

# Perspectives



Volunteers of America®  
MINNESOTA

Newsletter of VOA Adult High School

## Inside:

- My Favorite Color

- Home

- Snow Is A Snow

Page 2

- Snow

- Especially Picnic

- My Favorite Season

Page 3

- Things I Like About Minnesota

- What I Like About Minnesota

Page 4

- Descriptive of Minneapolis

- Reflexive Freewrite

- Freewrites of Teacher Jim

Page 5

- Going Places By Car

- Why Reading is Important

- Why Reading is Important?

Page 6

- Fashion Designer Is The Job

I Want

- The Job I Want

Page 7

- Congratulations Hassan!

Page 8

## From the Writing Teacher

by Pam Prokop

For the long-time readers of *Perspectives*, you will notice that there is a change in the format. It is with great sadness to announce that Morgon Mae Schultz is no longer the editor of *Perspectives*. With the increase in her freelance editing, Morgon Mae felt that she no longer has the time to devote to teaching a journalism class to Level 7 in order to produce the newsletter.

Beginning with this issue, *Perspectives* will showcase compositions from Levels 4, 5, 6, and 7 that have struck me as particularly well-written, fun, insightful, or just plain good. Sometimes there may be a theme that connects the compositions. I will do very little editing on the students' work. I hope you enjoy the new format!



## My Favorite Color

Paragraph practice by Temesgen Yimer  
(Level 4)

I like white color. Because it is the symbol of peace. I also like white color because it is bright and clean. Finally I like white color because it looks like white hair, cloud and galaxy. These are the three reasons why I like white.

# My Favorite Color

Paragraph practice by Ifrah Aden (Level 4)

Red is my favorite color. I like to dress red color when am coming to school. It is the color of love and also we wear on Valentine Day. Many flowers is red and it is so beautiful. I like red flowers. Red is my dream color. I love to wear or see red things.



# Snow Is A Snow

Paragraph practice by Farhia Ahmed (Level 5)

1. Snow is a snow
2. Snow is dangerous because of the slippery
3. Snow can be fun when you see children are playing on the snow
4. Snow is beautiful wen you see snow cover trees
5. I don't like snow.



# Home

A poem written by Asho Ali (Level 5)

My home I live only  
I like to stay alone  
Because I feel relaxing  
I need to show my home  
If you see, you feeling  
Luxury, so, you like my home  
I have bright lights his colors are  
Yellow, and blue one, and flower colors  
Yellow and red and blue, my fancy is  
Fountain fell water [water fall] when you show [see]  
You think, you got luxury to the downtown.  
If you see my home every day  
You coming soon, and will talk  
Asho homes very lights brights  
Colors like the sun rise  
And shining



# Snow

Paragraph practice by Deqo Yasin (Level 6)

Snow comes the winter time. And it is very cold season. And also snow is a dangerous because we can get accidents when we drive the car when slippery the road. Snow is dangerous because you can broke your legs and also you can get sick. Snow can be fun so many ways for example to play and to watch when it's a winter time. Snow is beautiful when its falling down. As you can see snow can be good and bad ways.



# My Favorite Season

Freewrite by Falis Aden (Level 5)

My favorite season is spring because its not hot and its not cold. Spring is fresh because of the rain. Sometimes it's a little bit chilly. The Earth is starting to come back from the freezing temperatures. Spring is bright sunshine, beautiful. Feels new and fresh again. The trees are greening and grass is coming up. All flowers are beautiful. The people put away a heavy coats and heavy boots. People start wearing light sweater and lighter shoes, also long skirts. Also people can start doing exercises and they can take their bicycles outside. That's why spring is my favorite season.



# Especially Picnic

Freewrite by Ayan Aden (Level 7)

Picnic is fun because I meet all my family to see each other and eat together. We eat sweet like biscuit. We order restaurant for food. We talk about the problems.

During the picnic you don't have to wear jacket or scarf, but I can wear open shoes. So I can dress up well beautiful.

Finally I can do a lot of fun. During the picnic I walk all around the Lake Harriet. I love the picnic, especially when all my family come together.

# Things I Like About Minnesota

Freewrite by Falis Aden (Level 5)

My favorite season is spring because its not hot and its not cold. Spring is fresh because of the rain. Sometimes it's a little bit chilly. The Earth is starting to come back from the freezing temperatures. Spring is bright sunshine, beautiful. Feels new and fresh again. The trees are greening and grass is coming up. All flowers are beautiful. The people put away a heavy coats and heavy boots. People start wearing light sweater and lighter shoes, also long skirts. Also people can start doing exercises and they can take their bicycles outside. That's why spring is my favorite season.



Minneapolis From Lake Calhoun By kari.volkmanncarlson

# What I like about Minnesota

Paragraph Practice by Mohamed A. Abdi (Level 7)

I like about Minnesota because it has beautyfull lakes that other states don't have them. Small business which Somali community have them and so much others that I can't count here! I am very proud to live this state and to have these opportunities. And these 10,000 laves has welcomed me very well.

**Descriptive Freewrite by George Hayato (Level 6)**

I am going to write looking a picture what I see on the picture. And I describe what I see and what is going on on the picture.

The picture showing a downtown Minneapolis. There is many tall buildings and different kinds of flowers. The flower color is red, yellow, green, and purple. I see the field it looks soft and full green. There is the people lay over the green grass relaxing. There is few trees beside the building. And there are people walking under the skyline. Also I see there is shiny garden looking gorgeous.



**Reflexive Freewrite by Abdikadir Aden (Level 6)**

I feel level Seven are working hard to get their [high school diploma]. And they are quieter than level Six, because level Seven students trying go to college so that they need to be out of level Seven. I feel is not easy. In order to be good at level Seven we need to be good at level Six.

Level Seven is pre college so if you pass level Seven everything will be easy and level Seven is optimistic to pass their grade.

*The next two compositions are freewrites about this picture of Teacher Jim (Science) leaving VOA after his going away party last July. The students gave him a 19 piece comforter set. Teacher Muse (Math) is looking on in the background.*



**Descriptive Freewrite by Leyla Aden (Level 5)**

This picture is beautiful picture. They are our teachers. We have good party so we are saying good bye teacher. It was the last day at that time. And he wore Somali clothes. He drove scooter. He wore sunglasses, helmet, backpack, yellow comforter set. It was memory picture. We will remember our teacher Jim.

**Descriptive Freewrite by Nasro Jama (Level 4)**

Teacher Jim he is nice. Last time. He is wore Somali clothes and blue shirt. He is so cute and Teacher Jim he has scooter. He wore helmet and pack pack. Teacher Jim student give him a party and give yellow comforter set. Teacher Jim he is smart. He is nice. Bye Jim.



# Going Places By Car

Reflexive freewrite by Saeed Hassan (Level 6)

I don't like going places by car because I like to see nature and I enjoy exercises because car is not good for air.

To many people drive in America. I like walking because you meet more people. When you drive you car to much you get lazy. We have to much pollution in this country because of cars. We need to help our planet so it can be save for our future. That is why I don't like to drive a car.



# Why Reading is Important?

Freewrite by Ayan Aden (Level 7)

Reading is important because it affect your whole life and everything you want to do. I think reading is very important for everyone to enhance their method of learning. For me, personally, it has helped me in my developmental stages as far as being successful in life. Reading is important! If you could not read then you could not write. If you could not write then you could not use most means of communication.



# Why Reading is Important

Freewrite by Amina Farah (Level 7)

Reading it's important because if you don't know how to read you are like animal. When I read some-things I get a lot of new vocabulary. English is my second language but I do practice. "Practice makes perfect." When I read I understand then I can explain it or give you some details. Reading is very and very important for everyone.



# Fashion Designer is the Job I Want

Essay practice by Fuad Osman (Level 7)

I like to be challenged! The job I would like to have in the future is a fashion designer. I really want to be a fashion designer for three reasons: I love clothes; I sew a lot of clothes, and have a lot of designs in my mind. This is what I desire!

I love clothes so much! The clothes are my favorite hopes. I like to go to fabric stores, and buy the best material to make fashionable dresses. I watch all the fashion shows. I adore fashion designers. The new styles and the old styles are beautiful. I like to change my style every day. I like to be elegant all the time, and that makes me feel good. The clothes are wonderful to me. And, that is why I like to be a fashion designer.

I know how to sew clothes. When I work with a sewing machine, I don't feel bored. I do have a problem, however, with cutting the cloth. But I never give up and I try to practice much of the time. I sew my own styles, and that gives me an opportunity to be a fashion designer. I am happy when I am sewing and styling clothes.



I have a lot of designs in my mind. I am an artist with my designs. I want to open a store for my designs in the future. In this way I can

help women look good and beautiful. I want to achieve my dream after college. I want to work hard to make my dream come true. I am interested in being a fashion designer. I already have many designs in my mind.

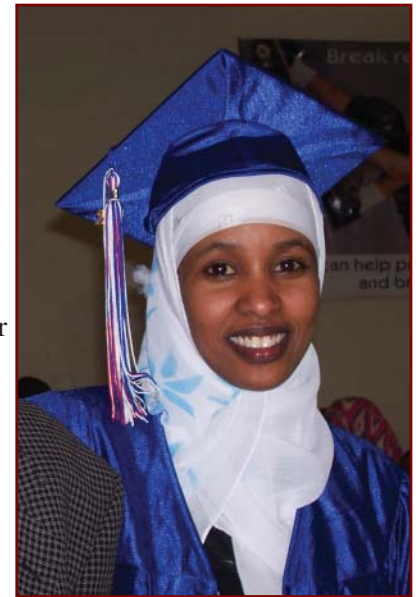
I would like to be a fashion designer in the future. Because I want to achieve my dream job, I need to have a lot of patience. Therefore, I need to work hard before I go to college: to make my English better and learn how to draw my designs.

# The Job I Want

Essay practice by Shukri Sheriff (Level 7)

The job I want is to be a social worker. I want to help change my community because we have so many different problems, like family violence and youth problems. We need a strong community.

Somali youth need more education. Drug use and smoking increase every year. They killed more than 20 youth in the last five years, and not enough people get arrested. We need to stop violence. We have to work with the police on how to save our people and fight against crime. We need to know how to protect our youth. I think if they get more advocates, they will stay away from the dangers and the advocates will help save our teenagers. We need to also focus on the next generation.



I want to save my community. To live in peace is very important. We need to work together and make programs so my community will benefit. When we have problems, my community looks for solutions, like any other community. I want my community to get power and I want to work with my people. I want to also organize my community's opinions and create groups of people who have the knowledge to figure out ways to make our community better.

Another big problem we have is family violence. We did not have this before, but now we have many families who live separately or are divided. That is a big issue that has been raised in my community over the last ten years. I want to help the families. We do not yet have many people who are familiar with domestic and family law. I think if families get more recommendations for social workers, we can find the key to solving the problems. Then families can live together, live peacefully and respectfully.

This is why I choose to be a social worker. I think if my community can work together, we can solve many problems, including family violence. To have a strong community, that is my main goal.

# Congratulations!

*Hassan Omar, graduating class of 2010, successfully placed high enough on his Accuplacer tests to not have to take any ESL classes at MCTC!*



**Volunteers of America Education Center  
Adult High School  
924 19th Ave S.  
Minneapolis, MN 55404**

**Volunteers of America Education Center** is an educational institution obligated to cultivate the content, skills and character of students, and, through them the greater community to govern wisely in accordance with democratic and civic principles.

VOA EC seeks to create a sustainable educational institution based on justice, quality educational practices, civic engagement, and democratic principles that will develop the capacity and conscience of all graduating students to govern effectively and contribute to the common good within our society.

**VOA Perspectives** is a quarterly newsletter written by the level-seven writing students of VOA EC's Evening Adult High School Program. Morgon Mae Schultz facilitates VOA Perspectives and welcomes your questions and suggestions at [pprokop@voamn.org](mailto:pprokop@voamn.org)