvin Candy, played by Leonardo DiCaprio. He is a very rich slave owner who lives in a plantation in Mississippi. He is very famous for his African-American slave business, and people call his property « Candy Land ». He is very mean toward his slaves and treats them like animals--always with a smile that shows he enjoys dominating people, especially black slaves. He meets Django and Dr. Shultz because he is the owner of Django's wife.

The movie *Django* is very violent and sometimes very hard to watch. There is a scene where a black slave gets eaten by dogs. The black man is screaming to death while white men are smiling and laughing as if they are celebrating the death of the slave out of pure cruelty. No one helps the black man; they just watch him as if his death were a funny, interesting show. It is shocking because it is as if they consider him lower than an animal, and they are enjoying his terrible, very painful death.

I found this movie interesting because, first of all, it treats a very sensitive subject, which is slavery; and also because two of the main characters, a black man and a white man, are friends and associates in this period of time. The cinematography in *Django* is gorgeous and highlights the landscapes of Texas, Mississippi, and Florida. The dialogues are amazing as usual with Tarantino. He usually mixes comedy and seriousness in his dialogues; they are often funny and always contain an edge of violence.

In my opinion, however, the movie does not reflect reality. It is a movie that the viewer has to take with a grain of salt. It is based on Tarantino's fantasy about slavery. The interaction between slaves is very minor, and the movie shows slaves being very mean to each other.

Film Review: *Les Misérables*

Maggie Haiying Liu

F1 ESL Level 3 Block
Prof. Savas

On a snowy day, a kind priest picks up a man who is lying in the street like a dog. The man, who is in rags, is so tired that he can't say a word. His fingers move like a wooden robot's. He is covered all over with cuts and bruises. The kind priest takes the man home and offers him a room to sleep in.

This is the introduction of the main character, Jean, in the film. The film is set in the French Revolution. The novel on which the film is based, *Les Misérables*, was written by Victor Hugo, and it is his masterpiece. Obviously, people will compare the book with the film. There are many good actors and actresses in the film. At first, I was curious about how the director, Tom Hooper, was able to control all the elements in the film. I think it really must have stressed him out. This film is the director's most recent film since *The King's Speech*, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 2010. In a word, *Les Misérables* could have been the glory or the downfall of the director's career.

The director shows the theme of the film in one memorable scene. At night in the priest's house, Jean can't fall asleep. He looks around the big house. He steals all the silver and runs away. The next day, the police arrest him. However, the kind priest doesn't want to punish him. When the police bring Jean to the priest, the priest tells Jean that he did not take everything and gives the rest of the silver to him. The police have to release Jean. What the priest has done shocks Jean, and he starts to feel guilty. How could he do what he did to such a kind person who offered him food and a room. Jean looks back on his life. He realizes no one has ever treated him like this before. He also realizes that the priest wants him to be a kind person with love. This is the most important scene in the film. It shows the theme--life is a struggle, but people can't live without love. I think the director has done a great job communicating this theme.

Jean is not only the main character but also the most complex character in the film. Jean was sent to prison because he had stolen some food for his hungry nieces. It destroyed his life. He suffered a lot in prison and became hopeless. He thought it wasn't right that he was treated in this way. All he did was just steal some food to feed his poor nieces. It was hard to believe that he spent fifteen years in prison for this crime! Would it have been right to watch his nieces die rather than steal some food for them? Jean is confused about what justice is. When he is released, the government doesn't even allow him to get a job since he is an ex-convict. No job, no income. That is why he is lying in the street like a dog. He no longer believes in mercy anymore. He thinks the world is dark.

The wonderful acting of Anne Hathaway also helps the film a lot. She plays the role of Fantine. Fantine is a single mother. She loses her job, and in order to feed her young child, she sells her hair and teeth, even her body. In one scene Fantine is sitting on a chair looking at the floor. She looks numb, her eyes dull and expressionless. Anne shows the audience how hopeless Fantine is without any tears. It is amazing. It also surprised me when Fantine sings in the film. I didn't know Anne has such a great voice and singing skills. For her great performance in *Les Misérables*, she got the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress.

In conclusion, *Les Misérables* is a successful movie with good direction and good acting. The audience will learn a great deal from the film, enjoy watching the plot unfold—and



“*LES MISÉRABLES IS A SUCCESSFUL MOVIE WITH GOOD DIRECTION AND GOOD ACTING.*”

Meet by Chance

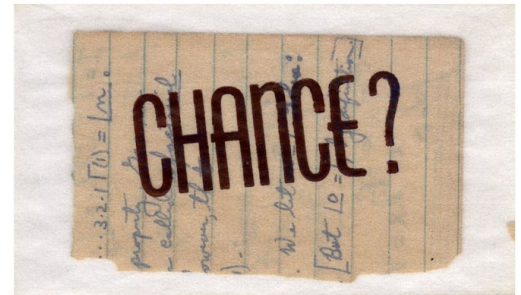
Wenting (Sarah) Liu
ESL 33B Prof. Ribeiro

*Every-
thing is possi-
ble; it all de-
pends on
what we do
that may pre-
sent a chance
for a meeting
by chance.*

I was a bit hesitant, but proceeded to ask a fun personal question about something that probably everyone on Earth would love to know the answer to. "Does NASA have any records of unusual or unidentified sightings in all of their space travel?" "You mean UFOs and aliens, right?" Mr. Conway asked although he knew the nature of the question. "Yes, has there been anything in NASA's experience?" I responded eagerly. Mr. Conway shook his head and explained, "No, everything we observed is easily explained. There are no aliens or UFOs that we would know about." I couldn't leave it at that and asked further, "But considering how huge the space is; don't you think that the math would suggest a probability of other life somewhere in the universe?" Mr. Conway was in agreement, "Yes, I guess thinking about the total universe; there is a good chance that some form of life exists elsewhere. However, we have no signs of other life yet."

My interview with Mr. Erik M. Conway, took place at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) in Pasadena in March. I was given an I-Search assignment for which I had a free choice of topic. Since I was always interested in the subject of space travel, I chose the topic of Why Did NASA Never Return to the Moon. "Don't you think you had better choose a simple topic more suitable and easier to pass with a good grade?" Mr. Madzar asked me. "Although I am a second language learner, I would like to learn and find out the answers and challenge myself, and why not?" I was a little annoyed by this question and responded. "Who could provide you with such answers?" he questioned again. "NASA!" I answered. "NASA?" he asked staring at me with an expression of disbelief. "Yes, NASA. They are here in Pasadena, so I will write to them and ask them," I replied, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained!"

After that, I wrote an email to NASA in Pasadena. I wasn't sure if I would get a reply, but I tried my best. The next morning, there was a NASA email in my inbox. They replied and would arrange a few minutes interview for me with Mr. Erik M. Conway, who is a historical consultant at NASA. He would meet me on March 12, 2013 at 10:00 A.M. at NASA's JPL Visitor Center. I did a lot of research and prepared myself well for the interview so that Mr. Conway liked my questions and answered all of them in great detail. He spent as much as forty five minutes with me that was a wind-fall. At the end of the interview, I thought if the fact that NASA never returned to the Moon had nothing to do with other life forms or the unknown; then, how do they explain that? Therefore, I asked, "What is NASA's opinion about never encountering any signs of life or unexplained events?" Mr. Conway explained, "We have had radio capability for already 100 years, which means that we have listened as much as 100 light years far into space but without catching any signal. Any possible life in the universe would have to be so far away that we could not reach it. However, we continue to explore the universe and learn more, so maybe one day we could make unexpected discoveries." Everything is possible; it all depends on what and how we do that may present a chance for a meeting by chance.



Books for Rent: Click on the "Rent and Save" link at the PCC Bookstore link:

<http://bookstore.pasadena.edu/>

Body Language Shapes Who You Are

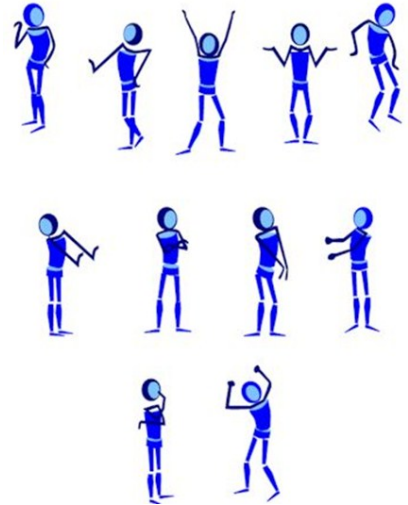
Tianlin Liu / ESL 122

Before the important competition, most people feel stressful and nervous. People fail because they are too nervous to continue the competition. There is a way to make it better. It may not make the stress away, but it can make you do a better job. The secret is body language.

Body language is the most important thing in social life. Even the animals use body language. In the kingdom of animals, they make themselves look big; they open up their body when they feel powerful. Humans do the same thing. When people feel powerful at that moment, they actually stretch out, and enjoy the moment. That means body language really affects the emotion. If you can have a high-power pose, you are going to have a really good advantage because of that.

The research from a job interview shows most bosses will choose the one who has a confident and high-power pose. When they watch the people with the high-power pose want to get that job, those people actually impress them. This means, if you have a high-power pose, and you tell yourself that you can do it, you have more chance to get that job than others. So body language is the most important character for those people.

Before the big event, you can just give yourself two minutes, and keep telling yourself that you could do it with a high-power pose. You can actually do it better, and you can get more chances than others.



A Bowl of Noodles Saves a Life

Jasmine Yu
ESL 122

The news on television showed recently a man got cancer, but he did not have enough money to pay for the hospital. His wife posted a message on the internet. She hoped everyone would come to her noodle store to eat noodles so that she could earn enough money to pay the fee for hospital. On the second day, many people went to the store. The noodles were much cheaper than other stores. It cost five yuans (Chinese currency) for a big bowl of noodles. Five yuans is equal to around one dollar. Many people paid more than that price for a bowl of noodles. They put money under the bowl when they left. There was a person who only ate a bowl of noodles but put a thousand yuans under the bowl. Nobody knew who he was. In addition, many charities wanted to help this family but they wanted to pass through this problem by themselves. The store had so many customers on those days. Some customers cleaned up and served food. I was impressed when I searched on the internet and got some information about this issue. After I saw the news, I felt our world was still warm and kind.

“I felt our world was still warm and kind.”



Ordering Pizza

Cuili Huang ESL 122

I usually order pizza from pizza stores, but my friend taught me how to order pizza online. That is an interesting thing for me. First of all, you must visit the pizza stores' web site. Most of the pizza stores have their own web sites because it is convenient for their customers to order their food and search for more information. For example, if you want to order Pizza Hut's pizza you should visit Pizza Hut's web site. You will see the information about their food.

food that you want to order. Some-
as products on sale. You can see it
sites. They show different food on

David Urrea Sanchez

ESL33B Dr. Russell Frank

Second, you can search what kinds of
times they have the special orders, such
immediately when you open their web
different pages. For example, pizza hut

has pizza, p'zone pasta, wings, and drinks in a red sign on the top of the web sites. You can click any you like.
Third, you should make the order after you are sure what kind of food you want to buy. Every food has a green sign on the right lower corner. If you want to buy that food, you just need to click the green sign.

Finally, you must fill out some information on the ordering page and pay the bill. In Pizza Hut, you also have to choose how to get the pizza. One way is you need to go to their store to pick it up. Another one is they can deliver to your house, but they will change a fee. To sum up, If you like to eat pizza very much and have not ordered it online before, ordering pizza



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IMPORTANT DATES - SUMMER TERM

Registration for DSP&S, EOP&S, Veterans, Foster Youth
May 23, 2013

Continuing Student Registration
May 28, 2013

New Student Registration
June 6, 2013

Concurrent High School Student Registration
June 11, 2013

Instructional Dates for Summer Term
June 24, 2013 - August 25, 2013

