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of countries”***

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INTRODUCTION

During the last twenty years higher education has increased its demand and based on that demand a variety of majors have been created. Nowadays, some people are looking for a higher academic preparation based on the fact that there are people better prepared than others. It means that having a high school preparation is not enough to find a highly paid job. However, sometimes experience weighs more than having a higher education diploma. That is why there is a majority of high school students who want to complete their academic preparation by studying at a university. This number of people has caused a diversity of careers to be created so that students have more options of majors to select what to study. Moreover, higher education not only gives preparation in the studied areas, but also prepares students to contribute with their knowledge to improve the development of a country by providing ideas and working hard to diminish social inequality. Higher education finds itself in a world where people lack of culture and economic poverty exists. In our country, many people may never fully participate in society because they do not have the means to cope with the establishment nor do they have any passport to it. In this essay, there are some main points that have been considered.

The purpose of this work is to show the contributions of higher education to the social development of countries. To start with, the authors of this paper set up the objectives presented in this work. Then, they introduce the justification with the main ideas, reasons and contents why higher education is important in the development of any country. Moreover, this part explains the importance why the paper was written. Finally, the authors present the essay which is the main part of the work. Regarding to the essay parts, these are presented as follows: To begin with the essay, there is a general overview about higher education and its objective, also foundation and vision of higher education in El Salvador. The authors discuss the role of universities as a factor for change in societies. Thirdly, the rights to higher education are discussed.

Furthermore, the authors of this essay show the tendencies of social inequality in Latin America for reaching sustainable development. Moreover, there is a reflection on the social benefits that studying higher education provides to the social development for countries. In addition, it is stated the economic benefits that higher education brings to the economy development in underdeveloped countries and the economic contributions and social prosperity. Finally, the political benefits of studying at university level aimed at social development of those countries are also considered in this essay. All of these aspects are fundamental for reaching the objectives of this essay. Then, this work contains the methodology applied based on six steps presented in the *Literature Review* book, which were followed to guide the writing process. The ideas presented by the authors of this essay are enriched by a series of authors whose ideas are strong support to this work in the different issues presented by its authors.

In a nutshell, at the end of the work it is assured that higher education also prepares people with critical thinking to improve themselves with culture and literature and it promotes a reflexive and critical thinking needed to improve and change our society. If our country prepares more higher education graduated students these could improve societies applying the knowledge they acquired. For instance, it prepares people with critical thinking Moreover, the culture achieved during those years of studies can be transmitted to the people around them. In addition, as third world countries, it is needed to invest in higher education not only to diminish the level of illiteracy and inequality but also to improve the level of culture and compromise with society and the whole world.

OBJECTIVES

- **General:**

To determine the main contributions of higher education to the social development of countries.

- **Specific:**

- 1- To state the meaning and origins of higher education
- 2- To find out the role of universities as a factor for change in societies.
- 3- To identify the social benefits that studying higher education provides to the social development of societies.
- 4- To find out the economic benefits of higher education to the social development of countries.
- 5- To determine the political benefits that studying higher education provides to the social development of countries.

JUSTIFICATION

Education is a human right, and as a fundamental right it is the responsibility for governments to provide it. During the twentieth century, education, skills and the acquisition of knowledge have become crucial determinants of a person's and nation's productivity. "Some can even call the twentieth century the "age of human capital" in the sense that the primary determinant of a country's standard of living is how well it succeeds in developing and utilizing the skills and knowledge and furthering the health and education to the majority of its population". Kefela (2007). As underdeveloped country El Salvador must invest in higher education to provide social improvements to its population.

The main purpose of this essay is to show the contributions of higher education to the social development of countries, in such areas as the economic, political, cultural and human development. First of all, higher education is crucial for economic growth because no country can achieve sustainable development without substantial investment of its human capital. Education generates political stability and it is important for democracy. For instance a society with democracy is a society with education; both - democracy and education- cannot be separated from each other. Also, education makes it possible for people to be responsible and knowledgeable citizens and to have a voice in politics and society which is essential for sustaining democracy. One of the purposes of education is to reach the personal development in its spiritual, moral and social dimensions. It also provides people with knowledge and awareness which are needed to promote tolerance and understanding among others. Furthermore, education enriches people's understanding of themselves and improves the quality of their lives and leads to broad social benefits to individuals and society. Well-educated people from a developing world can be a powerful force for change, but they need schools, universities and academic opportunities in their own countries. Education raises people's productivity and creativity and promotes entrepreneurships and technological advances.

As a summary, higher education is one of the most important factors that can contribute to the social progress of a country and, consequently to its development. In fact, no country has achieved a sustained economic growth, a political stability, a cultural and a social development without studying higher education.

***“Higher Education Contributions to the Social Development
of countries”***

(ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY)

Based on some articles searched on internet and books, it has been learned that the Catholic Church founded the university during the Middle Ages. Cathedrals and parliaments were what today are known as universities, with the difference that before students just sat under a tree and studied different subjects. Since the 7th and 8th centuries the Catholic Church from Europe was the pioneer in the creation of higher education institutions. The first university founded was the University of Constantinople now located in Turkey in 425 A.D, followed by the University of Salerno in Italy. Moreover, another of the earliest universities was the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris, where law, rhetoric and philosophy were taught, but always keeping the characteristics of research and teaching. Those universities are the first higher education institutions. However, few subjects were taught due to the fact that those mentioned above played a very significant role. In the 11th and 12th centuries higher education started to be better organized with faculties, colleges, and courses of study. However, mostly males were accepted. On the 19th century there were a great number of people who wanted to apply at this level of education. Finally, there was a big demand which made the creation of a variety of careers, providing students with an option of any career they could better pursue. Universities that started within few cathedrals are nowadays growing not only in number of students but also in careers. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University>).

The University was created in Latin America as an institution of higher education and research, which granted academic degrees in a variety of subjects. “In the 12th century Latin America adopted this level of education, like in Europe, under the Catholic Church control” (Benjamin, 1981). The Dominican Republic was the first country in Latin America which started to set up the university, which was called “Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo” created in 1538. At the beginning it was

the opposition which regulated the curriculum and also laid down that the scholarship had to be free for the ones who wanted to study. Years passed and the demand among the students was growing and more buildings of higher education were opened. Afterwards, Peru, Mexico, Colombia, and Argentina followed the model of Dominican Republic, and more universities were created. However, “there was not any knowledge as how to administrate the university, so teachers of private schools were sent to Europe and The United States to learn how to do it and then they practiced it. Nowadays, many branches of education are taught and higher education purpose in Latin America is to educate in order to improve countries’ life” (Benjamin, 1981)

In El Salvador, university education system certifies that graduated students are acceptable citizens for our country. Two decades after El Salvador’s independence the government realized that Salvadoran society needed to have an institution where professionals were formed in order to develop the country. The first higher education institution in El Salvador was created on February 16th, 1841. That was the renowned University of El Salvador in which like in other countries, the Catholic Church ruled the creation of such subjects such as Law, Mathematics and Grammar. After the civil war, the government wanted to provide more opportunities for high school students, so there was a law which allowed private universities to take place. In 1985, El Salvador had forty one universities, out of 40 were private and only one was public. However, according to (Reimers, 1995) “a new law was created, which regulated the practice of all of them, which produced that some other universities closed due to teaching lacked quality and transparency”. In addition, Salvadoran higher education’s goal is to form professionals with a cooperative attitude, moral and social service. Since the beginning of higher education in El Salvador its main purpose has been lead to encourage researching and to form professionals with social commitment. However, in our country the mission and vision of some private universities are going through different ways losing their main objective of creating social compromise. Some of those universities are focused on marketing and their main objective is to do business and to take advantages of students' necessity of having a diploma. These universities are losing the ideal of creating social compromise and responsibility on those students who have trusted in their slogans to form professionals.

Higher education role includes the development of skills and attitudes as well as knowledge in the aims of the learning programs. First of all, in order to create students' confidence and improve their academic learning in a real world context, higher education institutions must provide the opportunity for students to use their experience in real settings. However, mostly, students go to a real context until they are doing their social service and they are sent to put into practice their knowledge in community groups or teaching at schools, as in the case of students who are studying to be teachers. Also, students should understand at first hand the difficulties that some community groups face so that they will have the chance to become involved in shaping and building solutions to community problems. Students learn not only how to utilize the skills learned in the classroom but also to understand the range of different groups that make up a community and to get to know them as individuals. In other words, the development of a stronger civil society, of greater participation in the democratization process and a sense of citizenship transcending ethnic identity have been seen as key to longer term stability for the country. People need sufficient ownership or familiarity with the culture and to work on the democratic processes if they want to adopt them in any significant way. Finally, according to one of the sources consulted by Millican (2008) in her article she states that: "A strong civil society in which individuals participate in local and national decision making creates spaces for a range of different voices and taking a stand on human rights could provide the basis for the development of a more active kind of citizenship".

In all countries, higher education should be well placed to contribute to the building of social capital and a communitarian sense of citizenship and participation. First of all, there are some universities such as University of El Salvador that considers that group work and community engagement of students offers the opportunity for greater involvement in civil society. Also, by doing social service, students have the chance to learn experientially rather than just to be taught in the classrooms. The priority for many young people is to find a job, to develop a sense of identity and self worth and to be able to visualize a future in an attractive work environment. "Traditionally 'personal development' has not formed part of the undergraduate curriculum in universities. It is only in the past 20 years that it has significantly entered

the curriculum as a way of enhancing an individual's self-knowledge and ultimately making them more effective as professionals" Bourner (1998). In this case, the author argues for personal development and social involvement as legitimate concerns of higher education. In other words, he links the development of 'inner knowledge' with the 'outer knowledge' of knowing about the world and suggests that social involvement (with groups, through community development activities) may be a way to develop personal knowledge and social connectedness among undergraduates. However, some higher education students do not realize about their responsibility of being studying at the university and they do not take advantages on their free time to invest in their own growing as future professionals.

Students must have community engagement which involves a range of experiential, community based projects in which students undertake part of their learning within their community setting. To begin with, "this differs from work shadowing and volunteering programs. Student community engagement entails students working closely with community partners to develop practical projects which they undertake in university time and for which they are given academic credit towards their degree". (Merrifield 2002). For example, students from medicine and its sub areas, also people who study to be teachers, and many other areas in which students must put into practice what they have learned in their majors. Moreover, Merrifield cites the importance of deliberation in a democracy, and that deliberation from students requires voice and listening, negotiation, compromise and influence, neighborliness, empathy and the ability to put yourself in someone else's shoes. Higher education students are more than active citizens; they have a sense of connectedness to others, an awareness of common interests, and a willingness to live with or resolve difference without recourse to violence. Finally, Higher education benefits Salvadoran society through service giving to communities to prepare students to be responsible citizens and to produce economical and social development.

All the governments around the world have as a principal obligation to assure education to each member of the population, so higher education is a human right and also a social public good. First of all, “governments, societies and academic communities should be the ones who define the basic principles on which citizens should be educated. Moreover, it is necessary that this education contribute to democracy, tolerance, solidarity and cooperation” (Reimers, 1995). This is in order to generate opportunities for everybody and to create social changes and productive societies, not only producing incomes for their laboral force but also providing new ideas. However, since higher education is also a social public good, the access in our country is not for every citizen because in the case of our only public university it does not have enough resources to accept all the high school students that cannot afford to pay a private university. This is due to the lack of interest of governments to have better prepare citizens since this cannot be prudent for them because they know that people with critical thinking can be an obstacle for their purposes. As a counterpart, higher education should be based on society demands. These demands should be solved by the university community with reflexive and critical capacity in order to assume their commitment to social changes. As a final point, the right to higher education should be guaranteed by governments and all the people involved in society since higher education is also a social public benefit.

Higher education institutions are responsible for promoting human and social values because it is essential to accomplish better changes to society. To begin with, the human characteristic of higher education should be oriented to the formation of people, citizens and professionals. These should be capable to contribute to the social development of their country and they should work with ethical and social responsibility. In addition, “it is necessary to promote respect and defense of human rights including the fight against discrimination and every kind of oppression” (Hernández, 2007). People must fight for equality and social justice. Besides that, higher education institutions must advance to the sustainable social development. This includes working together with communities in scientific, technological and artistic investigations in order to guarantee the population’s comfort. As a summary, citizens’

quality of life is based on human and social values that are reinforced by higher education. The respect to human rights, cultural diversity and social advance are fundamental for development in such areas like health, culture, politics, economy and other areas.

One of the fundamental rights of universities is to overcome scientific and technological borders with overdeveloped countries. That is why scientific, humanistic and artistic education makes a sustainable social development of countries. First of all, to promote scientific development it is necessary to increase some kind of public investment on science, technology and innovation. This investment should lead to the generation, transformation and profit of knowledge to improve the quality of education. Furthermore, “humanistic education contributes to the integration of countries and also with active and constructive participation in societies” Hernández (2007). For all of this, it is necessary to promote respect and defense of human rights including decrease of poverty. Finally, science, technology and innovation are a necessary investment for every country that wants to overcome social problems and increase its development. However, in our country there must be participation of all sectors of society in order to support these priorities for development. In this case, if there is not interest in creating social conscience in students since they are in their first levels of education they are not going to develop their critical thinking and this can be a vicious circle, with not ending.

Overcoming social inequality is a strategy for reaching sustainable development in any country. Nowadays, that is one of the most important goals for countries and higher education institutions because of globalization and its need of building citizens' comfort. In decades, analyses of inequality in all countries have been related to poverty. That is because of the belief on the economical culture of societies where individuals and groups cannot overcome the lack of jobs and lack of incomes as in the case of El Salvador. Also, this is related to reasons such as attitude, low initiative and laziness among others. These people do not take advantages of life and educational opportunities. They just get used to certain life style and they do not want to improve or

think that can live in better conditions. Moreover, they do not care about people who live around them; they do not see that other people have necessities because they have not had the same opportunities. As a counterpart, there are people who take advantages on those opportunities of overcoming themselves for their own benefit and their groups in society. Finally, “social inequality has been related to low productivity, limited incomes and few opportunities of citizens to participate on economical and political activities, distribution of wealth in short and long terms.” Hernández,(2007). If higher education gives students the tools for facing the lack of motivation, social inequality will be diminished in underdeveloped countries.

In Latin American regions, there are lower rates of the income distribution in comparison to other countries around the world. There is also very high level of social injustice. Poverty is generated because of the extreme concentration of wealth in certain groups and the lack of jobs in some countries represents one of the goals that cannot be overcome in the Latin American regions. However, to surpass social inequality it is not only necessary to have economic growth but also to grow to the horizon of social equality. There are many countries that have kept on poverty and underdevelopment so that incomes inequality does not help to the possibilities of growing and development of those countries. As a summary, “despite the fact that some countries have experienced some kind of economic growth; the few redistribution of wealth has been kept just in some sectors of societies” (Hernández, 2007). El Salvador is not the exception because for decades the wealth has been kept in the same family dynasties. These wealthy families do not want to share or think on people that have fewer opportunities. They are just being selfish and taking advantages on those who have not had the conditions to study.

The impact of inequality in societies can be determined through different ways. First of all, those ways are the economic activity and its relationship with the educational level, the labored force, the employment and productivity. Those elements are related to the economical growth of societies in certain period of time. Secondly,

high rates of unemployment, low educational levels and low salaries are connected in a negative way with slow and limited economic increase. Thirdly, “there are high levels of inequality and poverty and both are related to the low productivity of individuals, inefficient health care and dependency of social assistance from government, among others” (Heckman and Krueger, 2003). Finally, the levels of education reached by individuals help them to determine their opportunities, their options for working and their participation in society. Paraphrasing (Reimers, 1995) “in overdeveloped countries, people who complete higher education can get three times the incomes than those who do not graduate from higher education”. However, in El Salvador, this statement cannot be proved as a fact because there are people who have graduated from higher education and do not have even a job. On the other hand, there are some people who studied only primary or secondary education and they have a good life quality. Moreover, there are some exceptions in which experience weigh more than having a higher education diploma but it depends on people`s attitude to overcome themselves and dreaming with a good life quality.

Higher Education provides social benefits to the development of countries. Since a person is born he/she has the right to liberty, health, culture, economic and justice; all of this is connected with the meaning of social development. As an underdeveloped country, Salvadorans are not enjoying those kind of benefits; moreover our society`s visions and expectations in some cases are just the ones government can afford. However, education since the first grades is opening people`s mind, showing way out and providing a mature personality. This kind of personality could help the country to provide an ideal and a vision among Salvadoran people. One of the social benefits of higher education is that it provides a critical thinking and a productive attitude among graduated students. For instance, “In the educational process, problem solving skills are developed which create citizens with vision and leadership” (Kertez, 1975). Lastly, if El Salvador invests in higher education it could have more people giving ideas to solve different problems. In addition, those students get a compromise with their society in which they apply their knowledge to help others and they can share knowledge with people who do not have opportunities to study.

Higher education is totally attached to the social development of societies. It is known that in some countries there is poor quality in education and high level of illiteracy; therefore, education is a real necessity. For instance, in El Salvador there is not a production of science discovers, architecture designers or teaching methods creators, so that these professionals must be imported. It causes a lack of interest to become professionals due to the idea that Salvadoran people are not enough capable. Moreover, people who have attitude to study these professions cannot develop them because there are neither opportunities nor financing. Nevertheless, people who have been born in wealthy families travel to other countries to study these majors but in most of the cases when they graduate, they decide to continue in those countries and never come back to El Salvador to perform or share what they learned. These students could identify and solve urgent needs in their communities. In addition, they could create a growing attitude and quality for the country, having as a result the country to come out from underdevelopment state. Finally, “higher education is an essential investment for addressing major social issues” Brand, (2003). Therefore, as professionals must be expert in giving solutions and propose resources to benefit the society in which they live. In the case of El Salvador, if there were more graduated students, more important solutions would be given to social problems.

Investigation is a benefit obtained from higher education that can make a contribution for the social development of nations. “Research is a higher education requirement; and also it is part of the process to make a research (thesis) for getting the bachelor degree” (Reimers, 1995). Developed countries are investing a lot in education. For instance, in Qatar, China, and Poland, there are buildings used just for researching; those countries are finding solutions, not only solving problems in their countries but also problems around the world, such as poverty, economy, education, health and also environmental problems. However, in our country this important benefit has not been exploited and this resource could give us solutions to the root problem. Moreover, the investment from governments in education improves the democracy and equality so that all citizens get benefits. As Thomas Jefferson wrote, “If a country expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be”. In other words, our country cannot be developed because there is not investment which is

necessary to improve our educational system. Moreover, any kind of development cannot be expected in any area if a country does not invest in education.

Higher education can be a getaway to business and economy development. As stated before, higher education contributes to the social development; as a consequence, it contributes to educational improvement. According to Sharp et al (2000) “higher education preparation reduces poverty so that, there are more hired people and it could bring an unemployment reduction”. This means, for instance, when there is a higher education culture it is possible to get a business with international companies taking into account the word facilities and business preparation that is gotten. In addition, having a good productivity can also improve marketing and quality providing more employment and foreign employments for everybody. There are uncountable benefits that our country could get if it is an investment on higher education. For instance, there must be another public university or a significant increase in the budget of University of El Salvador. Moreover, well-prepared people in business and administration create better goods and capital marketing making it possible to be a globalized country. In other words, higher business educated students are an advantage to improve marketing and economic development in countries because these bring more opportunities and more jobs even for people who do not have chances to study higher education.

Preparing professionals at higher education level provides an independent economy and also countries become internationally competitive. “A well prepared person working in the marketing area creates a confidential environment for the country itself” Glaeser (2009) However, in El Salvador foreign economist advisors are hired to solve problems in some companies. These foreign advisors would not be needed if the country invested in training its own staff. If people would have more opportunities to study and graduate from higher education our country could improve in economy areas. Citing Glaeser (2009) “A country economy could grow if it has an international trade because that is the major sources of economic revenue”. In addition, paraphrasing (Sharp et al, 2000) preparing people to become marketing competitive will improve

companies' trade not only in the country borders but also internationally. Moreover, the country would become independent because it is selling its own goods and capital. As a working country, we have some trades, based on the fact that we commercialize and produce goods with enough quality which people do and sell in order to give a better life quality to their family.

Graduating from the university provides economy contributions and social prosperity to countries. There are some benefits of higher education that should be considered: "business improvements in a country, the tax incomes a country gets by having professionals working and also, the economy independence the country acquire" Glaeser (2009). When all of those benefits are working together, the contributions ahead are just providing social prosperity for the country. For instance, the economy returns to society as a whole, everything is improving and everybody is improving too. "Higher education economic advantages are for example improving quality of economic life, increase material standards of living; reduced poverty and improves the overall well-being of the population" (Sharp et al, 2000). However, in our country it is easy to see how the few wealth families are just the ones who enjoy those contributions. As a whole, higher education generates new life standards and also a new improvement culture. The investment in higher education brings contributions for a society as a whole and not only for individuals. This is the main ideal; having those benefits in economy will help to social improvements too.

Political benefits are also related to the social contributions that higher education provides. The knowledge acquire at the university is producing a responsible and ethic sense which makes people think before acting, reducing the instinct and maximizing the analytical part. For example, studying a five or six years major at the university develops in men a new way to see and to analyze social problems. As a result, analytical students develop a respectful manner among people in society. Also, democracy can be achieved where thoughts and feelings are listened and there are opportunities for all

people who want to participate in the improvements of their country. In other words, if there are more prepared professionals there are more minds with new ideas to solve economic, cultural, educational and social problems in a country. In addition, who participates in politic area will have better participation in decision making and it will guarantee country benefits and improvements for everybody. However, nowadays our country does not have the needed political participation, because the ones who represent people are just working for themselves. On the other hand, a democracy improvement could be raised if critical thinking is acquired and develop at the university.

An effective democracy requires a population with higher education in order to reach social development. For instance, the civic knowledge and participation necessary for a democracy are not inherently passed down from generation to generation “they require that each generation of students learn civic facts, explore democratic ideals and connect such concepts to the responsibility of citizenship” (NACE, 2006). On the other hand, “in a democracy, citizens are decision-makers and are expected to continually develop and improve their abilities to evaluate, take and defend a position to articulate the meaning of the tangible and intangible symbols of a democracy. Also, to explain how a function of government should operate and the consequences of that operation, as well as to be able to interact, monitor and influence the political process of a democracy” (Branson, 1998). In short, practicing civics, becoming a skilled citizen, using one’s skills to overcome apathy, ignorance, greed or abuses of power in society at all levels requires knowledge of civic history, understanding of civic rights and strategies and sharing in a growing civic culture of regular participation.

One of the benefits of higher education in politics is related to the critical thinking that is developed on students. First of all, "Critical thinking is reflective and reasonable thinking that is focused on deciding what to believe or do. Limited definitions focus on evaluation or appraisal; critical thinking is formulation and use of criteria to make warranted judgments about knowledge claims, normative statements,

methods of inquiry, policy decisions, alternative positions on public issues, or any other object of concern. Critical thinkers have a propensity to raise and explore questions about beliefs, claims, evidence, definitions, conclusions, and actions” (Patrick, 1986). Despite the identified importance of critical thinking in higher education along with increased research and discourse on the topic it has not been found to be taught acceptably in most social studies classrooms. Powerful social studies teaching begin with a clear understanding of the subject’s unique purposes and goals. Finally, the concern for the common good and citizen participation in public life are essential to the health of a democratic system, it states that effective social study programs prepare young people to identify, understand, and work to solve the problems facing our diverse nation in an increasingly interdependent world as in the case of El Salvador.

In a country in changing conditions and uncertainty, the role of higher education should be directed by its goals in terms of human values and social development. Also, it should be guided by a continuous and impartial process for planning and restating its purposes through concrete action. The university is believed to encourage those who are deprived of some opportunities since their birth or their environment. However, in El Salvador there is no clear evidence that colleges and universities have actually made it possible for those less advantaged to obtain the necessary certification which permits them to move upward to become more a part of a full democratic society. To conclude, universities not only have survived but also have experienced many problems due to the lack of enough budgets. For instance, University of El Salvador is the only public university in this country and it has the lowest budget among the other countries in Central America (6% of the national budget). This is a low percentage for the big demands of students that cannot afford to pay a private university. If one thinks deeply about this lack of opportunities, it is easy to understand that there are more benefits or advantages than disadvantages. For a long time, universities have been a vital organ of order and change for over hundred years, which is why every position taken in this essay should be considered and reviewed in certain period of time.

METHODOLOGY

The whole graduation work was through a set of steps that were followed in order to complete the graduation process. First of all, students attended some meetings every Friday at the Foreign Language Department in order to reinforce the knowledge gotten during the five years in the major. The sessions took place from April to August and those sessions included some areas to reinforce the knowledge we got during the whole major. Those areas were punctuation mechanics, the paragraph, the essay, and APA format. In addition, the book *The Literature Review* by Lawrence A. Machi and Brenda T. McEvoy was explained and analyzed in which six steps were followed to write the final essay.

- **Step 1: Select a topic.** As the book says, first it was thought on an everyday problem in which every group was interested for working. Then, it was written a list that contained some interesting topics. Moreover, a perspective to be guided to a successful and potential research was taken into account. Also, many questions were written to organize and synthesized our interest in looking for the tools needed to be studied. Then, a general statement was created to have an idea of what the authors were going to investigate. Finally, after a group discussion, a topic was chosen and the visits to the libraries were planned for the collection of literature.
- **Step 2: Search the literature.** The process of collecting information started here. The visits to the library started for searching of all the literature related to the topic. But first several questions about the topic were made in order to simplify the research. The first visit was to the University of El Salvador library. Then, there were more visits to private universities in El Salvador. There, it was

found lot of interesting books. After getting a lot of information it was applying as the book says the scanning by classifying the data collected by a bibliographical documentation, where bibliographic entry cards help to organize it. Then the material collected was mapping, it helped to organize by answer the questions made the data. After all the organization of the information, the topic was refined and it was thesis statement for this essay.

- **Step 3: Develop the argument.** In this step, first it was set the facts to prove the thesis statement. The information was better managed and it was a domain of it. As the author suggests, arguments were established in order to find evidence against the topic. Those arguments provided evidence to confirm authors' point of view and finally, the data was organized to select the information that was relevant and to properly qualify the data collected.

- **Step 4: Survey the literature.** This step guided to organize data into categories to recognize its importance to make easier the searching of specific ideas. The researchers reviewed the topic to assemble the data in order to synthesize and analyzed all the data, by doing schemes and building complex arguments. The first outline was written in order to start writing the main ideas.

- **Step 5: Critique the Literature.** During this step there was a review of the questions made at the beginning in order to answer them according to the information found in the sources that were consulted. The thesis statement was re-written at this time to make a second draft of an outline. This outline was more specific than the first one because researchers had done an intensive reading of the information.

- **Step 6: Write the Review.** After finishing the thesis statement and the outline, the first draft of the essay was written. This step was easier due to the questions, the claims and arguments, the organization of the information and all these steps that were follow to write the final essay. Moreover, it was necessary the help of the advisor who was aware of the development of every step of the Literature Review.

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