

THE WESTAMPTON EYE

IMMIGRATION: ONE PERSON'S EXPERIENCE

BY MICHELLE A.



Recently, I interviewed my mom, who is an immigrant from Ghana, for a Social Studies project, and she told me more about the immigration process and experience. Here is the interview I conducted. It has been edited for length.

Q: Where did you live before coming to America?

A: I lived in Accra, Ghana.

Q: Why did you come to the U.S.?

A: I came here because my mother filed a petition for me to come. She was here in America for over 15 years to work before I came. She left when I was around a year old.

Q: How old were you when you came?

A: I was sixteen when I first came here.

Q: What is the process to get approved to come to America?

A: It was a long process that took a while to get approved. First of all, my mother had to petition the Ghanaian and American embassy that she wanted me to live here. She had to prove her citizenship, her employment, and her tax record. I had to go for an interview and was asked questions to prove if I really knew her. Then, I got some blood tests done. The blood tests alone took over six months to be finished and then sent to America. Then I had permission to go to the USA.



IMMIGRATION CONT.

Q: How did you feel during the process?

A: I was excited to come to America and finally be with my mother; however, there were times when I was gonna miss my childhood friends as well. So I had mixed feelings.

Q: Have you ever gone back?

A: Yes. I actually went back for the first time last year so before that, it had been 27 years.

Q: Where do you like living more?

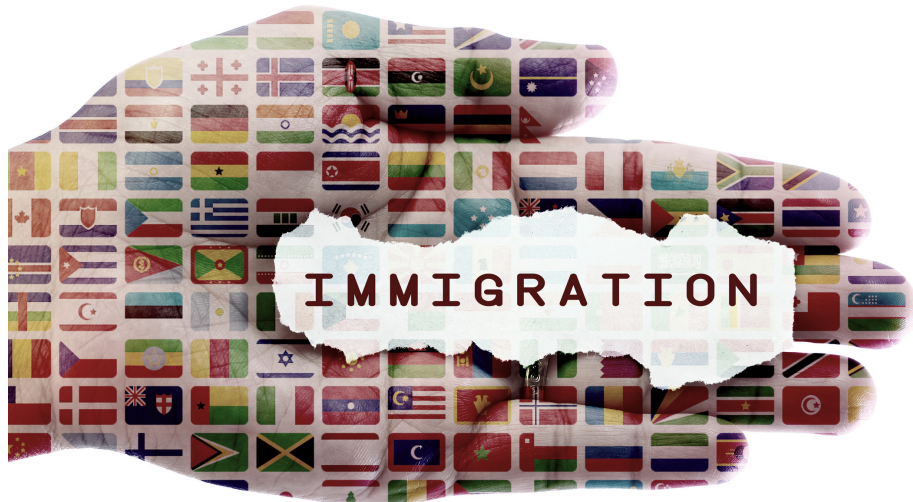
A: I don't really know. In America, I work too much but Ghana is too hot! I think right now I would like to stay here, but there is a chance I could move back later on.

Q: Which of the two counties are you a citizen of?

A: I'm a citizen in both countries, which is called dual citizenship.

Q: Have people ever been rude to you because of where you're from?

A: Yes. Many times. There are situations where I actually got favored because I am an immigrant, but there are still times when I get rejected because of that fact. I've just learned to be confident in my skills and who I am.



SOCIAL SKILLS TIP

BY CHRISTIAN D.



I think social skills are a really important to have in life. Personally, I can't live without my friends. Without them I would literally be depressed. For me, having friends means I need to have good social skills (having good conversations and whatnot).

Starting conversations is easy but also hard at the same time; it really just depends on what you want to talk about. For example, if it's something just normal like talking about food or like colors, it's easy. You just need to find a good way to start that conversation. Something like, "What's your favorite food?" Asking questions is a good way to start a conversation with someone. However, if you want to talk about something serious or important then you need to have a serious tone.

The way you talk to someone also depends on how well you know that person or what type of friendship/relationship you have with them. If they're someone you've literally just met, you could try to sound more formal, starting with things like "excuse me" to get their attention. But if they're like a really close friend then you can really talk to them any way you want to. For me, I refer to my friends mostly as "bro," but I've used a lot of other things too, like "dude" or "man." That's how I prefer to communicate with different people.

I've never really been much of an introverted person at all since I enjoy talking to people and hanging out with friends. Making friends isn't THAT hard for me either, but it still proves to be a challenge sometimes. It really depends on the person and what happens overall. I've made some of my friends by talking about common interests, others just by pure coincidence, and some, a mix of both. For example, I met one of my best friends today at the start of a soccer season. Another friend is someone I met after I helped them with an assignment in computer class.

In conclusion, social skills are crucial if you want to make friends and they are important to have in life.

ETHICS: DOES "DAHMER" GO TOO FAR?

BY REYHAN Y.

If you're familiar with Netflix you may know that they released a series called "Dahmer," based on the infamous serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer. There has been a lot of controversy surrounding the show. Various people have claimed that the show profits off of the serial killer's victims. This topic has been gaining more and more attention since the show has come out. This raises the question: Is it right to base movies or television shows off of real life serial killers?



A poll was sent to the members of WMS's Newspaper Club. Students were asked if creating such shows like "Dahmer" was ethical. Eighty-two percent of people said yes, it is ethical. The other 18% said no, it is not ethical. I asked the 82% why they think it is ethical, and they mostly responded by saying that these movies/shows are educational and spread awareness. The 18% said that these shows profit off of the victims' grief and portray an inaccurate version of events.

The media has been debating the question for years, but it just now got more active due to the new series.

Perhaps the decision to create such shows shouldn't be left to the public but the victims' families.

TWO PEOPLE, TWO DIFFERENT LIVES

BY CHRISTIAN D. AND SYNAI G.



A Friday afternoon in the life of Christian:

So, I get back home from school and take notes of my homework. Instead of doing it though, I save it for Sunday. I greet my grandma and have lunch, then do whatever chores she gives me. Afterward, I take my shower and get to gaming. Sometimes if my parents aren't home, I go outside. If some friends are out, I hang out with them. Most of the time, if my parents are home they will try to find any

reason to not let me go outside. Anyways, if I'm not gonna go outside, I would spend the rest of the time gaming, really. I'm not really able to talk to anyone since I DON'T HAVE A PHONE! If I'm really, really not gonna play games, I'm taking a nap, since I don't get much sleep. Once my mom gets home, 99% of the time she's gonna call me to do something. From here on out, I CANNOT go outside. If I ask my mom she's instantly gonna say no because she's so paranoid that I'm gonna get kidnapped or something. Anyways, the rest of the day is pretty much boring: only gaming, chores, more gaming, and more chores. At the end of the day I brush my teeth, turn on my lofi, and go get my two hours of sleep.

A Friday afternoon in the life of Synai:

I get off from school and start walking home from the bus stop. Excited that it's the weekend I finally get inside my house and say hi to my Wagenman, a.k.a. my dog, and my mom since my dad isn't off from work yet. Before my dad gets home I quickly do my chores and after that, the time is to myself. During that time I either stay inside on my phone (unlike Christian) or I go outside to play with the neighborhood kids. We usually play basketball or football, and I win every single game. After the games, we usually get snacks. In the middle of a game I see my dad drive by. He usually waves and we continue our game. After a couple hours of playing the sun starts to set and I figure out it's time to go inside. I finally get into the house and my mom has usually made dinner. I wash my hands, eat dinner, and head upstairs to get ready for bed.

HOW SOCIAL MEDIA AFFECTS KIDS

BY MANNAT K., AND NIA M.

Scrolling through my TikTok and looking at Instagram photos and videos is something I enjoy. Social media has so many good sides to it, but there are many cons to having social media as a teen.

Social media gives people wrong impressions about things. For example, seeing others have unrealistic body standards can make others feel discouraged, not knowing that it is mostly not natural and edited.

Creators only show the perfect areas of their life, relationships, and appearances. Social media influencers won't ever point that out or say that, and they often leave it out, and people believe that their lives are perfect. This affects kids and ruins their mental health, as well.

In addition to that, teens are continuously on social media. As someone who is always on social media, it is very hard to look up from my phone and interact as I'm reloading things and watching things that people are constantly posting.

Many teens can relate to this as well, and this is one of the reasons why kids don't interact with their family as much. Always being on social media also keeps kids up at night, causing them to wake up late and not be fully developed to function at school. This can also affect people's grades and social lives.

Lastly, social media influences teens to do things that might not be safe and might cause harm to you or others. For example, the Tide POD challenge is when people would eat Tide POD and record themselves. The problem with this is that they are only doing it for likes and follows. Tide PODS are harmful if consumed. Another example is when people would eat corn starch and say it was good for views. These both can be very detrimental to these kids. Social media exposes kids to these types of things and paints them as fun.

In conclusion, social media affects kids in many negative ways. Although it can impact kids in a good way, it usually has a bad effect on kids.

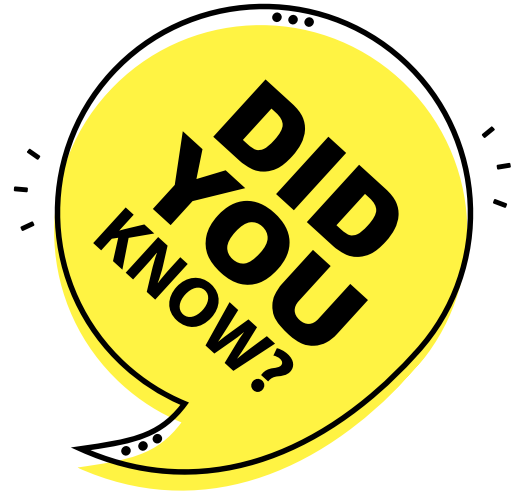


FUN FACTS

BY MICHELLE A.

When I was younger, I always loved fun facts. I even had a whole book filled with them! Anything from food to animals, I was so interested. Here are some cool fun facts that you've probably never heard of!

- Competitive art used to be in the Olympics.
- A big portion of your brain is fat.
- Dolphins sleep with one eye open.
- The strongest muscle in the body is your tongue.
- You can't die by holding your breath (if you're above water).
- Honey never gets spoiled.
- Wearing headphones for 1 hour can increase the bacteria in your ear by 700.
- There are more than 200 flavors of Kit Kats in Japan.
- Cats can't taste sweet flavors.
- Snails have 2,500 teeth.
- Roald Dahl used to be a spy.
- Crocodiles are one of the oldest animals on Earth.
- Apple used to have a clothing line.
- A single dollar bill costs 5 cents to make.
- Snakes can predict earthquakes.
- Apple seeds contain cyanide.
- 20% of power outages in the U.S. are due to squirrels.
- Humans are the only species that enjoy spicy food.
- It's almost impossible to hum while holding your nose.
- $\frac{1}{4}$ of all your bones are located in your feet.



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CHICK-FIL-A MANIFESTO

BY BENJAMIN S.



Chick-fil-A: Do you think you can keep getting away with this? You think that you can trick us? We will not stand for this anymore. We cannot let you get away with these heinous acts. You have spat in the face of Americans and what they stand for. Chick-fil-A, your services are completely unacceptable. You guys charge way too much for food. Your

nuggets are overpriced, your milk-shakes are overpriced, and your mac & cheese is overpriced.

For the price people are paying for your food, it's practically a scam. I got your chocolate milkshake once. I am someone who greatly appreciates and enjoys chocolate milkshakes. That's why it makes me sad to say that your chocolate milkshakes are the only ones that I have refused to finish. They are disgustingly sweet, and way too thick.

That's not even the only thing that you can't make, though. Your mac & cheese is god awful. It's--I kid you not--a block of solid cheese with macaroni sparsely dispersed throughout.

Chick-fil-A, stick to what you're good at: chicken!



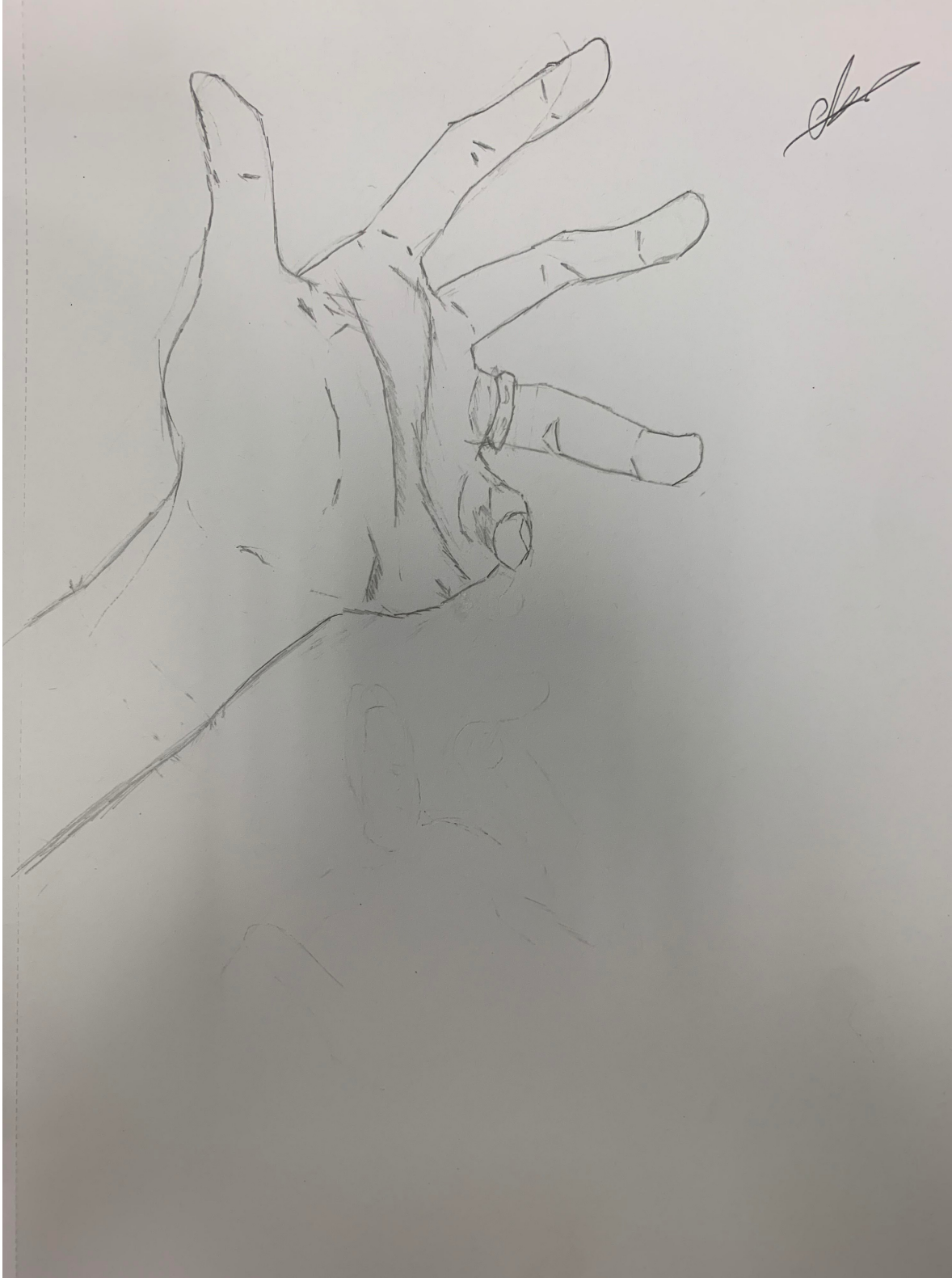
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