Giving Advice

You are a famous advice columnist for a Moroccan newspaper, who writes under the name “Lalla Khadija” or “Si Hakim.” Young people from all over the country write to you to ask for your advice about personal problems. You are famous for the wise and thoughtful advice that you give to these young people, and are respected by everyone who reads your column.

Here are five recent letters from young people asking for your advice. Select one and write a thoughtful response of 100 to 200 words, in which you explain the young person’s problem to them and make suggestions about how they can solve or reduce the problem.

Dear Lalla Khadija or Si Hakim,

1. My little sister, Fatima Zohra, has recently graduated from the collége in our small town with the highest honors. She is desperate to go to the nearest lycée, which is a boarding school 30 km from where we live, in order to pursue her dream to become a doctor. However, my father is concerned for her safety and refuses to let her go. Please give me some advice for how my mother and family can convince him to let her go. Thank you.
2. I am a very successful student at the university in our city who is struggling to balance a responsibility to myself with a responsibility to my family. My father recently died unexpectedly and as the oldest child I am left with the responsibility to run our family business. However, I cannot find the time to be a student at the university and run the business. Please help me. What can I do?
3. I have recently moved from my village in the mountains to Ibn Battuta University, where I was fortunate to have found a place in the university’s dormitories. However, I am struggling with my roommates. They stay up late and are not serious about their studies, and they make fun of me for being from the country. I want to get along with them but I am worried about my grades and my peace of mind. What can you suggest I do?
4. My best friend is behaving like a total idiot. This friend has recently fallen in love and is now spending hours on the phone and in cafes with this new love. All my friend talks about is this person, how wonderful this person is, how they are going to get married eventually and how wonderful it will be, and so on. I’m sick of it. I’m single and proud of it and I don’t want to listen to this anymore. Please tell me what I can say to my friend to get this to stop.
5. I am a university student and am taking a course in English where we have a group assignment. The assignment is to research one Moroccan musical group and give a presentation to the class with a PowerPoint. However, we have had many problems. First, we have different musical tastes and couldn’t decide which group to choose. Then, one of our group members did not do his part of the research, and another member, who had a laptop we were going to use, did not come to a meeting. It’s a week before the presentation and we are not ready. I need a good grade on this assignment but my group members are not cooperating. Please tell me what I can do about this terrible problem I am having.