

IDEAS 18

**International Online Teachers Society
Debate
Educational Materials For
Advance and Upper Intermediate
Students**



**International Online Teachers Society
Publishing Committee**



CONTENTS

THE 18TH INTERNATIONAL ONLINE TEACHERS SOCIETY ESSAY CONTEST

Passion I In The Love Of I Ream Odetallah I 2
Passion I Passion Redefined—Yet Again I Kathlyn Q. Barrozo I 3
Passion I An Awe-Inspiring Video I Kathlyn Q. Barrozo I 4
Passion I A Lion’S Heart I Kathlyn Q. Barrozo I 5
Passion I When Passions Collide I Kathlyn Q. Barrozo I 6
Passion I Living With A Passion I Kathlyn Q. Barrozo I 7
Passion I Discover Your Passion And Reorient Your Life I Marian Baltazar I 8



IN THE LOVE OF

Ream Odetallah
Class of 2003, University of Jordan
MA English Language and Literature

The old school was located in the suburbs of Dubai. It was once the pioneer in the education system due to its teaching strategies, staff and most of all the students that used to go to that school. The school was never unoccupied, registration had never ceased to render, students and teachers kept on competing each other for the sake of achieving high accreditations and scores. It remained in its hey days for many years until a teacher was expelled for no specific reasons.

Many students were appalled from the news that they thought the teacher was on a sick leave and would soon return, but the administration had not held on its grip that the truth came out. The system had changed. The students had to change. Teachers should pressure the students gently on accepting the new changes, and the administrators should pressure heavily on the teachers to force the students to change. Except for one teacher that knew nothing but passion.

As weeks and months went by, many students were retreating from the school as well as many other teachers who got rebuffed and were forced to look after their future and interests. Just one day, Mr. Asem had planted new hopes in his students and rebelled against the school's board to secure the students' beliefs in the establishment of good education, which the school had worked on constructing for many years. He had this extreme passion that triggered from his inner soul as he lectured his peers and superiors about the passion to learn and to achieve rather than having to quench the markets' needs for profit and fame. It definitely had cost him his job, but he demonstrated his thoughts within the area of the school and called for public opinions to overhear him.

Mr. Asem had no gain out of this, on the contrary, he was jobless and with a family of three children to feed, but his strong faith and passion brought him glory. His passion did serve him well as he fought for the rights of the students and the teachers. He gained great respect from everyone, and his none egotistical goals granted him a better job as the school's headmaster and a member for the Ministry of Education.

Questions for discussion:

1. Do you suggest another title for the passage above?
2. What possible reason(s) do you think would cost the expulsion of the teacher?
3. How do you characterize Mr. Asem?
4. What do you think had happened to the school's system?
5. Describe your own passions to learning. List at least three inspirational traits that you may find important to your needs as a student.



PASSION REDEFINED—YET AGAIN

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

Passion is characterized by either the presence of a powerful emotion such as hatred or love, or by the boundless enthusiasm for something such as a job or an interest. It is basically the nexus that works to connect us to the realities of life. The things that we do and what we eventually become have always been driven by something that might be difficult to pinpoint exactly, but the bottom line? We are basically creatures driven by passion.

Passion is the fire in your belly, it is that certain twinge in your gut urging you to go ahead and go forward. Without passion we lose a certain momentum, a situation in which we lose our grip and traction on the pathways we choose. Without passion, we are led to believe that there's no hope of ever overcoming the odds that come our way. If temper is the one thing you cannot have by losing it, passion on the other hand is the one thing which helps you not lose anything once you have it.

When a teacher goes about her duties as a teacher without regard for the salary she gets or the amount of work she has to do to accomplish her tasks, then it is passion which drives her. For a mother who goes about her house chores and family-related affairs without consideration for how much her noble job takes from her, she is happily doing so because she has the passion for her family's welfare. When a father pushes himself to work long hours just to ensure that his family gets what they are justly meant to have, it is passion for his family that fuels him. When an artist strives to paint the greatest masterpieces conceivable without worrying whether his works will some day get recognized, he does so with the greatest of passion.

The greatest passion has been shown by one Great Man who had willingly sacrificed His life for mankind's salvation. Setting aside any religious differences, this Man's sacrifice was the most appropriate descriptive illustration of a genuine passion to serve others without regard for the pain it all will cause. Unselfishly, He had chosen to die on the cross, endure the greatest of insults from even those whom He had helped, all because He had a burning passion for His Father's command. Indeed, when we are asked to illustrate passion, the cross is probably the best picture of passion we can come up with.

So when you feel your passion ebbing, when the fire in you seems to be burning out so slowly, or when others seem to make it difficult for you to go as you should, remember the cross, and let it reignite your passion for what needs to be done. By this alone, you shall find that passion, yet again.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Define passion, in your own words.
2. What is your greatest passion in life?
3. Why is passion necessary? What happens when we lose our passion?
4. How do you regain passion when you lose it?
5. In your opinion, do some people succeed because of genuine passion alone? Be able to cite other factors for success aside from passion.



AN AWE-INSPIRING VIDEO

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

I was browsing through You Tube for practical videos which I could use for my class when I came upon one uploaded in 2009 which showed people going about their duties and jobs with nary a complaint or a negative thing to say about their occupations. What makes the video different? All the people in it, while doing great at their chosen careers, were all people with disabilities.

The first was a woman who was bound to a wheelchair (well, all of them were on wheelchairs) and who works as a multimedia computer art teacher. This was aside from the fact that she was a mother to two girls. The second was an attorney for the US Environmental Protection Agency. He knew that getting a college education was the key to getting a career, so he went and got himself a degree and a subsequent career in law. The third was a coach for wheelchair-bound basketball players. He had wanted to be a PE teacher, but opted to become a coach instead. The fourth was a community services coordinator for the district attorney's office. He had known that colored and disabled people like him were at a distinct disadvantage in the real world. The fifth was a man working as a senior policy analyst for the National Consortium for Health Systems Development. At least two of the five people featured in the video acknowledged their family and friends' acceptance as being instrumental in their decisions to become more than what they could ever be.

One common factor among all of them was that they all had a passion to strive to be more than what people had expected them to be. They pursued a college education because they had known that without one they couldn't really carve their own niches in a world full of normal, physically-able individuals. They never let the cruelty and prejudices of other people get to them. In other words, they had the passion to be greater than what others believed they could ever be.

If you take these people's situation vis-à-vis the situation of people who find their jobs more uninteresting than a boring documentary, you would get inspired by the amount of passion for independence that the physically-disabled people had demonstrated. The five people in the video never let their conditions hinder them in any way towards reaching their dreams. For them, the world is a place meant for every one—normal or not. They knew their goals were reachable, like everybody else's, and they were entitled to an opportunity to live their lives as they chose.

Let us derive inspiration from such people. Such people who choose to live life fully, without thinking that their disabilities are to be taken as walls that can't be scaled, are excellent examples of people living life and doing their jobs with great fervor, with immeasurable passion.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How can a person with a disability cope with his condition? Is there an easy way to deal with a disability?
2. If you were born with a disability, what career would you choose to have? Is there any difference from what you would currently want to be?
3. Are there provisions in your country for disabled people who choose a career? Elaborate on your answer.
4. What career would you choose for a child who is born with a disability? Why?
5. How would you deal with a situation where you suddenly lose passion for your job?



A LION'S HEART

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

Have you ever noticed how you start out strong at your chosen career and eventually get burned out so much that doing the same thing seemingly takes you twice as much energy as before? This is a common episode in a career person's life. Unfortunately, it is something that we all deal with differently. While others simply bounce back after such an episode, others find it doubly hard to do so. Then, they suddenly choose to jump to another career. This might seem like a good idea at the onset, but there are things to consider such as age and ability, which unfortunately are often inversely proportional to each other for many. For instance, there are many who find themselves no longer as able to do their jobs as when they were young.

If truth be told, such a situation can be avoided if one only does pre-emptive measures beforehand.

For instance, if you are a teacher who feels that teaching the same thing every year gets to be kind of boring, then try to think of ways to do things a little differently. Do not follow the same lesson plan year in and year out. Vary your approaches to the lessons, even when they are practically the same every year. Or better yet, find relevant ways to tackle your lessons. This way, you always feel fresh and refreshed with every lesson, not boxed in by a rigid syllabus.

If you are an artist who seems to have lost the magic for creating your art pieces, try to get inspiration from others in the same field. You might find that the styles that others adopt could also work for your own creations.

If you are a student who finds the teacher's lectures uninteresting, then develop your own study habits that you believe will help you better in your path to learning. Or, picture yourself in your teacher's place and see how you would handle things differently. Remember that no two people are ever the same; even twins differ, whether greatly or not so. That being said, try to find your own best approach to lesson comprehension. Who knows? You might find yourself and your teacher on the same wavelength, after all has been said and done.

The lion, the king of the beasts, pursues its prey with a passion. Maybe this mammal is simply fueled by hunger, so it runs after its prospects with great fervor. Find inspiration in the lion--pursue your dreams without giving up. This world is not for the faint-hearted and perpetually persnickety. Although we have to consider our decisions with care, we must also try never to hesitate when an opportunity comes. We will surely lose a lot if we do.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. How do you find passion in the things you do?
2. Why is it essential never to lose our passion for the things we do?
3. Have you ever felt that the passion you have had at the beginning seems to be disappearing so quickly? How do you cope in such a situation?
4. If you had to choose an animal to show effectively how passion works, which would you choose and why?
5. In your opinion, why do people lose their passion so easily? Do you have any suggestions on how to get passion back?



WHEN PASSIONS COLLIDE

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

What happens when a person lives on passion alone and nothing else? The one good thing about living a life filled with passion is that you never notice time ticking by and you find that life is always interesting and challenging. The bad thing is that you might easily get disillusioned and misled, thereby making you feel disappointed too easily. Too much passion and little of anything else is not good. It could make your foundations too weak and brittle.

What happens when a person lives on passion alone and nothing else? He might find others too bothersome. He might feel uncomfortable and forever suspicious of the motives of others. He might think that others are out to discredit him, even when others are just looking to help him in his pursuit. He might shun others too easily. Too much zeal might cause someone to do things too grandly, view things much too extremely, consider others much too negatively.

What happens when a person lives on passion alone and nothing else? He might find his goals as the loftiest, and consider others' goals as inconsequential when compared to his own. In other words, he might become too self-centered and egotistical. Remember what the best Protestant preacher in the US, Ralph W. Sockman, once said: True humility is intelligent self-respect which keeps us from thinking too highly or too meanly of ourselves. It makes us modest by reminding us how far we have come short of what we can be.

Putting it simply, although it's perfectly fine to be constantly fuelled by passion, too much of it can make us lose sight of our true purpose. It is therefore vital that we learn to attain a perfect balance between passion and ambition. If we forget that ambition can be attained in a variety of ways, such as hard work and not just passion, our journeys might not end at all.

For those who have watched *The Devil Wears Prada*, which starred Anne Hathaway and Ms. Meryl Streep, they would find out how passion drove the character Miranda Priestly into alienating herself from her current husband (she'd been married before), and how too much ambition drove her to disregard even her most loyal employees' own concerns. She ran roughshod over other people's circumstances in pursuit of her own ambitions. She was passionate about her job, but easily forgot that there were more things in life than just burning passion and high-octane ambitions. Fortunately, Andrea Sachs, played by Anne Hathaway, realized soon enough that she didn't want to be like Miranda, so the movie ends on a terrific note.

Living your life with passion is fine as long as you never burn your bridges and strive to remain at peace with others in your life. Live life with passion, but do so with the fullest respect for others who are also pursuing their own goals with passion.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Watch the movie mentioned in the essay. Be ready to tell the story in your own words in class.
2. Why is living with too much passion inadvisable?
3. How can passion make you alienate others? Elaborate on your answer.
4. Why do people like Miranda Priestly find it difficult to live with other people?
5. Do you consider yourself a passionate person? Why or why not?



LIVING WITH A PASSION

Kathlyn Q. Barrozo
Class of 1991, University of Santo Tomas
B.S. Medical Technology

In a world where survival entails constant struggles with situations and people, the passion to live may become easily and unavoidably lost. But there are those who manage to stay on top of their game, never letting life's challenges and adversities change their lives irreversibly. These people are still humans; they acknowledge their weaknesses as humans. And yet, they never cease to amaze others with their resilience and self-innovation to be able to come out victorious and strong, no matter what storms hit them. These are the kind of people who have found their passion, and continue to be fuelled by it. Although they find their passions waning, they still take it upon themselves to find that passion again and make it stronger than ever before.

It can be difficult to live life. Although we have been designed to face challenges head on with the kind of intellect that we have, the paths we trod on may not always remain smooth and untouched by complications. Challenges arise at every turn, and more often than not, they do so just when we begin to be complacent and comfortable with our present lot. That is a reality we must all face. That is a fact of life we must all learn to accept.

Some people manage to get by with very little, if any, passion in their own lives. These people live merely because they feel they have to. Their purpose remains hidden from them, and when they do find it, the search is often done too late in the day. More often than not, they find themselves drifting aimlessly, not knowing why they had embarked on the journey in the first place.

But there are those who are lucky enough to know their purpose early in the game, so they spend their lives going for that purpose in earnest, with all the passion that they can muster while doing so. Lucky are such people; though their search may not have absolutely ended, they are still halfway through just by knowing why they have been going on that road, nevertheless.

If you are to live a life worth living, then do everything with a passion. Live each day as if it were the last. Pursue your goals relentlessly, never giving up even when all the chips are down. Have the ones you love as your sources of guidance and inspiration. Pray for strength instead of praying for a lighter load. Whatever circumstances you end up in, those have been created and fashioned exclusively for you. Remember to plan your route along the right paths—this may not always be easy. In fact, it could very well be challenging, but when you live life passionately, you'll find that everything will come readily also.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Is it easy for you to keep your passion burning constantly? Why or why not?
2. Why is it vital to live life with passion? Explain your answer.
3. Why do some people lose their passion easily?
4. What are the things that make you lose your passion in life?
5. Can you equate success with a lot a passion? Why or why not?



DISCOVER YOUR PASSION AND REORIENT YOUR LIFE

Marian Baltazar
Class of 1980, University of the Philippines College of Manila
AB Political Science

If an individual is a keen observer; you will observe the different moods and one's state of being of a person. Have you ever noticed how some people seem to be successful, happy, contented, fulfilled and ...living their life purpose; yet others seem to be stagnant, stuck up in a rut, unfulfilled, discontented, unhappy and they even end up in an unwanted job. Well, I guess they have not discovered their passions and true calling in life, that is, to know what they would really want to do in life. Where are they headed for? Do you see your dreams fulfilled at the end of the rainbow?

During our younger days, we talk in a nonchalant manner and we are oblivious of the things happening around us and most of the time we take things for granted. Nowadays when asked what passion is for other people, they just look away shyly or shrug off their shoulders. Your guess is as good as mine and I have a hunch that they are having a hard time identifying what their passion is in life. Some of the reasons may be that we are afraid to boast; we feel and think that it is wrong to do what we love; we feel selfish to become introspective; we are too busy and do not have the time to reconsider we are working ourselves to death; we are afraid to identify our passion, do something about it and act on it, meaning to risk failure. Worst is we are afraid to be rejected, thus, it becomes a traumatic experience that scares us.

Let us not be afraid to live our dreams for it is through living it that we realize and achieve what we want and aim for. Trying to figure out what you love doing in your life is reaching the focal point of our drive and enthusiasm in life. We will never know what our passion is if we keep on procrastinating everything we need to do and like to do most. If you have not found your passion until this moment of your life, I suggest that you struggle your way out to discover what it is. One way to determine your passion is to discover the world's greatest need. I firmly believe that it is to heal from the past to be able to live freely today.

My passion in life is to write and I do not write to impugn but I write to entice and try to convince people the value of what life is and what lies beyond our imagination. Once we have identified our passion, we can begin to reorient our life around it. You can make tough or difficult decisions so as to do the thing that God has wanted us to do. I can just imagine how the kingdom of God will explode if we dare to live our passion and the time do it is NOW!

Questions for discussion:

- 1.How can you relive your passion to continue being a unique person that you are?
- 2.Have you discovered your passion at this time of your life? How do you deal with it?
- 3.Do you feel that your passion is worth the wait of being the kind of person that you are now?
- 4.Have you realized your dream in life by catering to your passion?
- 5.Do you feel taunted when asked what your real passion in life is?



International Online Teachers Society(IOTS) is an independent non profit international organization committed to improving the state of online and offline education in the world by engaging all kinds of language teachers with fluent English speaking skill in the world to shape global, regional and education agendas.
www.iotsonline.com