



# ABC CLARION

For 2016 Summer Writing Competition please visit <http://abcclarioncomp.weebly.com/>

## What? A Relationship? Nah, I'm Good

by Tanya Wang

Everyone has those friends who are always in a relationship. They have their own happy lives and are always trying to push you to get together with someone. Being single is pretty amazing, but it can also get pretty lonely sometimes. After a while, the thought of being in a relationship sounds fun. But think about this. You're still a student, probably in high school. Do you really want a relationship?

A relationship can seem like a lot of fun, but it's an emotional rollercoaster that involves pros and cons for both sides. Whether you're a girl or a boy, a relationship might not be as amazing as you think. First, relationships are complicated. A lot of people who have never been in a relationship before have this dream kind of relationship in their minds. Maybe the relationship consists of a perfect guy, or gal, who is super caring and always thinking about you, etc. Realistically, that won't happen.

What are some pros of a relationship? Well, it's someone you care about a lot, so hanging out with them should be fun and makes you happy. There's the kind of attention you only get from a significant other. You could get your first kiss. Of course, the other side may get you tons of

presents, which is always a bonus. There are also other pros that are more like abstract ideas. They differ from person to person. It could just be the feeling of someone you like being with you or human contact.

Wait... what about the cons? Well, seeing someone you care about a lot and hanging out with them could start out fun, but after a while, it's only natural that small arguments or disputes arise. If those small arguments or disputes aren't solved, then things can get worse. Abuse, whether mental or physical, is another con. There are so many cons, usually associated with an abusive relationship. There is isolation from friends, control, threats, strength, etc. Even if it's someone you really like, if they stalk you or won't let you out of their sight, it can get really annoying, frustrating, or even scary.

I've heard advice from many friends to other people in relationships. I'm going to talk about some of the advice. First, the thing about privacy. Certain things are acceptable to be kept a secret, like if it's a personal family issue, but if the other side sounds like they're making excuses or it's something that will affect your trust, it's probably something they shouldn't keep

from you. It goes for the same thing the other way around. Another thing, talking, being with, or thinking about the other person should make you happy. If they only make you happy once in a while, you might want to re-think your relationship. Sometimes, it's hard to decide whether or not you really want to break up with someone because you don't know if you still love them or just have this unrealistic hope that things will get better. Going with your gut is usually the smartest thing to do, but

making a list of the pros and cons could also help. My friends have found that talking to people they trust, or just other friends, could be really helpful as well because there's more than one opinion.

Overall, think things through before rushing into a relationship. Think about what could result from this decision. Do the positive results overrule the negative results, or is it the other way around? Thinking this decision through could be the best thing you ever did. Be kind to yourself, think about yourself, consider yourself, and be true to yourself.

## 恭賀本報《ABC之聲》今夏畢業的隊友

Congratulations to our graduating seniors of "ABC Clarion" team! The "ABC Clarion" team congratulates you all for being great writers and hope that you carry your experience into the future.

Alina Peng

Jeffrey Ho

Tiger Li

Daniel Zheng

David Hua

Grace Chung

Ephany Wang

Sharon Xiao

本報以你們為榮，真心祝願你們在未來的工作和學習中好運、成功！

-編輯部

We are proud of you all and wish you luck on your journeys into the future!

- ABC Clarion Editing Team

## Midnight Swim: Drowning our Victims?

by Oscar Chen

**The world has witnessed many events unfold in the past weeks. The People's Champion Muhammad Ali passed away recently and his image was plastered on magazines to preserve the legendary figure. The shooting in Orlando shocked the nation and revitalized the debate over guns and national security. Yet it's important that consideration of other events be valued just as highly for the future. Therefore, break away from pugilism and terrorism for now and focus on troubled campus culture.**

The topic of personal conduct arises yet again with ex-Stanford swimmer Brock Turner. This is not a mere debate on whether this specific case of sexual violence did not see justice served with a laughably light sentencing. Brock Turner and his anonymous female victim are only current headlines for this disturbing trend that has persisted over time. The leniency towards rape has sadly been destroying the worth of women in society for a long time.

Perhaps the most infuriating individual in this court case besides Brock and Judge Aaron Persky is the father Dan Turner, who apparently condones the sexual assault of an unconscious woman. A disgusting lack

of morality is the only plausible reason Dan Turner believes that it is "inappropriate" to incarcerate someone with no prior criminal history or violence. By writing his letter to the judge, he suggests that the crime should be dismissed.

Brock is a privileged athlete at a respected university, but it certainly doesn't grant him the prerogative to abuse another person. The nation faces rampant depravity with the manipulation of rape into a crime that ends up hurting only the victim.

There is no doubt that people side with the Turners and believe that Brock should be entitled to less jail time. The statement "That is a steep price to pay for 20 minutes of action out of his 20 plus years of life" is a desperate excuse for an egregious crime. This perspective disrespects violated women affected by sexual assault. The victim in this case didn't deserve to get screwed over so that Brock could enjoy those 20 minutes.

The Turners and the defense must understand that it's not time that matters. With those same 20 minutes of action, the woman Brock Turner assaulted paid a much steeper price than 6 months in county prison because she was unable to

control her destiny.

While she is forced to deal with victim-blaming, Dan Turner is preoccupied with trivial details. He has expressed concern for his son's appetite, saying that he used to be excited to buy Brock a big ribeye steak, but now his son only eats to exist. This "trauma" that is supposedly detrimental to Brock's wellbeing undermines the idea that this same predator had a great appetite when he was preying on a vulnerable intoxicated woman. The lack of remorse in cases such as this reveal the problem with society.

The ludicrous defense pursued exposes the flaws of the justice system, as the claim that the offense was not rape because the woman "liked it" was recycled in another rape case. In fact, the only valid defense that was suggested was that Brock's judgment was impaired by alcohol. This is not a reason to sympathize with the offender. Alcohol is harmful to an oblivious party culture, but let's be real here. The rapist's name was Brock, not booze.

The man himself is responsible in this situation and should own up to his actions instead of deflecting the blame. The root of the problem is not the party culture it-

self and the danger associated with it, but the product of the American youth.

Today, the case is done and in the past, and there is not much that can be done to reverse this ingrained mindset facing the victim. She is the vanguard of women all over the world, and by following her example and speaking out, this destructive issue will be addressed eventually.

Sexual assault is not an accident. It's a decision and a fatal error. Brock Turner's case is only the rare instance in which this crime receives national attention. Rape to any degree has been related to pointing a finger at the already damaged victim. The awareness of this case should shift the viewpoint of the American people and the court system they rely on.

With your own 20 minutes, you could spread the word and try to rebuild lives rather than ruin them. Right now the malice against sexual assault victims must be stopped. It's time to provide lifeguards to ensure that no victim is forced to drown due to someone's reckless midnight swim. Now it is time to act. Hopefully we can push our change and shape our world. Don't make excuses. Take responsibility.

Managing Editor: Siyu Cao

Executive Editor: Lawrence Huang

Members: Adam Liu, Aileen Wu, Alina Peng, Angelina Li, Audrey Zhou, Daniel Zheng, Jeffrey Ho, Lawrence Huang, Olivia Nguyen, Sanford Ren, Sydney Peng, Siyu Cao, Siyu Hou, Sophia Hu, Tanya Wang, Tiger Li, Victoria Tian

Website: [www.GCTimes.net/abc.php](http://www.GCTimes.net/abc.php)