

English 9

1 October 2018

I ka 'Ōlelo no ke Ola

Each language holds a very important place and is the key to the history and culture of a people. There are six thousand known languages in the world and yet by the 21st century, only half of them will be left. The Hawaiian language is very important to our culture. It holds the knowledge of our ancestors and the history of our people. Language is how we discover our ancestral roots and acquire our identity. Our culture was always an oral culture before the missionaries arrived and taught us how to write in books. There is a whole history of our culture, of chant, song, and storytelling. This is how we shared our past with our future generations. Our significant language, the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, has a long history from its banishment, to its decline, then its rising in Hawai'i nei.

To begin with, Hawaiian language is an important part of the culture to our people and was spoken by all until the arrival of missionaries and the overthrow of our Hawaiian Kingdom. According to an article, "Nā Hopena A'o", "After the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893, teaching and learning through the medium of Hawaiian was banned in 1896." Many of our elders were not allowed to speak their native tongue or they would be punished. They also said that the Hawaiian language would not be heard for the next four generations. The website "'Ōlelo Odyssey" shared that, "'Ōlelo Hawaii was further suppressed by those who would shape

the Islands into an American territory welcoming tourists, military personnel, and tens of thousands of English-speaking settlers." Our language was suppressed by many and eroded the use of our native tongue. Because of this, "by the 1980s the number of Hawaiian speakers had dwindled to fewer than two thousand, most of them aging. The language teetered on the brink of extinction." In addition, our native language speakers have declined since its banishment.

Next, because 'Ōlelo Hawai'i was banned, many of the future Hawaiian generations have suffered. "Hawaiian language courses have dropped more than 40 percent since the 1977-78 school year, educators say" (Hawaiians Fear Loss of the Native Language). The Hawaiian language education provided was drastically minimized because there were very few speakers left who knew the language enough to teach it to others. This also doesn't help with the use of our language. They also say that, "although no comprehensive count has been made, educators estimate there are 1,000 to 2,000 native speakers of Hawaiian in the islands" (Hawaiians Fear Loss of the Native Language). Seeing that there is a small amount of speakers, the elders feared that as time passes by the language will change. The impact that the Hawaiian language banning had on people is very tremendous.

Consequently, it was time for the government to make a change. According to the article "the History of Hawaiian Education", the State Constitution was amended in 1978 to include Article X, Section 4 which mandated that the State promote "the study of Hawaiian culture, history and language" by providing a Hawaiian education program and using community expertise "as a suitable and essential means in furtherance of Hawaiian education." This political change greatly makes a monumental positive impact on native speakers and their opportunities to

learn Hawaiian. A few years later, the Hawaiian Language Immersion Program was created in 1986. After these programs were made, in 1984, the Pūnana Leo preschool was created to educate children about their culture at an early age. After the first school opened on Kaua‘i, many schools opened across the state to educate these children. In an article, “Saving the Hawaiian Language” the kupuna shares, “As a Hawaiian language community, we have ingrained within our children an understanding of who they are, where they come from, courage, faith, patience, diligence, and excellence through the language and culture as a foundation for their future.” To make sure our language lives on, we must share with our younger generations. In addition to the laws and schooling that had been created, Hawaiian language is very gradually making progress.

Lastly, our Hawaiian language is very special to our people and throughout history. They’ve shown to always persevere and never give up on our language. ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i has been through a lot from being banned and forbidden, to the decline in use. Therefore, we’ve all grown to make our ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i strong again. As a keiki kaiapuni, I am very proud that I’ve had the opportunity to learn. One of the many things that it has taught me is that Hawaiians are a strong people and very intelligent. In conclusion, “E Ola Mau Ka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i!” This means the Hawaiian Language will forever live on. E ola!

Ap. "HAWAIIANS FEAR LOSS OF THE NATIVE LANGUAGE." *The New York Times, The New York Times*, 22 Sept. 1985.

www.nytimes.com/1985/09/22/us/hawaiians-fear-loss-of-the-native-language.html.

"A Timeline of Revitalization." *A Timeline of Revitalization | Aha Punana Leo*.

www.ahapunanaleo.org/index.php?%2Fabout%2Fa_timeline_of_revitalization%2F.

"Hawaii DOE | History of Hawaiian Education." *Hawaii DOE | Nā Hopena A'o (HĀ)*.

www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/StudentLearning/HawaiianEducation/Pages/History-of-the-Hawaiian-Education-program.aspx.

"Saving the Hawaiian Language." *University of Hawai'i Foundation*.

www.uhfoundation.org/saving-hawaiian-language.

PROMPT: Research a topic of your choice within one of the following categories: arts and communication, science and natural resources, business and leadership, or information technology. You will need to record at least 5 sources, evidence, and complete an annotated bibliography. Essay should be completed in MLA format.

RESEARCH ESSAY TOPIC IDEAS

ARTS/COMMUNICATION

<p>Pick a famous artist (writer, musician, painter, fashion designer, etc.) and research his/her life.</p> <p><i>See examples below</i></p>	<p>Learn more about an art form and discuss the history, what it is like now, and any famous/important people connected to it.</p> <p><i>See examples below</i></p>	<p>Pick a particular genre of film and research how it has changed throughout the years (i.e. horror, action, animation, etc.).</p>
<p>The importance of art/music education in schools.</p>	<p>The lack of minorities (people of color, ethnic, LGBTQT, etc.) in U.S. media</p>	<p>Other:</p>

Examples for Famous Artist:

- Misty Copeland first African-American prima ballerina.
- 'Iolani Luahine considered to be the greatest hula dancer of all time
- Herb Kane Native Hawaiian artist
- Frank Lloyd Wright artist/architect
- Betsy Johnson fashion designer

Examples for Art Form: Stan Lee and comic books, Hayao Miyazaki Japanese *anime*, pottery, photography, etc

SCIENCE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

<p>Research a medical breakthrough.</p>	<p>Research a medical issue that is important to Native Hawaiians (obesity, cancer, diabetes, etc.)</p>	<p>Find out more about an invasive species that is damaging the Native Hawaiian environment.</p>
<p>Research about some kind of "green technology."</p>	<p>The "truth" about vaccinations/vaccines.</p>	<p>The importance and wisdom of restoring the</p>

		water and fish system used by Ancient Hawaiians.
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BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP

Pick any political leader from history or modern times from any country and write about him/her, how he/she influenced his/her country or the world, and what changes or challenges were experienced.	Find a "pioneer" in business and write about that person: background, any obstacles he/she faced, what company he/she started or ran, etc.	Pick and research any psychological disorder that interests you.
Pick and research a successful US company that you admire.	The rise and cause of "right-wing" terrorism in the U.S.	Gun violence – either in schools, domestic abuse, or domestic terrorism rise/causes.
Vocational/Hands on practical schools vs. traditional schools/education.	Vocational/Hands on practical schools vs. traditional schools/education.	Other:

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (I.T.)

Is artificial intelligence actually possible? Research and defend your answer.	Research and discuss how <i>Minecraft</i> has not only changed the "gaming world" but education as well.	Research a recent breakthrough in robotics and explain how it has changed the world.
What are the implications of ever-increasing globalization through technology to the global economy?	The "most important" (in your mind) technological breakthrough of the 21 st century and explain its	Other:

	importance, significance, and impact.	
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