

# Headlight



Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

October 2, MMXIV

## The U.S. Naturalization Test: A Review

Amber Born, Sophomore  
Reporter

I was curious as to how hard it would be to become a United States citizen if one did not live in the U.S. and wished to obtain permanent legal residency. I therefore took part of an online self-test that contained 25 questions. For the real test, there is a list of 100 questions. People wishing to obtain citizenship will be asked up to 10 questions and be required to answer orally. The online test I took was entirely multiple choice. The first few questions were easy enough: Which was the war between the North and South U.S.? Who vetoes bills? Name one branch of government? Then came a question about what happened at the Constitutional Convention. The answer was that the Constitution was written there, but I previously had no idea that there was a whole convention for it. I answered the first nine correctly, at which point the test stopped working.

But it made me wonder. According to a 2008 Huffington Post poll, 37% of Americans are unable to find America on a map. This raises some concerns for me. First, you can get paid to shove a map in some Americans' faces, then have them radiate ignorance at it? But more importantly, it makes me wonder how people who were born citizens of the U.S. would fare were they to take the naturalization test that hopeful citizens must. If only 63% of Americans can find America on a map, what percentage of the U.S. can name the three branches of government? How many even knew that there were three branches of government?

The solution, as I see it, is simple. Either make the citizenship test easier, holding immigrants to the same standards that the U.S. holds it people to (i.e. none), or have all U.S. citizens take the test, deporting all who fail it.

## MHS Announcements!

*Goings-On Around the School*

### Hey Freshmen! (and EVERYONE else)

#### **MHS Club Fair**

**Thursday, Oct. 9**

Do you want to join a club at MHS (like Headlight) and have lots of fun?? *Then attend the MHS CLUB FAIR. Come by, visit some clubs, and see which ones you want to join!*

### Hey Parents!

**MHS Open House is Thursday, October 9, from 6:45 - 9:00 P.M.**

*Parents get to run through their child's schedule and meet all of his or her teachers. Come on over for an eye-opening experience into your high school student's life!*

## The New Girl

Olivia Pan, Junior  
Reporter

The beginning of any new school year can be challenging for a number of reasons. The pressure of coming into a new town, a new area, a new school -- twice the population of your last one -- and experiencing junior year after home schooling, can spark a complete and utter breakdown. I haven't had one of those yet, but my junior year is like jumping into the unknown, and maybe getting knocked around a bit.

The easier stuff is finding where all of your classes are, whether or not your teachers will like you, and making sure you pick the right courses to impress those snotty schools, which you really want to get into, if not always go to. All of that is easy compared to the dreaded lunch period and the 'where am I eating lunch and with whom' crisis. You scope out the tables, eliminate the ones that look too hostile, too exclusive, or just too crowded. You sit, feeling like Lindsay Lohan, in Mean Girls, back when she had a career, hoping that you have not just connected with Regina George, and maybe secretly hoping that you did.

In younger days, entering a new school was so easy, as everyone was made to hold hands, to include each other, and to play nice. Not so much like that when you enter a new high school. You are basically on your own with some minor support here and there, and that is what college will be like, too, so maybe that is good preparation. So far, I have not befriended any mean girls, flunked out, or, most importantly, given up on the prospect of having a decent and fun high school experience. Time will tell.

**SENIORS!!  
HAVE YOU STILL  
NOT TURNED IN  
YOUR YEARBOOK  
QUOTES???  
EMAIL THEM TO  
MR. DANA ASAP!**

[dana.gregory@marbleheadschoools.org](mailto:dana.gregory@marbleheadschoools.org)

## New Teacher!

Kat Veytsman, Freshman  
Reporter

Mr. Neil Moloney is a new teacher in the English department at Marblehead High School. Although it is only his second year of teaching, his resume is full of various jobs ranging from a wilderness guide, to a bartender, to a warehouse worker. Originally from Seattle, Washington, Mr. Moloney has been alternating between the North Shore and Washington for the past five years. He accepted this job teaching in Marblehead because he "wanted to try something different."

Mr. Moloney attended the University of Washington, then Gordon College, and graduated with a major in English Language and Literature. Moloney is an enthusiastic English teacher because he thoroughly enjoys literature. He wants to share his passion with his students and see them appreciate literature as much as he does. His most recommended novel is A Supposedly Fun Thing I'll Never Do Again by David Foster Wallace. Mr. Moloney says he's "really excited to be here," and we wish him well.

## Communication is Key

Joanna Rosen, Senior  
Editors' Assistant

In an age of rapid technological advancement, our generation has at its disposal hundreds of incredible opportunities for self-expression. Various social media can open doors for showing the world how we feel through pictures, words, and videos. Every situation presents itself as a possible Instagram post or tweet, and we constantly strive for a killer snapstory. But all of these apps and modes of self-expression isolate us from one another. This problem is not only evident online but also in person. Our phones and computers provide us with the ability to assume a virtual persona, and it can often be difficult to differentiate who we are when we text and who we are in reality. This is why face-

to-face human interaction is so important, and unfortunately also why it is so neglected.

For most of us, it is easy to hide behind our phones and pretend that life is as wonderful as our Twitter and Facebook profiles appear, but this is in no way healthy. We have become so used to hiding how we truly feel that when conflicts arise in our personal lives, coping with and resolving these problems becomes overwhelming and impossible. Instead of discussing issues civilly and efficiently, many people tend to ignore their problems until the situation bubbles over into an enormous mess that requires much more attention than it did originally. Relying solely on technology to communicate robs us of the skills necessary to solve problems on our own. Engaging in arguments over text rarely helps to provide closure or resolution; instead, it only heightens the emotions of those involved and adds confusion to

the situation. Without facial expressions and body language, we misinterpret and misconstrue the intentions of the other person. It can be hard to catch on when someone is being sarcastic over text, and it can also be difficult to understand when something is actually important.

At the moment, such a conflict is occurring in my closest group of friends. One friend is frustrated and angry at another and has decided to take matters into her own hands without speaking to the other person. Not an outright fight, this situation has become a huge source of discomfort and unhappiness for those of us who are close to the two individuals involved. If they could simply talk in person (instead of the more assertive one occasionally—and quite aggressively—texting the other) they may be able to arrive at some sort of agreement. But neither has reached out and attempted to discuss what is going on. They post on each other's Facebook

walls for their birthdays, they feign politeness in groups, but in person one of them is blatantly ignoring the other. And no one is happy.

This situation has made me realize the detrimental effects of hiding behind our devices. If we could put down our phones and laptops and take even a brief hiatus from our Snapchats, Tweets, and Instagram posts, we might be able to actually resolve conflict rather than ignore it. Face-to-face communication is immensely important, especially at a time when technology is taking over. By discussing our problems—instead of pretending they do not exist—we can maintain healthy relationships with those we love and we can happily meet the many challenges that life violently hurls at us.

## Headlight Staff: 2014-15

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