

Dear class of '55,

I don't think I can thank you enough for contributing financially to my trip to Antigua, Guatemala this winter. It was hands down one of the best months of my life! As a Spanish major, I was in need of an immersion experience to work on fluency; going to Guatemala provided me with the opportunity to hone my Spanish skills as well as participate in many cultural experiences.

I attended a wonderful Spanish language school in Antigua. Each of the four weeks I was there, I had a different teacher for private classes – my teachers and I spent seven hours a day together. Such intense study really helped me solidify my knowledge of Spanish grammar. My favorite part, though, was the conversation I had with my teachers. The seven hours of class time were never spent on grammar alone; we told stories and read newspapers and books together as well. One of my teachers loved to tell and hear jokes, so my homework each night was to learn a new joke! At the end of four weeks, I felt so comfortable with speaking Spanish. Being immersed in an entirely Spanish-language environment was exactly what I needed to improve my fluency.

I traveled to Guatemala at a wonderful time to experience a wealth of cultural happenings. I was there for the first four weeks of Lent, during which Antigua and the surrounding towns put on processions every Sunday. I found it fascinating to watch the processions each Sunday and visit the churches to see the colorful and elaborate carpets made out of sawdust and surrounded by gardens of fresh fruit for Lent!

While I was in Guatemala, I got the chance to climb an active volcano with my roommate. We climbed it in the late afternoon, so by the time we got to the lava flow it was dark. It was a treacherous trek across last year's hardened lava to reach the flowing lava, and to this day I can't believe that I stood only about 10 feet away from real lava flowing out of a volcano! The heat was almost unbearable, and as I am very afraid of hot things like fire, I was scared half to death to be so close to the lava! Even though it was pretty terrifying, I am so glad that I had the opportunity to have such a unique and exciting experience!

The entire month was just one incredible experience after another. I am so very grateful for your contribution to my trip, as the extra money helped pay for tuition at my school as well as extra excursions like the trip to the volcano. Thank you for sponsoring me to develop greater fluency in Spanish as well as to have once-in-a-lifetime adventures!

Sincerely,  
Rachel Leach





### QUE CLASE DE VOLCAN ES ESTE

Por el tipo de erupción los volcanes pueden ser:

**1. Hawaianos:** Lava muy fluida compuesta principalmente por roca volcánica. Estas erupciones nunca llegan a formar verdaderos conos, solo colinas.



**3. Volcanes:** Erupción grande y silenciosa.

**Volcanes:** La cantidad de lava que fluye es enorme, por lo que se pueden ver volutas de cenizas y mucho humo.

**2. Estrombolianos:** Acumulan gases que provocan explosiones cada pocos minutos. El volcán de Pacaya se encuentra dentro de este tipo de erupciones.

**4. Peláneos:** Causan fenómenos llamados "bucos" o "bucos". Estas pueden alcanzar una velocidad cerca de 150 km/h.



