
From the Selected Works of Everett N K Ofori

July 15, 2014

Writing Showcase 2014 Vol 6 No 4

Everett N K Ofori



Available at: <https://works.bepress.com/everettofori/48/>

Writing Showcase

For some, education is the ability to craft smart-sounding reasons to excuse dastardly deeds.

- Everett Ofori (Editor)

www.writingexpertonline.com

July 15, 2014 Vol 6 No 4

The Reading Road to English Proficiency

All over the world, people seem genuinely interested in learning English. They realize the value of English as an international language, one that can open the gates to knowledge and opportunity: Think Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge, or Stanford.

For some, business is the reason for poring over idiomatic expressions all night long while for others the chance to interact on a social level with people from different backgrounds is the driving force. Not surprisingly, the common language between a Japanese and an Indian is not Hindi, Urdu, or Japanese but English.

But it is surprising that so many of those who sincerely want to master English shy away from reading English books. True, it is no fun reading in any language when the pronunciation of simple words eludes you. But this is precisely why English learners should spend some time improving their reading skills.

With a few weeks or months of intense focus and the help of a tutor or indeed through one's own efforts, it is possible to learn to read smoothly.

Page

1

CONTENTS

Page

Is Missouri a Frightening State? 5

Brazil World Cup 7

A few phonics books may be all a student needs.

Indeed, when someone says, "I want to master English," and in the same breath says that he or she hates reading English books, you really don't know whether to laugh or cry.

One magic key to becoming a proficient user of English is available free in libraries everywhere, at minimal cost in used bookstores, and free again on millions of websites: written works in English in the form of books, stories, and articles.

Some English learners continue to study their textbooks, one laborious page after the other... whilst the story of *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*, and books such as *Frankenstein*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Anne of Green Gables* lie untouched, their potential secret contributions to mastery of the language unused.

*Writing
Showcase*

Guaranteed Formula for



Public Speaking Success

by

Everett Ofori, MBA

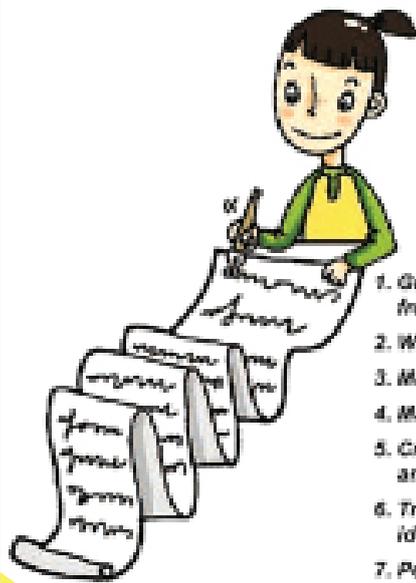
The parade of individuals who have risen from obscurity to public prominence on the strength of their public speaking abilities includes the following: Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill, Sojourner Truth, Nelson Mandela, Dr. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Dr. Cornel West, and Anthony Robbins. Discover your own gifts as a public speaker. Get your copy of *Guaranteed Formula for Public Speaking* today!

Available at: www.amazon.com / www.amazon.co.jp

Writing Showcase

Everett Ofori, MBA

Guaranteed Formula for Writing Success



Learn how to...

1. Grab your reader's attention from the get-go
2. Write clear, crisp copy
3. Make your meaning clear
4. Make your writing sing
5. Create believable characters and scenarios
6. Transform your mind into an idea factory
7. Perk up pompous, flabby prose
8. Write about anything, anywhere, anytime!

If
you can
think well,
plan well, speak
well, and write well,
you have all that you
need to change the
course of human history...
or at least, your own history.

www.writingexpertonline.com

Everett Ofori, MBA

Lo

See

Fee

Look



Knee

Ho

Read Assure

Guaranteed Formula for
Reading Success with Phonics

Cat

Know

Go

So

You are
great!

Bat

Pretty

Matsugu Mutsumi
(Japanese language instructor,
Tokyo, Japan)

Is Missouri a Frightening State?

I was very shocked to see on television how Ferguson, Missouri, a small U.S. town, seemed to have turned into a battle field this past August.

Recently a young black guy, Michael Brown, was shot and killed by a white policeman, Darren Wilson, though the black guy was unarmed. Therefore, many black people protested everyday there. The demonstrations developed into a riot and the riot police and the National Guard were mobilized.

Actually the population of black people in Ferguson is not a lot compared with that in other towns in other states.

President Obama won decisively in the presidential election of 2012, however, he could not win in Missouri State. Missouri State is conservative and it is supported by many Republicans.



If you had seen the scenes in Ferguson, Missouri, involving the demonstrations and the police in full riot gear, you would have thought, “Missouri is a very frightening state. However, where is Missouri? I have never heard of it.”

I was in Nevada, Missouri, when I was in junior college from 1988 to 1990. Also, I was in St. Louis, Missouri, for a week in 1994.

Missouri is one of the most impressive places I have visited or experienced in my life, because I stayed on campus there for two years. At the time, everyone asked me, “Why did you go to college in Missouri?” “Did you decide on the place through fortune-telling?”

Actually, my choice was based on advice I got from a study-abroad counselor: “The central part of the U.S. is the real America, therefore, people are kind even though the area is countryside. It would be easy for you to adjust to life in the U.S.!”

...continued on page 6

Is Missouri a Frightening State?

Fortunately, I do not have any regrets about staying in Missouri during my campus life, because I got to know “the real America.” Many of my classmates had not gotten in an airplane before. Of course, most of them had never been to New York or Los Angeles let alone a foreign country. They were sweet people, however, they always talked only about their boyfriends.

I did not experience any discrimination in Missouri on account of being an Asian person there. In fact, the population of Nevada included only two black people when I was there. I saw only white people in the town, not people from other races.

Before I went to the U.S., I had heard that the U.S. was multicultural and global in outlook. I wanted to slip out of Japan where the viewpoint seemed so narrow. I might have been lucky not to have been included in the race problem in Nevada, however, I did not develop a wide field of vision there.

Of course, I was in Missouri 25 years ago. Nevada, where I lived, must be different from Ferguson even though the two are in the same state. It is also possible that the Nevada that I experienced might be quite different from that of today. However, I am afraid that the the portrayal of the clash between the races in Ferguson by the media may be fixed in our minds for a very long time.

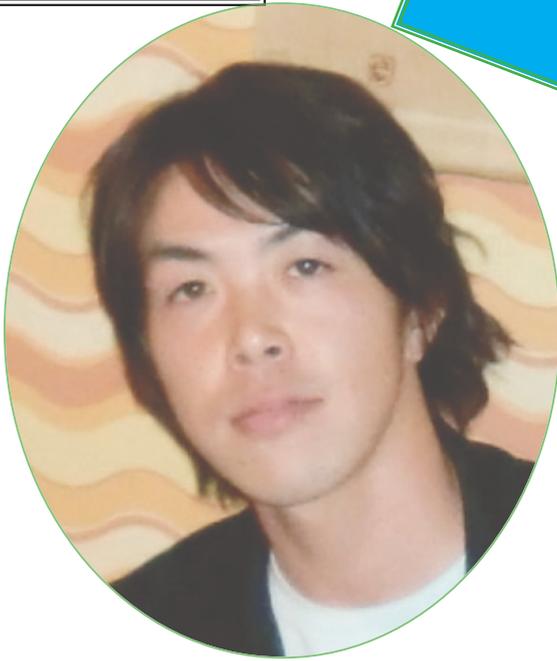
When I watched the TV news about Ferguson, I noticed that the residential area was similar to that of Nevada. There is so much greenery and it seems to be a comfortable residential area. We understand some black people live in Ferguson; I guess that they generally spend their days in peace and quiet. However, the incident in Ferguson revealed feelings that the residents may have been harboring for a long time.

The incident in Ferguson may be a good opportunity for everybody to consider and discuss the race problem in the U.S. However, please avoid the use of force. Using force will not solve anything even though it seems like an easy means.

Discussion, communication and negotiation should be the means to resolve difficult issues. I would like to believe in that statement. I hope Ferguson becomes calm again.

Writing Showcase

Tomohiro Yoshida
Research scientist
(Tsukuba, Japan)



Brazil World Cup

A historic event that made numerous people excited ended this year. Of course, it was the FIFA Soccer World cup! I had looked forward to it since the World Cup in 2010 finished, because at that time, Japan's national team made it to the 16th round in spite of many advance reviews that were not so hopeful about Japan's prospects. The better-than-expected result in 2010 was enough to develop our expectations that the team would get a better result at the next World Cup.

But how was the result? The Japan national team didn't win a single game at group stage matches. Since they were regarded as the best team to have reached the highest level in Japanese soccer history, all of Japan was really disappointed at these defeats. But, the unfortunate consequence actually resembled the history of Japan's national team from 2002 and 2006.

...continued on page 8

Brazil World Cup

In 2002, the World Cup was co-hosted by Japan and South Korea, and Japan's national team made it to the 16th round for the first time. I think it was because numerous Japanese supporters could cheer for them at the stadium. Four years later, they were expected to have a better result than that in 2002. But they couldn't show their ability and were completely defeated.

Both defeats of Japan's national team in 2006 and 2014 were thought to be due to a common pressure. It was excessive expectations from all of Japan. We easily expected that the team had to achieve better results than they had achieved at the previous World Cup event. This might have produced needless pressure on them. Be that as it may, there is no doubt that it is not easy for all participating countries to realize their potential in the World Cup.

In the end, Germany won with overwhelming strength this time. The next World Cup will be held in Russia in 2018. I expect that Germany will win a second consecutive victory, or Brazil or Argentina will avenge their losses to Germany. Of course, I look forward to seeing the victory of Japan.

Writing Showcase

The Changing Japanese Woman:

From Yamatonadeshiko to YamatonadeGucci

大和なでしこからYamatonadeGucci



Everett Ofori

NEW RELEASE!!!
Check it out.

The Changing Japanese Woman is a playful book but it captures one of the most important social changes in Japanese society: the embracing of Western values and the apparent loss of *some* traditional Japanese values.

Read *The Changing Japanese Woman: From Yamatonadeshiko to YamatonadeGucci* and decide for yourself whether Japanese women are still wedded to the nostalgic values of yesteryear or the excitement and possibilities of the modern era.

www.amazon.com

www.amazon.co.jp

www.amazon.com
www.amazon.co.jp

This newsletter offers an opportunity for English learners around the world to share their thoughts and experiences and get some writing practice in the process. In many areas of life, most people would readily agree that quality is more important than quantity. This is no less true when it comes to writing. To get to the point where you can produce quality writing on a consistent basis, however, you may have to get into the habit of writing regularly knowing that much of what you produce might win no prizes for excellence. As you keep on writing and thinking, however, who knows what hidden gems might emerge? *Writing Showcase* is published on a bimonthly basis (every two months). If you are interested in contributing to it, please contact the editor, Everett Ofori.



Everett Ofori, MBA
(Heriot Watt University)

**Takarazuka University of Art and Design, Tokyo Campus Building 1F,
 123MBE, 7-11-1 Nishi Shinjuku,
 Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan 160-0023**

WRITING SHOWCASE PUBLICATION SCHEDULE 2014		
2014 Volume 6	Publication Date	Submission Date
Issue number #1	January 15	December 31, 2013
#2	March 15	February 28, 2014
#3	May 15	April 30, 2014
#4	July 15	June 30, 2014
#5	September 15	August 31, 2014
#6	November 15	October 31, 2014

* Maximum number of words = 300 (exceptions occasionally made)