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FEBRUARY

# UTN Environmental Sustainability Policy

## What's The Deal With Homework?

Jules Verne

WORDLE VS TAGXEDO

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<https://www.facebook.com/TheILEPost?fref=ts>

# COVER PAGE



In February, we dedicate our coverage one of **Jules Verne's** most famous work: Voyage Dans La Lune (From the Earth to the Moon). We want our readers to learn a little bit about this famous French writer who is considered by many as the Father of Science Fiction. If you have an awesome picture you think could be the cover of one of The ILE Post editions, send it to [eherrera@utn.ac.cr](mailto:eherrera@utn.ac.cr). So far several readers have sent amazing pictures that we will be sharing with you soon.

If you want to know what is happening in ILE, follow us in FACEBOOK. Public Domain picture taken from:

[https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archivo:Melies\\_color\\_Voyage\\_dans\\_la\\_lune.jpg](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archivo:Melies_color_Voyage_dans_la_lune.jpg)



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# EDITORIAL

## Teaching, Learning—Nowhere To Go But Up

by José Soto (ILE Director)



The Ministry of Public Education has begun with a new curriculum for the teaching of English in public schools in Costa Rica. This has been possible due to the efforts made by several individuals and groups that have

spotted a big void, or a serious issue in the exit profile of high school graduates. After so many years of having been trained in the language, students are not competent in communicating in English. A new syllabus for the public education has promised to change such a discouraging scenario. There is nowhere to go but up. Nonetheless there are several things to mention for the record.

**Several reflections upon the process of teaching, learning and the nature of the English language** lead to conclusions that indicate that there is a variety of causes and not just one. However, the public opinion usually jumps to blaming teachers as the only responsible for the shortage of English speaking citizens in the country. The skill level of English in teachers is indeed part of the learning setback, but it is certainly not the only one.

The Gross Domestic Product has significantly increased over the last twenty years from twelve thousand to fifty-two million USD. These figures provided by Procomer—the institution in charge of promoting the exportation of Costa Rican goods and services throughout the world—show a relative rapid growth in the skills and knowledge of the human talent who have learned to communicate in another language, especially English.

This has been learned and acquired somewhere mostly outside the public education system. By **acquired** I mean having your knowledge of the language automatic for continuous interactive communicative. If this is the case, where has the teaching of English in high schools failed to accomplish the goal during all these years?

Implementing a new curriculum will solve the problem only if the philosophies of learning and teaching the language are successfully adapted. The new methodology brings task-based instruction, action oriented guidelines and cross-curricular promotion of attitudes and abilities for the language classes. Leaving the issue of the level of English of teachers aside for a while, the implementation of

new frameworks requires a full commitment of everyone involved in the process. This means that the attitude towards a new a plan, must be open, positive and primarily optimistic from those who will put it into action—the teachers and curricular administrators.

Recently, the communicative approach and methodologies of teaching and learning did have their positive results and ended up with eclectic views of the process itself. This has occurred mainly because the teaching and learning took place in different contexts, with different people in different cultures and responding to different necessities. Therefore, this should somehow send a message to the officials in charge of finding **The** solution to the problem. Could this be possible then that there is no one single solution, as there is no one source for the problem?

Students in the public system of education will be expected to acquire a specific level of language proficiency by the time they graduate from high school. This poses serious challenges to teachers and the system itself. As there are different solutions to different problems, and the teaching context, environment and time constraints sometimes limit the achievement of everyday goals. Possibly, there might have to be some re-structuring and tailoring of these plans, the everyday actions and physical rearrangement of material and human resources along the way.

Finally, there is an air of expectation in public schools about how it will work. There is positivism from the higher officials of MEP, and this has possibly been passed down to teachers during recent trainings. Other questions remain unanswered, yet they may cast some shadow and negativity over the good intentions and overall collective synergy for the sake of the new programs of MEP. This will have been worthwhile if high school graduates do show the desired levels of English communicative proficiency by 2021. For another discussion in a later issue, we will have to mention our accommodation at UTN to new populations of English language proficiency.



## UTN Environmental Sustainability Policy

UTN Commission on Environmental Sustainability policy is actively working to make UTN a more sustainable place to live, work and study. UTN recognizes that this involves more than simply putting good policies, systems and processes in place. Environmental considerations must be fully integrated within our everyday behavior so that it is part of the way things are done. We proactively seek to achieve this by:

- a) establishing principles for risk-based environmental management as a key cross-cutting theme in all study programs at all levels (teaching, learning, extension, and research)
- b) establishing a process of continuous improvement on environmental management and sustainable development so that all university campuses and locations become environmentally responsible places
- c) respecting the existing national legislation, both national and international, ensuring environmental sustainability, human well-being, security and socio-economic development.



Universities need to collaborate with governments and communities to co-create new strategies and solutions to tackle emerging sustainability challenges. We need to figure out how to strike that balance between environment and social and economic development and that balancing point will all be different in different places at different times.

## NASA Specialist Visited UTN



During the month of February, UTN had the honor to receive NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) **Specialist in Electrical Engineering and Physics Sandra Cauffman**.

Born in Costa Rica, Sandra Cauffman has worked on the MAVEN mission on Mars, the GOES-R program and as the assistant director of the NASA division of Earth Sciences. Cauffman attended the University of Costa Rica before transferring to George Mason University where she double majored in engineering and physics.

The objective of this this approach is to explore the possibility of a cooperation agreement between UTN and NASA to establish an undergraduate Internship program.

There are around seven countries that have this kind of agreement.

*"If we reached an agreement, it would be the first time there would be a collaboration of this type between NASA and a Costa Rican higher education center,"* said Mrs. Cauffman.

## UTN Will Offer Virtual Learning Environments Master Program

UTN signed an agreement with Instituto Latinoamericano de Desarrollo Profesional Docente to carry out a master degree program. This is the first master degree program UTN will offer. The program provides education professionals with the expertise needed to enhance teaching and learning. The world is continually changing, and this requires educators to stay current with the latest educational technology. It is expected that this master degree attracts education professionals interested in Internet-based teaching, improving traditional classroom learning, managing distance education programs, designing instructional modules, corporate training and more.

“Group dynamics activity is different in virtual environments. The tools and strategies used in a traditional class change when student attention is needed,” said Instituto Latinoamericano de Desarrollo Profesional Docente Director Jorge Rey Valzachi.



rector Jorge Rey Valzachi.

The first group of 60 students will start the program in April, and it includes a first part (9 months) and a second part with two more quarters. There have been conversations with this institute since 2007. It has been a long period of conversation, but UTN can finally offer this program.

## UTN Trick Roping Champion

Animal Production Major Student José Emilio Barrantes from UTN, Atenas Campus became trick roping national champion.

Trick roping or **floreo**, as it is known in Costa Rica, is an entertainment or competitive art involving the spinning of a lasso also known as a lariat or a rope. Cowboys developed various tricks to show off their prowess with the lasso and demonstrations of these tricks evolved into entertainment and competitive disciplines. There is a well-established repertoire of tricks that can be divided into three fundamental categories: “**flat loop**”, “**vertical loop**” and “**butterfly**”. In addition there are thrown loop tricks and tricks that involve the use of two ropes.

The contest in which José Emilio participated gave participants three minutes to present his/her routine and impress judges. This is the third time he wins since 2008 when the UTN floreo team was born.

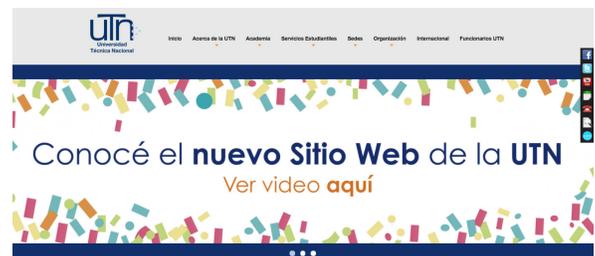


## UTN Has A NEW Web Page

UTN has a new face. This year we changed our website to make it more attractive, easy to use with all the information that students, teachers, administrative staff and the community can access.

We invite you to visit our new website:

<http://www.utn.ac.cr>



## Kaziranga's Rangers Have Right To Kill Poachers At Sight

In Kaziranga, a national park in north-eastern India, rangers shoot people to protect rhinos. The park's aggressive policing is, of course, controversial, but the results are clear: despite rising demand for illegal rhino horn, and plummeting numbers throughout Africa and south-east Asia, rhinos in Kaziranga are flourishing.

Yet Kaziranga, which features in a new BBC investigation, highlights some of the conflicts that characterise contemporary conservation, as the need to protect endangered species comes into contact with the lives and rights of people who live in and around the increasingly threatened national parks. In 2015, more than 20 poachers were killed—more than the number of rhinos poached that year.



The programme accuses the rangers of extra-judicial killings. This resonates with a wider trend in the use of violence in defence of the world's protected areas and the growing use of military surveillance technologies to support the efforts of conservation agencies.

To justify such escalation and its talk of a "war" against poaching, the government cites the grow-

ing power and sophistication of the crime syndicates involved in the illegal wildlife trade.

While Kaziranga is in many ways a remarkable conservation success, its costs are considerable. The forces driving the world to overuse its resources haven't gone away, and finding sustainable futures for both people and the planet requires coalitions that work together.

Information taken from: <http://www.africametro.com/world-news/asia/kazirangas-indian-national-park-ruthless-rangers-reduced-rhino-poaching-simply-gunning-poachers-sight>  
Photo credit: Attila Hajzer45 via Foter.com / CC BY <http://foter.com/f/photo/12358759214/7ef75a2457/>



## Brazil Yellow Fever Kills Hundreds Of Monkeys

An outbreak of yellow fever has claimed the lives of more than 600 monkeys and dozens of humans in Brazil's Atlantic rain-forest region, threatening the survival of rare South American primates, according to a zoologist.

The monkeys, mostly **brown**

**howlers and masked titis**, are falling out of trees and dying on the ground in the forests of Espírito Santo state in Brazil's south-east.

"The number of dead monkeys increases every day," said Sergio Lucena, a professor at the Federal University of Espírito Santo.

Referring to the impact of the disease's spread in his state, he said: "We now know that the rare buffy-headed marmoset is also threatened by the yellow fever virus and dying."

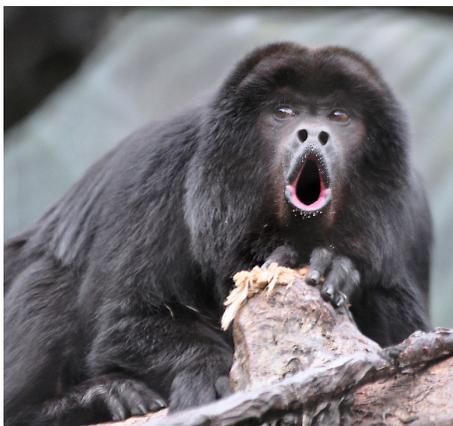
The howler's sounds closely resemble grunts or barks. It was the silence that fell on the forests that first alerted farmers that something was amiss, sparking specialists to investigate.

No evidence has so far surfaced of the affliction affecting woolly spider monkeys, considered one of the world's most endangered by the IUCN.

Brazil's federal health officials are investigating if the latest outbreak is linked to a tailings dam collapse last year in Minas Gerais at the Samarco iron ore mine co-owned by BHP Billiton and Vale SA.

The dam accident, which polluted the Rio Doce river, is regarded as the country's worst environmental disaster.

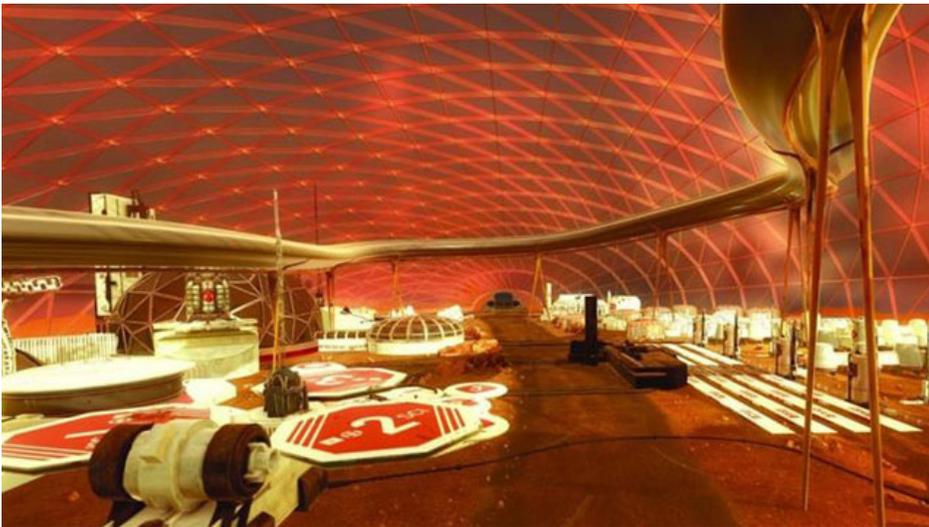
Some scientists have said that calamity may have made the monkeys more susceptible to contracting yellow fever by decimating their habitat and food supplies.



5 Information taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/americas/63649-brazil-yellow-fever.html>  
Photo credit: Len Radin via Foter.com / CC BY-NC-SA: <http://foter.com/photo/0000000/>



## UAE Seeks To Build Human Settlement On Mars By 2117



The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has unveiled a new project that aims to establish the first inhabitable human settlement in Mars by 2117.

The initiative called "Mars 2117 Project" was announced on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai and Vice President of the UAE, on the sidelines of the 5th World Government Summit, currently being held in the Emirate.

Sheikh Mohammed said his country was one of the world's leaders in space science investments, adding that it aims to accelerate the research in this area.

"The new project is a seed that we plant today, and we expect future generations to reap the benefits, driven by its passion to learn to unveil a new knowledge," Sheikh Mohammed said. According to a statement released by the Dubai government media office, the project

is set to be developed and executed in partnership with major international scientific research institutions.

The project will initially focus on preparing the human cadres able to achieve scientific breakthrough to facilitate the arrival of humans to the Red Planet over the next decades, the statement said.

It will start with an Emirati scientific team and will be extended to include international scientists and researchers, it added.

The project will focus on developing faster means of transportation from and to the Red Planet. It will also come up with an integrated scientific visualisation of how the settlement will look like, and how life will be there in term of food, transportation and energy among many others.

In July 2014, the UAE announced it would create a space agency with the aim of sending the first Arab unmanned probe to Mars by 2021.



Information and image taken from: <http://mwcnews.net/news/middle-east/63758-settlement-on-mars.html>

## Super Bowl LI Interesting Facts

On February 5th, New England Patriots defeated Atlanta Falcons 34-28 to win Super Bowl LI in Houston. Even though it was an incredible game, let's pay attention to these amazing facts:

- This game is the second highest food consumption day among Americans.
- During this day, approximately 50 million cases of beer, 4.4 million pizzas, 3.8 million pounds of popcorn, 8 million \ pounds of guacamole, 28 million pounds of chips, and 1.25 billion wings are consumed by fans.
- Antacid sales rise 20%.
- Advertiser pay **5 million** dollars for a 30-second ad (it was \$42,000 during the first Super Bowl in 1967.)
- The **tickets** for this edition are available from **\$3,000 and \$5,000** (it was \$12 in 1967.)
- The game is watched for about **111 million** people only in the US.



## Cuba: A Personal Narrative From An intercultural Point Of View

By Verónica Oguilve (ILE Professor)



According to intercultural communication theory, in this globalized world, people must be trained to understand and respect other cultures. Every day, people from different area codes get in contact due to business, tourism, education, interpersonal relationships and so on. Having said that, it is obvious that when you put two people from different cultures together one in front of the other, there will be obstacles of perception. "Each of us is conditioned by our culture from birth... culture gives humans their identity. It is the total communication framework for words, actions, body language, emblems (gestures), intonation, facial expressions, for the way one handles time, space, and materials, and for the way one works, makes love, plays, and so on." (Novinger, 2001). In other words, we are a product of the culture we are immersed in. All the cultural aspects that makes us who we are also function as "the lens" we use to see the world. For example, if we learned that women are entitled to wear whatever they want in our culture, we might not understand cultures in which women must wear a **niqab** (an outfit for women that covers the whole body, letting you see just the woman's eyes). In order **to be culturally savvy**, we must understand our own culture, understand the oth-

er culture and learn that there is not such thing as a "better" culture. We have to learn to observe but not to jump to conclusions, to listen instead of talking and most importantly to think before acting.

Now, this is my personal experience.

Before going to Cuba I had to follow the first step to be culturally competent which was learning about the culture. Three months before, I started reading all the articles, blogs, books, watching all the documentaries I could find and talking to Cubans and people who had been there. All of this, to know the different perceptions people had about this country. However, it was clear to me



that I was just having a glimpse of what it really was. A golden rule is: you cannot believe everything people say since they are seeing this culture using their very own "cultural lens". Then, I did research about their history, and political situation, so by the time I stepped into the country, I would understand who they were and where they came from.

All the extensive research is not

enough to say that you already know the culture. I learned so many things in each house, neighborhood and town I visited during this time I was immersed in the culture.

### Collectivism vs Individualism

These terms refer to the level of interdependency between individuals of the culture. Different from many Costa Ricans, Cubans are people who really know their neighbors and interact with them daily. They tend to be cooperative, supportive and show affection openly. This is a distinctive trait that makes foreigners feel welcome and allows them to become friends with Cubans easily. The first house I visited was old looking, in fact, the paint had peeled and cracked. The sofa had worn over time and the cushions had sagged; and as a solution, they put an old blanket which had lost its original colors and had holes in it. At some point of a conversation, the owner of the house said "this furniture is all we have; it belonged to my grandparents, my parents and it will be passed on to my children and grandchildren". This was not a hyperbole, her family would literally have that sofa 'til they die. She added that the situation was very difficult there **"everybody has to struggle to put food on their tables"** she said. But regardless of their economic situation, they would always share "su racion de pan" (ration of bread) with friends, relatives, neighbors and even visitors.

I was shocked to see how generous she was.

She was always making sure that everybody had a full stomach. I thought that this was a characteristic of just this lady, but I was wrong, Cubans did the same in other houses I visited. They would always offer food and coffee. When I was in Carbonera, my friends and I were invited to have "two fish". When we got to the house, they served 10 Cuban crackers with mayonnaise spread and small pieces of sausage.



The two fish that were cooked were the size of my hand and they had to be shared with 7 people. One has to take into account that that food was all they had to offer.

In another house the situation was a bit different. She had worked as a cleaning lady occasionally, so she would earn **4 dollars for cleaning**. Entering her house, we were offered "croquettes" which are a bread-crumbed food leftovers that are deep-fried. They were usually made of fish and they were delicious. In different occasions, we had pork, eggs and Congrí (which is similar to Gallo Pinto).

## History, Experience and Master Symbols

When you drive around Havana, it is common to see "La Revolucion" billboards, graffiti, signs, posters, statues and Cuban flags everywhere. This is a really powerful tool to remind citizens about their political history, and spread La Revolucion ideas to the new generations. All of this is also supported by television. When foreigners turn on the TV, all they will see is local channels. Most shows, news and commercials highlight the accomplishments of La Revolucion. Other channels are arts and education related.

## Education

Many foreigners may be misled by the looks of many Cubans. They might wear worn clothes and plastic flip-flops, but they may be doctors, engineers or have degrees in other high-valued professions for our Costa Rican society. For example, I would always see Yolanda wearing a pair of bleached-out cotton pants and stretched out shirts, but she was an anesthesiologist with two master degrees and 20 years of experience.



Cubans have the possibility to

study for free and receive the best education, but this, does not change their economic situation significantly. Yolanda would earn **\$55 a month**. Otoniel, a 21 year-old student told me "I study architecture, but what for? My life will not change; there is no point of studying so hard and making so many sacrifices to get to school". Hearing that was sad to me and all I could think of was my own students, how privileged they are in that sense. Here, education does better their lives.

## Freedom

Yasmany, a 21 year old lifeguard student, jokingly said "**killing a cow here is worse than killing a person; you will get more years in jail for the cow**". Later he explained that eating red meat was banned. In another conversation, he said that going to Varadero (one of the most famous touristic spots) was also prohibited, "I need a permit" he said. Cuban citizens are not allowed to move around freely as we do.



Other prohibitions that I learned were that as a foreigner, I could not take or get a lift in “a maquina” (an old car use by Cubans for commuting) if the driver did not have a taxi license. The consequences would be that the car would be taken away from the owner. Cubans cannot fish lobsters or shrimp, those are reserved for tourists only. Another interesting thing was mentioned by Sandro. He said that if a lady were walking with a Cuban male and the police stopped them, he would have to say that he was her husband to prevent police questioning and avoid getting into trouble.

## The Brightest Side

On the bright side, Cuba is really safe. If I were walking in San Jose, I would hold my purse hard and carry it in front of me in order not to be mugged. But in Cuba, you can walk freely. That sense of security is priceless, and unfortunately, it van-

ishes the moment you put a foot back in Costa Rican. In Havana, children are able to play freely right in the downtown area. To have a better idea, picture a few houses right next to “El Correo” a block away from La Avenida Central and 8 kids running and playing tag right in front of it. There seem to be no criminals, no beggars and no danger for them. The system has made Cubans fear going to jail. There are no traffic jams. All you see is a range of beautiful old cars everywhere you look.

I bet these positive traits of this lovely land are a few of the reasons why Yasmany said with a soft voice “we are so sad because our father passed away but we have to continue with his legacy”. This 21 year old was truly heart-broken for Fidel's death.

To wrap up, Edward T. Hall, an American anthropologist and cross-cultural researcher once explained that it is an error to say that “an outsider can, within a matter of months or even years, adequately understand, explain and describe a foreign culture” (as cited in Novinger, 2001 ). Therefore, take my experiences as a reference. But I feel that Cuba gave me a different perspective. I was in Cuba for 9 days. I cried and still cry when I try to put myself in their shoes

and when I try to see their situation through “my cultural lens” and my background in a capitalist society. But at the same time, I also smile when I remember how supportive, warm, joyful and kind-hearted they are and how they enjoy the things we take for granted. I learned that we might have the power to buy so many things, eat whatever we want, go anywhere, but we might not fully enjoy that. For me, personally, less will be more from now on. So reader, take my experiences just as they are – stories of a trip to Cuba- , go visit and enjoy being in a culture that is very complex and eye opening.



## My Four-Legged Children

By Gabriela Calvo (ILE Professor)



I am the proud mother of two beautiful Schnauzer dogs. They are my babies. How is that possible, you may ask?

Why do I treat them as real children, why do I pamper them so much, why do I take so much care of them? Well, not everyone will understand the bond there is between my children and I.

We are not of the same blood and flesh, but we are family. They are my dogs, my friends and that is enough for me to treat them as members of my family. Just as real children, they need my constant help for almost everything they do. They need me to feed them, to bathe them, to provide them with shelter, with a soft bed where to sleep every night, with toys to entertain themselves during the hours they have to spend home alone awaiting for my return, to take them to the vet, and for many other things. They will never be self-sufficient and that means that for as long as they might live, I have a life

responsibility. They are my responsibility just as real parents are responsible for their kids wellbeing at all times.

I have seen them develop from cute little puppies to beautiful healthy adults. Just as parents love to take pictures of their children while growing, so I also do love to take pictures of mine as they change physically from puppies to adults. We will continue sharing this stage of growing, which unfortunately also means the painful stage



of aging. And, although it hurts me deeply just to think about it, it will be me the one standing by their side, holding them in my arms, at the end of their days.

So, what is a child anyway? A child is a wonderful being who loves you unconditionally, a defenseless small being who needs your protection, a cute little being who makes you laugh with his silly gestures or actions, an angel on earth who makes your days brighter. That is exactly what my dogs are to me. These wonderful beings have given me the purest love I will ever have in my life.

So although many will never understand the love I have for my children, I am very proud to profess it openly. A dog might never substitute the presence of a real person in our life, but they come pretty much close to doing it. If you are the proud parent of a four-legged child, just as I am, remember that their main mission is to take care of us, be loyal to us and give us much love, and in the end, we are all that they have. Love my four-legged children with all my heart.

# Schnauzer



# Mom

# ACADEMICS AND MORE

## What's The Deal With Homework?

By Nicolas Provenzano

I have been reading plenty of great posts on homework, or more specifically, the lack of value to homework. Research has been done and it says it shows that homework has little impact on learning. I do not want to argue the research. My issue is the broad definition of homework.

Just because it is done at home, doesn't make it worthless. Are these studies being conducted focusing on worksheets and study guides? The odd numbered problems in the textbook? If so, I tend to agree that those assignments do not impact learning as much as people think. However, if they are talking about the first two chapters of *The Great Gatsby*, the research is wrong.

I'm a high school English teacher. We have to guide our students through the invisible world of themes, symbols, satire and other important ideas that will add value to the world around them. I learned a little while back that handouts and study guides were not really helping to reinforce these ideas. It was just busy work to grade. That does not mean I ditched homework all together.

Students need to read at home and come to class

ready to discuss what they have learned. At the high school level, English teachers do not have the time to let kids read all they need to read in class. When I want students to read *Huck Finn*, *Gatsby*, *Catcher*, *The Cribble*, *Death of a Sales-*

man, poems from Dickinson, works from Poe and other pieces from great American authors, reading in class every day is not possible. Learning to read at home and annotate is an important skill that needs to be practiced at home after the skill is taught in class. So this work that is assigned to be done at home is homework, but it is valuable and important. We all need to read and

find value in our jobs. I did so when reading other posts on homework and I can now articulate my writing based on what I read. This is possible because I learned to read on my own and create my own thoughts to share with others.

### I did not do my homework because...

- 1. my dog ate it.*
- 2. my printer ran out of ink.*
- 3. I left it in my shirt, and my mother put the shirt in the washing machine.*
- 4. there was an electricity problem at home.*
- 5. my internet access was down.*
- 6. my grandmother got sick, so I had to take care of her.*



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We all need to read and

I get annoyed when parts of education are generalized as all being bad or all being life changing. Like all tools, how work assigned to be done at home is used is dependent on the teacher who assigns it.

There is bad homework. There is also valuable homework. I think we need to remember that so we can have meaningful discussion about the good, the bad and the ugly.

The UTN community includes professors, administrative staff and students. Each individual has something to say about everything. In this section, we give the university community the opportunity to express what they feel about different school, country and world issues that in one or another way affect or impact our lives, feelings and opinions. This month we asked students:

## *How would you liked to be known and remembered?*

*I would like to be remembered as an optimistic person who worked hard and never gave up, no matter how difficult life was.*

*Kelby Aguilar*

*I would like to be remembered as a person who helped and loved people whenever I could.*

*Jean Rodríguez*

*I would like to be remembered as a humble, excellent professional, husband and father.*

*Roberto Vargas*

*I would like to be remembered as a nice, honest, humble and sincere person that tried to do his best.*

*Santiago Ramírez*

*I would like to be remembered as a person who followed God's teachings because he marks everybody's life.*

*Henry Molina*

*I would like to be remembered as an outstanding percussionist and saxofonist, and most important as a good son, brother that loved his family with all his heart.*

*Daniel Vargas*

*I would like to be remembered as a person who always had a smile to cheer others up.*

*Clara Avila*



*I would like to be remembered for being a good human being who cared not only about other people but also about animals and nature.*

*Melissa Villalobos*



## *Just Because I'm Latino*

*By Joshua Calvo (ILE Student)*

Just because I'm latino,  
Doesn't mean that I'm an immigrant,  
Doesn't mean that you are greater,  
And doesn't mean that we're different,  
Just because I don't belong to the "First World",  
Doesn't mean that I'm a minority,  
Doesn't mean that you can do business with my dignity,  
And doesn't mean that there is a price for me,  
Just because I'm not white like your theory of evolution,  
Doesn't mean that melanin concentration is my decision,  
Doesn't mean that you can make any separations,  
And doesn't mean that you can ignore racism,  
Just because I'm not your follower,  
Why should I obey you?  
Why should I be afraid of you?  
If you bleed the same way like I do.  
Just because I'm Latino.

## *Jerry*

*By Jerry Cordero (ILE Student)*

Jerry.  
Father, organized, compulsive, and loyal,  
Brother of Adrian, Danny,  
Lover of pizza, R&B music, and languages,  
Who feels frustrated, betrayed, hopeless,  
Who needs to find a new job, retire at the beach, and travel a lot,  
Who offers people a helping hand, true friendship, and good sense of humor,  
Who fears death, pain, and uncertainty,  
Who would like to see an a-self-realized son, a clean environment and a committed country,  
Resident of Moravia, San José,  
Cordero

## Kindness Is King

By Laura Córdoba (ILE Student)

This year, Mother Duck and Father Duck were happier than ever because it was the first time they would be spending summer with their ducklings. They all were at the perfect age to learn how to jump into water and swim. It was a sunny morning when they were packing some food to be on their way to Duckland Lake. It was a large blue lake where many duck families took their ducklings to swim.

They were four brothers, but one of them, instead of feeling excited, was feeling fearful. His brothers were always teasing him, and saying something funny out of any silly thing he did. They would joke about how shy and scared their youngest brother was although Mother Duck defended him constantly. When the family arrived, one of the oldest ducks had the cruel idea to scare the youngest duck. "You'll be the first one to swim." He pushed Little Duck into the water and Little Duck fell inside. "Quack, quack, quack, quack," little duck was terrified as he was sinking, so he began flapping and splashing water around.

Mother Duck heard Little Duck quacking. She jumped inside to get him out and after doing so, she greatly scolded Little Duck's oldest brothers. They were sorry for what they had done, but Little Duck wanted to talk about it with Mother Duck. He told his mother how scared he was of water, and that he didn't want to learn how to swim. His mom was really surprised by what he had said; she tried to encourage him, and she said "Maybe I can help you; let's try it together."

Mother Duck jumped into water and tried to make her son understand that water was not something to be afraid of, and that a duck like him only needed to overcome his fears to discover how skillful he was. Mother Duck's words were so helpful and cheering that Little Duck slowly began swimming.

## Valentine's Day

### CUPID

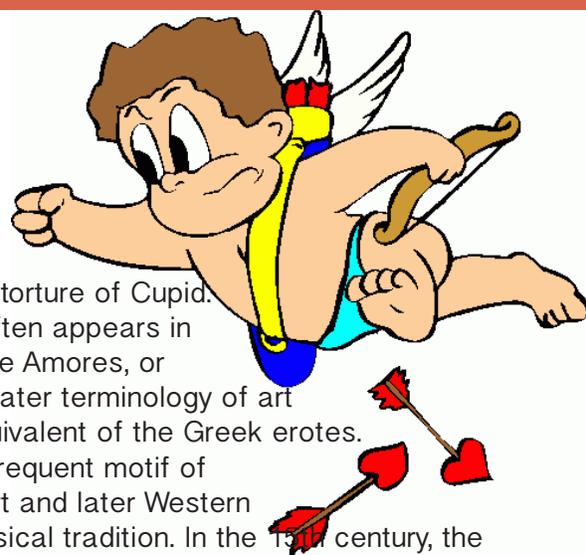
In classical mythology, Cupid (Latin Cupido, meaning “desire”) is the god of desire, erotic love, attraction and affection. He is often portrayed as the son of the love goddess Venus and the war god Mars, and is known in Latin also as Amor (“Love”). His Greek counterpart is Eros.

Although Eros is in Classical Greek art as a slender winged youth, during the Hellenistic period, he was increasingly portrayed as a chubby boy. During this time, his iconography acquired the bow and arrow that represent his source of power: a person, or even a deity, who is shot by Cupid’s arrow is filled with uncontrollable desire. In myths, Cupid is a minor character who serves mostly to set the plot in motion. He is a main character only in the tale of Cupid and Psyche, when wounded by his own weapons he experiences the ordeal of love. Although other extended stories are not told about him, his tradition is rich in poetic themes and visual scenarios, such as “Love conquers all” and

the retaliatory punishment or torture of Cupid. In art, Cupid often appears in multiples as the Amores, or amorini in the later terminology of art history, the equivalent of the Greek erotes.

Cupids are a frequent motif of both Roman art and later Western art of the classical tradition. In the 13th century, the iconography of Cupid starts to become indistinguishable from the putto.

Cupid continued to be a popular figure in the Middle Ages, when under Christian influence he often had a dual nature as Heavenly and Earthly love. In the Renaissance, a renewed interest in classical philosophy endowed him with complex allegorical meanings. In contemporary popular culture, Cupid is shown drawing his bow to inspire romantic love, often as an icon of Valentine’s Day.



## INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT VALANTINE’S DAY

### 1. Valentine’s Day in Korea

It is tradition in Korea to go out and eat black noodles if you don’t receive any valentines gifts or cards, presumably this is a signal to all would be valentines that you are single and available, a nifty system less brilliant if you’re not a fan of black noodles.

### 2. Valentine’s Day in Japan

Here’s one for the lads! Fed up with buying gifts for your partner? Move to Japan. There only women are expected to gift on Valentine’s Day. Apparently this was due to a translation error when the occasion was imported to the orient. We’re willing to bet said translator was a man. Unfortunately the Women soon realized the unfairness of this situation and now Men are expected to reciprocate the gifting a month later on March 14th so you’re not completely off the hook.

**3. Valentine’s Day in USA** In America around 3 percent of pet owners will send a valentines gift to their furry friends, were not sure what the purpose of this is and were not sure we want to know the details.

### 4. Wearing Your Heart on Your Sleeve

Back in the Ye Olde Middle ages, your valentine would be picked not by silly, unpredictable ‘feelings’ but by a much more reliable system whereby you would pick a name out of hat.

This sensible and pragmatic selection process was followed by wearing your chosen valentines name on your sleeve, which is where the popular phrase ‘wearing your heart on your sleeve’ probably comes from.



## Niagara Falls (Canada)

The city of Niagara Falls, Ontario, sits on the Niagara River at the set of waterfalls known as Niagara Falls. In addition to a massive set of waterfalls, Niagara Falls also boasts that it is the “Honeymoon Capital of the World,” offers casino gambling, wax museums and haunted houses, and theme park rides.

### Sights and Activities

#### Niagara Falls

The Niagara Falls can be viewed for free from the edge of the Niagara River. The Falls is made up of three separate falls: the large Canadian falls – with its distinctive curved shape – is also known as the “Horseshoe Falls”. It is separated by Goat Island from the American Falls, which is separated by a small island at its southern end, from the narrow Bridal Veil falls.



There are debates over whether the Canadian or American side offers the best view, but one of the closest views of the falls can be seen from

The Maid of the Mist. Maid of the Mist is a boat that takes tourists to the foot of the falls, where you can better appreciate their thunder and spray. Price for a trip aboard the Maid of the Mist is \$14.00 (Cdn) for adults. The boat runs in the spring, summer and fall. The opening date depends on the ice flow in the Niagara River, so check the Maid of the Mist website for the exact opening dates.

#### Casinos

On the Canadian side, there are two casinos, the newer Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort and the older Casino Niagara.

#### Clifton Hill

Clifton Hill is a street, chock o' block full of tourist attractions such as wax museums, Ripley's Believe it or Not, haunted houses, and gift shops.

#### Butterfly Conservatory

The Niagara Falls Butterfly Conservatory features over 2,000 colourful tropical butterflies floating freely among lush, exotic blossoms and greenery.

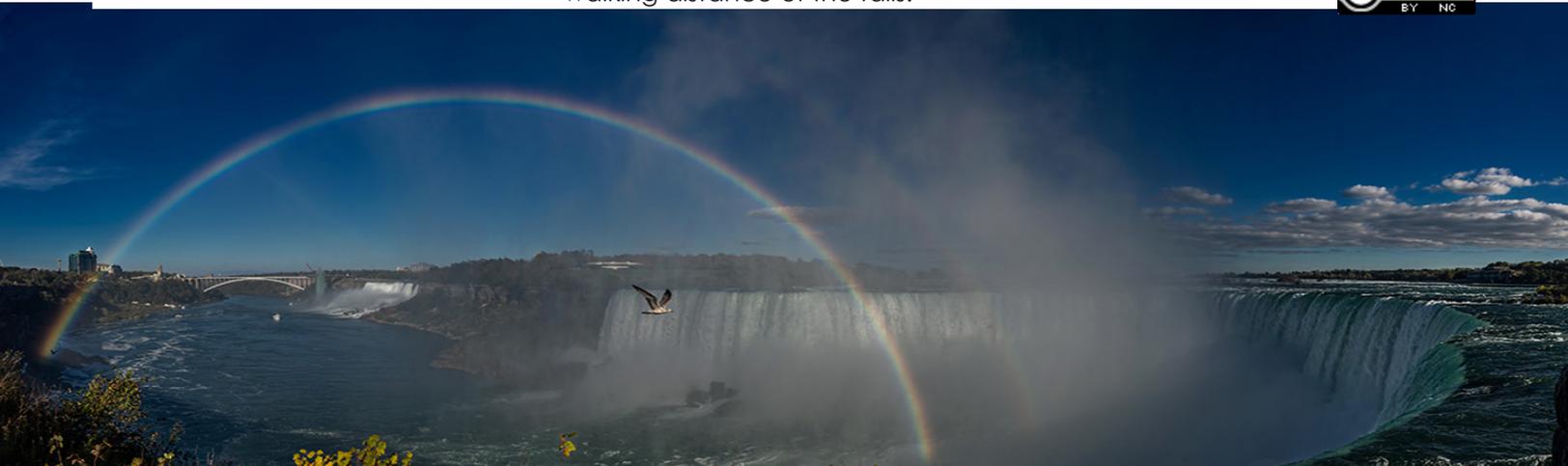
Most tourist attractions are within walking distance of the falls.

Niagara Transit operates 10 routes in the city. Fares for adults are \$2.25, students and seniors (providing ID) pay \$2.00, children from 6 to 12 ride for \$1.00 and children 5 and under are free.



### Weather

The city and area have a humid continental climate with mostly warm summers and cold winters. Average highs range from slightly below zero in January to around 27 °C in July, nights between -8 °C and 17 °C respectively. Winters see regular snowfall and the total annual precipitation is around 1,000mm of which 80% is rain.





## “ENGLISH FOR YOU CR” PRESENTS, READING STRATEGIES FOR THE TOEIC EXAM II



Today we want to share more basic strategies for the ToEIC exam, which many teachers need to get a propiedad with MEP.

- 1- Get the correct answer using one of two approaches. Keep in mind that multiple choice exercises, such as those in the TOEIC can be answered either by finding the correct answer right away, or by eliminating wrong options.
- 2- Use the “bateo ilustrado” technique. Even if you don’t know which is the correct answer, eliminate one option, so your odds are 33% of guessing correctly. By discarding one more, now your odds are 50%! In this case, just “swing the bat” and move on.
- 3- Answer all the questions. Although you may run out of time, or have no clue as to what the correct answer may be, just check one option and move on. Don’t leave any questions unanswered. You’ll be wasting even a 25% of probabilities of guessing correctly, and higher odds with the “bateo ilustrado”.
- 4- Manage your time efficiently. For most items, spending more than 30-45 seconds trying to find the correct answer is a waste of time. Be fast but be effective. If you don’t know, use the “bateo ilustrado” and move on.
- 5- Read in English as much as you can so you become more fluent. Good luck!

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<http://www.EnglishforYouCR.com> and [www.facebook.com/english.foryoucr](http://www.facebook.com/english.foryoucr)

## muckraker

to search for and expose real or alleged corruption, scandal, or the like, especially in politics.

EXAMPLE:

*Some magazines live to muckrake, some to deliver readers to advertisers..*

## Jules Verne

**J**ules Gabriel Verne (February 8 1828–March 24 1905) was a French author and a pioneer of the science-fiction genre, best known for novels such as *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea* (1870), *Journey To The Center Of The Earth* (1864), and *Around the World in Eighty Days* (1873). Verne was noted for writing about space, air, and underwater travel before air travel and submarines were actually invented, and before practical means of space travel had been devised. He is one of the most translated authors in the world.

After completing his studies at the lycée, Verne went to Paris to study for the bar. Around 1848, in conjunction with Michel Carré, he began writing librettos for operettas. For some years his attentions were divided between the theater and work, but some traveler's stories which he wrote for the *Musée des Familles* seem to have revealed to him the true direction of his talent; stories of delightfully extravagant voyages and adventures to which cleverly prepared scientific and geographical details lent an air of verisimilitude.

When Verne's father discovered that his son was writing rather than studying law, he promptly withdrew his financial support. Consequently, he was forced to support himself as a stockbroker, which he hated, despite being somewhat successful at it.

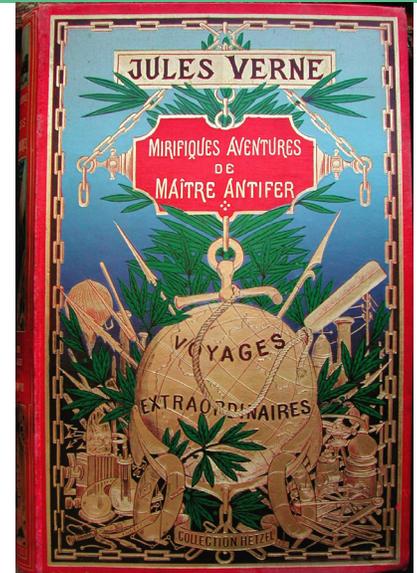
During this period, he met the authors Alexandre Dumas and Victor Hugo, who offered him some advice on his writing. Verne's situation improved when he met Pierre-Jules Hetzel, one of the most important French publishers of the nineteenth century.

Acting on Hetzel's advice, Verne added comical accents to his novels, changed sad endings into happy ones, and toned down various political messages.

From that point on, and up to years after Verne's death, Hetzel published two or more volumes a year. The most successful of these include: *Voyage au centre de la terre* (*Journey to the Center of the Earth*, 1864); *De la terre à la lune* (*From the Earth to the Moon*, 1865); *Vingt mille lieues sous les mers* (*Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*, 1869); and *Le tour du monde en quatre-vingts jours* (*Around the World in Eighty Days*), which first appeared in *Le Temps* in 1872. The series is collectively known as "Les voyages extraordinaires" ("extraordinary voyages"). Verne could now make a living by writing. But most of his wealth



came from the stage adaptations of *Le tour du monde en quatre-vingts jours* (1874) and *Michel Strogoff* (1876), which he wrote together with Adolphe d'Ennery. In 1867 he bought a small ship, the *Saint-Michel*, which he successively replaced with the *Saint-Michel II* and the *Saint-Michel III* as his financial situation improved. On board the *Saint-Michel III*, he sailed around Europe. In 1870, he

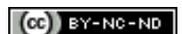


was appointed as "Chevalier" (Knight) of the Légion d'honneur. After his first novel, most of his stories were first serialized in the *Magazine d'Éducation et de Récréation*, a Hetzel biweekly publication, before being published in the form of books. His brother, Paul Verne, contributed to the 40th French climbing of the Mont-Blanc, added to his brother's collection of short stories *Doctor Ox* in 1874. Verne became wealthy and famous. He remains one of the most translated novelists in the world.

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1886, as Verne was coming home, his twenty-five-year-old nephew, Gaston, with whom he had entertained lengthy and affectionate relations, shot at him with a gun. One bullet missed, but the second bullet entered Verne's left leg, giving him a permanent limp.

While in France and many other countries Verne is considered an author of quality books for young people with a good command of his subjects—especially technological, but also political—his reputation in English-speaking countries has for a long time suffered from poor translation.

If you want to read Jules Verne's work, you can visit <http://www.freeclassicebooks.com/Jules%20Verne.htm>



Jules Verne. (2016, September 12). *New World Encyclopedia*. Retrieved 16:41, February 10, 2017 from [http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/p/index.php?title=Jules\\_Verne&oldid=999243](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/p/index.php?title=Jules_Verne&oldid=999243).

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## Mardi Gras

The holiday of Mardi Gras is celebrated in Southern Louisiana and originated in Mobile, Alabama. Celebrations are concentrated for about two weeks before and through Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. Usually there is one major parade each day (weather permitting); many days have several large parades. The largest and most elaborate parades take place the last five days of the Mardi Gras season. In the final week, many events occur throughout New Orleans and surrounding communities, including parades and balls (some of them masquerade balls).

The traditional colors of the New Orleans Mardi Gras are purple, green, and gold. All three colors were used by the Catholic Church throughout history and thus continued to be used in relation to Mardi Gras which is Catholic in origin.

To know more about this zodiac sign, go to: <http://www.neworleanscvb.com/calendar-events/mardi-gras/history/>



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