

# ESL Magazine

October 2017

## Statement of Support from your ESL Teachers

We believe that English language learners, no matter their background or status, must be supported in their educational pursuits. As ESL faculty of the Los Angeles Community College District, we pledge to teach and guide our students toward their personal and professional goals. Further, as members of a diverse educational system that has always welcomed fresh new voices, we commit to being advocates for our students and vow to defend their rights at all times. We stand united in solidarity with our student body.

Como instructores de inglés como segundo idioma (ESL) del Distrito de Colegios Comunitarios de Los Ángeles (LACCD), creemos que todo alumno, sin tomar en cuenta su origen o condición, debe ser apoyado en su transcurso de aprendizaje. Nos comprometemos a enseñarles y guiarles hacia sus metas personales y profesionales. Asimismo, como miembros de un sistema educativo diverso que siempre ha dado la bienvenida a nuevas voces, también nos comprometemos a defender sus derechos en todo momento. Nos mantendremos unidos en solidaridad con nuestro cuerpo estudiantil.

本校相信無論學生的出身背景或社會地位為何，我們應該支持英語學習者的教育。而洛杉磯社區大學學區(LACCD) 英語教學 (ESL) 的教職員則保證會教導以及帶領學生朝著他們個人或專業上的目標前進。進一步來說，本校身為多元教育系統內的一份子，一向很願意接納各種新穎以及不同的言論。本校也承諾會擁護我們的學生。並誓言捍衛他們的權利，和學生站在同一陣線。

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نحن نعتقد أن متعلمي اللغة الإنجليزية، بغض النظر عن خلفيتهم أو وضعهم، يجب أن ندعم في مساعيهم التعليمية. كمدرسين اللغة الانجليزية (ESL) في مقاطعة (LACCD)، نتعهد بتعليم وإرشاد الطلاب نحو أهدافهم الشخصية والمهنية. كذلك، كأعضاء في نظام تعليمي متنوع و الذي يرحب دائماً بأصوات جديدة و طازجة، نلزم و نتعهد و نقف متحدين في التضامن و الدفاع عن جميع الطلبة في كليتنا.



# Essay Competition

**Directions:** Please read the following essays and vote for the one that you liked the best.

## The Decisions that Shaped Myself

“It is in your moments of decision that your destiny is shaped” (Tony Robbins). It is true that making decisions is an inevitable part of a person’s life. The result of a decision is unknown, could be better, or worse, but either way, our life changes its current path. Some people argue that when it comes to the action of making a choice, it is entirely up to God, or a more popular term, fate. From my point of view, we are not only responsible for the choices we make, but also the action we take afterward as well. Just like everyone else, I have made many decisions in my life, and some of them have been life changing, as well as my philosophy in life, in a way I could not have expected.

My first major decision was probably be made during high school. Just like my peers, I spent most of the time studying as it was my only mission in life. I was so engrossed in studying to the extent that I wanted to become an educator, teaching Literature or Language Arts. While it seemed to be a good thing, I always knew that there was still something missing in my life back then. When I was in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, I was subconsciously triggered by the announcement of a science fair called the Intel-ISEF. I asked myself, “Why not?” Initially, I just registered for its enormous benefits, including the high reward, GPA increase, and a good mark on my profile. As soon as I started my project, things changed. I developed a liking for science majors, especially biology and chemistry, along with experimental skills and the spirit of team work. In short, I made new friends, and one of the things I failed to recognize was I had been in my shell for too long. The science fair came to me just by chance, but it was like a hammer breaking that shell to rescued me from being caged in my narcissistic state.

In that same year, tragedy came to me. Just shortly after the end of the science fair, I was called for another decision-making session. It was an ordinary day, but the event that occurred during that day somehow left a scar both on my heart and in my philosophical thoughts. Like every Saturday, I went to my advanced chemistry class by bike. On my way there, all of a sudden, I was stopped by a woman, whose appearance looked benign at first glance. She was wearing a dark-brown shirt, covered by a long sleeve jean jacket, and she was wearing polka dot trousers. She hurriedly explained her situation as her father had just been hospitalized and desperately needed some money. As a person of philanthropy, although I did not have much money, I gave her almost all that I had. I felt such at ease to do so until she asked, “This is not enough, can you please give me more. This is urgent. This is important. This is a matter of life and death of a human being.” Her words were so convincing, maybe too convincing, that I dismissed the distinctive features of a fraud. That was not the worst of the story. The following events took place as a chain reaction of either great benevolence or imbecility. I stopped going further to my toward my class, headed home, waited for everyone to leave, searched the house for anything that is valuable, returned, gave them all to her with one simple promise of the eagerness to come along to see her father. No sooner had I jumped onto my bike than she took off. In the end, the incident occurred as a barrage of shame and disappointment that was pelting my philosophy of charity and compassion. I still remember many people telling me that it was due to certain kinds of enchantment, I had allowed her to manipulate me. There was every likelihood that it was the truth; however, I chose to help her so if there was a person to blame, it would be me. The consequences of the event were so severe that my personality has changed ever since. I cannot tell that is a good or a bad thing, but I can say I have grown stronger and the event has contributed nothing but the fortification of my mind and will.

“Everything happens for a reason.” There is no such thing as entirely good or bad. The importance is what can be learned throughout the process. I describe the two events as turning points of my life, of which each one has helped me establish my life philosophy and shape my today identity. In my opinion, there has been no choice in my life that I regret, but I would regret of not choosing one.

## Autobiography

Hi! I'm Vietnamese and 18 year old. Currently, and I'm an international student in United States. The first time I set foot in the United States was in July, 2014. I has lived in Los Angeles for 3 years. I went to Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High School for 2 years, my junior and senior year. Now, I'm enrolled at East Los Angeles College with Bioengineering major. This year is my second year in ELAC. I'm also an ESL tutor at the Modern Languages Lab. Today, I want to share my story with you about how I became an ESL tutor.

I started studying at ELAC in summer 2016. My starting English level was English 28. I took a summer class with Professor Cory Youngblood and took him again for English 101 in fall 2016. During English 28, my essays were terrible and miserable. I had a tremendous amount of problems in grammar, sentence structure, spelling, and more. I failed my first essay assignment in that class. However, my professor encouraged us to attend his office hours so he could help us improve our essays. Since then, I went to see him every day so he could point out my errors, either with grammar or essay errors. He pointed out my problems so that I could fix them when I went home. Throughout my English 28 class, my English and writing skill improved significantly.

One day when I was working on my essay in my English 101 class, he came to me and he said that he had something to tell me. My first thought was: "Am I in trouble? I didn't do anything wrong." Then he said: "There is an ESL tutor position at the language lab. If you want to get a job, I can recommend you to the department". He recommended me for the job because he saw I improved a lot, especially because of my grammar errors which were reduced significantly. I was overjoyed when I heard that because I was looking for a part time job at that time too. Later I took the job and started working in Spring 2016.

That is my story. I hope all international students will be inspired by reading this. You do not need to be afraid to challenge yourself. You just need to study hard, be nice to other people and your opportunity will come.

### My Autobiography

I never thought that I would ever be living in a country where people speak a different language other than Spanish. Yet, as a child, I always dreamt of coming to the United States. It was my greatest goal and my biggest dream. However, I never thought that I would eventually have to actually learn English, or that one day, I would actually be helping other students with their English.

I am the youngest of six children, and I am a first- generation college student. I was born in Michoacan, Mexico, and I came to the United States when I was 18 years old. When I first came to the United States, I did not know how to speak, read, write, or understand English. I felt so unprepared filling out papers or applications in English, and therefore I felt unqualified to apply for a job. Thus, I knew that I needed to acquire English skills. I decided to attend Rafu Learning Center, an adult school in East Los Angeles, so that I could learn and understand English. I studied there for two years. Then we moved to San Gabriel, California, and I attended Rosemead Adult School in South El Monte, where I finished my ESL classes and graduated from high school. Subsequently, I moved to downtown Los Angeles, and I decided to continue my education, so I enrolled in Los Angeles Trade Technical College. After one year, I moved back to East Los Angeles, but I had to drop out of school because I started working full time. It was very challenging for me to attend school and work at the same time.

Three years later, I decided to go back to school again, so I came to East Los Angeles College. At the beginning, I did not know what my goals were, or what I wanted to study, but I continued to take as many English classes as I could in order to increase my English skills. However, when I took an introductory psychology class, my professor, Cathy Cleveland, truly inspired me with her passion, knowledge, and dedication for the field of psychology. Once I knew what I wanted to study, I started working towards this objective in order to transfer to a four-year university. While I was taking classes in ELAC, Kevin Van Houten, my previous ESL professor, sent me an email asking me if I was interested in helping students. I told him that I was very interested in helping others. Since November 2016, I have been working as an ESL tutor in the Modern Languages Lab. Interestingly, my own command of English has also improved. I feel that I learn more when I help students. I could never be more grateful to my professor Van Houten, along with other professors that gave me this opportunity to learn more as a student, as a person, and as a mother. Each student that comes to a tutoring session brings a piece of knowledge to my life. Moreover, working as a tutor has taught me that a mother should not do things for her children, but a mother should teach her children how to do things in their own.

Although I have definitely had my share of challenges, I continue to encourage myself every time I feel weak or unmotivated. I am also truly encouraged when I see students giving their best, even if they are going through a difficult time. This Fall semester, I am taking the last classes I need to obtain my AA certificate. I do not plan on stopping. I will continue encouraging and pushing myself until I accomplish the rest of my goals.

**Please pick the best essay by submitting your choice.**

<https://goo.gl/forms/pE3ii27wd6Vi6QpH3>



Join us for our  
**HALLOWEEN  
PARTY!**

November 3, 2017  
from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.  
F5 - 201 (Multipurpose room)

There will be...

- a costume contest
- games & prizes
- Dancing
- tacos

**Ticket Prices**

**Adults \$20**

**Children (13 & under) \$10**

**Purchase your tickets  
in E3 rooms 177b or 471.**

Get your  
tickets now!



ESL Club ELAC

# THE LANGUAGE LAB @ELAC

## CRLA TRAINING

All of the tutors in the Language Lab have been trained to the national standards for tutor training established by the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA).

Our language tutors come to us with recommendations from the Modern Language and ESL instructors.

**THE LANGUAGE LAB** is dedicated to serving ELAC students in a creative environment focused on strengthening students' language skills. We strive to provide interactive and independent activities that fit each student's learning style and individual needs.

As language is a skill requiring continuous use, we offer ongoing tutoring support and weekly workshops, web resources and software to keep your practice continual.

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*"Tutoring provides a platform for students to help each other."*

*~Sambo, French tutor*

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*Language Lab Tutors & Staff: Josh, Frank, Tony, Juan, Sambo, Sam, Yangok, Mandy, Beatriz, Ryunosuke*

## MODERN LANGUAGES/ESL LAB

*A space dedicated to ELAC language students.*

Workshops open to all ELAC students.

### ESL PRONUNCIATION PRACTICE

**Wednesdays**  
**12:30 - 1:30 p.m.**  
**&**  
**Thursdays**  
**1-2 p.m.**

Practice the American  
accent with a  
native speaker!!

*Visit the Language Lab E3-170 today for more information.*  
Lab hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00am-8:00pm & Friday 8:00am-  
4:00pm

**LOCATION:**  
**E3 - 170**



# Halloween Word Search

Z J J Z L H A U N T E D E E R I E E N P  
G R A V E S P O T I O N L S T A E R T O  
S Q B A P U S R E D I P S Y B W E S Q P  
X E O X P K E J W W I T C H E S V D J C  
L F M O W K Q S T S O H G R K J L N I O  
N G P U M P K I N P I E E G L N L L R  
L K F G Q N J G H M A G I C M N I I O N  
T Z X G F S N R E T N A L O K C A J E B  
G A N E E T A R O C E D R L C N I A D A  
O O W N I Q B Z F C A N D L E S T W Y L  
B A G N X J E W N P X P T D A R K G D L  
L S M Y R E T E M E C D U X V W V K C S  
I T R L C A N D I E D A P P L E D M A F  
N A A L L H A L L O W S E V E Y W T U V  
S C F Z C R R H N N T L C I R K Q X L R  
S K Z F E A R Q P G S S P K H O J I D L  
K C E P U M P K I N S K C T S O X N R P  
C A Q P V I K J K A I D J A D P C C O W  
N L T M U M M I E S N C E V N S X F N Z  
E B C O S T U M E S A V R G L S L Y S C

## Vocabulary

1. Allhallows Eve
2. black cats
3. candied apples
4. candles
5. cauldrons
6. cemetery
7. costumes
8. dark
9. decorate
10. eerie
11. fear
12. ghosts
13. goblins
14. graves
15. haunted
16. jack-o-lanterns
17. magic
18. mummies
19. popcorn balls
20. potion
21. pumpkin pie
22. pumpkins
23. spiders
24. spooky
25. treats
26. witches