If a group of people are asked about what the best way to know the city they have visited is, they will give different answers. Some people might say that the best way to know a city is going to shops and markets. Some other might opt for enjoying the restaurants and spend their time in a café. As for me, I tend to believe the best way to know a city in a short time is visiting historic sites.

First of all, one should take into account that visiting historic sites can help people to understand not only the history but also the tendency of culture of that constituency. Momentous can enable individuals to feel like they are experiencing a journey in the shoes of those historical characters, so they can get a lot of information about their own cultural heritage and that of other nations. For instance, when I visited Italy although there were lots of cafés and luxury malls, I preferred to visit historic sites, such as the Colosseum, the Pantheon and St. Peter's Basilica, all of which connected me to their culture, therefore I was able to relate to those people by seeing places from the past in other areas. Moreover, I could see similarities between their culture and mines, as well as differences. Both of which helped me feel a deeper understanding of others.

More importantly, it is axiomatic that every city has its own unique identity, which is revealed through its physical and visual forms; therefore, by walking among monuments, people can learn a lot about the architectural style of the buildings, the construction methods and even the morale of the ancestors of that city, each of which reflects the identity of the city. For example, as I toured the battlefields in Italy, I realized that visiting historical sites can not only enrich my understanding of a particular historical event, but it can also enable me to recognize the progress of architecture and various construction methods throughout history which engaged me with history in a way that provides greater local contextualization and a visceral connection to the people who lived through it.

In short, all aforementioned reasons lead us to conclude that historic sites are places where pieces of political, military, architecture and social history have been preserved duo to their heritage value, so a visit to historic places can help in exploring new things, and it can be one ideal way to spend the time to learn a great deal about that city.

Shima Norouzi- TOEFL 233

Week 8

Number of words:421

Writing Time: 45 min