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*St. John's University: The Language Connection*

## Social Media Anonymity by Wasmiah Alajmi

As a social media user, I've noticed that anonymous users are increasing. I respect others' anonymity. However, they should not act randomly or rudely on social media. People should be allowed to hide their identity online but they have to follow the rules.

Hiding identity has many advantages. You can leave comments about a specific doctor, professor, or restaurant, and there is no need to be known. Maybe only what you want is advising people and you don't want that doctor, professor and so on, to know that you left an unpleasant comment about them and a misunderstanding, or hate could happen. Another example, is when you are in the middle of the semester and students in other classes would like to know more about your classes and professors. It's better for you not to be known obviously if you don't have very good comments. This is how anonymity could be an advantage. This will never mean that you can be rude but you have to use the right words that

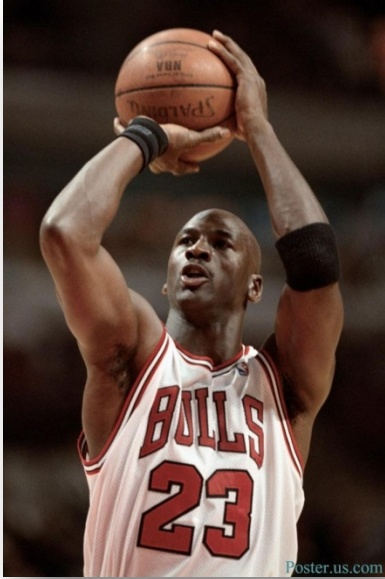
describe the situation perfectly without insulting or misbehaving. Since I use social media every day, I read a lot of disgraceful comments. It is not acceptable to take out your disappointment on people and curse them only because they are different or their values, religions, or points of view are different.

In my opinion, it's getting to be very serious. The comments that I've seen under pictures of celebrities on Instagram or on Twitter are very disgraceful. For example, there is a Saudi girl who sings American or Western types of songs. She is receiving really bad comments from her own people, such as, you are Americanized; you are a shame; you are disgraceful, only because she's open-minded and doesn't dress like Saudi traditional girls although she's skillful and hard worker. She was bullied on all her social media pages, just for being a free human. This is something that we have to learn and that we have to teach our children and all people around us to respect others even if they

are so different. Cursing people will never have an advantage and if you think it will change other's opinions! I would say you are wrong. It is just so hurtful and makes people stubborn. Say and discuss your point of view properly. Finally, hide your identity for the right reason.



## Michael Jordan by Mustafa Khalifah



Michael Jordan was born in Brooklyn, New York 1963. He is one of the best player in the history of basketball. He is also the greatest player in his generation because he was recorded in the regular season with a scoring rate of 30.12 points per game, the highest in the history of the NBA and won the title of top scorer ten times. He also won the NBA championship six times with the Chicago Bulls (1991, 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997 and 1998) and was the most expensive player in the league five times (1988, 1991, 1992, 1996 and 1998).

On October 6, 1993 Michael Jordan announced his retirement from basketball, because he had lost the desire to play, and many people think that because his father was murdered. On March 18, 1995 Michael Jordan announced his return to the American Basketball League in two words, he said: "I'm back," and he chose number 45 instead of the his usual number 23. On January 13, 1999 Michael Jordan announced his retirement from basketball for the second time. In a press conference on September 25, 2001 Jordan said he will return to playing

basketball. On February 21, 2003, Michael Jordan became the first basketball player recorded 40 points in one match when he was 40 years old. After the 2003 season, Jordan announced that he was retiring from basketball forever.. Finally Michael Jordan retired from basketball with a total of 32,292 points scored in his career.

## Apple and the FBI by Saleh Aljurbua



Today, due to the new technology, it is very difficult to hack a phone and this caused a problem between Apple and the FBI. One of the problems, in December 14<sup>th</sup> in San Bernadino, people were killed by a terrorist at holiday party in California. The US government thinks that the terrorist's iPhone might hold some clues. The development of the new cellular phones makes the access to the data impossible without the personal passcode. This gives the phone holder confidence that the product will keep their privacy. The FBI wanted Apple to make a program to decrypt the data to be able to track some crimes in spite of the personal privacy. Apple refused to do so. The FBI finally announced that they hacked the phone on their own.

I think that the FBI should not have admitted that they did it as it is admitting to breaking the privacy law. On the other hand, they should have dropped the case.

In my opinion, no one should break the law. The law should be developed to accommodate the new circumstances related to national security only. I understand Apple's position. Apple is a very big and successful business that wants to protect the privacy of its customers and its reputation. On the other hand, I understand the FBI's position in wanting information that could threaten national security. I believe the FBI should respect the fourth amendment law, although there should be new exceptions about the Fourth amendment that would allow the FBI to access information only if it threatens national security

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***The FBI finally announced that they hacked the phone on their own.***

## Aromatherapy by Wasmiah Alajmi

Aromatherapy is also referred to as Essential Oil therapy. It can be defined as the art and science of using natural extracted aromatic essences from plants to promote the health of the body, mind, and spirit. It works on the physiological, psychological, and spiritual aspects to enhance the overall health.

Essential Oils are taken from a plant's flowers, leaves, stalks, bark, rind, or roots. The inhaled aroma from these essential oils is widely believed to stimulate brain function, and it can also be absorbed through the skin, where they travel through the blood stream to promote the whole body healing.

Aromatherapy is easy to prepare, and you can use it at

home. Except in some ways you cannot use it, for example, if you were pregnant or has severe asthma you should ask a doctor. There are a lot of websites that can teach you how to prepare specific amounts of oils to treat specific illnesses. Headaches, muscle pain, sore throat, and much more can be treated using aromatherapy. Headaches for example, using cold compress is really helpful for a lot of people more than hot compress. However, you can choose the one that eases your pain most with a small drop of these following essential oils that are known for relieving headache pain: lavender, peppermint, and eucalyptus.

In my opinion, we can use this kind of therapy at least when we want to deal with our daily life stress. taking a weekly bath with some drops of lavender can be helpful, and also you can use peppermint oil to moisturize your skin. We can use aromatherapy not only for treatment, but for our beauty as well.



## Body Language by Enas Asiri

Do you ask yourself how people know your personality or mood or how you know other people's moods? it is very easy by body language .And what is body language? Body language is nonverbal communication, which includes body movement, facial expressions, and hand gestures.You need to know how to interpret body language in work, social events, dating and meetings. Even though males and females are different they use similar signals.

Facial expression is important when expressing emotions through the body. Combinations of eyes, eyebrow, lips, nose, and cheek movements help form different moods of an individual, for example to show if they are happy, depressed angry, etc

Research has shown that body postures are more accurately recognized when an emotion is compared with a different or neutral emotion. For example, a person feeling angry would portray dominance over the other, and his/her posture displays that. In the figure below, you can see three different positions of sitting. In the middle is the right one, Sitting straight, with shoulders more relaxed to the back – this posture shows that one is feeling confident.

Gestures are movements made with body parts, such as hands, arms, fingers, head, legs, and they may be voluntary or involuntary. For instance, covering one's mouth suggests suppression of feeling and

perhaps uncertainty. This could mean that he/she is thinking hard and may be unsure of what to say next. Gestures also have different meanings depending on the culture. The "okay" sign with three fingers up and a circle made with the index finger and thumb is acceptable in the US but in Brazil is obscene.

Finally, body language is essential to understanding not only a message, but more importantly, the feeling behind the message. Therefore, body language is an essential part of communication as a whole.

# The Worst Advice Ever... by The Editorial Staff

Dear ...,

My girlfriend went to the hair salon today for a haircut. The salon accidentally dyed her hair BRIGHT PINK! It looks awful, and she is so upset. What can I say to make her feel better?

Sincerely,  
Dismayed

Dear Dismayed,

This is usually what happens. You never get what you want when you go to the salon. However, you can tell her that she is basically unattractive anyway, so this hair color didn't affect her that much. Or you can tell her to shave her hair off completely. Just be honest with her.

Dear ...,

My roommate keeps asking to borrow my toothbrush. I've said no, but I think she is using it anyway to clean her hamster's cage. What should I do?

Always,  
Disgusted

Dear Disgusted,

First you should be sure that your roommate is using your toothbrush. Then, tell her again "don't use my toothbrush!" After that, try to be sure she is still using your toothbrush to clean her hamster's cage. Finally, you should put poison on the toothbrush and poison the stupid hamster.

Dear...,

My best friend gave me a bright purple jacket for my birthday. It has a skull and crossbones on the back, which glows in the dark. I hate it! She keeps asking me if I like it and when I'm going to wear it. What can I tell her?

Sincerely,  
Trapped

Dear Trapped,

Ugh! That sounds really disgusting. A purple leather jacket!! I suggest you ask your friend what era she lives in? Tell her she had better not give a gift at all over giving old, out of date clothes. Advise her to work on her taste before she gives you another gift.



Disclaimer: The advice in this column is meant to be rude, crude and downright awful. Please do not take it seriously. It is meant to show the breakdown of communication and pragmatics that would or should never happen in real life.



## Cinquains by Arwa Alnamlah & Wamisah Alajmi

### Woman

Self-motivated, stable  
Discerning, hungering, inspiring  
What she desires, she gets  
Independent

### Spring

Vital, colorful  
Blushing, blooming charming  
Aromatherapy that feeds the soul  
Reborn

# Social Media Has Changed Our Lives by Abdullah Bin Taleb

Social media is very important. Almost everyone at this time uses social media in different ways. Starting from a president or king such as President Obama or King Salman of Saudi Arabia who use Twitter to even any taxi driver who uses Google Maps, everyone takes advantage of the flexibility of social media.

Most people use social media to easily talk or connect to family and friends; they just quickly send a message and they will get a reply in seconds. This makes things easier than writing letters and waiting for replies for days in the past.

People can also use social media for several other things

like watching videos on Youtube, using Google Maps to find the directions and the shortest distance to a place, or using Google as a search engine to research information for students' classes.

One recent use of social media we all know is how it helped to remove some leaders in the Middle East such as Egypt and Tunisia, especially where Tunisia became and has stayed a democracy since 2011. All the credit goes to social media.

Finally, social media has changed our lives completely, making many things in politics, communication and finding information better.



## Editorial Staff

**Saleh Aljurbua** is also from Saudi Arabia and is a faculty member at the Institute of Public Administration. He was appointed to continue his education in St. John's LLM in Business Law. He just started studying English at St. John's and hopes to be able to start his major by spring of next year.

**Wasmiah Alajmi** a Saudi Arabian, graduated from high school in 2013. She studied one year at the University of Dammam, then she got a scholarship to study Respiratory Therapy in the U.S. She might change her major to Actuarial Science, but she is still reading about it. She has an independent, assertive, helpful personality, and she likes to read about health in general and psychology. She hopes that she can change a lot of things in Arabic society and make

people think in more logical ways rather than traditional ones.

**Arwa Alnamlah** is studying English at St. John's University. She has been in The U.S.A for two years. She is graduated with her bachelor degree in Psychology from King Saud University in Saudi Arabia. She intends to earn her masters degree in Psychology from St. John's University in New York City. She worked as a psychologist for six months. Her favorite hobbies are reading novels and riding a bicycle

**Enas Asiri** recently graduated from King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah. She took her bachelor degree in Human Resource Management. She plans to study for her master in Finance. She likes to travel and visit new places. Although this is the third time visiting New York, it's her first

time studying here. Her goal in life is to make the world a better place to live in.

**Mustafa Khalifah** is studying English at St. John's University. He is from Saudi Arabia and this is his first trip to N.Y. He is recent graduate from high school - May 2015. He came to U.S to study chemistry.

He hopes to complete his university after he finishes his course of English as the second language.

**Abdullah Bin Taleb** after graduating from King Saud University with a bachelor's degree, he practiced law for two years. Then he decided to come to the United States to complete his study with a Master's degree in law from St. John's University. He is currently studying English at St. John's Language Connection

**Genie Smiddy** is a language educator at St. John's Language Connection.

