

Établissement :

LPO NORD CARAÏBE

Candidat individuel :

Nom – Prénom  
du candidat :

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Notions étudiées				Le candidat présente à l'examinateur les documents qui ont illustré les quatre notions du programme. L'examinateur choisit l'une de ces notions (BO n°43 21/11/2013).		
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				Documents	Sources	
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Nom du professeur : M. Robelot

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Cachet de l'établissement

# MYTHS AND HEROES

## **Text 1 : Oprah Winfrey, a successful woman.**



*A SUCCESSFUL WOMAN*

*Media Mogul, Philanthropist, and Child Advocate are just a few of the titles that describe the diverse person that is Oprah Winfrey. Known to most around the globe simply by her peculiar first name, she was born on January 29, 1954 in Kosciusko, Mississippi. The little girl born to simple means has become one of the twentieth century's most influential people in America and has touched people worldwide.*

Oprah Winfrey overcame the obstacles of being an African American girl in the South in the 50's and 60's to earn a spot in television news in 1973. She became Nashville's first African-American TV correspondent on WTVF-TV. After some time in Baltimore news and a local talk show she relocated to Chicago to host A.M. Chicago, a morning show. Within a month Oprah took the show to the number one rated talk show in the Chicago market, one of the top five markets in the country. In 1985 the show was renamed The Oprah Winfrey Show. From that point on The Oprah Winfrey Show skyrocketed and is currently broadcasted to 144 countries.

Oprah Winfrey is now present in all areas of the media. The mogul has founded O, The Magazine, Oprah.com on the web, and Oprah Radio which is located on Sirius XM Radio. Since announcing the end of the wildly successful show, she has promised her worried fans continued presence by starting OWN, her television channel. These outlets are all tools to broadcast her principles which inadvertently influence America.

Oprah's actions aim to positively alter the lives of Americans and incline the nation toward becoming more educated, benevolent and caring. Her millions of loyal fans are listening and voluntarily complying. Oprah's name has been included in Time Magazine's elite list of the most influential people of the 20th Century. She is the only person to appear on the roster consistently since 2004. Oprah's influence on America is indisputable.

In order to inspire education and increased national literacy, Oprah announced in 1996 that she would begin Oprah's Book Club. She personally selects a book and then discusses it with her audiences through her website and the television show. As a result, more than sixty of her selections have become best sellers. Oprah has also sought to spread the concept of generosity by the establishment of Oprah's Angel Network. A charity aimed at helping women, children and families become more educated and therefore empowered.

Along with cultural influence, Oprah has had significant political impact. In 1993, Bill Clinton signed into law a national database of convicted child abusers. The bill was labeled the "Oprah Bill" because of her 1991 initiation of the National Child Protection Act. Arguably her most infamous political persuasion to date was her support of Barack Obama.

It can safely be stated that Oprah's choice of publicly backing the future president influenced many of her viewers. During the 2008 presidential race she was able to inform a nation about her confidence in then-Senator Barack Obama thanks to her many platforms to help broadcast her views.

<http://onlineessays.com/essays/biographies/oprah-winfreys-influence-in-america.php>

## **Text 2 : Malala**

### **MALALA YOUSAFZAI: THE STORY OF A HERO**

Malala Yousafzai's courage and determination has put girls' education at the top of the global development agenda. Great leaders are often defined not by their beliefs, but by how they react when those beliefs are tested to the limit. In the case of the Pakistani girl activist Malala Yousafzai, it's likely historians will focus on the horrific incident when she was shot in the head as she made her way home on the school bus. In the eyes of the world, that was the defining moment in her fight for education - transforming her from an unknown schoolgirl to a global figurehead in the struggle for girls' rights. Yet the truly remarkable thing about Malala is how little that attack by the Taliban changed her.

#### **GIRLS' EDUCATION CRUSADER**

Malala was an outstanding young lady long before that day in October 2012. Encouraged by her father, a headteacher and anti-Taliban campaigner, Malala began speaking out about girls' education aged just 11. That would be unusual in most societies, but especially in one where girls are often undervalued. In 2008 she spoke at local press club meeting, telling the gathered journalists: "How dare the Taliban take away my basic right to education?" Her words were remarkable, not only for their clarity and intelligence, but also for their fearlessness.

Just weeks earlier, the Taliban had taken control of the Swat Valley where Malala lived and issued an edict banning girls from attending school. Most people retreated in fear, but Malala thrust herself into the spotlight to protest against the injustice. After the press club speech she made TV news appearances in both Pakistan and the United States. She also began writing an online diary for the BBC. Clearly, Malala wanted to be heard. It's a tragedy that she had to be shot before the world truly listened.

#### **THE GOAL IS PEACE, NOT A PRIZE**

The attack happened just two days before the first-ever International Day of the Girl (IDG) last October. Today, on IDG 2013, it's clear that Malala has put girls at the centre of the debate about global development and justice. The girl whose struggle was once ignored now has regular audiences with presidents, monarchs and Hollywood A-listers. She's been named one of the 10 most influential people in the world called "a symbol of hope, a daughter of the United Nations" by the UN secretary-general, Ban Ki-moon and just missed out on the Nobel Peace Prize at the announcement today... Malala's nomination at just 16 is an incredible achievement. Her profile has been transformed, but her focus and determination are the same as they ever were. "My goal is not to get a Nobel Peace Prize, it is to get peace," she told the BBC this week.

#### **THE MALALA FUND**

Progress towards that goal of peace has been rapid.

Malala's education petition received more than three million signatures, and at a remarkable speech at the UN on her 16th birthday in July, she said: "One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world,"

Malala is now attending school in Birmingham, England. Her determination to ensure all girls get an education hasn't faltered even for a moment. Two weeks ago she launched the Malala Fund, which will support 40 Pakistani girls through school. "After a brutal attempt to silence her voice, it grew louder, and she is more resolute," said actress and UN special envoy Angelina Jolie at the launch.

"She is powerful, but she is also a sweet, creative, loving little girl who wants to help others. Her goal is progress, not notoriety," added Jolie.

**SUPPORT THE GIRL DECLARATION**

The Girl Declaration has been created to give girls like Malala all over the world a voice, and we are honoured that Malala herself has signed it.

from Girl Effect Team,10.10.13, Categories, Education

<http://www.girleffect.org/what-girls-need/articles/2013/10/malala-yousafzai-the-story-of-a-hero/>

### Text 3 : Andrew Carnegie

#### Andrew Carnegie

Andrew Carnegie

was born in Dunfermline in Scotland,

came over to the States in an immigrant

ship worked as bobbinboy in a textile factory

fired boilers

clerked in a bobbin factory at \$2.50 a week

ran round Philadelphia with telegrams as a Western Union Messenger

learned the Morse code was telegraph operator on the Pennsy lines

was a military telegraph operator in the Civil War

and always saved his pay;

whenever he had a dollar he invested it.

Andrew Carnegie started out buying Adams Express and Pullman stock

when they were in a slump;

he had confidence in the railroads,

he had confidence in communications,

he had confidence in transportation,

he believed in iron.

Andrew Carnegie believed in iron; (...)

Andrew Carnegie believed in oil;

Andrew Carnegie believed in steel;

always saved his money

whenever he had a million dollars he invested it.

Andrew Carnegie became the richest man in the world and died. (...)

Andrew Carnegie gave millions for peace

and libraries and scientific institutes and endowments and thrift

whenever he made a billion dollars he endowed an institution

to promote universal peace

always

except in time of war.

**John Dos Passos, The 42nd Parallel, 1930**

## **SPACES AND EXCHANGES**



## Text 4

### I was not unwelcomed

PEOPLE KNOW ME HERE. It wasn't always so. But living thirty-odd years in the same place begins to show on a man. In the course of such time, without even realizing it, one takes on the characteristics of the locality, the color and stamp of the prevailing dress and gait and even speech—those gentle bells of the sidewalk passersby, their *How are yous* and *Good days* and *Hellos*. And in kind there is a gradual and accruing recognition of one's face, of being, as far as anyone can recall, from around here. There's no longer a lingering or vacant stare, and you can taste the small but unequaled pleasure that comes with being a familiar sight to the eyes. In my case, everyone here knows perfectly who I am. It's a simple determination. Whenever I step into a shop in the main part of the village, invariably someone will say, "Hey, it's good Doc Hata."

The sentiment, certainly, is very kind, and one I deeply appreciate. Here, fifty minutes north of the city, in a picturesque town that I will call Bedley Run, I somehow enjoy an almost Oriental veneration as an elder. I suppose the other older folks who live here receive their due share of generosity and respect, but it seems I alone rate the blustery greeting, the special salutation. When I buy my paper each morning, the newsstand owner will say, with a tone feigning gravity, "Doctor Hata, I presume." And the young, bushy-eyebrowed woman at the deli, whose homebound mother I helped quite often in her final years, always reaches over the refrigerated glass counter and waves her plump hands and says, "Gonna have the usual, Doc?" She winks at me and makes sure to prepare my turkey breast sandwich herself, folding an extra wedge of pickle into the butcher paper. I realize that it's not just that I'm a friendly and outgoing silver-hair, and that I genuinely enjoy meeting people, but also because I've lived here as long as any, and my name, after all, is Japanese, a fact that seems both odd and delightful to people, as well as somehow town-affirming.

I'd read about the town in the paper, a brief slice-of-life article with a picture of a meadow that had been completely cleared for new suburban-style homes, just white stakes in the frozen ground to mark where the streets would be. It looked sterile and desolate, like fresh blast ground, not in the least hopeful, and yet I felt strangely drawn to the town, in part because of the peaceful pace of life that the article noted, the simple tranquillity of the older, village section that made me think of the small city where I lived my youth, on the southwestern coast of Japan. I had already driven through the more established suburbs nearer to the city and found them distinctly cold, as well as too expensive. I'd ask for directions at a garage, or buy some gum at a candy store, and an awkward quiet would arise, that certain clippedness, and though I never heard any comments, I could tell I wasn't being welcomed to remain too long.

When I first arrived in Bedleyville, few people seemed to notice me. Not that they were much different from those in the other towns, at least not intrinsically. Fundamentally, it seems to me, the people in a particular area are given to a common set of conditions and influences, like the growth in a part of a forest. There may be many types of flora, but only the resident soil and climate provide for them, either richly or poorly or with indifference. I suppose it was because Bedleyville was still Bedleyville then, and not yet Bedley Run (though desperately wanting to be), and pretty much anybody new to town was seen as a positive addition to the census and tax base. It was 1963, and from what I'd seen during my brief travels in this country, everyone for the most part lived together, except, I suppose, for

certain groups, such as the blacks, or the Chinese in the cities, who for one reason or another seemed to live apart. Still, I had assumed that once I settled someplace, I would be treated as those people were treated, and in fact I was fully prepared for it. But wherever I went—and in particular, here in Bedley Run—it seemed people took an odd interest in telling me that I wasn't *unwelcome*.

Chang Rae Lee, *Gesture Life*,(1999)  
Password English, Terminale, Pasclae Fontaine, Didier,p.38

## Text 5

### **I STILL BELIEVE IN THE AMERICAN DREAM**

The American dream for me, growing up in India in the 1970s, looked something like the opening credits of Dallas. The blockbuster TV series began with a kaleidoscope of big, brassy, sexy images — tracts of open land, shiny skyscrapers, fancy cars, cowboy businessmen and the very dreamy Victoria Principal. We watched bootlegged copies of the show, passed around on old Betamax cassettes. America (certainly the CBS soap-opera version of America) seemed dazzling and larger than life, especially set against the stagnant backdrop of India in the 1970s. Everyone I knew was fascinated by the U.S., whether they admitted it or not. Politicians who denounced the country by day would go home in the evenings and plot to send their kids to college in "the States." Of course, the 1970s were actually tough times in America — stagflation, malaise, the aftermath of Vietnam and Watergate — but they were brutal in the rest of the world. Hyperinflation racked most third-world countries; coups and martial law were familiar occurrences, even affecting staunchly democratic India, where emergency rule was enforced from 1975 to 1977. Set against this atmosphere of despair, the U.S. looked like a shining city on a hill.

A few years later, when I got to America on a college scholarship, I realized that the real American Dream was somewhat different from Dallas. I visited college friends in their hometowns and was struck by the spacious suburban houses and the gleaming appliances — even when their parents had simple, modest jobs. The modern American Dream, for me, was this general prosperity and well-being for the average person. European civilization had produced the great cathedrals of the world. America had the two-car garage. And this middle-class contentment created a country of optimists. Compared with the fatalism and socialist lethargy that was pervasive in India those days, Americans had a sunny attitude toward life that was utterly refreshing.

But when I travel from America to India these days, as I did recently, it's as if the world has been turned upside down. Indians are brimming with hope and faith in the future. After centuries of stagnation, their economy is on the move, fueling animal spirits and ambition. The whole country feels as if it has been unlocked. Meanwhile, in the U.S., the mood is sour. Americans are glum, dispirited and angry. The middle class, in particular, feels under assault. In a Newsweek poll in September, 63% of Americans said they did not think they would be able to maintain their current standard of living. Perhaps most troubling, Americans are strikingly fatalistic about their prospects. The can-do country is convinced that it can't.

But there are reasons for optimism. The U.S. faces huge challenges, but it also has enormous advantages. "I've always been bullish on America," says Coke's Kent. "It's the largest, richest market in the world. Look at the demographics alone. North America is the only part of the industrialized world that will be growing in people. It now has a higher birthrate than Mexico, for the first time in history." Or listen to Alcoa's German-born Klaus Kleinfeld, previously the head of Siemens: "I know the things that America has that are unique. The openness, the diversity, the dynamism — you don't have it anywhere else. If you keep all these things, build on them, I still believe in the American Dream."

Fareed Zakaria, « How to restore the American Dream », Time, October 21, 2010.

## **Text 6**

The American Dream is Still just a dream for most minorities

**By Philip M. Deutsch**

**The Tech online edition, Tuesday, February 11, 2003**

America is the land of opportunity. If I work hard enough, I can be whatever I want to be. If I truly want something, I can get it. I will work hard and grow up to be whatever it is that makes me happy. The sky is the limit.

These statements portray the American dream. We can all remember hearing these statements and maybe even believing them at some point in our childhood, but now they seem almost comical. If you still actually believe them, then you are either brainwashed or a wealthy white man. Simply add a few reasonable clauses to the American dream, and listen to how ridiculous it is.

The American dream seems a little more difficult to attain when the American dreaming is a member of a minority group living in poverty. This is not to say that the dream of success and money (Yes, I said success *and* money -- they are not the same thing) is unattainable for certain people. It is just incredibly more difficult to achieve when one is faced with certain obstacles that others do not have to overcome.

The truth about American society is not pretty, and the facts prove it. According to the United States census Bureau, blacks are twice as likely to be poor compared to other races, and eight times as likely to be imprisoned. Blacks are also three times more likely to be convicted of drug violations than whites. Only 75 percent of blacks have received post-high school education, compared to 85 percent of whites. Not surprisingly, blacks on average also make less money than whites.

As of yet, black people have not been proven to possess any kind of genetic deficiency (Unless Trent Lott's college biology lab book has some classified information on human testing.) Therefore, racially speaking, there must be something wrong with our society.

What are the racial problems that exist today? Well, racism is not as strikingly obvious as it was back in the good old days, but it is still very prevalent. Have you heard of parents who don't want, or even won't allow, their child to marry someone from another race? How about all those white families flocking from a suburban town once they find out that too many minorities are moving in? Or maybe you've walked into a restaurant and seen a woman clutch her purse for dear life with eyes intensely focused on you as you pass by, simply because your skin is dark. There are several examples of racism that go on everyday, whether it's in Congress, the White House, a frat house, or the classroom.

In order to achieve racial justice in our society, we need to make some drastic changes starting with the individual citizens of this country. Most people on either side of the affirmative action argument agree that improvement of K-12 education is a major step in bringing about social equality. Racism stems from ignorance, and our greatest hope for an equal and tolerant society is continued education and racial integration starting at a young age.

Recent proposals for programs like vouchers or federal regulation of schools have tried to address educational inequalities, though it is hard to say which approach is the best way to solve this problem.

Regardless, even if we had the solution today, (which we don't) it would take years to implement on a national scale, or even longer, to see the results of such a miraculous program. Until that day arrives, affirmative action is still the best way to make up for social injustices based on race, while maintaining culturally diverse college campuses across America. This diversity is especially crucial in institutions of higher education (Ivy leagues, MIT, Stanford, etc) where a large number of tomorrow's leaders and business executives will be in an environment with educated people from all backgrounds, helping to dispel stereotypes and racism.

[http://tech.mit.edu/V123/N3/pro\\_affirmative.3f.html](http://tech.mit.edu/V123/N3/pro_affirmative.3f.html)



# **THE IDEA OF PROGRESS**

## Economic opportunities

In a perfect world, we'd all sleep late, stay in our pajamas on days when we're worn out, and have the time to do exactly what we want. We'd never punch a time clock, attend another meeting, or pick up fast food on the way home from a Little League game. We'd have prepared a fresh salad, pasta sauce, and cupcakes in advance, because we'd have the time. But real life isn't always conducive to such. Instead, we're late to the meeting, we're probably going to miss the first four innings of the game, and afterward, it'll be burgers or pizza. Why can't we turn that luxury-of-time fantasy into a reality?

Um . . . wait, we can. Suddenly, the choices we have to work from home, to set our own schedule, to be our own boss, and call the shots are exploding. To borrow from science, what we're seeing is the equivalent of a "Big Bang," and we're dealing with an enormous money-making opportunity. There's a whole new business universe out there, and it's changing the way many women and men work and live.

The myth is that homemakers eat bonbons, watch soaps, and take care of their kids. The reality is that there's a new revolution of people staying home these days and they're doing a whole lot more than folding laundry; they are moms and dads, new grads and grandparents, skilled professionals, and high-powered executives.

These individuals are finding more energy, more time, more ways to make money, and yes, they're doing it their way. So, if working from home is where your heart is, you are in the right place. It's definitely the right time. "Is it really possible? Can I really stay at home and make money?" We've heard that question asked by thousands of women and men across the country. Our resounding answer is "Yes!" This is the perfect time, because the world of work is growing and changing. It's less rigid and more fluid, less restrictive and more inclusive, less traditional and more innovative.

Not only has the Internet revolutionized the way we work and live, but it has created an alternative job market with new companies, new job descriptions, and new opportunities. Think chefs only work in restaurants? Meet Jennifer Beisser, CEO of ChefsLine, a business that supplies "on demand culinary advice for busy cooks." Clients find the service online, but they use the phone line to connect with a chef who will share personalized advice, step-by-step cooking instructions, and those little touches that can turn an ordinary dinner into fine cuisine. That chef who's providing the advice is doing so from his or her own home.

Are you ready to rocket ?

Want to explore today's work-from-home job market ? It's fast, easy and so much bigger than you can imagine. Just let your fingers do the walking... across your keyboard. There's no limit to your reach. The world is your oyster.

T.Johnson and R.Spitzman, *Will work from home (2008)*, in Password English, Didier, p.118.

## DIFFERENT RELATIONSHIPS

Office Life

*The narrator remembers his working days in a white-collar office.*

We were fractious and overpaid. Our mornings lacked promise. Most of us liked most everyone, a few of us hated specific individuals, one or two people loved everyone and everything... Karen Woo always had something new to tell us and we hated her guts for it. She would start talking and our eyes would glaze over. Might it be true, as we sometimes feared, on the commute home, that we were callous, unfeeling individuals, incapable of sympathy, and full of spite toward people for no reason other than their proximity or familiarity? We had these sudden revelations that employment, the daily nine-to-five, was driving us far from our better selves. Would that solve it? Or were those qualities innate, dooming us to nastiness and paucity of spirit? We hoped not.

In those days it wasn't rare for someone to push someone else down the hall really fast in a swivel chair. Games aside, we spent most of our time inside long silent pauses as we bent over our individual desks, working on some task at hand, lost to it –until Benny, bored, came and stood in the doorway. « What are you up to? » he'd ask. It could have been any of us. « Working » was the usual reply.

Then Benny would tap his topaz class ring on the doorway and drift away.

How we hated our coffee mugs! Our mouse pads, our desk clocks, our daily calendars, the contents of our desk drawers. Even the photos of our loved ones taped to our computer monitors for uplift and support turned into cloying reminders of time served. But when we got a new office, a bigger office, and we brought everything with us into the new office, how we loved everything all over again, and thought hard about where to place things, and looked with satisfaction at the end of the day at how well our old things looked in this new, improved, important space. There was no doubt in our minds just then that we had made all the right decisions, whereas most days we were men and women of two minds.

Everywhere we looked, in the hallways and bathrooms, the coffee bar and the cafeteria, the lobbies and the print stations, there we were with our two minds.

Some days we met in the kitchen to eat lunch. There was only room for eight at the table. If all the seats were full, Jim Jackers would have to eat his sandwich from the sink and try to engage from over in that direction. It was fortunate for us in that he could pass us a spoon or a packet of salt if we needed it.

« it is really irritating, » Tom Mota said to the table, « to work with irritating people. »

« Screw you, Tom, » Marta replied.

We had visceral, rich memories of dull, interminable hours. Then a day would pass in perfect harmony with our projects, our family members, and our co-workers, and we couldn't believe we were getting paid for this.



## Ask Annie

### **Not commuting is driving me crazy**

By [Anne Fisher](#), contributor June 11, 2010: 9:40 AM ET

#### [Sign up for the Ask Annie e-mail newsletter](#)

-- **Dear Annie:** I'm in an awkward situation that reminds me of Oscar Wilde's famous remark about the two tragedies in life. ("One is not getting what you want," he said, "and the other is getting it.")

I'm a graphic designer at a large ad agency, and for years I made the long trek every day from a distant suburb to my office in a major city. I have two school-age children and assorted pets and relatives hanging around, and I was leaving so early in the morning and getting home so late at night that I never saw my family.

- **Comment**

After much arguing, wheedling, and cajoling, I finally convinced my boss that -- thanks in large part to all the gee-whiz technology we have now -- I could work at home and be even more productive than I already was. He reluctantly agreed to let me do it.

That was about six months ago and I realized after a few weeks that it was a mistake. My productivity hasn't suffered, but it's driving me crazy to be home all day, putting up with endless distractions. I also miss my colleagues.

The funny thing is, my boss thinks this arrangement is working out so well that he already turned my old office into a second conference room. If I go back to him now and say I want to come back to work at the office, I'm going to feel like an idiot. What should I do? --Harried Homebody

**Dear H.H.:** If it's any consolation, you're not the only one struggling with this dilemma. "Everybody who doesn't work from home thinks it sounds like heaven, so people are often embarrassed to admit that they find it very difficult," observes anthropologist and urban planner Ziona Strelitz, head of London-based [ZZA Responsive Use Environments](#), a research and consulting firm that designs user-friendly workspaces.

About 42 million people, or roughly one-third of the U.S. workforce, now works from home at least one or two days a week. Some firms encourage employees to do so to save overhead costs, while many employees (you, for instance) telecommute hoping to advance their careers without sacrificing time with their families. Yet in researching a study on work-life balance, Strelitz found that full-time telecommuting isn't always a panacea.

"Large numbers of people want and need an office to go to," she says.

What's so great about going to an office? Lots of things, as you've discovered. First, most workplaces don't feature barking dogs, importunate relatives, or offspring who urgently need a ride to soccer practice just when you've got a deadline looming.

More important, "most employees want a workplace for its stimulus, its implicit messages of professionalism and being 'at work,'" Strelitz notes. "In addition, you get access to a wide range of skills, ideas and personalities. People working together energize each other."

### **Talkback: Do you work at home, or have you ever tried it?**

One thing you probably miss is the chance to bounce ideas off colleagues in casual conversation. Strelitz's study found that people who work in an office tend to have influential mentors, and to be offered valuable opportunities that arise from being seen around the place, something people who work from home miss out on.

Full-time telecommuters in this economy may also fear that "out of sight, out of mind" makes their jobs less secure. Whether or not that's true, the worry is an added source of a stress at a time when most people already have more than enough.

Moreover, working alongside others can offer another real benefit -- a sense of camaraderie. In survey after survey, employees give something like "I like the people I work with" as the main reason they are satisfied with their jobs.

Strelitz knows how draining a long commute can be: She used to commute an hour and a half each way between Princeton, N.J., and New York City. But her research suggests that, as you've found out, working at home can be just as exasperating in its own way, since, she says, "multitasking personal and work responsibilities is usually difficult, if not impossible."

So what should you do? First, stop feeling like an idiot: The problems you've encountered are perfectly normal. Second, swallow your pride and tell your boss you want to come back to the fold.

[http://archive.fortune.com/2010/06/10/news/economy/not\\_commuting.fortune/index.htm](http://archive.fortune.com/2010/06/10/news/economy/not_commuting.fortune/index.htm)

## **PLACES AND FORMS OF POWER**

## **Text 10 : The cost of University**

### **The argument against**

#### **Emilie Adams, 15, member of UK Youth Parliament for Devon**

Having a degree sets you apart from the crowd, it's a massive achievement, requiring huge effort, and is a goal myself and my peers have been striving for since the beginning of our secondary education. This ambition is being jeopardised by the recent proposal to remove the cap on tuition fees.

I feel this is a bad move and can see limited positives emerging from this plan. One major point would be the widening class divide as people from less affluent backgrounds would be discriminated from achieving their academic goals. Having money shouldn't automatically give you the right to an education and a high-flying career. I feel that those from more affluent areas of society will be subsequently given an education at no real cost to themselves, unlike those who may have to work part-time throughout their study or take up a debt in order to "buy" their degree.

Furthermore, a degree will become a status symbol, a reflection of money rather than of people's effort, commitment and hard work. It will limit those with genuine aspirations and vocational goals moving forward in their chosen career. The wealthier will obtain the more prestigious degrees such as law, medicine and politics while those who struggle to raise the full funds for their degree maybe left with the less prestigious awards.

Increasing fees will result in lower attendance of university courses and therefore the current economic strain will not be decreased. We will see a drop in the sort of jobs that fuel our economy, and vital key workers like doctors will decline.

For me, the value of university is not only obtaining a degree and developing my career prospects but meeting new people different from myself. Removing the cap on tuition fees will drastically reduce the diversity of people in university further adding to the separation of classes and devaluing the wider experience of going to university.

What will Britain look like in ten years' time, when we're all stood separate and isolated, looking at the "friends" we never met?

## **The argument for**

### **James Bartle, 18, member of UK Youth Parliament for Newcastle**

There is a great deal we can be proud of in terms of university education in the UK. UK universities rank amongst the best in the world for teaching and research, and the UK has produced some of the world's foremost experts across a range of fields. But if we want to maintain these standards we have to be willing to fund our universities on a fair and sustainable basis.

Lord Browne's proposals offer us that fair and sustainable system. With many universities starved of cash and universities playing their part in reducing the deficit with 40% savings, we have a large gap to fill in the university budget. It is only right and fair that students are asked to make a greater contribution to plug the gap.

Because in the end it is students that benefit most from having a degree. If you have a degree you can get better paid jobs which is significantly harder without a degree. If you have a degree you will on average earn 23.5% more over the course of your career than somebody who has just two A-levels.

We have to view degrees as an investment in our futures. If we get a return on our investment and we start earning over £21,000 then we make a contribution back in to the system. If our wages go down then so do our payments. If we stop working then our payments stop too. That is fair.

We have a clear choice in terms of the future of higher education. We can have brilliant universities which are funded through a fair contribution from graduates or we can stop the investment in the system but we will then have to accept we'll have third-rate universities which give students degrees of little value. The choice is obvious.

*The Guardian.co.uk, Friday 29 October 2010, p.15 du Manuel Password English*



Coping with the cost, by Crystal.

# Coping with the cost

## A personal story

### How I avoided student loans

by Crystal (March 2011)

When people learn that I managed to avoid college loans, I'm often asked how that happened. It was a mixture of work, luck, and help.

#### Planning for college

For as long as I can remember, I knew I'd go to college. It was a given. I can't remember my family overly pushing me that way, but my grandparents and parents went to college, so I was going to go too. My family is also open

about money, so I always just seemed to know that college would be expensive. So, I started babysitting and pet-sitting when I was twelve years old so that I could save for those magical four years of college education. I also planned to get a "real" job as soon as I turned sixteen. My plans changed, though, when we moved overseas. [...]

I was scheduled to start college, and I still had long-distance courses that I needed to finish before I could graduate from high school. [...] That is also when I applied for my first "real" job — as a help-desk attendant for the 24-hour assistance desk in my future dorm.

#### Putting the "work" in Work-Study

Luckily, I received a few scholarships, including a very large Academic Achievement Award that covered a big part of my actual class expenses. But my parents also worked at least 20 hours a week at the help desk and applied for other on-campus positions.

By my second year of college, I was engaged. [...] I was still trying to pay my own way through college, but I kept falling short about \$1200 every semester. I was living as cheaply as possible, splitting a room for \$288 to save money, and even staying under \$3 a day for food. But making \$5.25 an hour just couldn't cover everything my scholarships left behind.

I worked part-time in the Games Room on campus throughout my last three years in school. During my last year, I was a blackjack dealer for office parties (the legal kind of gambling in Texas, where the players could win raffle tickets for prizes). I also found a third job as a tax-office receptionist during my last semester. I took loans from my parents for whatever my scholarships and my paychecks couldn't cover.

#### A Final Piece of Help

By the time I graduated from college (with honors), I was working Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at the tax office; Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5pm-1am at the Games Room on campus; and I was a blackjack dealer Friday and Saturday nights. In short, I was working almost 60 hours a week in three different jobs, commuting to campus every Tuesday and Thursday for my last twelve hours of classes, and ended up owing my parents a little more than \$8000. [...]

A few months after all of that, my parents forgave my \$8000 in loans as a late graduation present. I was really broke, but at least I didn't have any loans. As I said in the beginning, having no student loans was a mixture of work, luck — and help. (I know I'm lucky to have received the help from my parents.)

www.getrichslowly.org



## **Text 12**

The purpose of higher education, *Jeffrey Eugenides, Middlesex, 2003* ; p20 du Manuel  
Password English



# The purpose of higher education



## "What's the matter with that kid?"

The narrator remembers her older brother's first year at university, in the 1970s.

The hug I had given Chapter Eleven in the summer of '72 turned out to be a kind of farewell, because when he returned home from college after his freshman year my brother had become another person. He'd grown his hair out (not as long as mine, but still). He'd started learning the guitar. Perched on his nose was a pair of granny glasses and instead of straight legs he now wore faded bell-bottom jeans. The members of my family have always had a knack for self-transformation. While I finished my first year at Baker and Inglis and began my second, while I went from being a seventh-grader to an alarmingly tall eighth-grader, Chapter Eleven, up at college, went from science geek to John Lennon look-alike.

He bought a motorcycle. He started meditating. He claimed to understand *2001: A Space Odyssey*, even the ending. But it wasn't until Chapter Eleven descended into the basement to play Ping-Pong with Milton that I understood what was behind all this. We'd had a Ping-Pong table for years, but so far, no matter how much my brother or I practiced, we had never come close to beating Milton. [...] But that summer, something was different. When Milton used his extra-fast serve, Chapter Eleven returned it with a minimum of effort. When Milton employed the "English" he'd learned in the Navy, Chapter Eleven counter-spun. Even when Milton smashed a winner across the table, Chapter Eleven, with stupendous reflexes, sent it back where it came from. Milton began to sweat. His face turned red. Chapter Eleven remained cool. [...] "Go!" "Go!" I cheered him on. "Beat Dad!" 12-12, 12-14, 14-15, 17-18, 18-21! Chapter Eleven had done it! He'd beaten Milton! [...]

"What's the matter with that kid?" I heard my father ask my mother through the wall separating our rooms. "Now he's talking about dropping out of engineering. Says it's too boring."  
 "It's just a stage. It'll pass."  
 "It better."

Shortly thereafter, Chapter Eleven had returned to college. He hadn't come back for Thanksgiving. And so, as Christmas of '73 approached, we all wondered what he would be like when we saw him again.

We quickly found out. As my father had feared, Chapter Eleven had scuttled his plans to become an engineer. Now, he informed us, he was majoring in anthropology. As part of an assignment for one of his courses, Chapter Eleven conducted what he called "fieldwork" during most of that vacation. He carried a tape recorder around with him, recording everything we said. He took notes on our "ideation systems" and "rituals of kin bonding". He said almost nothing to himself, claiming that he didn't want to influence the findings. Every now and then, however, while observing our extended family eat and joke and argue, Chapter Eleven would let out a laugh, a private Eureka that made him fall back in his chair and lift his Earth shoes off the floor. Then he would lean forward and begin writing madly in his notebook.  
 As I've mentioned, my brother didn't pay much attention to me while we were growing up. That weekend, however, spurred on by his new mania for observation, Chapter Eleven took a new interest in me.

Jeffrey Eugenides, *Middlesex* (2003)

1. Chapter Eleven: the narrator's nickname
2. Milton: the father
3. Ideation systems: how ideas are formed in a given community
4. Earth shoes: developed by a yoga instructor, designed to mimic walking barefoot in the sand; part of the "casual" revolution started on campuses in the 1970s



### **Text 3**

#### **WHEN ORDINARY PEOPLE BECOME EXTRAORDINARY**

June 6, 2014

**Laurel DALRYMPLE**

You can't identify a hero from the outside. You might not suspect that Jon Meis, the Seattle Pacific University student who has been described as private and gentle, would tackle and subdue a gunman Thursday, inspiring others to help hold down the attacker until police arrived. Would those other students have acted if Meis had not?

Also yesterday, a man in Pennsylvania ran from his house in pajamas and flip-flops, and pulled an unconscious woman from a car in flames. Why did he do this? He could have called 911. He could have knocked on a neighbor's door and debated what to do. But he simply acted. Why?

And a man in Minnesota jumped 30 feet from a cliff into the St. Croix River to save a drowning 11-year-old boy.

All of these situations, which happened within days of each other, required immediate action. For a life to be saved, there was no time to wait for rescuers. So these people stepped up, at the risk of their own lives, for people they did not know.

When questioned, recurring themes run through the answers of heroes. "I didn't really think about it," "I don't think of myself as a hero," "I was just focused on what needed to be done."

Their remarks are usually humble, usually speak of automatic reaction. Many, such as Meis, don't even want to speak to the media.

Researchers Selwyn Becker and Alice Eagly said in the journal *American Psychologist* that heroism is not only noble risk-taking, but also something selfish, a way to ensure status.

They are the scientific researchers, but my gut tells me that most heroes are not out for selfish glory or status. They just seem somehow wired differently. Furthermore, I believe that many people have a little bit of hero inside them, and sometimes all it takes is one person to get the ball rolling, as was the case in Seattle, where a gunman had already killed one person, wounded two others and was in the process of reloading.

I don't think heroes have time to weigh the morality of their actions at the time. I suspect their values are already so deep-seated that they automatically act on them when faced with a morally challenging situation.

Psychiatrist Deane Aikins says heroes often cultivate social bonds before and after the crisis. While this is true in organizations like the military or police, and exemplified many times in feats on the job, what about those everyday heroes — the ones who act for the benefit of strangers?

I love all heroes, because any time a human being does something good, I rejoice. But to me, these humans are the ones who give me faith in humanity, the world, God, the universe and everything.

The other day, I witnessed a bad motorcycle accident. For a second, the world just froze. People sat in their cars, stunned. Nothing happened for about 30 seconds. Then, one man got out of his car and rushed over to the motorcycle rider. Soon, a woman rushed over with her cellphone. Then another person ... and another. The rider was soon surrounded: one person down on the ground with him, one directing traffic, one on the phone.

That first man was a true hero. And then the woman became a hero because of the first man. And then they were all heroes.

By the time I was able to make it to the scene of the accident, I drove up next to the first man and asked how I could help. "We got it," he said, clearly shaken. "You're a hero," I said. He looked at me, confused. "Why?" And then he walked off to the task at hand.

Today is D-Day, and while we remember the lives of many heroes on that day, and read plenty of stories that honor them, and while we

continue arguing about whether Bowe Bergdahl is a hero or a villain, I want to take a moment.

I want to honor the heroes for whom there are no days of honor, no ceremonies, no medals, no recognition. These heroes are all around you, and they are complete strangers. They won't reveal themselves until something very bad is happening. And then you will see something amazing. You will see the very definition of humanity.

*Laurel Dalrymple is an editor and writer for NPR.org. You can follow her on Facebook at [facebook.com/laurelmdalrymple](https://www.facebook.com/laurelmdalrymple)*

<http://www.npr.org/2014/06/06/319404315/heroes-among-us-when-ordinary-people-become-extraordinary>

## DETECTING CYBER BULLYING



Robbie HARRIS, Mar 2, 2017

*In the Internet age, some every day problems have made an easy leap to the virtual world. Take bullying. It can be bad enough in person, but online, it's growing fast and may be causing even more damage.*

"You're ugly. Your mom hates you. You're no good. You're not a man, you don't have any friends...."

The words of bullies everywhere are remarkably similar. Personal attacks designed only to be hurtful. They cause real damage. And they're not confined to children in the schoolyard. In fact, they're making up a larger percentage than ever before of communication among adults online.

"I see it a lot with people and politics. If someone gets into a political argument and just does not stop making their point over and over again and not listening to the counterpoint, that can become harassment very easily."

Bert Huang teaches computer science at Virginia Tech. He says the advent of social media fueled by computational power is expanding the scope of bullying. And while it still occurs more often among children and adolescents, according to a 2016 study by the Data and Society Research Institute, nearly half of all adults have been the victim of online bullying and nearly three quarters have witnessed it.

"Bullying tends to take the form of repeated attacks. And the attacks can be different for different individuals, but a lot of times it's that an attacker identifies something that is injuring the victim and will then repeat that sort of attack."

Other forms of cyber bullying include, blocking access to online platforms or invasions of privacy. A slightly more sophisticated, but not a more grown up version of the original.

"On the Internet, says Huang, if someone posts something that's hurtful to you, a lot of times it's just there forever and you can't delete it. In traditional bullying you can get out of the space that the bully shares with you. You can physically remove yourself from the situation. This is a qualitative difference in that there is no real safe space that you can get to when it's happening over the Internet."

So Huang launched a project that harnesses the power of computers to join the fight. It uses machine learning to scan open social media sites like Twitter and Instagram, to flag

word patterns that connote bullying attacks. But while computers are good at the heavy lifting of mining the language on the Internet....

“When we talk about getting machines to do cyber bullying detection and many tasks like this that involve social contexts, we’re mostly talking about getting them to do a rough job a human can clean up later on. That’s because human relationships are really subtle and computers are not that good at doing that yet, but what they are good at is doing lots of them really fast.”

It’s an example of how computer science is merging with social science to explore new problems. Like this one; once you identify the signs of bullying, what exactly do you do about it? The whole project raises new ethical questions to which there are no easy answers.

“One of the problems with the current state of the Internet and this problem of toxicity and cyber bullying is that the only really good solution is to just shut it off. But that’s really unfortunate because of all the great things that social media gives us, the ability to communicate and connect with individuals across the world; all these people who are forced to quit social media lose all that and it doesn’t seem fair because essentially whoever is doing the cyber bullying has taken that away from them.”

Huang says at this point, the incentive structure doesn’t seem to be there for the social media companies to do much to stop the nonconstructive criticisms that fly around cyberspace; they make money when more eyeballs view explosive fights online. He thinks it will ultimately have to be a third party solution. So he hopes to enlist fellow researchers to join the project and take it to the next step. And it makes you wonder, could machines help crack the code of this age-old trait so pervasive in the human condition, we call bullying. Or will they simply make it faster and easier for it to continue?

<http://wvtf.org/post/detecting-cyber-bullying-can-it-be-stopped>

## Text 5

### TABLOID GIRL

## Text 6

### THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY

Teddy Wayne, April 15, 2016



Mark Zuckerberg with wife Priscilla and their child Max in 2015.

This week, Beyoncé introduced a clothing line called Ivy Park. The brand’s name derives from a beloved childhood park she ran in, and from her 4-

year-old daughter, Blue Ivy, a regular on her Instagram account and in her videos who also appears in the commercial, on her mother's back.

There is still something disconcerting about seeing celebrities enlist their children in service of their brands... And yet many parents on social media are doing much the same thing.

We, too, are using our children on the Internet to burnish our personal brands, from the C.E.O. who wants to let everyone know she still takes the time to attend her child's piano recital to the stay-at-home caregiver wanting recognition for his exhausting work. Celebrities are brilliantly monetizing a new technological practice that a mere decade or two ago would have been regarded as gauche and narcissistic. Obviously, not every instance of posting information about children on the Internet is calculated. Relaying joyful photos or anecdotes for family and close friends is often more convenient over social media.

But now the possibility of mass exposure looms, and while most conscientious parents know better than to circulate, say, a photo of a child bathing, they do distribute other data that the young subject may someday wish had been kept confidential.

The 5-year-old clearly cannot approve with full understanding the uploading of these images, just as the only way Blue Ivy can refuse to endorse her mother's marketing campaign. Social media sites typically attempt to ban users under 13, and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule is designed to safeguard children when they use the Internet.

But there are no specific restrictions concerning what parents share about their own children, though the national police in France — a country we have historically thought of as more laissez-faire than us regarding just about everything — recently posted a message on Facebook warning parents that sharing photos of their children is unsafe.

Mark Zuckerberg clearly disagrees. For someone whose corporate mantra is "openness," the photos on his public account do not reveal all that much about his personal life. The majority his posts though, are of business meetings and conferences. Yet after the birth of his daughter in November, Mr. Zuckerberg went on paternity leave and suddenly began posting pictures of her and of his home life. Nevertheless, it is striking that both famous billionaires, aware of how staunchly they must defend their own privacy (Beyoncé, for instance, rarely gives interviews), seemingly have few qualms about sacrificing their children's. While love for and from a child is absolutely something to be cherished and celebrated, it may also explain why children are such perfect props (support) for online self-promotion. If someone were to post daily pictures of and stories about his spouse, he would soon find himself without any virtual friends.

[https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/17/fashion/celebrity-children-online-privacy.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/17/fashion/celebrity-children-online-privacy.html?_r=0)