

ECE Language and Composition
Community Definition Quotes

Lori Arviso Alvord, page 305, paragraph 25 – Walking the Path between Worlds

“A tribe is a community of people connected by blood or heart, by geography and tradition, who help one another and share a belief system. Community and tribe not only reduce the alienation people feel but in doing so starve off illness. In a sense they are a form of preventive medicine.”

Henry David Thoreau, paragraph 1, third sentence – Where I Lived, and What I Lived For

“I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms, and, if it proved to be mean, why then to get the whole and genuine meanness of it, and publish its meanness to the world; or if it were sublime, to know it by experience, and be able to give a true account of it in my next excursion.”

MLK Jr., paragraph 4 – “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”

“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial “outsider agitator” idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds.”

Bertrand Russell, paragraph 2 – “The Happy Life”

“Undoubtedly we should desire the happiness of those whom we love, but not as an alternative to our own. In fact, the whole antithesis between self and the rest of the world, which is implied in the doctrine of self-denial, disappears as soon as we have any genuine interest in persons or things outside ourselves. Through such interests a man comes to feel himself part of the stream of life, not a hard separate entity like a billiard ball, which can have no relation with other such entities except that of collision. All unhappiness depends upon some kind of disintegration or lack of integration; there is disintegration within the self through lack of coordination between the conscious and unconscious mind; there is lack of integration between self and society, where the two are not knit together by the force of objective interests and affections.”

Peter Singer, paragraph 23 – “The Singer Solution to World Poverty”

“...if we value the life of a child more than going to fancy restaurants, the next time we dine out we will know that we could have done something better with our money. If that makes living a morally decent life extremely arduous, well, then that is the way things are. If we don't do it, then we should at least know that we are failing to live a morally decent life....”

Garrett Hardin, paragraph 44 – “Lifeboat Ethics: The Case against Helping the Poor”

“We are all the descendants of thieves, and the world's resources are inequitably distributed. But we must begin the journey to tomorrow from the point where we are today. We cannot remake the past. We cannot safely divide the wealth equitably among all peoples so long as people reproduce at different rates. To do so would guarantee that our grandchildren and everyone else's grandchildren would have only a ruined world to inhabit.”

Scott Brown, paragraph 5 “Facebook Friendonomics”

“That’s what made good old-fashioned losing touch so wonderful – friendships, like long forgotten photos and mixtapes, would distort and slowly whistle into oblivion, quite naturally, nothing personal. It was sweet and sad and, though you’d rarely admit it, necessary.”

Aurora Levins Morales, page 314, last sentence – “Child of the Americas” (poetry)

“I was born at the crossroads/and I am whole.”

Richard Rodriguez, paragraph 43, “Aria”

“They (bilingualists) do not seem to realize that there are *two* ways a person is individualized. So they do not realize that while one suffers a diminished sense of *private* individuality by becoming assimilated into the public society, such assimilation makes possible the achievement of *public* individuality.”

Robert Putnam, paragraph 22 “Health and Happiness”

“Psychologist Martin Seligman argues that more of us are feeling down because modern society encourages a belief in personal control and autonomy more than a commitment to duty and common enterprise. This transformation heightens our expectations about what we can achieve through choice and grit and leaves us unprepared to deal with life’s inevitable failures. Where once we could fall back on social capital – families, churches, friends – these no longer are strong enough to cushion our fall. In our personal lives as well as in our collective life, the evidence of this chapter suggests, we are paying a significant price for a quarter century’s disengagement from one another.”

Dinaw Mengestu, paragraph 11, “Home at Last”

“What I had wanted and found in them, what I admired and adored about Kensington, was the assertion that we can rebuild and remake ourselves and our communities over and over again, in no small part because there have been corners in Brooklyn to do so on.”

Malcolm Gladwell, paragraph 19, “Small Change”

“Social networks are effective at increasing *participation* – by lessening the level of motivation that participation requires....In other words, Facebook activism succeeds not by motivating people to make a real sacrifice but by motivating them to do the things that people do when they are not motivated enough to make a real sacrifice.”