



The Globe

By ESL Students

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Vision Statement

Xuran (Betty) Lu

This is my third semester in Pasadena City College (PCC). I have already completed some ESL and general education classes so far. The end of this semester marks a full year of my being a PCC student.

I have never studied in an American college before. I suffered difficulties from the different study methods between China and the U.S. in the first semester. However, I already feel better about my study skill adaptation when this semester began. In the beginning of this semester, I planned

two goals which I hope to accomplish in this academic year.

Firstly, through ESL level 5 class, I want to improve my English writing and speaking skills. I hope to make more English-speaking friends so that I can practice my English speaking skill. I also hope to improve my writing skills through Professor Yao's focus on writing. Reading books, free writing, and completing exercises in the NorthStar Grammar Book are all ways we practice our writing skills. Improving all of my English skills sums up my first goal.

My second goal for this academic year is going to involve my nursing class. I want to attend a Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) class after this semester. However, since the requirements for PCC's program are not a realistic goal for me in a short time, I plan to attend a trade school to better fit my schedule. I want to try my best to improve my English skills in the last ESL class, and then go on to continue my education in my professional trade's classes. I prefer to get a license and go to work in my next 5-years plan instead of transferring to a university to get a bachelor's degree. I know the path I chose will be difficult; however, I want to take new challenges while I am still young. Finally I want to say "I can do it" to myself and encourage myself to work hard every day.



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Vision statement about myself for this semester

Yan Wang (Maria)

This is my first year to be a student at PCC. I have never enrolled in a college before in the U.S. Since I have immigrated to the U.S. three years ago, I have worked at a lawyer office and insurance company as assistants to adapt to the life here. This year I decided to start college life to improve my English and academic study, because I understand that I may pursue a better job if I get a degree in the U.S. and my English gets improved.

I am taking only two courses for this semester, ESL 33B and ESL pronunciation. Besides studying, I am a full time mom. My goal for this semester is to get myself started for English study, to be familiar with college life in the U.S. and to build the fundamental for my next semester study as well.

ESL 33B is very hard for me in the beginning. I have no idea why the counselor suggested to me I am capable of this course after he reviewed my placement test result. I haven't even prepared myself how to write an English essay when the first essay test came. My score was not as good as I expected. I felt very anxious. However, I know it is no use worrying. The important thing is to know the gaps. After analyzing, I made a study strategy and I am now taking action to catch up: to spend more time reading, doing homework, memorizing vocabulary, thinking, and writing. I also ask my son, a 6th grade middle school student to be my teacher to learn from. I don't know what the final grade of this course will look like, but I should do my best.

I just remembered what my English teacher in China once told us: no pain, no gain. I wish I can gain some through hard work.

One of the Most Important Lessons in My Life

Xuran Betty Lu ESL 33B

By the time a person leaves the schoolyard, he/she would have learned a lot. Textbooks and lessons would have taught a person a lot about the world by this time. However, there are many life lessons that textbooks and homework are not able to teach. My mom taught me one of the most important life lessons that I can never forget.

In most cases, a girl's late teen years should be the best time of her life. However, a bad period in my life began during the last semester of high school when I was eighteen years old. In China, the last semester of high school is the time when students take the college entrance exam. Unlike America, if a student does badly on this one-time test, it can ruin the rest of the student's life; this one test decides the future for each student. I began to feel anxious six months before this exam. One of the reason for this anxiety came from the Chinese school system; there was so much homework, I could not even get a single day of rest. The other reason was that I did not know what major I wanted to learn in the future, which I had to choose before entering the university. The major was almost impossible to change after entering the university if I chose one I did not like. I did not want to talk about my anxiety with my parents, fearing that it would make them worry about me. "How was school today?" my mother would ask. Each time I could only lie to her that everything was fine. The anxiety was killing me inside; I just wanted to finish the exam as soon as possible.

Six months later after taking the exam, I felt like a criminal who just got out of jail. Now it was time to wait for results, which did not feel as bad as waiting to take the test; I was always a decent student so I expected a decent score. To my surprise, I got a very low score, which meant I could not go to a university. I did not know what I was going to do. I lost interest in everything. At that time, my mom already retired from work and stayed home. She stayed with me every day. When she knew my score, she said nothing. She sat behind me when I looked over the window while listened

to sad music every day. I knew she always wiped her tears secretly while she looked at me.

A month passed by, my mom manipulated me to register for an AA degree at a lower college. I told her I did not want to go to college because my teacher said we could find a good job in future only through learning in a university instead of a college. In China, only universities were considered higher education; colleges were looked down upon. My mom looked at my eyes with love and said, "Do not compare yourself according to the common social standard, it is not for you. You have a pair of invisible wings and they just have not opened yet. One day when they open, you are going to fly to the sky." I suddenly knew I put myself into a cage to isolate myself.

I went to a college and chose a major that I could register with my score. I did not really like my major but I still studied hard and got three scholarships in the three years of college. I just remembered what my mom told me. I need time for my wings to grow. After I graduated from college, I searched for a job for three months and I did not get even one offer. I lost my confidence gradually. My mom worried about me and I knew she asked all her friends to look for a job for me secretly. However, she showed me a big smile every day and asked me to take a walk with her every evening. She told me about her experience about finding her first job. She just said, "A good job will be worth the wait". After one month, what she said came true; I found a good job in a Fortune 500 company and I enjoyed this job every day.

After four years, I finally understood what my mom was trying to tell me. Within these four years, she stayed with me and made it easy for me to accept the current situation. I learned that growing up involves strong will and patience. Growing up takes time, but some people do not have the patience to wait for chances in life. As a result, my mom kept my spirit high during the worst of times. Through patience and willpower, my wings eventually opened up just as my mom said.

Moving to U.S.

Yan Wang
ESL 33B

Starting from almost zero is tougher for one who is not young. This happened to me and my husband when we immigrated to the U.S. Even though we had a clear goal, which was that we planned to pursue a good education for my son in America, we still felt a total lost when we stepped into this land.

We knew little about this country. We did not speak English very well and we did not know how to find a job. All that we could do was complaining and regretting what we gave up in China.

Fortunately, we met a wise old Chinese immigrant in a church. He taught us a lot. He told us that this is a land to welcome brave people, rather than cowards. He said, "If you two want to survive, you must dig a deep hole to hide all the past prides inside and bury them. If you want to live better, try to learn new things, such as English and new job skills. Try to keep busy instead of complaining."

We appreciated his words and advice. Three years passed, my husband found a job he likes and I started studying English at PCC, a community college. Though we still just started, we know our life in the U.S. has already taken off. In addition, because of peace and joyfulness at home, my son adapted to his school life very well. He won "Principal's Honor Roll" rewards three times at school. It is not easy for a foreign student to catch up so well in a short time.

Life is an action, life is to live, and life is to experience bravely. That is what we have learnt from our immigration life. I hope I can share our story with other immigrants like what the old man did for us. This probably can help them get through difficulties.



SUCCESS



LOADING...

Reyna Ramirez
ESL 033B

The future is the most uncertain thing in the world. People live making plans thinking that they are going to live 60 years more. They are worried about what's next, and sometimes they forget to live in the present. Of course, I'm part of those people. I'm studying a second language at PCC and I have so many projects in mind by the end of this semester. Moreover, I have to accomplish three important aspects to improve my second language.

Listening is the base for a good communication. I need to work harder on my listening skills because sometimes for me it is difficult to identify some words. For example, when I'm listening to a song I can't understand all the words, and I need to see the lyrics to understand it. Moreover, the only place where I can really practice is in school, and I don't spend too many hours there. Also, I have a roommate, but I always speak Spanish with her. However, I usually listen to music and watch movies to train my ears.

Speaking in English is a fundamental in the US if you want to get a better future. I need to break the language barrier totally, and I have to do it by the end of this semester. Also, I want to be able to work in an environment where there are people from many different places. For instance, I'm working in an office, but I'm surrounded by Hispanic people. As a result, it is hard for me find people near to me to practice. However, I record and I correct myself because I have the intention to improve my speaking.

Writing is the hardest part of learning a second language and is the most important. For this purpose, this semester I have decided to make as much as I can to get my writing very accurate. Furthermore, I'm spending many hours studying to reach my writing goals. In other words, I want to be ready to turn in my papers in a formal and professional way. For example, I used to write my papers without order, and honestly I don't know how other people could understand what I wrote down. Now, I can make myself clear at least.

Finally, my goals for this semester are listening, speaking and writing. I'm pretty sure that I'm going to improve them. All the things that I need I have them right now, those things are perseverance, determination and dedication.

A Job That Changed My Life

Million P. Lee Professor Ribeiro ESL 33B

I have been working part-time as a rideshare driver since 2014. Although this is not my favorite job, it helped me develop new skills to apply in my real life. I was very shy in the past, and I would feel embarrassed when I talked to strangers. This negative personality has changed after I became a rideshare driver. I was with strangers almost every minute in my car since there were lots of people using rideshare services in our city. At the beginning, I would just greet my passengers, and then start driving because I did not know how to open a conversation with strangers, and I was nervous. Though there were some nice passengers that would share their good or bad stories about the day, I did not really know how to react, so I would just smile and keep driving. Later I started to greet my passengers in a better way, and asked how their day was so that we could have a conversation instead of an awkward silence. I can feel that now I have become more outgoing than before because I have been able to talk to strangers without feeling embarrassed. I think working for this job improved my English as well since I had chances to practice my verbal English by meeting many native English speakers in my car. Some passengers that rode in my car as a group would talk



themselves, but I overheard their conversation, which might improve my listening skills. The people I met in my car were different from those I met in school because they would talk really fast with full expressions. This was real life interaction with people, and no one would care if I were an ESL student or not. I encourage ESL students to work part-time as a rideshare driver since this is a low threshold job for anyone without any working experience, but it will help improve their English magically, and it will make them more outgoing people if they are shy.

Technology is Excellent

Xiaowen Huang Dr. Weber ESL 122

Being in the 21-st Century, technology has changed education substantially. It has changed our learning in three positive ways. First, there is a smart board in our ESL 122 classroom, which has facilitated us since the beginning of this semester. For example, every time we look over the homework we did, our professor Dr. Weber uses the computer to type the answers that are shown on the smart board. That way she does not need to write answer by answer on the white board. Somehow it is kind of wasting time. Compared to the past, the smart board has helped us to save time because writing and erasing may need time. Therefore, it has offered us an easier way to check our homework. Second, we use a tool named "Canvas" to access the information we need. Years ago, if a student needed to check his or her grades, he or she

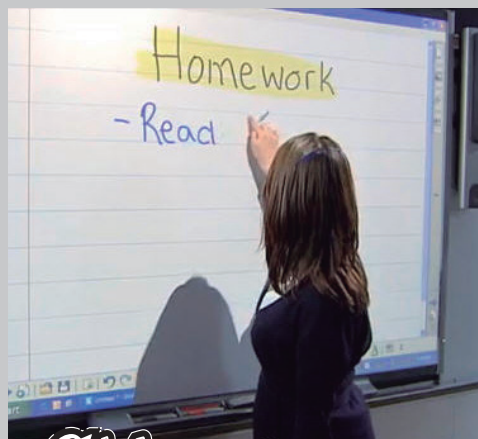
must go to a specific department in the school to ask for the grades. However, nowadays any information that we need is shown in Canvas, such as grades, assignments, and classmates' names. This kind of technology has provided us a simpler and faster way to have access to the information we need. In case we need to know something urgently, we just need to log in into Canvas and get what we need. In addition, using Canvas has changed the frequency we use our computer (or smartphones) because we don't want to miss any important information that is posted by our professors. Last, we may use social network to have fun, but it can be educational. For instance, in our ESL 122 class we use Twitter to interact with each other outside of the classroom. A student posts a question from the book *Animal Farm*, which we are reading now, and the rest of the students answer it.

That way we can practice our English writing skill and reflect a little bit about the content of the book, which has been helpful for me. I am not a person who enjoys reading books but throughout that interaction on Twitter I feel that reading can be funnier than I thought it could be. This kind of technology has provided us a platform to interact and keep in contact with our classmates. It may be a big advantage for us as students because we probably don't need to write any reports or do any exercises about the book. In conclusion, the three examples that I mentioned above show how technology has changed our way to learn nowadays. Using a smart board, Canvas, and Twitter has helped us to have a more convenient way to learn. In my opinion, those tools have reflected advantages in our learning; we should use them more often in order to improve our learning skill.

Technology Today

Dmytro Dovgonyuk
Dr. Weber
ESL 122

Technology in the 21-st Century has completely changed our education. There are many advantages of using modern technologies at schools and universities to make student's life easier and more convenient. First of all, it's very easy to communicate with professors. In our ESL class, if we have any questions about homework, grades, assignments, or if we need to report about absence, we can send an email directly to our professor Dr. Weber. It's very simple and saves a lot of time. Second, the professor doesn't need to spend time on giving and explaining homework in class. Dr. Weber sends us homework assignments on Canvas. Canvas is another new technology that we use for our class today. There we can check our grades, upcoming assignments, schedule, and find some other useful information that we need for our class. In addition to Canvas, we use Twitter for our ESL 122 class. On Twitter we discuss the book Animal Farm. Even a few years ago I couldn't imagine that I would use my favorite social media Twitter for my ESL class. Another advantage that I like in our class is the scanner. My ESL 122 class was the first place where I experienced this technology. We can easily scan any page of the book and display it on the screen. Instead of writing on the board we can scan whatever we need so that we can save time. To summarize, I'm so happy to live in the 21-st Century with all these technologies that make my educational time easier. However, I can't even imagine what is waiting for the next generation.



DEBORAH KALA
ESL 33B

Everybody wants to be successful in life, but most people are not willing to pay the price for it. Success is an accomplishment. Although luck exists and success can also be the result of it, there is always something we have to do to get to that point. Success cannot be achieved without hard work, courage, and risk of failing.

It takes a lot of hard work to be successful. The actor-comedian James Eugene Redmond « Jim » Carrey is a good example. Born in Newmarket, Canada in 1962, Jim's dream was to become a famous comedian. Although he was supported by his family, it wasn't easy for him to achieve his ambition. He had to work hard for it. He started by doing little shows here and there, but without any success. Financial struggles occurred and made it difficult for his family to support him. Still, Jim had not given up on his dream ! Once the family's financial problems were resolved, Jim was able to return to the stage. He worked even harder and started doing regular paid shows, building his reputation in the meantime. His fame did not begin until 1994 at the age of 32. He was patient ! Regardless of the situations he went through, he kept on working hard

The road to success is full of obstacles. It takes a lot of courage to overcome them and Katie's story shows it. Katie was a young girl who decided to follow her dream. She was a movie dancer and she loved it ! She

encountered a lot of difficulties trying to pursue her dream. Her family was against her and did not want to support her choice. However, she did not give up ! She chose to go away from her family and be alone in the world just to achieve her goal. By doing so, she demonstrated a great strength of character. She was determined and bold enough to take the risk of living by herself, away from her family. She chose to be happy by doing what she loved rather than doing the wishes of her family and be unhappy all her life.

To achieve big successes, we have to be willing to risk failure. I have known the famous comedian Charlie Chaplin through his films. He was very good at entertaining people. He is a good example of someone who was willing to risk failure because he had failed many times before. His life story tells us that at the beginning of his career, people did not like him. « During his early days in London, people threw things at Charlie Chaplin to make him get off the stage » (Northstar 82). Despite his failure, he did not give up. He did not take to heart those audience's reactions. That was a great risk ! After all that, he finally became famous. He had certainly learned to see failure as a step toward success.

People want to be successful, but for the most part, they are afraid of failing ; they do not want to work hard and they are not bold enough. Success is the crown we receive after winning in the fight of everyday life by failing, working hard, and being courageous.

From ESL 122 to Math Professor!

Deborah Kala
Yan Wang
ESL 33B

On Thursday, November 19th, we had the privilege to interview, on campus, Prof. Guo who is now a Math teacher at PCC. She is originally from China and moved to the U.S. with her family for better education and opportunity. Prof. Guo allowed us to interview her on how she became a teacher.

D & Y : As a child, what did you want to be when you grow up ?

Prof. : I wanted to become a businesswoman because my whole family is in business. In addition, I like money ! – laugh –

D & Y : How old were you when you came to the U.S. ?

Prof. : I was 17 years old when I came here. I went to high school and got my diploma.

D & Y : Was it hard for you to accommodate yourself with the American lifestyle ?

Prof. : At the beginning yes, mainly because of the language barrier.

D & Y : What challenges did you face as a student ?

Prof. : As a student, I had my parents' support. They supported me financially throughout my whole education. They provided for me a car, a place to stay. Therefore, the only issue was the language.

D & Y : So far, what have you accomplished ? And how do you feel about it ?

Prof. : I studied here at PCC. I took ESL classes from 122 to English 1A and Prof. Crook and Prof. Yao were two of my teachers. Then, I transferred to Cal State LA where I got my master degree in Math. Finally, I came back here to PCC to teach math. I feel good and grateful about it !

D & Y : Has PCC changed compared to when you were studying here ?

Prof. : They just added a new building "Center for the Arts." Besides that, I think everything else is the same.

D & Y : For how long were you here as a student and for how long have you been here as a teacher ?

Prof. : I was here for two years as a student. As a teacher, I have been here since 2011, which makes it four years. I also teach in both schools, PCC and Cal State LA with part-time hours.

D & Y : Do you still want to be a businesswoman ?

Prof. : Yes ! Someday, besides teaching, if I have extra money I will be doing a little bit of business in real estate.

Prof. Guo is a pretty courageous young lady who is now married and expecting a child probably next month. "I hope to give birth next month after the final, after I submit the grades. It's a girl " she said joyfully!



Raise the Red Lantern By Raven Lu

Raise the Red Lantern, one of the most well-known Chinese movies, ironically also one of many excellent indigenous movies that has been censored because its sarcasm towards traditional Chinese moral standards, narrates a story happening in a wealthy family. The main character, Songlian, a college student who dropped out of school because her father passed away, married into the wealthy Cheng family and became the fourth mistress.

Every night, the 4 wives of the master Cheng would stand outside their own door waiting for the servants to send red lanterns which represent the master would come and spend his night. Due to Songlian was new to the family, master Cheng went to her place the most and this made the second and the third mistresses very jealous.

Time passed by and Songlian gradually lost the master's interest, eager to get his attention, she pretended she was pregnant. However, the second mistress found out what really happened and Songlian got "censored", which meant she would never get red lantern.

again. She wanted to get revenge, so she exposed that the third mistress was having an affair with the family doctor and this resulted in the third mistress being hanged in the room.

At the end of the story, Songlian was half crazy, wandering in the huge mansion dressing like a young student while the master was welcoming his fifth mistress.

The true object of the movie is about women's place in a traditional wealthy and powerful family. The movie uses the element "red lantern" to relate to not only the title but also as a clue connecting the plot through the whole movie.

Personally, this movie is one of my favorite movies. I love how Zhang, Yimou portrays the life of an old Chinese family and how he showed the world what was it like in ancient China on screen the first time. Therefore, I personally believe this is a remarkable movie in contemporary Chinese history.

Passion Begins with an Open Mind towards Chances

Florence Sanrow
ESL 33B

I used to have a blazing passion for arts and music and hoped to have a career in that field one day, but my family's disapproval stopped me in my tracks. After seeing my flame of passions dissipate, I struggled to find a medium; a balance of what I enjoyed and what my family would agree with. In cases like mine, having an open mind means either adapting and surviving, or drowning in a sea of ambiguity. The idea is to encourage one to have a more open-minded way of thinking and to seize any opportunity that one meets so one can find her passion.

The way I was raised made me have a fixed mindset; combined with the burden of shouldering the 'success' my parents defined for me, it was never easy to make a decision regarding my major. Eventually I decided to just adopt an open mind, and it was one of the best decisions I've made in a while; even though the dilemma does not end there.

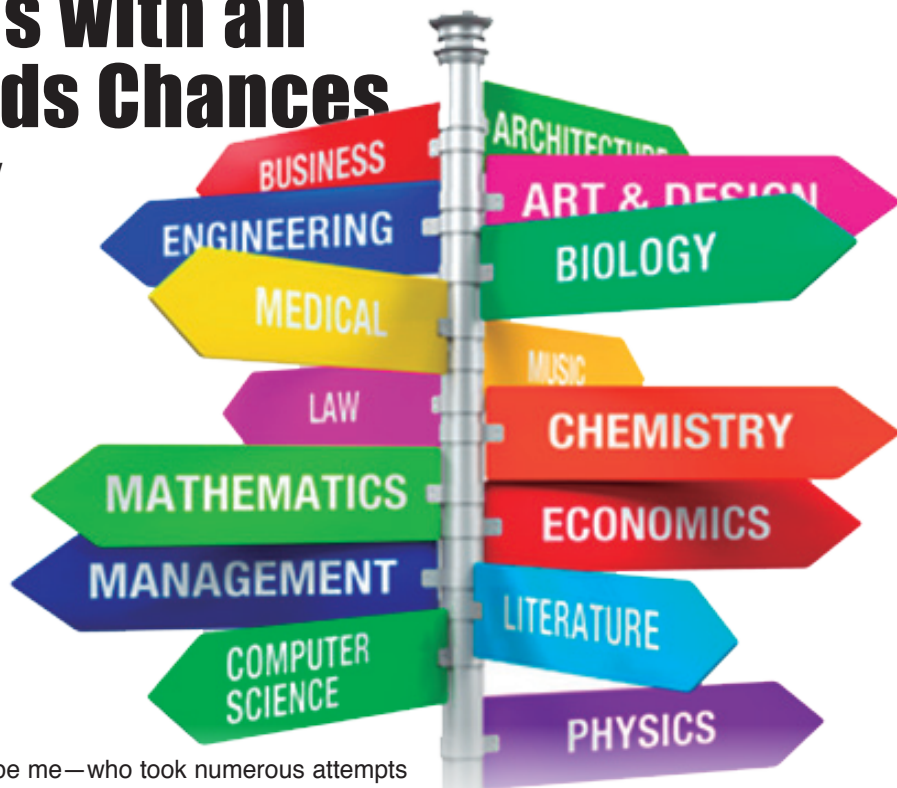
Finding the right passion is not going to happen in a snap of a finger. It's an excruciating process which takes several attempts and drastic pivots to finally know what a person truly wants as both her passion and job. If one ever feels unsure about something, she should move on and try venturing other fields instead. Who knows, one might find herself immersed in something completely different—something she has never expected. A good example of that

would be me—who took numerous attempts before deciding to change my major from Industrial Engineering to Psychology with Mathematics emphasis (which is something I enjoy and my family agrees with).

Having an open mind and wanting to explore new fields to find one's passion are not enough without the opportunities to back it all up, however. In fact, these golden opportunities are usually what draws the line between those who are successful and those who are not—it defies the very logic of talent and intelligence. Hard work is a good trait to have. However, if one only works hard and does not seize any golden chances, then she is not going anywhere. Studying in the U.S.

opened a lot of new opportunities I never had back at home; and by grasping these chances, I got to finally make a wise decision regarding my major.

In conclusion, while it is important to find one's passion, it is not possible without seizing golden opportunities, which is impossible without keeping an open mind—that will leave one with a broader perspective to make better decisions. I think people should keep an open mind towards anything and grasp any chances they can grasp, as it will prove to be very beneficial for them later in life.



Technology applied in my ESL class

Chan Chun Yue (John)
Dr. Weber
ESL 122

Nowadays, technology has been really useful in learning and it is an advantage for me to learn effectively. My ESL 122 class will be an example to explain. First, technology makes learning more convenient. There is a communication platform between students and teachers called Canvas. On Canvas, we can look for most of the information we want such as grades, notes and announcements, which provides an easier way to communicate with

each other. In the olden days without access of the Internet, it was harder for students to communicate with teachers and it also increased the workloads of teachers and students. Second, in this class, we use a social network platform called Twitter to share our opinions, feelings or contents of the books we have been working on during this semester; At the same time, we need to give responses on others thoughts which forming a good communication

environment. Sometimes I receive inspiring responses from my classmates that helps me understand some plots of the book when I am confused. Secondly, technology provides a more effective learning environment. On Canvas, I am able to view my grades instantly by email. Also, my professor will sometimes give comments I can improve or I can work on my assignment instantly on Canvas which helps improving my grades. A few years ago, we still did not have such a good platform to learn, it was less effective and I would not to know what to improve until I received the papers and feedback. That was not efficient and my grades might not be improved within a short period of time. To sum up, technology is giving us a better and more efficient way to learn; it also make us easier to communicate with each other. All in all, technology is convenient and effective which really helps students a lot.

Subway Hero

By Marcio do Carmo Cardozo Junior
ESL 33B

Wesley Autrey is a fifty year-old construction worker who is now filling the shoes of men such as Martin Luther King Jr, Muhamad Ali and many other heroes before him that also received the "Bronze Medallion". The brave father from Harlem managed to achieve this high honor by showing the world that New Yorkers are not as cold as people may think.

It was a regular Tuesday when Mr. Autrey received his "call to action" like any other super hero, A film student had the bad luck of starting to have a seizure while waiting for the subway; the lack of control over his own body made the boy fall into the tracks right when a train was in sight. Wesley Autrey responded by jumping on the tracks and taking the young man out of danger. Autrey risked his life for the mere chance of saving a complete stranger, and by doing so he showed the world courage, agility, self control and most important; an amazing and admirable empathy to people, all of which are traits of a true hero.

Autrey was largely rewarded by his action, by Donald Trump , the city of New York and the New York Film Academy; but no money can measure the impact he made at the city by becoming a role model. People nowadays are growing egocentric and a man like Mr. Autrey serves to wake our humanity, and our compassion towards another. Hopefully he did not only save one boy at that station but also saved hundreds by inspiring people to be brave like him. I surely feel inspired by his actions. It is hard to speculate about the future, but Mr. Autrey already has Dr. King's shoes, and let's just hope he also follows in his footsteps. I, for one, can already see a movie being made about his life once the film student finishes school.

Puzzle - Time Get a prize!

Have fun and try to find the 10 words in this puzzle. Bring the completed puzzle to the ESL Center in D306 and get a prize!

- 1. Procedure 2. Process 3. Required 4. Research
5. Policy 6. Method 7. Legal 8. Create 9. Concept 10. Export**

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| P | H | W | P | Z | B | W | S | E | I | P |
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