



# THE VOICE

Vol 29 Issue 32 2021-08-13

## Understanding “Gangs”

Grooming vs. Radicalization

## Trundle, Trundle, Splash

The Sound of Enlightenment

## Help to Feel Better

What You Can When things are Bad

*Plus:*

*Homemade is Better: Meatloaf  
Course Exam: Entrepreneurship  
and much more!*



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



**We love to hear from you!**  
**Send your questions and comments to [voicemagazine.org](http://voicemagazine.org),**  
**and please indicate if we may publish your letter!**

***Hey! Did you know the Voice Magazine has a [Facebook page](#)?***

No kidding! We also do the [twitter](#) thing once in a while if you're into that.



## Editorial

### Here We Go Again (2021)

Karl Low



So, it turns out Alberta is not seeing the expected reduction in hospitalizations from the number of cases, at least, according to the recent announcement from Dr. Hinshaw, which is why she's now putting a "pause" on some of the governments latest reduction in COVID-19 restrictions here in the province.

If only somebody could have predicted that.

Of course, it's fun to point out predictions where I'm right, and I'll simply avoid drawing your attention to the ones where I've been wrong, but this one, to me, seems like it should have been fairly basic and picked up by someone in the medical community.

So, here we go again, with the too-slow reimposition of restrictions that leave us in a constant state of having to react to the disease instead of actively getting in front of it and cutting it off.

I'm particularly focused on COVID-19 this week because it turns out I have a close relative who's strongly against taking the vaccination, and rolling out all the standard rhetoric those

against it have been putting forth for weeks now, even though it's all been thoroughly debunked by the medical community at large. She still prefers to put her faith in the notion of the lone outsider struggling against the system, whose reports are being "suppressed" (to which I asked, "how could you have found them if they're being suppressed?")

Maybe there's some romanticism in it for some reason, but much as I don't trust the single mechanic who tells me I need a whole new braking system when several others tell me I need to fix the indicator light, neither do I trust these lone outliers in the medical community (who it seems are often not any sort of viral specialists, and sometimes not even doctors for humans, but rather veterinarianians) when the vast majority are explaining how the vaccines are safe.

She also rolled out the "it hasn't even been fully approved", line. Something that is technically true, and probably will be so for about another two weeks, but which even the FDA (who is the one who hasn't approved it) says is more a technicality with how it conducts its approval process that also require indepth factory inspections to ensure that they reach appropriate levels of cleanliness for vaccine production.

But why should I care, right? It's her choice, and, very likely, she won't get sick at all. After all, the worst COVID mortality rate is still less than 10% of all cases, with it generally being less than 4% even in the worst affected countries. The answer is simply that I can't afford to go see her in person now. Because I know too many people who really can't take the vaccine and are immuno-compromised, I can't take the chance that I'll pick it up from someone who just thinks COVID isn't that bad a risk and end up spreading it elsewhere. So don't buy the argument that the unvaccinated only hurt themselves. Her choice affects my ability to see my family. That doesn't just hurt her.

In other news though, we've got a short issue for you this week, but I actually think it's quite a good one, as our regular columnists have, coincidentally, stepped up with some writing that I think is above their usual standard. Enjoy the read!

## Understanding “Gangs” Grooming vs Radicalization

Alek Golijanin



The words grooming and radicalization are two important terms when it comes to attempting to understand why youth end up going down a dangerous life path after they join gangs. Grooming is defined as building trust or emotional connections with another person to exploit them, while radicalization is defined as the process through which a person comes to support or be involved in extremist ideologies. The two terms are connected in the sense that radicalization often involves a level of grooming, an extreme stage used for labeling a handful of situations.

### How Gangs Are Defined in Canada

A major issue about gangs in Canada is that there is not a single agreed upon definition that is agreed upon legislated definition and that various police departments across Canada have different definitions on what a gang is. However, the main term used by police services when it comes to describing why youth join gangs and commit crimes is “grooming”, a blanket term typically used for marginalized

youth. Public Safety Canada identifies that the youth at the greatest risk of joining a gang tend to be those that suffer from the greatest levels on inequality and social disadvantage. They also write that many youths which had joined gangs had been those that were already using drugs and involved in crime, and that the leading reasons why youth joined gangs had to do with seeking excitement, prestige, protection, money or a sense of belonging.

### The Disconnect from Reality

There is a major disconnect from reality when we refer to youth as “joining” a gang rather than being groomed or radicalized into one. Gangs are a label that is used on marginalized youth living in low-income areas, where the idea of joining a gang tends to start to manifest during a child’s preteen years. The culture found across low-income communities is different than what is seen across suburban communities; it is often a toxic environment that negatively affects key determinants of health. Whether it is a pre-teen child or an adolescent youth, it can almost be impossible for minors to make positive life choices if their understanding of the world is limited to such circumstances.

When youth make the decision to commit violent crimes like gun violence, it is time to start viewing the act under a radicalized lens and not just from a grooming perspective. To reach a stage of radicalization, scientists agree that individuals susceptible of being radicalized tend to have some form of vulnerability such as their mental health or other unmet psychological needs that can be exploited by others. That is why it is ignorant to assume that these youth know better in the way that would be expected from a person in an overall healthy state of being.

### Conclusion

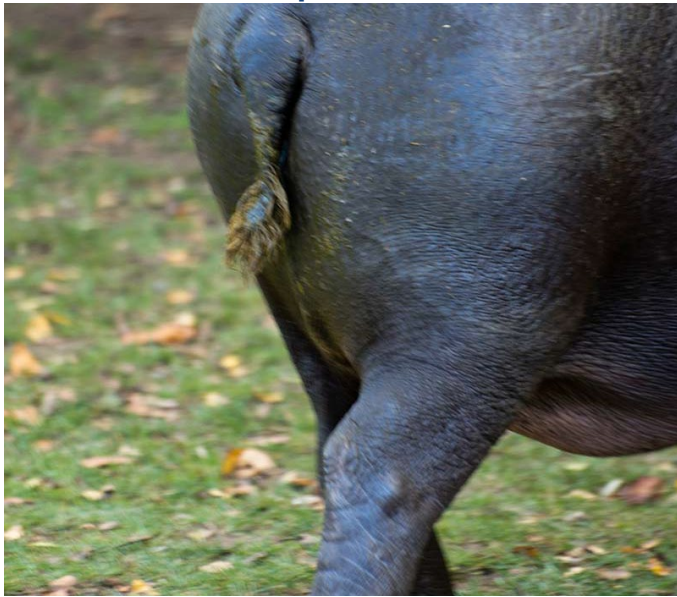
Grooming has typically been the go-to term for authoritative experts that discuss low-income youth, particularly black youth, that join gangs. For me, groom is a term that is synonymous with unrealized potential as it typically leads to the complete disregard for the well-being of the person that is being groomed and whose life is likely to spiral downwards. But I have yet to hear authoritative experts use the combination of the terms when discussing gangs.

When we see teenagers commit acts of gun violence in public spaces, for them to have no disregard for their target's life and potentially of bystanders, they were not just groomed, they were also radicalized. When youth do join gangs, they do not join for the purpose of one day committing violent crimes against others, they are mentally vulnerable. When we use one term and not both terms, it contributes to the systemic barriers we can see in society, and it perpetuates the belief that economic status translates to intelligence.

*A combat sports fanatic, Alek is a fourth year business student who like to read research papers for fun.*



## Fly on the Wall Trundle, Trundle, Splash!



**Jason Sullivan**

### That's the Sound of Enlightenment

They say that if the grass always seems greener on the other side of the fence that's because it's fertilized with bullshit. In the cultural paddies of late 1960s college campuses, Herbert Marcuse took this metaphor to heart. In his office were hippos. Why? Well, he loved how hippopotamuses could graze across the vast escarpments of Africa while spreading fertile manure wherever they trod.

"Marcuse's favorite animal was the hippopotamus, and he often visited the hippo enclosure at the San Diego Zoo. He kept many animal figurines in his office, 20 to 30 of which were depictions of hippos. 'He thought the hippopotamus was a metaphor for all sorts of

things,' says Kellner. 'He saw it as the wonder in nature, that nature could produce something so extravagant.' (Fokos & Kellner, online).

Danish filmmaker Paul Alexander Juutilainen adds that, while interviewing Herbert Marcuse, he realized that the latter "would find the university functioning as a research lab for the Department of Defense to be far more offensive than the university functioning like a fat and absurd hippopotamus that would glean knowledge from one arena and take that knowledge and spread it in another." (Juutilainen, online).

In other words, *easy out and easy in* beats working for the oppressors or mindlessly resisting them at every turn. One can become a sort of cerebral poop shoot. And we can only be sure who *they* are with historical hindsight, whatever size our hindquarters might be.

Marcuse himself claims that when colleagues spoke of the San Diego zoo that was what sold him on leaving old world academia for the Best Coast. "I came here just as much for the San Diego Zoo—the biggest in the world—as for anything else. I love animals. While I was considering the move, some of the UCSD faculty kept writing me letters about how wonderful the zoo was. That clinched the deal," he said (Marcuse, online).



As animals, albeit animals with ideas, we humans may misstep when we imagine our cerebral faculties as so elevated above the dross and mire or more bestial and essential qualities. After all, all things being equal, we humans are best known as creatures who think (*Homo sapiens*).

### Transference and Cesspools of Ideology

For old school psychotherapists, transference invokes the reality that each new relationship involves an expression of hitherto-experienced interaction with others that triggers a basic appeal in regards to family and conjugal archetypes. For Marcuse, however, college education was a shot at directly transferring free-thinking potential to a younger generation of students. Provisionally adopting the aged professor role allowed him to break the mold; his students shortly learned that he was the most incisive and revolutionary person in the room.

### Once a Hippo, Always a Hippo

To make his teaching his own or, more crucially, to truly impart valued aspects of his pedagogy to his youthful clientele, Marcuse concluded that his role was to transfer learning from one place to another. From Europe to San Diego, for instance. The essence of his crucial book, titled *One-Dimensional Man* he summarizes as follows: “The so-called consumer society and the politics of corporate capitalism have created a second nature of man which ties him libidinally and aggressively to the commodity form. The need for possessing, consuming, handling, and constantly renewing the gadgets, devices, instruments, and engines offered to and imposed upon the people, for using these wares even at the danger of one’s own destruction, has become a “biological” need” (Marcuse, online).

We’re all floating in the same cultural stew, steakhouse, and salad bar, consuming and being consumed and swimming to and fro like our life’s actions truly *matter*. And yet, well, you don’t have to be a free-thinking student of the 60s generation to feel that something is missing on the path to authenticity—especially where post-secondary education is concerned. That realization has made all the difference in our seeking to better ourselves through what used to be termed higher learning. Enlightenment won’t just be handed to us, like a shiny new car or a bunch of likes on social media. That the phrase *enlightenment* is now used as a pejorative, often accompanied by a noisy hipster coffee shop and stuffy yoga studio, may be a function of precisely the ideological enclosure Marcuse wrote about. The idea of being a hippo as a verb, hippoing if you will, is a reminder that there’s nothing wrong with doing like the old man in the animated film *Up*, rising above our social surroundings that we may better view and understand, perhaps to alter, at least in our small way, the world that we see. After all, changed minds are an invention without a patent and without dull commercial applications. It’s like building a house from the inside, or just learning to fertilize the landscape.

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*Jason Hazel-rah Sullivan is a Masters of Integrated Studies student who loves engaging in discourse while working in the sunny orchards and forests of the Okanagan.*



## Help Others When You Feel Bad

Marie Well



I listen to motivational speaker Napoleon Hill every day as I work. What I love most about his lectures is the emphasis on harmony and good will. And recently I heard a quote of his that tugged at my heart: help others when you feel down and out. More specifically, he said, when you are in a bad state, find someone in a worse state and proceed to help them out. He concluded by saying something like, “By helping others, you’ll improve your own state.”

I love this quote! And it works.

My dad helped me a lot in life when I was in poverty. He bought me more restaurant meals than the number of months I’ve lived. He helped me out with cash on holidays and birthdays. He paid for my undergraduate degree. He was excessively generous.

And now that I’m in a decent financial position, I can help others, too. I give money to my impoverished young niece

with the newborn baby, and I’m now able to help another loved one with groceries.

That's what an education can do. It allows you to earn a decent income to give more freely to others. And when you give to others, you release oxytocin, the bonding hormone. Giving feels good.

I read somewhere that people with low oxytocin tend to crave sugar and giving gifts. That's my dad. On his countertop, no matter the day of the week, he sports Black Forest cakes, carrot cakes, cookies, cinnamon rolls, or other sugary delights. And his fridge is loaded with varieties of ice creams, from ice cream sandwiches or ice cream cones to buckets of vanilla, which he changes up according to his hankering.

And Dad gives to everyone, including elderly people in the community he befriends. Dad knows no limit to giving. That's because giving feels like a sugar rush. And giving gives a sense of purpose.

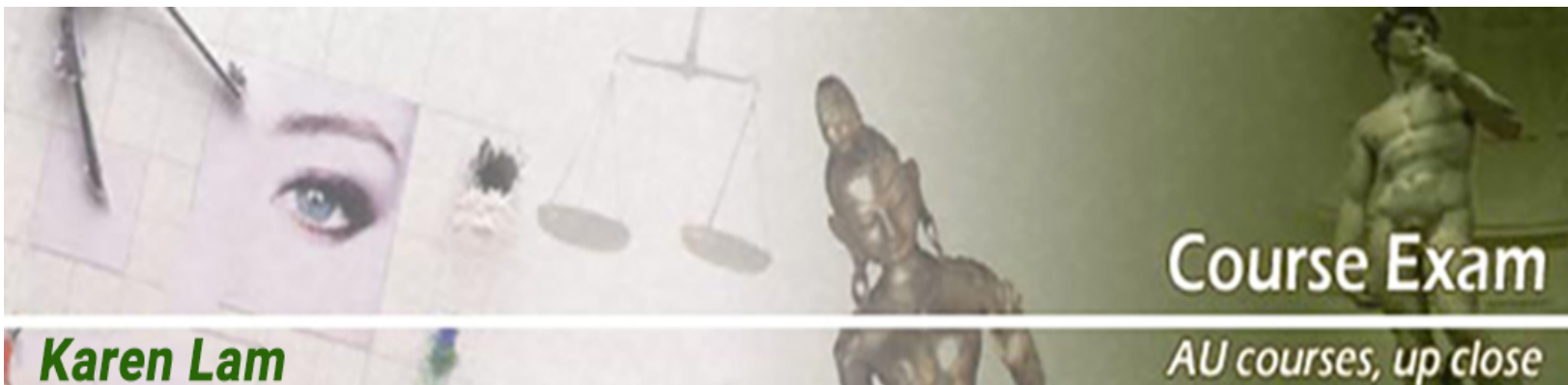
Better still, when we give, we learn skills and develop a greater sense of responsibility. We can make someone's tough situation a little better and feel the joy each gift makes. We can learn how to reduce our own wants to help others attain their needs. And we may feel inspired to work even harder, motivated by the wish to make others better off.

I sometimes wonder about what my niece spends my gift cards on. Does she buy baby diapers, baby food, and makeup? Did she buy that baby highchair and blanket she spoke about? I don't know what she buys, and I don't dare ask. But I see her social media posts where she's wearing ragged, second-hand clothes, and my heart goes out to her.

Out in the world, there is someone without any food to eat, faced with homelessness. If we find such a person, then we've found a beautiful reason to give.



Giving feels wonderful for everyone: the giver and the receiver. So, the next time you feel bad, find someone in a worse state than you, and proceed to help them out. After all, giving feels better than double-iced chocolate cake topped with triple-glazed cinnamon buns on a cloud of marshmallows. And when a gift is given with love, there's no better way to bond.

**Karen Lam****Course Exam**  
**ENTP 212 (Entrepreneurship)****Karen Lam**

*If you have a course that you would like to see a Course Exam article written for or you recently took a course that you would like to recommend to other AU students, please feel free to reach out with the course name and number, and any questions or feedback you may have. We'll be happy to write about it in our next Course Exam article.*

ENTP 212 is a three-credit introductory course that “covers a range of topics that will increase your understanding of what it takes to succeed in an entrepreneurial career.” The course “begins with an overview of entrepreneurship and the entrepreneurial process and then expands to consider how to find and evaluate a possible idea for a new business, how to buy an existing firm or acquire a franchise, how to develop a marketing and financial plan, and how to develop a feasibility study for a new business concept.” There is no pre-requisite for the course and it is not available for challenge.

### **Who Should Take This Course and Why**

For this course we had the opportunity to interview Jared, who is currently a full-time student working on his final courses in the Bachelor of Commerce program at AU. When we asked Jared what ENTP 212 was about he stated, “ENTP212 is a course that covers the fundamentals of starting your own business. In the course, you will explore a wide variety of topics surrounding entrepreneurship such as financing, coming up with a business idea, product testing, market testing, pricing, franchising, etc. The textbook is a great resource for the course as it features a good mix of theory and real-world examples of successful and unsuccessful entrepreneurs.”

Jared also elaborated, “ENTP212 is a great course for people who are wanting to start their own business. It gives you a good idea of what to expect when you do start your business and the information needed when creating a business proposal. I took this course because most of the courses in my degree focused on managing an already established business, so I wanted to get the perspective of starting one from scratch.”

## Course, Assignments, and Participation Exercises Details

The course consists of ten lessons including an overview, assessing potential for entrepreneurial career, exploring new business ideas and opportunities, entry strategies, conducting a feasibility study, legal issues, and considerations, and where we can find the money.

The course consists of two assignments worth 30% and 60% respectively and five participation exercises worth 2% each. There are no exams for the course. Assignments for the course give students the chance to realistically assess the new venture idea in one's own perspective and the feasibility for a small business of the idea. Students will also have the chance to complete a comprehensive feasibility study of a new business concept which will explore market and financial assessments. The course will also require participation exercises those students will apply what they have learned and received feedback from tutors. It is recommended to start on participation exercises and assignments early.

## How to Be Successful in the Course

### Course Coordinator's Advice for the Course – Dr. Ana Azevedo

Dr. Ana Azevedo is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Business at Athabasca University. She teaches MBA courses in Visionary and Entrepreneurial Thinking and New Venture Development and coordinates the undergraduate entrepreneurship course. Dr. Azevedo has consulted for small and mid-size businesses in the US and Austria and implemented many applied research projects in the areas of Business/Strategic Planning, Research Methods (Survey Design and Administration), and International Market Entry. Dr. Azevedo's current research interests include management education, cultural diversity, and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Azevedo recommends this course to all students and suggests anyone interested in the course to refer to the course syllabus <https://www.athabascau.ca/syllabi/entp/entp212.html>.

Dr. Azevedo's advice to students for the course is "this course includes a comprehensive feasibility study that includes the preparation of both marketing and financial plans. Sometimes students struggle with components of this study partly because they do not start early enough, partly because they need help from the tutors in addressing specific issues. My key advice to students is to start early with the feasibility study."

### Student's Advice for the Course – Jared

When we asked Jared for his tip for the course he stated, "The best tip that I have for students working on this course is to start working on Assignment 2 very early. There is a lot of time needed to work on it and it is not an assignment that can be left to the last minute. The course recommends that students start working on Assignment 2 once they have received feedback from the first assignment and I agree with this recommendation."

Jared also elaborated that "the final assignment was the most challenging part of the course. It is a 3,000-word paper that is worth 60% of the final grade so a lot of time is needed to do research and to work on this assignment."

When we asked Jared about his experience with the course coordinator or academic experts he stated, "I did not reach out to the Academic Experts or the Course Coordinator for help, but the assignment marking was fairly quick, and they did provide good feedback."

### Questions?

If you have any further questions regarding the course, please do not hesitate to contact the Course Coordinator at [business-support@athabascau.ca](mailto:business-support@athabascau.ca). Happy learning!

*Karen's taking her Computing Science degree at AU, learning French and Korean, and is into K-pop, SF, and politics*





## Homemade is Better Meatloaf

**Chef Corey**



This week I was looking for a comfort food to make. I decided to ask the kids what I should make, my youngest said meat and potatoes and my oldest said meatloaf with mashed potatoes. There's little doubt that I'm raising Albertan kids.

I quickly whipped out my meatloaf recipe and ran to the store to get what we needed. I had ground beef and bacon thawing in the sink under cool water already, so I didn't require many other ingredients.

I like to add a few extras to a basic recipe I've had for years. One of those extras is a whole pound of bacon and about a tablespoon of bbq sauce. I mix the bbq sauce into the meatloaf to give it a slightly smokey flavour. It's just a hint, but it's there. Another trick I like, but don't use often, is to make it all on a sheet pan

and not in a loaf pan. This helps the bacon to crisp up more. The alternative is a reverse sear. You remove the loaf when it is 90% done, and fry the bacon wrap in a skillet until it crisps up. I'm okay with not always doing this, because I fry it up the next day and get the same results.

I also like to have leftovers, and I prefer to have a large piece of meatloaf in front of me. My recipe calls for a slightly larger amount of ingredients, and cooks for about an hour and half, then rests for ten minutes. I add my sauce throughout the cooking as well, so I don't just get sauce all at once. Another option is to cook the sauce on the side and add it on top after. I have also been known to add cheddar cheese throughout my loaf. I've even experimented with putting some right





in the middle so it melts and spreads when you cut into it. I usually do this if I'm going for more of a cheeseburger flair. I have always appreciated the variety of avenues that meatloaf can take you down.

I hope you enjoy this one!

## Meatloaf

### Ingredients:

3 lbs ground beef  
2 cups milk  
2 cups bread crumbs  
2 eggs  
1 large onion  
1.5 tbsp kosher salt  
1 tbsp black pepper  
1 tbsp bbq sauce  
1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce  
454 – 500g of bacon  
2/3 cup ketchup  
¼ mustard  
¼ brown sugar

### Directions:

- 1) Preheat your oven to 350F.
- 2) Mix the breadcrumbs, milk, meat, eggs, onion, salt, pepper, Worcestershire, and BBQ sauce in a large mixing bowl. You want a moist, but not spreading loaf. It should hold a shape but relax slightly.
- 3) Mix the ketchup, mustard, and brown sugar.
- 4) Grab a sheet pan and a bread loaf pan.
- 5) Layer the bacon into the pan. I start with the ends, then move to the middle section. I lay them so that there is half a slice out the ends, and then end to end across the middle.
- 6) Pile in your meat, and if you have any bacon remaining lay it on top on the loaf then fold the outer pieces onto the loaf.
- 7) Bake in your oven on a sheet pan for 45 minutes, then cover with half the sauce. Continue to add the remaining sauce every 20 minutes until the internal temperature reaches 155F.
- 8) Once the loaf is finished you can remove it from the oven and allow it to rest for 10 minutes.
- 9) If you want to crisp up the bacon more, skip resting it and heat a frying pan on medium high heat.
- 10) Once the pan is ready add the whole loaf and cook until the bacon gets crispier.
- 11) Allow it to rest for 10 minutes.
- 12) Cut it into slices and enjoy!



*Chef Corey is a student in business management who first graduated from NAIT's Culinary Arts Program in 2007*

## The Study Dude The Cookbook Continues

Marie Well



### Opening Hooks for Essays

Over the last three weeks, I've written about the essay research phase, the essay writing phase, and the essay editing phase. This week, it's time to focus on opening hooks for essays.

If you are striving for an A+, a catchy opening hook can help get you the grade.

The more time you have for grooming your essay opening, the more opportunity you have to make the right choice. Ideally, you'll want your opening hook to indicate why the thesis is important or what the background is. Again, the key is to start your essay research on the very first day it's assigned—and work on the essay for at least an hour or more a day until it's ready to be submitted.

We all love recipes for success, so how about one for essay openings? But this one is less of a recipe and more of a smorgasbord.

The only ingredients needed for this recipe are an imagination, computer, a news article database, and an essay in progress, preferably on the first or later full draft. Optional are books on academic writing. Here are four I love to recommend: Helen Sword's *Stylish Academic Writing*, Joshua Schimel's *Writing Science*, any book by Roy Stuart Clark, and, if you want to inject humor into your introduction, Joe Toplyn's *Comedy Writing for Late Night TV*.

Here are a variety of hooks with which to open your paper:

- Start with an interesting or startling statistic or fact. For instance, for a paper on children from divorced families, you could say, "Over 80% of convicts are from broken homes." (I'm not sure of the exact statistic.) Just make sure you cite the source in your paper.
- Provide a funny anecdote. An anecdote is a story, preferably one you cite. (Only use personal anecdotes in opinion papers or presentations, never in a formal essay, unless your prof grants you permission.) You'll want to end your anecdote, if it's a funny one, with words containing the following sounds: b, p, d, t, k, g. These are the funniest sounding letters, with k being the most hilarious. And placing words with these letters at the end of your sentence makes them pop.
- Provide a serious anecdote. For anecdotes, you can search news stories for something that might be relevant, and weave that story in a one to three sentence opener. For instance, if your article is about the day the war ended, search news stories for that exact date to find a story that might reveal the state of the times. Or if your story is about a topic, such as childhood cancers, search news stories about childhood cancer. You'll likely come up with a compelling, touching story from a young cancer survivor.
- On the flipside, you can open with a joke, but use this sparingly, or ask your prof if it's workable. For instance, you could write, "What strategy do stock traders and farmers

have in common? Nail and bail. A study on Dirty Thirties successful farmers who shorted the stock market demonstrates how a falling market can churn out millionaires.”

- Ask a rhetorical question. Rhetorical questions are not really questions. They are meant to make an indisputable or dramatic point. Here's an example of a rhetorical question: “Do divorcees intend to harm—even kill—their children? Statistically, divorce spikes the risk of childhood suicide.”
- You can debunk a popular belief. For example, “The trend in psychology is to use ‘I-statements’ to lessen the blow of arguments. Despite this trend, I-statements are still conflictual, however nicely couched they may appear.”
- A short startling statement can open your essay: “Once a child is born, divorce is nothing short of criminal.”
- Start with a quote. An ideal quote to use is from a leading-edge thinker on your topic, perhaps your best quote you’ve found in your research: “According to Maneault, an expert on childhood psychology ...”. Just make sure the quote leads in nicely to your thesis statement. And be sure to include the citation. (You can also search news story related to your essay topic to find a compelling direct quote.)

**Bannock and a Movie August Edition:  
First Nation Stories**

Aug 1 to Aug 31

Online

Hosted by AU Nukskahtowin

[www.athabascau.ca/indigenous/bannock-and-a-movie/index.html](http://www.athabascau.ca/indigenous/bannock-and-a-movie/index.html)

Access through above link

*All events are free unless otherwise noted.*

Once you write the opening hook, then provide a sentence to three on both the background behind the topic and the context on why the topic is important. Follow-up with your thesis statement. And that's your opening.

But how do you end your paper with a punch? That's another page in the Cookbook.



**Unearthing classic articles from previous issues of The Voice Magazine**

Never mind that Friday the 13th stuff—August 13 is also International Left Handers Day! Although lefties make up at least 10% of the population, we really had to dig to find mention of them in our archives.

**School (dis)orientation.** A news compilation includes reference to a book called *Your Left-handed Child*. “In other cases, according to the author of a book on left-handed children, those students ‘were also more likely to be diagnosed with conditions such as dyslexia, as schools misinterpreted common writing difficulties.’” International News Desk – Left-handed students struggling in school, May 7, 2010.

**Making connections.** Writer Bill Pollett pays attention to the seemingly-random coincidences of life. “I was aimlessly flipping through the channels when I came across another documentary discussing the connection between left handedness and intelligence.” *Lost & Found – A Minor Series of Strange and Probably Meaningless Events*, March 9, 2005.



## Student Sizzle — AU's Hot Social Media Topics

### Following What's Hot around AU's Social Media Sites.



#### **AthaU Facebook Group**

Not everything is open in Alberta. A student's query about the status of the Calgary exam testing site is followed by info that AU's exam centres in Calgary and Edmonton remain closed.

#### **reddit**

Teacher training. A student aspiring to be an elementary-school teacher seeks assurances that an AU undergrad degree will be accepted when she applies for teachers' college. Early responders suggest that GPA is the critical factor.

#### **Twitter**

@austudentsunion tweets: "Join us in welcoming Samantha Colvin to the team at @austudentsunion We are excited to bring Samantha on board and can't wait to see what amazing things she brings to our AUSU social media! [#ausu](#) [#igo2au](#) [#canada](#) [#AthabascaU](#)."

## Scholarship of the Week

### Digging up scholarship treasure for AU students.

**Scholarship name:** HPD Scholarship Fund

**Sponsored by:** OPSEU/SEFPO

**Deadline:** September 4, 2021

**Potential payout:** \$750

**Eligibility restriction:** Applicants must be OPSEU/SEFPO members or their dependents, and enrolled in a Hospital Professionals program at a publicly funded and publicly run Canadian university or college.

**What's required:** A completed application form, along with a personal statement about why you have chosen a hospital profession, and a maximum 1500-word essay responding to two questions provided on the application form.

**Tips:** In lieu of an essay, applicants can also submit a photo series, short video, poem, audio file, or visual art piece.

**Where to get info:** [opseu.org/information/hpd-scholarship-fund/](https://opseu.org/information/hpd-scholarship-fund/)



## Last Visits

*Dear Barb:*

*My sister-in-law has just been diagnosed with stage four lung cancer and only has weeks left to live. The dilemma I am having is whether I should try to see her before she passes. She has always lived a couple of hours away and has not been close to her family. My husband—her brother—has not been close to her and she never seemed to want to change that. He only saw her once a year and we never felt welcomed at her home. When she would come to her parent's home for a visit she only stayed for a short time and would not engage with anyone. She just sat with her husband and was very quiet.*

*My husband and I would like to see her, but we don't know whether that is something she would want. We don't want to make her uncomfortable in her final days, but we don't want to have regrets either. Her parents are not in good health, so they will not be able to see her. I personally feel we should see her, but my husband is not sure what to do. What do you think we should do, visit her or just let it be?*

*Thanks, Katherine.*

Hello Katherine:

I am sorry for what you have to go through. Often people's feelings change when they are approaching death. She may want to see her family to make amends and achieve peace

before leaving this world. I would suggest you talk to her husband about how he feels. He is the closest person to her and would be most aware of her desires at this point in her life.

If her husband says she would not like visitors, I guess you will have to decide whether you still want to visit despite how she may not want visitors. I personally feel it is important to have that closure, and depending on her condition she may not be aware of your presence, but you will still be able to say good bye.

We are all most vulnerable at the end of our lives and we often have regrets about things that we did or actions that were taken or not taken. There is no point in hanging on to past feelings; find peace with your loved one's passing. Her husband may say that she is open to seeing family and you and your husband will be able to have a visit and share loving, caring feelings with your loved one.

This final visit will bring peace to everyone, and I do hope you and your husband will be able to achieve this.

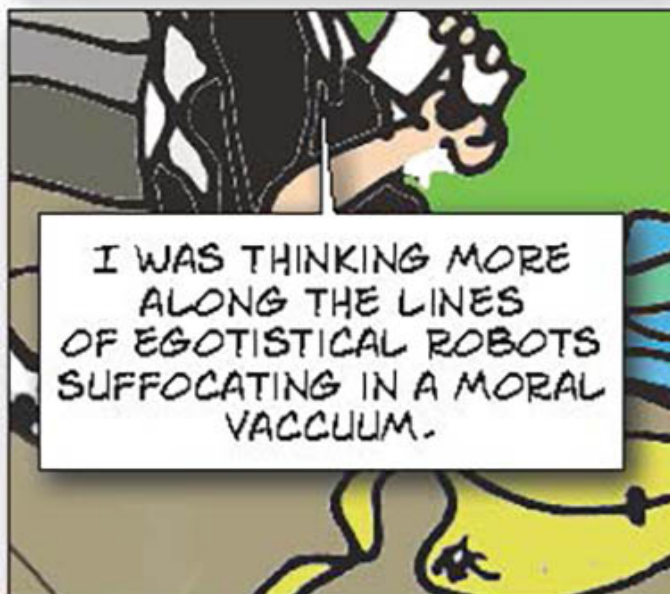
*Email your questions to [voice@voicemagazine.org](mailto:voice@voicemagazine.org). Some submissions may be edited for length or to protect confidentiality; your real name and location will never be printed. This column is for entertainment only. The author is not a professional counsellor and this column is not intended to take the place of professional advice.*





**Poet Maeve**  
**The Truth About Democracy**

**Wanda Waterman**







## Undergraduate Abstract Submissions Welcome at GSRC

The [Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association](#) and the [Faculty of Graduate Studies](#) are excited to announce the call for abstracts for the [2021 Graduate Student Research Conference](#) (GSRC), which will take place virtually on October 1st and 2nd.

Current AU graduate students and recently graduated alumni are invited to submit an abstract for the conference. **Undergraduate abstract submissions will also be accepted this year, with the top three being invited to present at the conference.** Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three graduate and undergraduate submissions.

True to tradition, submissions are encouraged from all disciplines, whether the research is completed or underway. **Read the full call for abstracts [here](#).** The submission deadline is July 27th, 2021.

[Submit an Abstract](#)



Read the latest [Executive Blog: Summer Updates & Good Things to Come](#) and learn what your executive team has on the go this summer. Get updates on advocacy efforts, newly formed committees, community initiatives, and more!

## Check Out This Research Assistant Opportunity With AU



The IDEA Academy program is recruiting up to fifteen [Research Assistants](#) to be trained on cloud tech and tools so they can support, advance, and contribute to

projects developed and supervised by AU faculty researchers.

AU program students will be prioritized this intake. The opportunity is open to undergraduate or graduate learners with varying digital literacy levels. This call for applications will create a pool of candidates that may be considered for future opportunities.

[Click here](#) to view the full posting including requirements and application instructions. **The application review will begin on July 23, 2021.**



AUSU has teamed up with VMock Inc. to provide our members with free access to the VMock [resume review](#) platform where you can build a new standout resume or improve your current one!

**Sign-up** for [VMock](#) using your @athabasca.edu email or whichever email address you have on record with AU.

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# CLASSIFIEDS

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Classifieds are free for AU students!  
Contact [voice@voicemagazine.org](mailto:voice@voicemagazine.org) for more information.

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## THE VOICE

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