



# **ATMOSPHERE**

**Writing from the Students of CSU**

**Pre Freshman Program**

**In Engineering**

**and Science**



# ATMOSPHERE

**Writing from the Students  
of CSU Pre Freshman Pro-  
gram In Engineering and  
Science Summer 2019**



CHICAGO  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## **Editor's Note:**

**In these pages are the deep expression, the deep yearnings, the deep opinions of our students for THE (emphasis intentional) Chicago State University's Pre-Freshman Program in Engineering and Science's English Course. For these past six weeks, our students have shown a rare knack for articulating themselves clearly on the topics of our day. We have engaged in lively but respectful debate, deep inquiry, and lucid analysis that allowed each student to discover a little more about the world they live in through science and through writing.**

**Enclosed you will find articles, poems, pictures, reports, stories, and summaries that prove that not only can scientists think like writers, but scientists ARE writers. Enjoy!**

**Professor Arthur Ade Amaker**

# **ESSAYS & PROSE**

**QUESTION: ARE WE  
RUNNING TOWARD  
CHAOS OR COMMUNI-  
TY?**

## **Gun Violence in Chicago**

Does poverty or the bad choices we make cause violence in our community? This is a controversial question that needs to be addressed in order to find the solutions we need here in Chicago. It can be debated what exactly is causing the violence, and why it is happening in the south and west sides of Chicago more frequently. The bad choices we make are causing the violence in our community because we always have the choice to say no, we are influenced by our decisions, and because our decisions create our actions.

The choice to say no is always an option even if we really need the money, or we need of what is being offered to us. It is like standing up to a bully, there is the option to keep quiet and let it keep happening or standing up for yourself and saying “Stop! No! I don't want you to bully me, so leave me alone!” Sometimes saying no might not always solve the problem, but it will let them know that you do what you think is right. The gun violence happening in Chicago is really based in whether we say yes or no in a situation. These two words, as small as they may seem, make a huge impact in whether or not we can lower the gun violence here in the south and west sides of Chicago.

Sometimes our decisions influence or lead us in what we choose to do in a situation. More specifically, what helps us decide what to do. For example, a person needs money, so they go to someone who can help them get easy money. That decision might have nothing to do with gun violence but let's say this person goes back to get more money, and more, and more, and more. Then they ask this person to shoot someone so that they can get their money. The decision to keep going back to get money, because it was “easy”, is something that might motivate that person, to say “oh ok” just because you already know that if you do the favor right they will give you money. This might relate to poverty being the main cause, but we always have a decision and we are the ones who should make it. Here's the problem: our decisions influence our decisions. It's just how the mind works. The mind is so used to something that it'll come back to that familiar situation and your decisions will keep adding on to that familiar situation, making you think that what you are doing is right, when in reality you are killing dozens of innocent people daily just because you are used to it, or you decided that it should be this way even when you had another choice. This is all because of your decisions helping you choose what to do next.

Our decisions past or present, create our current or ongoing actions. Similar to the previous paragraph, the decisions we make as little as they might seem can create gun violence.

In conclusion, we have to be better and rethink our choices before we start to try them, we need to think twice, “Am I going to benefit myself and kill millions, or am I going to save trillions, including myself,” We need to think about everything twice even if we think it’s best, think again to make sure. Remember the bad choices we make are causing the violence in our community because we always have the choice to say no, we are influenced by our decisions, and because our decisions create our actions.

**VALERIA MAYORGA**





# **Choices and Violence**

**By: Abdillah Summers**

“We are our choices.” This statement was said by Jean-Paul Sartre who was a major figure in French Philosophy during the 20th century. This quote could mean that what we decide to do shows who we are. I say this because our everyday decisions affect the outcome of our everyday lives. Our everyday decisions are influenced by our surroundings or environment. For example, in most neighborhoods in the south and west sides of Chicago there is a lot of alcohol stores. Having these alcohol stores in the environment will influence people in the community to buy more alcohol. The same idea can be used to explain why so much violence occurs in the south and west sides of Chicago. I think, due to poor economic and social conditions in the south and west sides of Chicago influences the behavior or the decision to commit violence thus therefore making the act of violence not a social or environmental problem but a morale and human decision to commit violence.

Other factors that influence bad choices in the south and west sides of Chicago include rundown houses, vacant lots and people walking on the streets wasting their lives away in the poor neighborhood, looking for trouble. Rundown houses make the community look poor, broken and

uncomfortable. These communities are typically filled with crime and violence. If you compare these communities to communities in the suburbs, the difference is major and the choices are different as well.

While the poor infrastructure and economy in the south and west sides of Chicago influence choices to commit violence, gangs are a major cause of violence. “You can’t divorce the gang problem from the problem of deep concentration of poverty,” said Robert J. Sampson, a professor at Harvard University. What does this mean? This can be interpreted as the gang problems are more prevalent in poor segregated neighborhoods such as communities in the south and west side of Chicago.

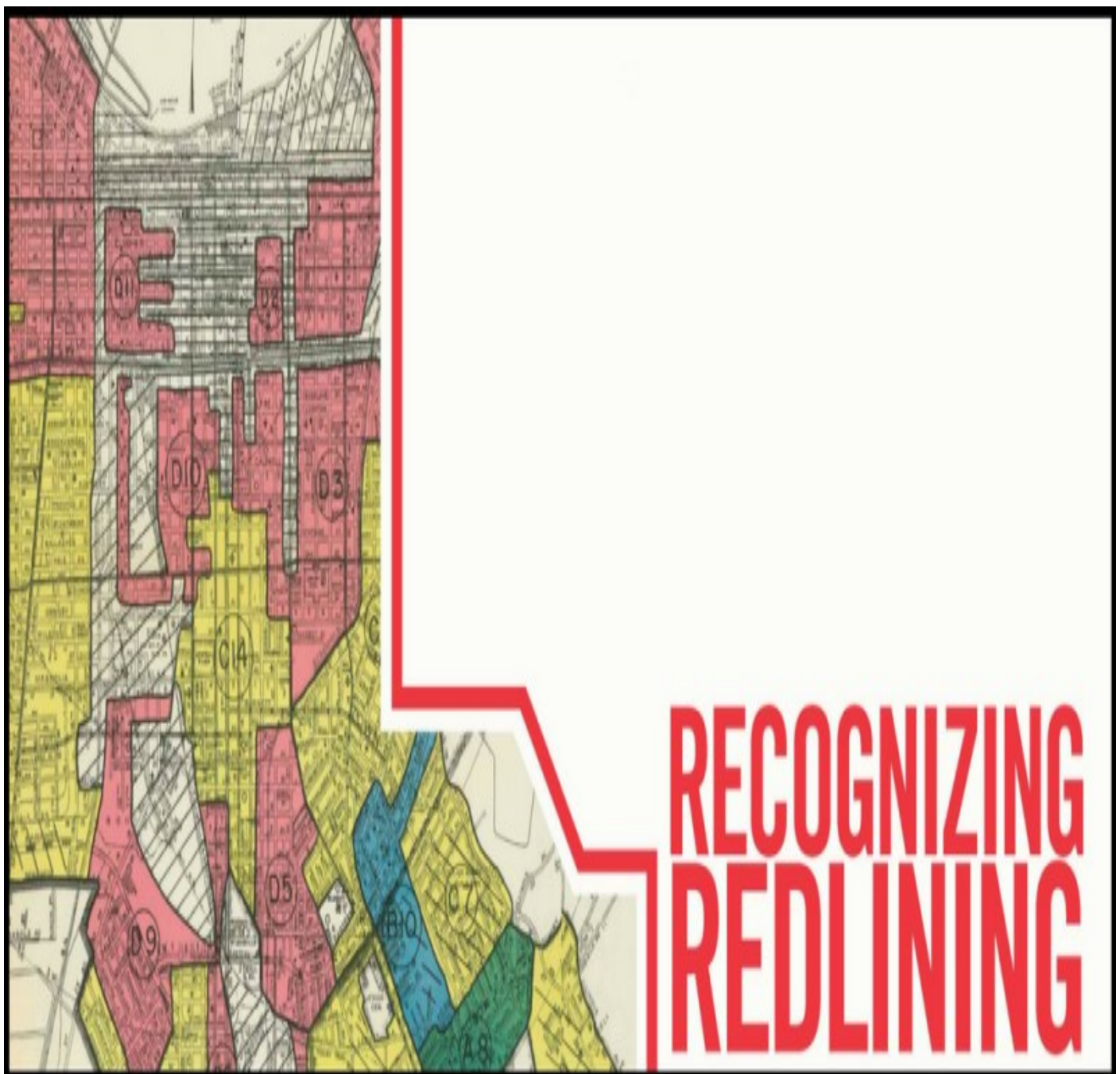
***“What predicts violent crime rate is concentrated poverty and neighborhood disadvantage....”***

***—Douglas S. Massey***

“What predicts violent crime rate is concentrated poverty and neighborhood disadvantage....,” said Douglas S. Massey who is a sociology professor at Harvard. What is the disadvantage or disadvantages the neighborhoods have? Lack of good structure

and a horrible environment that is the leading cause in violence.

Another question arises: How did this bad environment come to be in the south and west sides of Chicago? The father of this situation is segregation. “...what determines concentrated poverty is high levels of black segregation combined with high levels of black poverty.” Basically segregation has caused a bad environment in which bad choices cause violence in a concentrated area.



On June 14th, 2019, a group of five people in the Bronx who were part of the Trinitarios gang and mistakenly believed that a 15 year old boy named Lesandro "Junior" Guzman-Feliz, was part of a rival gang faction and that from a surveillance footage from the store it shows Lesandro "Junior" Guzman-Feliz being dragged out of a convenience store before he was surrounded by a large group outside and attacked with knives, including a machete. Lesandro ran to a hospital, where he later died. The video of this incident shocked many people and grew outrage. The reason why I address this story is because this shows how people these days torture and kill innocent people who have done nothing wrong. So with this said I believe that society is becoming less civil because of people's actions towards people and how they can be so cruel towards one another.

The reason why I say that society is becoming less civil is because the young man Lesandro "Junior" Guzman-Feliz did not do anything wrong—he was just on his way to the store to buy some snacks and minding his own business like what another teenager would do. I know he was at the wrong place at the wrong time, but still this doesn't make it okay for a person to do such a heinous act against a young man, especially towards anyone in that matter. Not to mention before he was attacked, the clerk of the bodega tried to help the poor young man but it wasn't enough. As he was dragged out of the store, no one considered to help Junior but only watch and see what unfolds and hear his pleas and cries for help during and after the attack. He was left on the streets to fend for himself.

Another reason that backs up my belief that the society we live in has become less civil is because this week there was a video released on twitter showing a group of girls assaulting a 15 year old disabled teen named Janise Harris and the reason why they assaulted her was because she asked them for directions to the closest Red Line train station in Chicago, Illinois. After the incident, the girls who attacked Janise Harris went directly on live and apologized for the incident because they and their parents were getting death threats and telling them over and over to stop the threats but I find it very amusing that while the girls were attacking the poor defenseless girl they didn't care for her cries for help; they didn't care about seeing the tears run down her face; they didn't care about anything other than protecting their image.

Many people might disagree, and agree that society is more civilized because people are treated fairly when it comes to the justice system, develop culture and government. However, these points above show how our society is less civilized and badly broken. I talk about the Janise Harris and the Leasondro "Junior" Guzman-Feliz case because it brings light to the situation about how our society is letting us down.

In conclusion, I believe that society is becoming less civil because of people's actions towards people and how they can be so cruel towards one another.

**By: Gino Wheeler**

**Leandro “Junior” Guzman-  
Feliz**



**2003-2018**

**Rest in Heaven**

America. What comes to mind when you think of America? Is it the amazing cities filled with amazing people who love each other? Or how much history there is? All of the amazing times you have been in America. How wonderful America is. People from all over know of America and some of them want to come here. But that is not how I see America.

How could you not love America? There are so many things to do there. But what about all of the people that lose their lives in America? What about all of the things that should not be brought up because it makes people “uncomfortable?” What about all of the people that are denied entry because our president doesn’t believe that people from the outside should not be brought in. It disgusts me by how many people can’t come to live here to start a new life. It is horrible to turn people away and take them out of the country they call home because “your kind doesn’t belong here.” It is disgusting that people are dealing with it instead of doing something about it.



## Is America Becoming More or Less Civil?

**By Natalia Als**



People seem to forget the “white” did not find America. Christopher Columbus did not find new land. There were people here before him. Native Americans were here first. This is their land. It was their land then and that hasn’t changed. Native means you come from there. They are the true first Americans. Also, why are people denied access to live in America? Excluding people is not the answer. Separating families and locking them up in cages is not doing anything but causing trouble and frustrating millions of people. If we want to find a solution to this problem we need to be smart about it; but that is hard to do when you don’t have someone smart taking charge.







# LIKE OR DISLIKE?

## Keshawn Avilez

What does it mean to be civil? Now if you look in the dictionary definition of civility is to civilize conduct; especially: courtesy ;politeness. No, that doesn't sound right; not if we compare civility to modern society.

The 21st century, the century meaningless killing, clown chasing people, and more uncivilized of them all trump; our president. What about any of that says civil. Society has as much civility as the caveman's in the caveman era . We have people literally fighting and going dangerous task; not to mention also aired on live television. For what? Money . People would risk their lives for thousands of dollars To add on, new technology is not making its any better , if anything its Nurturing. It's ok to light things on fire or play on railroad tracks ,imagine the views . Says everyone . Is that really our live now? Views.

Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, and snap chat. The list can go on and on. 11 hours a day.. 11 hours we spend our phones or devices if it's listening to music or scroll through social media. That's 77 hours a week , 330 hours a month ,that's about 3,960 hours a year or even more depending on who you are . The more we spend on our phones the less contact we have from the real world, the less we spend time with family and friends, because they are only one FaceTime away. So why leave the comfort of your house, your bed .The less we go out and interact with the world , the more we are reverting backwards in time essentially. Why do I say that? We are now spending hundreds of dollars on what we call high-end clothes . Which is really a shirts or shorts with a bunch of holes on it and around ;But we call classy or high class living .

This brings me to my last topic—our government, our president Donald John Trump . The person we elected as our president , which is the same person who does not pay their taxes and uses social media platforms to call war with Korea. How civilized right? No . The same person who wants to build a wall , just off the basis of that they are a different race . He does all of this while his wife is also an immigrant and recently got her citizenship. This is the same person who had accounts of accused sexual assault. The government is at its perk of civility. Not! So having a president who does or did all the things I mentioned , and still is in office . That represents our civility—which is going downhill by the year.

Doing things for popularity, social media, and our president. 2019, The most civilized era and the most Barbaric era. We can only get better from here, but it's only getting worse. Honestly, I think we are at our low when it comes to civility and I believe we can do better. In conclusion, do you think the society you live in is civil?

# Why do people commit crime?

## Social conditions vs lack of morality

By Ryan Jackson

Why do people commit crimes?" Everyone has asked themselves this question. The whole world knows that this is a problem. Though the thing people can't seem to agree on is the answer. In my opinion, it is a combination of lack of morality, social conditions, and general bad choices.

Many people are involved in crimes due to the things around them. Factors like poverty, broken homes (literally and figuratively), and lack of a feeling of power. For example, some people may steal from a store or rob someone on the street because they don't have money for food or clothing. These types of situations happen all the time and are generally what people see as the main reason. The reason I don't see this as the only reason is that everyone is different and even rich people will commit crimes bringing me to my next topic: a lack of morality.

In some instances, people will commit crimes because of a lack of morality. Sometimes it's for the feeling, others because they are genuinely evil people. For example, in this news report two twin sisters killed their mother and acted like it was an intruder (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZS4RGEuVPI>).

The thing is that they had a good life and they killed her over an argument they had prior. I don't think this is the main reason either because not many people are genuinely evil and some people just make mistakes which leads to my last topic: bad choices.

Everyone is imperfect and because of that everyone will make bad choices once in a while. Some people just do it to be popular (or seem like it), social media, or bad association. A common example is if your a driver and your friends rob a store even if it's without your knowledge you will be in trouble with them. This system of things (especially in America) doesn't allow for mistakes like this and it doesn't help anyone. This reason is usually overlooked during this conversation which is why I wanted to put this as its own topic.

In the end, there is no one reason people commit a crime. However, you could say that all those reasons are connected. A bad choice leads to bad social conditions and living in that can lead to a lack of morality. I think in some cases that cycle is connected to why people commit crimes but not always. All I know is that it takes effort on both sides from the government and us to stop it.



**DEFINE: A WORD THAT  
MEANS SOMETHING  
SPECIAL TO YOU**

## What is The American Dream?

**By  
Patricia  
Chavez**



What is the American Dream? Many people have different opinions or ideas of the American Dream. For some people it can be about owning your own things and stuff like a phone, shoes, clothes, and money. For other people it's about opportunity. And then there are some people who believe the American Dream is about having your rights, freedom, not facing oppression, having the liberty to practice your own beliefs and your basic necessities like a roof under your house and food.

People that are born in the US sometimes don't know the struggle. How could they when they basically have everything they need and they have their rights, can practice any religion they want, and sometimes don't have to work for it. They believe that the American Dream is about having everything in the world when they already have too many things. For example, in the 1940s after WWII ended many men came back from the war with a new idea of the American Dream, getting married, settling down and having kids. This generation may believe that the American Dream is about having clothes, the new best item, phones, shoes, accessories and owning a home.

Immigrants that come from all over the world believe in the American Dream as a chance to have opportunities. They come with the idea that the American Dream can get them jobs if they work hard and dedicate themselves to build a better life for themselves instead of living in poverty, famine, and war. They want to work hard and try to build a future for their future family and maybe try to bring the rest of their family to the US.

Immigrants that are from all over the world and come to the US believe that the American Dream gives them the right to have freedom, not having to face oppression, having your own rights, and having the freedom to practice your own beliefs or religions. They are faced with multiple challenges. For example in North Korea, they don't have the right to practice beliefs and if they do practice and they coach them they are prosecuted and executed. In the US in a sense gives them a right to practice whatever they want to believe in.

In conclusion, I believe that the American Dream is not about owning things or who has the best new shiny item but about having opportunities and chances, practicing your own beliefs without having the fear of getting killed or having your ears or nose cut off in certain countries because of your beliefs, having your own rights and freedom. What makes this stand out is my family are immigrants that are now US Citizens and they came here because they believed that the American Dream was about to give them opportunities and I believe in that too.



1956



AND I DO MEAN ME!

2016

THE AMERICAN DREAM

# **LOYALTY**

**By**

**Leah Banuelos**



Have you ever been a loyal person to a loved one? Wait...what does loyalty even mean? Well loyalty means a strong feeling of support or allegiance. It's being devoted and committed to someone or something. You can show loyalty to friends, family and significant others. You have to be honest, supportive, trustworthy and generous. It's the ability to put others before yourself. You make them your first priority.

I have friends and family who showed loyalty to me. For instance, my big sister. She's been there for me for so many times. She has been a supportive sister and she'll support me whatever decision I make. She gives out good advice for me. Not only my sister who shows loyalty but I have friends who shows them as well. I went through some tough times and they'll hear what's on my mind or anything. They'll stand up for me if someone is talking behind my back and they will back me up.

Trustworthy. Trustworthy is someone who is honest who can be entrusted with your secrets or with anything else of importance. Trustworthy is able to be relied on as an honest and truthful. What it means to be trustworthy is to be something you can believe in. You can put trustworthy to a person by telling them your secrets.

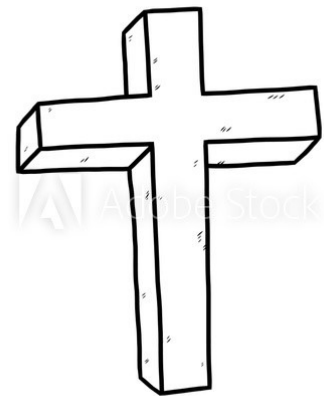
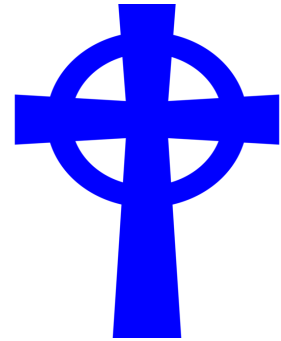
I had friends in my life when they were unloyal and trustworthy. They didn't kept their secrets and talked behind my back. I have people who are loyal and trustworthy though. They always have my back and I always have their back. I believe that when you are loyal to this person, you have to build trust into them.



# Faith

By Galilea Roman

Do you know what Faith is? There are many Faiths, especially associated with different types of religion. I can speak about 3 types of religions that people believe in and how they keep that belief within themselves. Christianity, Catholicism, and Atheism, the 3 main faiths that are most common in the world. Christianity you believe in God while in Catholicism you believe in God, and you believe in Mary and other characters of the Bible who are given. However, Atheism is the complete opposite of both these religions. In other words, it is when you don't believe in any Gods or Gods. One thing they all have in common is that they all deal with FAITH, having a certain strong belief in something.



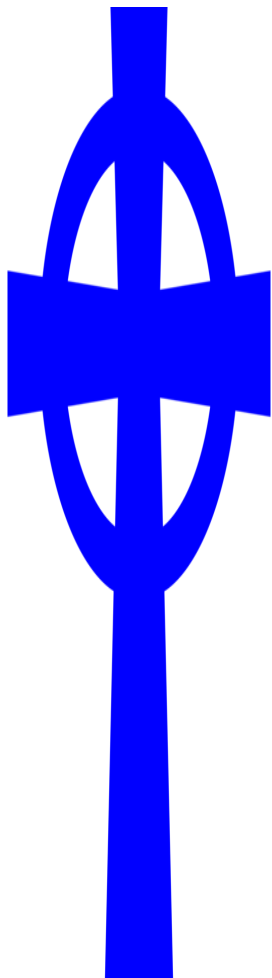
#133791524

- . *Christianity*
- . *Catholicism*
- . *Atheism*

Faith is when you have complete trust or confidence in someone or something. In other words, trust, belief, confidence and expectation of someone or something. For example, Christianity is a religion to where all you have to do is have a friendship with Jesus, which in turn is the doorway to a special relationship with God. In other words, a friendship with God is a peaceful and life fulfilling relationship because it lets you see through God's eyes to everything he has planned for you. God has great plans for everyone. Moreover, his plan for you is to live a happy life in his name, and a life where you are filled with so much love and happiness. Our faith consist of praying to God, talking to him, and reading his word. Through his word he speaks to us and shows us how he wants to live. Christians have complete trust in this faith and do everything they can to make sure they follow this.

Catholicism is a bit different. Instead of just praying to ONE God, you are praying to other important characters of the Bible. For example, they pray to the Virgin Mary, who is not a God, but she gave birth to Jesus, who is the son of God. Therefore, they see Mary as a God to worship as well because if she wouldn't have given birth to him then there would be no Jesus. Catholics keep their faith by having little mini statues of God, Jesus or Mary. They also have a strong connection with a Saint, which is a person acknowledged as holy or virtuous and typically regarded as being in heaven after death. Catholics follow this routine because it is what they strongly believe in. They believe Mary should get just as much praise as God. Therefore, they pray to Mary as well. They follow what they believe in. That is their Faith.

You can choose anything to believe in and no one can say anything about it because it's your belief. And you have to keep believing in that one thing that you believe in in any way you can. It's what you believe in and what you want to have trust in.



## What is the American Dream?

By Benari Abdiel

What is the American Dream? People all have different versions of what the American Dream is. So today I am going to tell you my definition. The American dream is being successful, having a good family, and no job. Also, I want an average sized house that is fully renovated.

I know everybody is saying “no job? This dude must be a bum on a couch!” The job I want is having on my own time. So that means I can spend with my family the days I want. Also I don't want my job to be inside the hands of a control-freak manager. So I want to own a store and get a law degree if something goes wrong.

I want a family that I can hang with. I want to go Six Flags with the flash pass that people wish they had when they see that long line for the Raging Bull. I will like to go camping with my family.

The type of house I want to live in is a modern house but nothing too fancy. Also, “you know that with every house cable and WIFI from Xfinity is a must!!” Also, a study room because “everybody needs to study.” To get into good colleges like Cornell, Yale and Harvard law school would also be important for me. For it will “further my education”.

These are all the things that will make up my “American Dream”. But what I defined The American Dream as is my way of the American Dream. Every person has different versions of what the American Dream is. So stay in school and you will find your “American Dream.”

# Common Sense: The Superior 6th Sense

By Chukwuebuka Akujieze

When you make common sense common practice, you get uncommon results.



Much like street smarts, common sense is a knowledge in which people use their basic ability to perceive or determine a simple situation. What I am going to talk about in this essay are topics like how one can use common sense, where it originated, and most importantly why common sense is not so common. Common sense is something that most people in the world don't have. In fact, common sense is so rare that it can be considered a superpower. With that in mind, the start of a free learning experience has commenced.

over think you may end up crashing into carts trying to get the store janitors and cause unnecessary havoc when one could just clean it with a towel. As I said previously, common sense is not very common.

Common sense is the practice of acting intelligently in everyday situations. Even very smart people sometimes lack common sense, but luckily, it's an attribute that gets better with practice. By learning to reflect on a situation before you act, you can train yourself to use common sense before you make any decisions.

Common sense originated sometime between 384 and 322 B.C. by Aristotle. Originally, common sense had 2 meanings: The first type of common sense, good sense, can be described as the knack for seeing things as they are, and doing things as they ought to be done. The second type is sometimes described as folk wisdom, signifying unreflective knowledge not reliant on specialized training or deliberative thought.

Consequences for not knowing common sense can range from mild consequences (getting upset) to extreme consequences (getting kidnapped, raped or even killed). So to avoid the possibly fatal outcome, learn common sense at a young age because common sense is not that common.



In other words, common sense is being reliant on the situation as it seems and being wise rather than being over deliberate. One example is if someone goes to the store and spills a bottle of vodka if you try and

**Common sense is extremely crucial to understand especially nowadays in this dreaded world. You must have a combination of street smarts, book smarts, and common sense to survive in this world. It is very important now because most people don't have common sense and will react emotionally like a psycho or emotionless and wild like a socio. If something was that was not expected to happen happened or if a simple accident occurs it is very crucial to learn and understand common sense as to know how, when, why, and what to react to. Child or adult must be alert at all times because you never know what could be coming your way. You must learn common sense because..... common sense is not so common.**





# DEFINING FEMINISM



MAKAYLA OSCAR

When you think of feminism what comes to mind? Who comes to mind? What does feminism mean to you? Feminism can be defined by its history and its personal meaning to someone who has had experience with it.

Around the early nineteenth and twentieth centuries the main focus of the feminist movement was to gain voting rights and justice for legal issues. This period is known as the first wave of feminism. The second wave took place during the early 1960s and the focus of this 'wave' was family, sexuality, reproductive rights, and the workplace. Second wave feminism also drew attention to domestic violence, marital rape and changed custody and divorce laws. Third wave feminism, which began in the early 1990s was more about embracing individualism and diversity and some sought to redefine what being a feminist meant. The fourth and most current wave of feminism focuses on the empowerment of women and the use of the internet to spread the word. justice against assault, harassment, equal pay/work and bodily autonomy. It also

supports the idea that men/boys should be allowed to express their emotions without worrying about the societal expectation of being



“manly”.

More often than not when a man is thinking of feminism, they often think of the term “femi-nazi” used to describe a radical feminist, sometimes to the point of almost being sexist. Not all feminists are like this. Most feminists just do their part by speaking up when a man, another woman, or even society is treating a woman like they are not equal. Other people believe that a feminist can only be a woman. Anyone, not just a woman should be able to see the injustices placed on the female population everyday and anyone can decide

not to tolerate that and become a feminist.

So what does it mean to be a feminist? Current feminists like Beyoncé Knowles-Carter, Oprah Winfrey, and Coretta Scott King have all done things that are instrumental to the feminist movement. But you don't have to build a school for young girls, or be the founder of a women's organization to support feminism. Simply speaking up for what you think is wrong and not allowing yourself or other women to be victims of inequality without justice is all it takes to be a feminist.

Man or woman, boy or girl, it doesn't matter. Feminism is not just a woman's rights issue, it's a human rights issue and more people should take action.

# WHAT IS A HERO?

BY: MIKE  
BROWN

The topic I decided to cover was define a hero. It is something many of us misinterpret because of books and stories. A hero can really be anyone who does a good thing or helps or helps someone out. A hero doesn't have to fly, or shoot lasers out of their eyes. Heroes can be everyday people.

Heroes are people like firefighters because they save people out of burning buildings. Doctors are heroes because who save lives and do something about problems. They don't have to have advanced abilities because what they already do is heroic.

Age has nothing to do with heroism ; as long as you can do something to help people out, you are being a hero. There are a lot of things that young people can do to be heroes like helping your friends or family, getting good grades in school, and even just doing chores around the house. Doing these things is a good way to make yourself a hero in the future as an adult.

If your going to be a hero you also have to express generosity which means you can't expect compensation for the things you do. This is common with a lot of comic book superheroes like Spiderman or other superheroes that stop things like robberies. The only compensation that you should accept is respect from the people you help.

Heroes do things like keep people alive, save people from danger, and make new discoveries that help people. Heroes do extraordinary things that regular people don't do. Everyone would want to have super powers but not everyone would use them to do good.



# **MY WORLD, MY EXPERIENCE: PERSONAL NARRATIVES**



# *The Time I Learned I Needed Glasses. The Whole Story.*

*By Daniel Farrell*

Well, while I yet don't know the cause of it, my parents theorize it is because looking at TV screens and I don't think so, but it does not matter. Cause I am blind. Well, near-sighted. If you don't know what that means, that means I can only see from close up. Which takes me back to a long time when I was younger, until the one specific day.

Back when I was in 2nd grade, my dad and I were homeless. It was not the best experience, always living in someone else's house. And it was not fun. And at the time I thought it was completely normal. Until I was in 3rd grade, I had come back from Chicago and to New Orleans in Louisiana and my dad's mother's mother or my great grandmother allowed me and my father into her home. At the time there was not enough space for me but, after the break-up my dad and my mother had, (that I did not know about at the time) my mother did not know about my father's situation at the time so I was staying there. I also had made some friends that I still know to this day and sometimes I'd crash at his house. I learned about the Xbox 360 which I did not know about because I did not learn about the internet until my friend told me. And after playing the split-screen it was hard for us to see so we started getting closer to the TV and closer and closer. Which is when I started noticing I was looking at stuff a bit weirder.

Later in the school year, we

had an eye exam at the school, and I failed the eye exam. But, they were thinking that I was just lying or just faking it, which I surprisingly didn't know at the time whether I was faking it. I didn't think that I was lying but maybe I wasn't looking at it the right way. So the doctor told my father that I did not do well on the eye exam. At that time my dad, not being rich or upper-middle-class, could not afford \$60 worth of glasses. So he said I should stop faking it. I said okay I will try harder, which is not possible. But, after this amount of time of not knowing I was blind, the blindness kind of piled on and on as I started looking at the TV more and more. Yet again, I don't think this is what caused my blindness. My mother has bad eye vision but I have WAY worse than her.

Fast forward to 4th grade. I could see a difference in my vision. But, how was I supposed to know that I was blind? Really, how am I? They don't do those high-quality eye exams at my elementary school. Without those, I could never tell if I was blind! All those people did was show me an eye exam board, and tell me to look at it with one eye open on one side, and they see if I can see all the letters. This was starting to get out of hand, but I never stood up

for my opinion. As a 9-year-old child, my opinion was never respected, understood, and nobody would care about it except other 9-year-olds. I couldn't blame the adults! It was my fault that I didn't stand up for myself because kids my age aren't taught to or are supposed to!

After I have gotten disrespected as a child and was told that anything that came out my mouth was wrong, I had enough. This was around the end of 5th grade and we are about to take the L.E.A.P. test or the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program which might be similar to Chicago's park test. It's a test the district gives all students. Only, this year was changed to be on the computer. We studied for a test on paper but never learned any computer skills. Now me, being blind as heck, was looking and squinting on the practice test all the time. The teacher, thinking I was faking was making fun of me for this so I am like "you know what, I am willing to take the chance. I can barely see,".

When we took the eye exam again, I told the eye exam doctor that I believe I am blind and I need glasses so that I can see properly. My doctor kept asking me if I was sure, and I said 100%. This was it. I was almost, no not even ALMOST. I was completely certain. Not even certain. I know. I already KNOW that I am blind. And when my dad and I talked to my eye doctor, Dr. Farrell (weird right, same last name), she said I was blind. One of the most blind that she has ever seen from just a 10-year-old boy. She looked kind of shocked. She gave me

my papers, she recommended me some low-quality Medicaid insurance glasses. Those broke in one game of basketball. Then I got my actual \$59.95 America's Best glasses that I wore for a while.

There we go. The time I learned I was blind and I learned to stand up for myself. As a kid who does not have any respect from adults, I still stand up for my opinion and what I believe in general. Cause I deserve the same amount of respect as any other human, regardless of age. Even though people say that "respect is earned not granted" until I am an adult, I can not earn respect, because adults say that there is no reason to respect me.



I am a Mexican-American boy. I have a beautiful family, I have a beautiful mom, I have an out of the ordinary dad. I also have 2 sisters that love me as much as I love them and a charismatic niece that steals our hearts. I love my family from Earth to the Moon and back. They're the people who make me who I am. They're the people that have infused all these values into me. They are the people who have taught me most of the things I know. They taught to say my first word, read, say the abc's, and count to 10. They have always motivated me and taught me what's right and wrong.

Ever since I was a little kid, I was always obeying my parents. I didn't want to give them a hard time taking care of me, especially since I had 2 older sisters they had to look out for. My family has always been my inspiration to succeed and keep trying, especially in the hardest of times. Whenever I've wanted to give up, my family is what keeps me motivated. They either give me a motivational speech that I shouldn't give up or they just stick with me and they tell me that they love no matter the decision I made. My passion for learning started from when I was a little kid, I remember seeing my sisters doing their homework. I still didn't know what homework was back then, but since I am curious I always wanted to do what my sisters were doing. I used grab one of coloring books and pretend like I was doing homework.

Ever since I can remember I was playing soccer. It didn't matter where I was; I would always have a soccer ball in my hand. This passion has been inspired by the craziness of my dad towards soccer. I consider soccer to be one of my favorite things to do outside of school. It helps take any negative feelings away and reconstruct them into positivity. Soccer is somewhere I have met friends, new people, and some I consider my brothers. Some of these people have taught me very valuable principles and lessons

about the world and soccer. Soccer has also made me a more complete human being— it has really put me in a path to be an amazing human being.



My former teachers are also very big part of who I've become. They have taught me important principles and to always be open-minded. From K-7th grade, I have had amazing and different teachers with different personalities that has made me even more versatile with the way I am. I have friends that are responsible, compassionate, sincere, hard-working, and funny. Having these type of friends is really astounding, they teach me a lot, and do it in a sincere way. They have taught me not to give up, to change my personality from time to time, and learn how to control some of my emotions.

I have often reflected on who I am as a person, but never have I thought about it like this. I am blessed and thankful for what I have and what I am. **I am a person who loves soccer, learning, my family, my teachers and my friends.**

## **Learning Who I AM**

**By: Santiago Leyva**

# *The first time I learned how to play Frisbee*

By- Maleah  
Malone

CSU Prep19



The first day I learned how to play frisbee was June 5th, 2019. It first began when I saw other kids playing frisbee, I thought to myself, "I want to start playing frisbee so that I could be skilled like the other kids." So my next step was to ask my parents if I could do chores to get money to buy this frisbee." But the frisbee was \$10.99, so I watched my younger sister, washed dishes, and sweep the floor. So with all of that done i earned \$5.00 with \$6.00 to go.

On July 6th, 2019,I continued, doing all my chores one by one, and then I got \$5.00 with \$1.00 left to go, but my mom was so nice and sweet that day... She gave me an extra \$1.00 because I was working so hard that day. So then my mom said well let's go to the store, and I said, "Okay, I will put my shoes on." So we walked to my favorite stores and we figured out that they were closed! So when we walked back home, on the way I said, "we will try again tomorrow."

The next day, July 7th, 2019, I had figured out that they opened on 7:00 AM Sharp, and closed at 12:00 PM, So I told my mom and she said that we will go at 10:00 AM. So while I waited, I was watching my favorite cartoons until my mom said she was going to one of my favorite stores so I put on my shoes and went out the door. So next we drove to the store to get some food and a few water toys

to go to the pool, but in my mind I wanted to get my own thing, so I walked to the frisbees and they had many different colors—such as blue, green, pink, white, and gold. So I picked the blue one, and when we were in the middle of purchasing the things we had got, I gave my mom the money and said to myself, “Good work actually pays off.” Then as soon as I got home, I asked my older sister, Patricia, if we could play frisbee together, and she said yes.

So then we went in our backyard and she taught me how to hold the frisbee and throw the frisbee, So first, my tip to hold the frisbee was to hold it with the hand that you write with, and to throw it, Throw it with the way you feel is best to throw. For me, I am left-handed so I hold it with my left hand and mostly throw it in the left direction. I am glad my sister taught me how to play frisbee because I wouldn't be able to play a new game that day.

In conclusion, if you work hard enough you will get what you work for if you work hard enough to get it, some tips are, be patient, be calm, and don't worry if you don't have what you need, you will get it another day.



## Changing my Ways by Samuel Rudolph

Once there was a time I was in elementary school learning how to write and read. I had 3 classes each day, and I would always try to be the class clown. It was just something about me that I just couldn't control myself in the classroom. I would always get sent to the office because I couldn't control myself. This lasted up from fourth grade to eight grade. Entering eight grade, I was still kind of joking around and being goofy.

I started to realize that what I was doing wasn't affecting people it was affecting me. It took me time to find myself and get it together. As I remember every time I got sent to the office the administrators would tell me to stop acting up and just pay attention to detail. I took that in and I started to act a little better but it was overwhelming to overcome. I was so used to being funny in class so I just couldn't stop.

Moreover, I kept acting up by time it got worse because not only was I acting a fool I was also failing my classes. When I realized that I was failing my classes, it affected me a lot. Failing my classes really took a big toll on me because I then knew i had to change. About a month later I was doing so well everyone couldn't believe it. I told myself when I enter high school I'm going to be a principal's scholar.

My first year of high school has really changed my life in many ways. I paid a lot of attention and I changed my

ways i was on the principle scholars list. I got to achieve my goal and I was so happy I made my mom happy I was getting all types of rewards. Freshmen was a big year for me because it opened my eyes of what I could really become in high school. My experience was so amazing but one thing you got to remember is that everyone isn't your friend in high school that for sure. So as I kept going further it really opened my eyes.





## **Learning how to Cook**

**By Jacari Marshall**

The one thing that changed my life when I learned it was cooking because then my mother wouldn't have to keep making me breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I would help my mother with dinner if I was at home sometimes, and just cook dinner for my family that live with me—making sure it was cooked perfectly. If no one would cook dinner, I just cooked for myself and cooked for both of my sisters.

When I made my first dish, I was little boy. Then one day my friend (2 years ago) because he got sick really bad until I got to school. I had just found out and I told my mother the news when I got home and she said we are having your favorite dish tonight

and I said okay (sadly feeling). Then she said what is wrong, and I told her what happened. Then I went into my room and started listening to music. Then she said come here and then she went to the bathroom, so I started cooking and finished the entire thing before she can in the kitchen. When she came back to the kitchen, she said wow then we both tasted everything to make sure everything was cooked perfectly and it was. So we all ate and my mother told my sisters that I cooked it all by myself and they were shook that I cooked by myself and knew what I was going through that day. Not only did I season our dinner perfectly, but cooked it perfectly while they went somewhere. When my mother came back, the dinner was already served and on the table. She was just shook and thankful/grateful.

The reason that I cooked everything for her and for my sisters was because she thought that she was going to cook everything by herself. When they ate the food, they said it was good and I said thank you. Then I went to my room after I finished my plate and then my sister washed the dishes after we all finished our plates. Then we went our separate ways that night. This changed me because when I'm hungry I can just go in the kitchen and fix me something to eat whenever I'm hungry or when I am playing video games and I get hungry.

# The time I learned how to fight with a sword

by Paige Washington

*The Parent Trap, Pirates of the Caribbean, and The Princess Bride.* What do these movies have in common? Amazing comebacks, and even better fencing scenes. When I was a young girl these movies changed my definition of cool. I was fascinated with the way that the characters could move the sword so effortlessly and attack their opponent. Mostly though, I was interested in the number of people who would get impressed when I say “I fight with a sword.”

All of my dreams of looking cool were effortlessly crushed and replaced with blood, sweat, and tears, literally. I soon learned that I have to learn how to do something called *foot-work before I even get to hold the swords. The swords were fake too! They were skinny and had a rubber tip, so it wouldn't hurt anybody. Which was the main reason I was there. When I asked my coach “Will we really get to stab people?” He said “Depends on how hard you work.” I had been duped, hoodwinked, and quite possibly, bamboozled.*

I was utterly disappointed with myself and this sport for the next few practice days. My muscles ached with every action that I took. The only thing my brain was focused on was every mistake that I had made during practice. I could not get my *en-garde* right. My attacks were big and sloppy. I was moving too slow. As time went on, I began to suck less and less.

Let me elaborate on what I mean by “sucked less and less” I mean that I got slightly better every time I went to practice. I had more energy after I ran, and I could get my lunges to be longer and better.

Then came my first tournament. It was terrible in total of 5 bouts each with a possibility of 5 points, and 1 elimination round consisting of 15 total points. I scored a total of 5 points. I considered myself the re- penultimate— which if you did not know in Paige terms what that means, I am second to last. I was still proud of myself because, I actually got up out of bed and tried.

During the course of the fencing season, I improved more and more. It was then that I almost won my first elimination round. I had fourteen points to her fifteen points. I was never more proud of myself in my entire life. Everyone gave me hugs and said that I did amazing. For the first time I believed them.

I am still learning how to replicate Olympian's moves, but I am still enjoying how to fight with a sword.



123RF



123RF



123RF

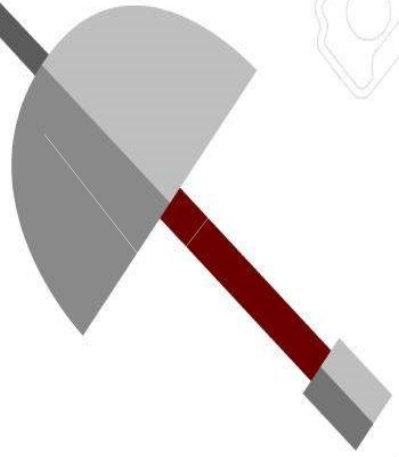


123RF

123RF



123RF

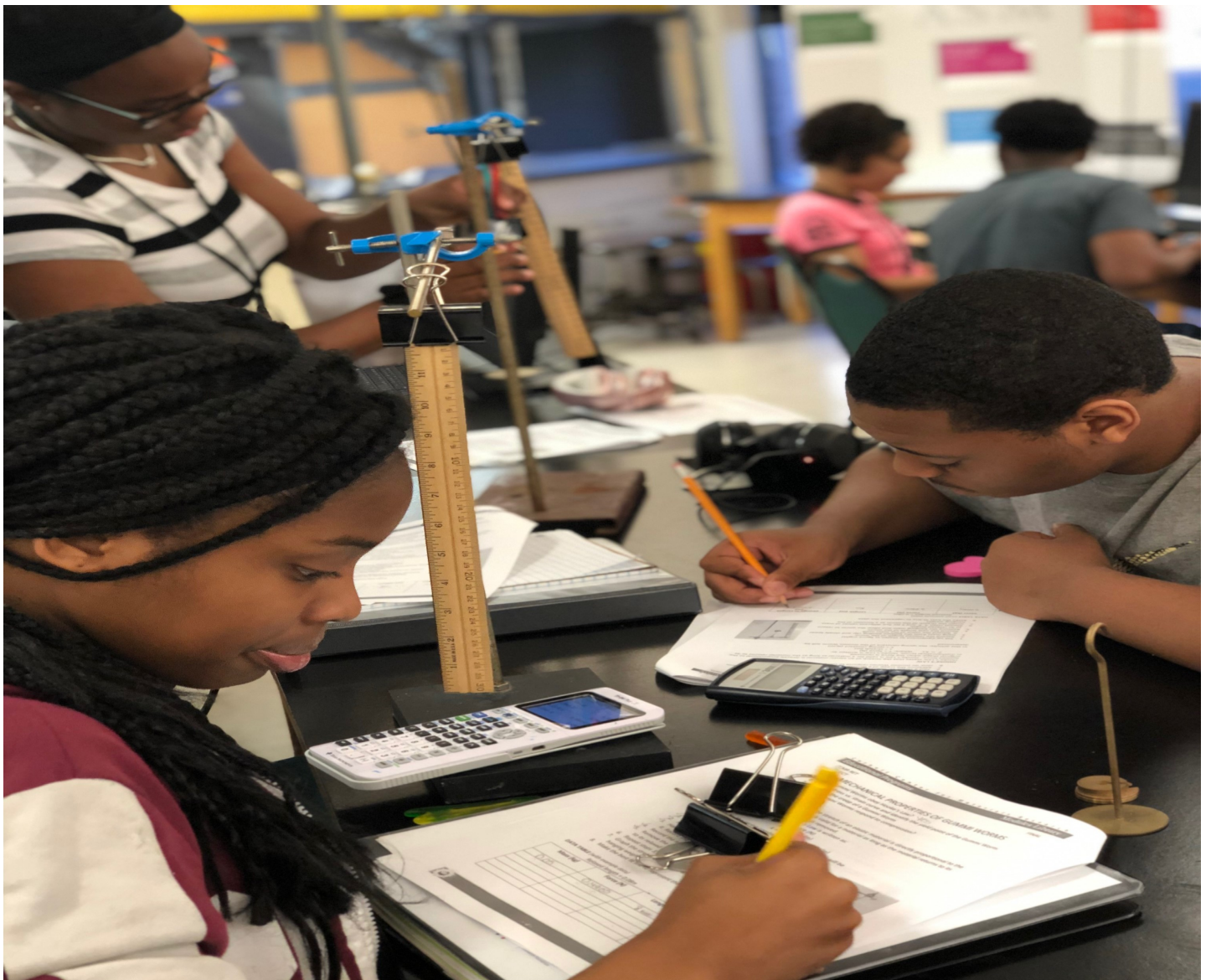


123RF



123RF

# WHEN WE DO IT, WE DO IT BIG: HOW WE DO SCIENCE





## **Assignment: Create a working model for an energy efficient house**

### **Sample**

#### **Keshawn Avilez-Project Manager**

Plans and directs all design engineers,drafters,and technical engineer working on specific project .Oversees product construction and testing in order to ensure completion of project as efficiently and effectively as possible.

#### **Ryan Jackson-Electrical Engineer**

Design,develop,and test electrical devices and equipment ,including communications systems,power generations,motors and navigation system,and electrical system .Oversees the manufacturer of these devices,system and equipment

#### **Abdillah Summers- Computer Engineer**

Research ,designs,develops,and test computer hardware,and equipment including chips,analog sensors,circuit boards,keyboards,modems,routes,and printers. Works on the manufacturing of these components as well as the installation.

#### **Gino Wheeler-Architecture Engineer**

Help create efficient building and building systems. Works on project with other professionals ,including construction workers and architects.

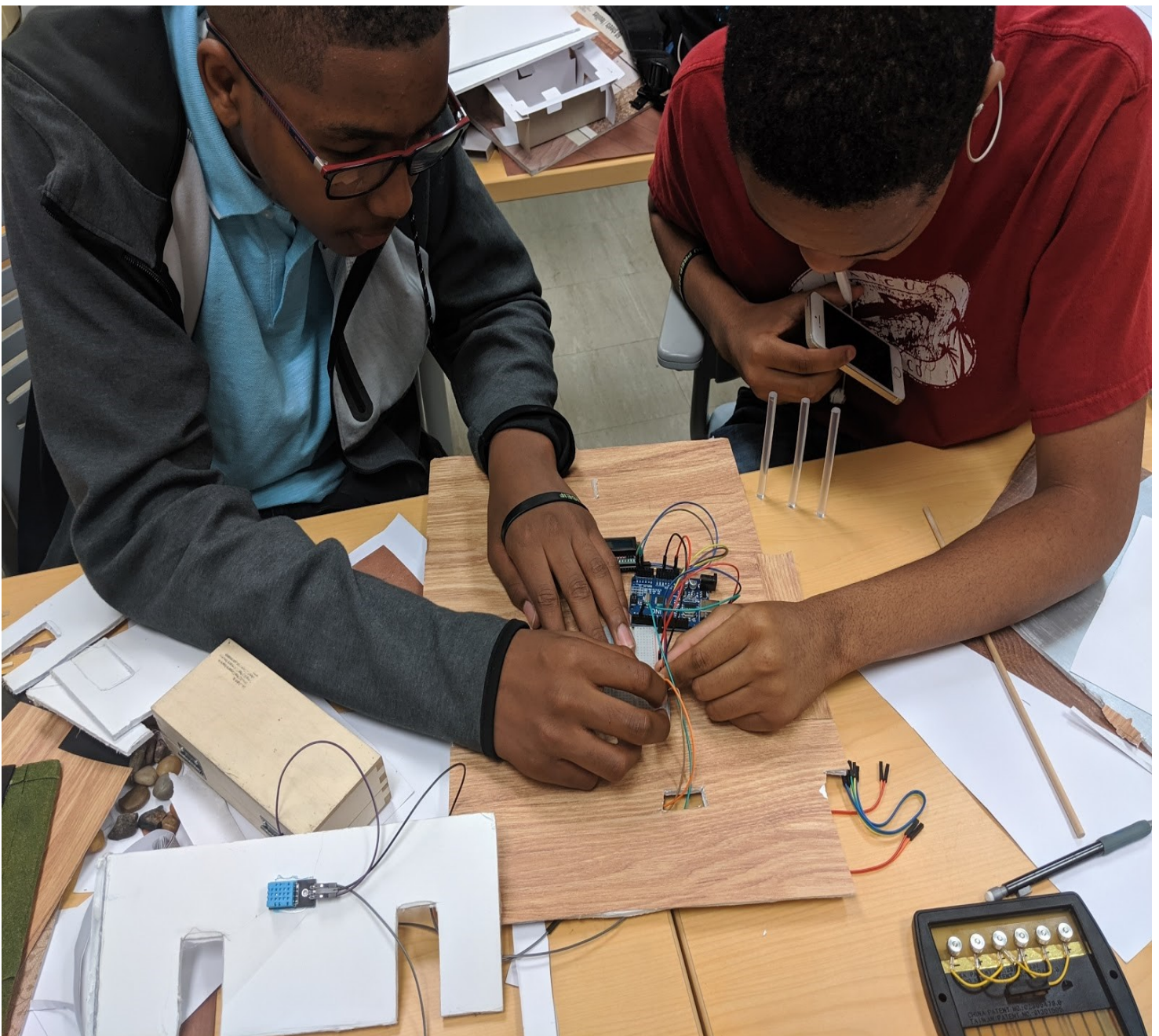
## **Mission Statement:**

Our Team name is Green Light and we are here to address the following: What is the problem. How do we fix/address it, and the Importance of addressing the situation? As many people know, people will not consciously do things to save the planet. The use of limited resources is causing the earth to die slowly and when the earth dies, we will die with it.

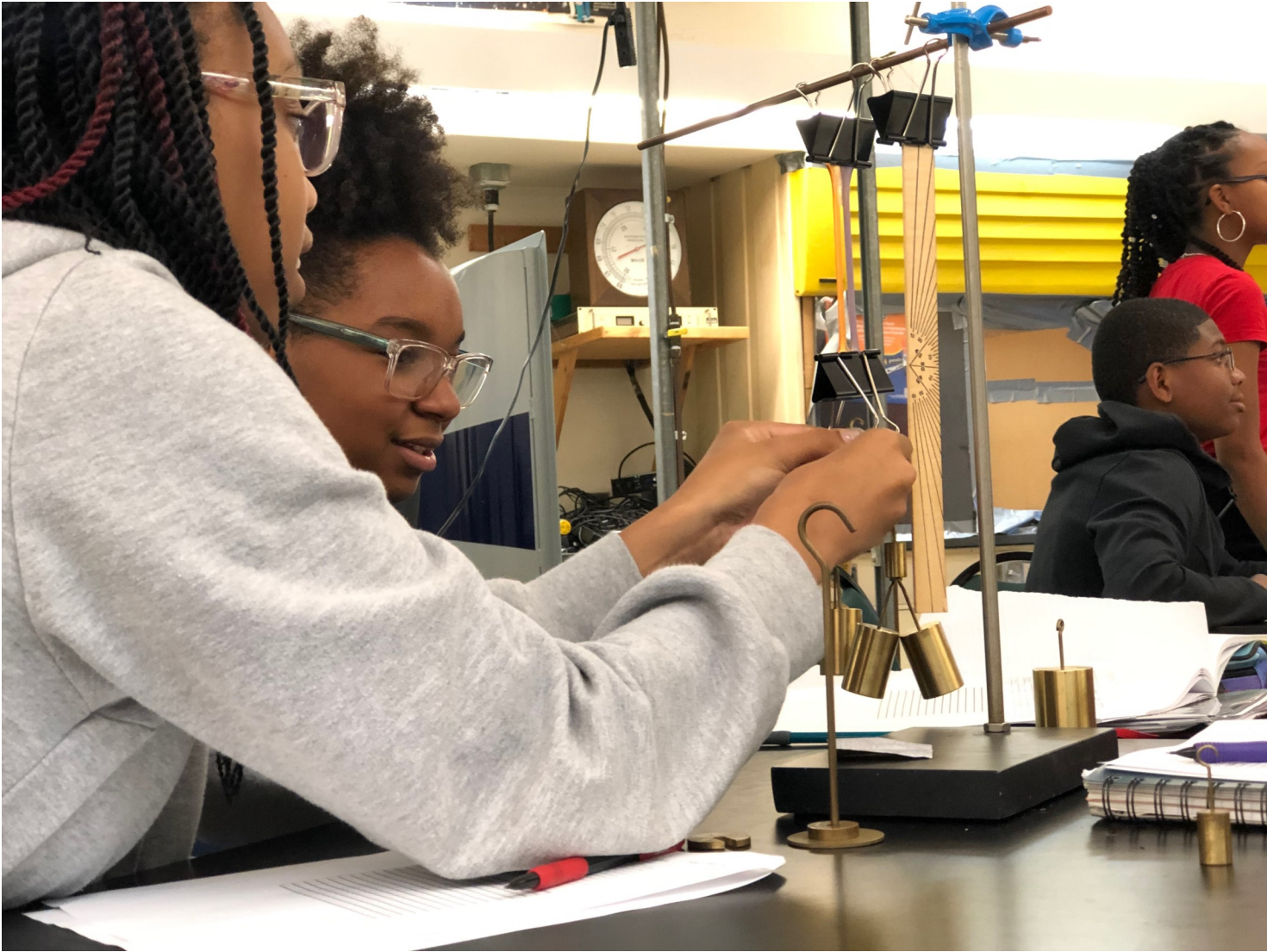
The problem that we are trying to address is that we're trying to conserve energy and prevent climate change because the consumption of resources such as coal, and oil are becoming more and more limited to the public. Also, a growing population is occurring at the same time which makes it is necessary to identify alternative power sources that can support the heating and cooling of a residential structure. This is why it is important to find new renewable energy sources to conserve and save the planet.

Therefore, we will address the problem by advertising tags such as "to zap that bill away," "you can do your part too," or "we're not just recycling anymore." Anything to make them feel good about themselves.

In conclusion, our goal is to make an energy efficient house and although the current test was somewhat inconclusive we still were able to get power now knowing that it is possible to power the house.



# OUR TEAMS IN ACTION





# **Field Trip to the Museum of Science and Industry**

**By Mohammed Diaby**

The field trip to the Museum of Science and Industry was fun and I learned a lot of new things. I learn how to make a L.E.D circuit band using everyday materials. I like how organized the staff was and how things were moving smoothly. The most fun I had was when we were in the energy garden playing the games. There I learned that we can easily save energy if we put effort in it.

Something else I learned was that the color of car contributes to how much energy it can save. I never know that so when I go to get my first car I will keep that in mind. I see there a lot of careers I can do after visiting the museum, like being an engineer, bio technician, they seem fun and I heard it pays well. I was kind of disappointed because I didn't get to see the planes or the cars, and I wanted to explore that . I wanted to know how man got the idea to fly. Also, we didn't go the space portion of the trip . It seems we didn't have enough time to see everything

Besides that, it was fun I learned a lot of things. thought that because I was there before that I wouldn't have to learn anything new (and boy was I wrong). Overall the trip was fun. I liked how the set up was, how fast, and how smooth the whole Museum was moving. I hope that I go back there again and I will plan on seeing everything no matter how long I stay.





**POEMS**

# Racism

Racism is a serious problem.  
So what can we do to stop it?  
For all those people  
Who taunt another culture  
To see their face starting to sculpture  
Into a face of rage and madness  
It fills me up with a horrible sadness.  
If we let this go any more  
The feelings of those who were taunt.  
Will feel very sore.  
I don't know why they just won't stop,  
What do they want, a lollipop?  
They have nothing better to do with their time,  
But be racist which is like a crime!  
Little do they know, they are just plain dumb,  
Taunting people and chewing their gum.  
If you are one of those  
Taunted by the insane,  
Don't be afraid to stick up for your name  
Those people don't care how you feel,  
So we need to unite as a country and we will.

**Kaleia Maxey**

# Ocean Eyes

by Deena Brown

The Ocean looks blue but really is clear.

It sees everything we are, cleanses all we hold dear.

It's another world that most people don't usually see.

When you see it, it's mysterious.

Like little weird creatures and things within.

It can be essential to a lot of things we need in life.

It is one of the most important things we need to survive

The Ocean can be seen in many different ways.

But the way I see it is through someone else's eyes.

# Joy

By Santiago Leyva

Cracked Cocoons ready to burst out with joy

Rising above hate

Growing as much as possible

Becoming who you want to be

Passionate to grow

Learning what's right from what's wrong

Sweet taste of a Mexican lollipops bursting

Running over the Rainbows dripping in gold

Umbrellas sheltering us from all the hate

the smells, the freedom

keeping us alive

Friends cheering us up when tears come down our eyes

Remembering childhood memories to alleviate the struggle

Spending quality time with your family

Expressing who you are

Soccer balls flying through the air, creating positivity

Dribbling all the way to success

Cracked Cocoons ready to burst out with joy