

AYBU Insight

A Student-Led Online Magazine

January 2026 Issue

AYBU Insight is a student-led online magazine at Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University School of Foreign Languages, supported by instructors and shaped through editorial guidance.



AYBU Insight

A Student-Led Online Magazine

Welcome to *AYBU Insight*, a vibrant online magazine showcasing the academic and creative talents of our students at Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University School of Foreign Languages.

Our Mission

- **Student-Driven:** A platform built *by* students *for* students.
- **Academic Excellence:** Showcasing high-quality essays and analyses.
- **Creative Expression:** Providing space for poetry, short stories, artwork, and multimedia projects.
- **Open Access:** Accessible to everyone, promoting knowledge sharing and collaboration.

AYBU Insight is an open-access online magazine created by Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University School of Foreign Languages students with editorial guidance from their instructors.

It provides a public space for students to share ideas, reflect on learning, and engage with campus life, culture, creativity, and everyday perspectives through English.

The magazine follows a developmental editorial approach. All submissions undergo an editorial review focused on factual accuracy, logical flow, clarity, and reader engagement. Feedback is supportive and coaching-oriented, aiming to help students strengthen their voice rather than evaluate perfection.

Core Sections

AYBU Insight features a diverse range of topics including Student Voices, Campus & Culture, Creative Studio, English in Use, Life & Ideas, and From the Editors.

Join the Conversation!

We encourage you to explore the content, share your thoughts, and engage with our contributors. If you're a student at AYBU School of Foreign Languages, we invite you to submit your own work for consideration in future issues.

Follow us on social media (@aybuyabdil) for updates, behind-the-scenes glimpses, and opportunities to get involved. Together, let's build a vibrant and engaging online community!

Editorial Team: Dilek İşler Hayırlı, Dr. Arzu Kıratlı, Dr. Hatice Karaaslan, Dr. Daria Şen, Dilek Kılıç, Rumeysa Demir (Student Editor)



AYBU Insight

A Student-Led Online Magazine

From the Editors

This issue of *AYBU Insight* brings together voices, images, and ideas around a shared, quiet theme: perspective—how we understand where we stand, where we come from, and how we learn to see more clearly.

The three essays in this issue invite readers to think from different angles. One reflects on a person who reshaped the way the world is seen, another turns to history as a guide for understanding the present, and a third uses a powerful metaphor to explore shared values, roots, and growth. Together, these pieces show how thinking develops through reflection, experience, and connection.

The images of Ankara included throughout the issue offer visual pauses between the texts. They capture the city not as a statement, but as a setting for learning—sometimes still, sometimes layered, often reflective.

This issue also features a recommended study infographic from the English Boost Hub, an AYBU-based online initiative that supports voluntary peer mentoring under the guidance of instructional coaches. The strategy shared in this infographic is intended as a practical companion to the essays: a reminder that strong ideas grow best when supported by thoughtful study habits and collaborative learning.

We hope this issue encourages you to read slowly, think deeply, and notice both the words and the spaces between them.

— *The Editorial Team*

AYBU Insight

A Student-Led Online Magazine

Life & Ideas

The essay *The Person Who Changed My View of the World* by **Rumeysa Demir** explores how encountering one influential figure reshape the way we think and understand the world around us.

Some people are born not only to change their country but also to change the world. For me, that person is Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. When I learned about his life and ideas, I understood that he was not only a soldier — he was a leader who made people believe again. Atatürk showed me that “defeat is not real if you don’t give up.”

When the country was full of pain and destruction, he built a new republic in the darkest times. When there was no light, he said, “The independence of the nation will be saved by the nation itself,” and he made it come true. He was not only a hero in battles but also a man with great ideas. For him, “There are no hopeless situations, only hopeless people. I never lost my hope.”

His real power was his mind. When he said, “The truest guide in life is science,” he wanted people to think and ask questions. This idea changed my life too. Now, I try to see the world with my own eyes and think before I believe something. For instance, during discussions at school, I consciously question information and evaluate different perspectives instead of accepting ideas without reflection, in line with Atatürk’s emphasis on reason and science. This approach has influenced the way I form my opinions and make decisions. Atatürk taught me that people who follow reason and science will always find the right way. He proved this when he said, “If one day my words go against science, choose science.”

He didn’t only dream — he worked hard to make his dreams real. He gave women the right to vote when many countries had not done so yet. He loved art, music, and science because he knew they made people free. He wanted every child to study and become a good person for their country. Today, if I can think freely and express my ideas, it is because of him.

Atatürk also gave me a strong sense of responsibility. He believed in young people and trusted them. When he said, “Turkish youth!” he gave us not only a duty but also hope and faith. Every time I remember his words, I feel proud and strong because I know that we must keep his light alive.

Yes, the person who changed my view of the world is Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. He didn’t only change me — he changed a whole nation. He taught us to be brave and never say “impossible.” With Atatürk, a nation moved from darkness to light. He changed not only Türkiye but also my view of life and the world’s view of the Turkish people.

He was the man who gave a nation its name, its pride, and its soul — the true father of the Turks.

Life & Ideas

The essay ***History as a Guide*** by **Batuhan Efe** looks to the past not as a record of events, but as a source of lessons that help us think more carefully about the present and the future.

Throughout history, the destinies of great powers have been shaped not only by victories but also by defeats. The journey of Turkish states on the historical stage is no exception. In this article, I will examine the causes, consequences, and lessons to be learned from the great defeats suffered by the Turks. My interest in this matter stems from my belief that history is not only a record of the past but also a guide to understanding the present and moving toward the future with more solid steps.

Understanding the reasons behind great defeats reveals experiences that strengthen us and highlights the strategic moves that need to be made. In this context, the Battle of Ankara (1402) is an important example to consider. This defeat profoundly affected the Ottoman state. Bayezid I, with his strong character and military successes, was one of the most prominent leaders of his time. In particular, at the Battle of Nicopolis, he inflicted a crushing defeat on a Crusader army with an Ottoman force of only 25,000 men. Following this brilliant victory, the Ottomans, having grown stronger and continued their rise, would face another Turk and another rising figure: Emir Timur.

Bayezid I clashed with Emir Timur under unfavorable conditions. The Ottoman army was exhausted, and the front was vast. Moreover, the army had not been adequately prepared and had failed to secure its supply lines. So, what lessons should be learned from this defeat? Although the Ottoman army was exhausted and the front was extremely wide, the lessons it taught are equally valuable. This event shows that strong leadership requires balance, as excessive confidence can lead to serious misjudgments. Finally, internal unity is of great importance, as divisions can be just as destructive as external threats.

Studying the heavy defeats suffered by the Turks is of great importance, both for fostering historical awareness and for avoiding similar mistakes in the future. History serves as a warning, helping us understand the paths that led to defeat, and when read correctly, it lays the groundwork for the resurgence of nations.

Life & Ideas

The essay ***The Republic Forest: Roots, Soil, and Sun*** by **Ahmet Efe Kaya** uses metaphor to reflect on shared values, connection, and the conditions that allow people to grow together.

The Republic of Türkiye is a vast, majestic forest. We — students, teachers, workers, civil servants. each of us is a tree, a sapling that makes up this forest. Alone, we are nothing, but together, we form an invaluable whole.

The Republic means that the title deed to this forest belongs only to the trees. This forest belongs to the trees within it. Republicanism means that even the youngest sapling can say, “This forest is ours.”

Populism is the soil of this forest. The soil does not distinguish between the trees on it as “pine, oak, poplar.” It does not favor “rich trees” or “poor trees.” It gives equal nourishment to all.

From the outside, the trees stand separately, but underground, their roots are intertwined. That is what nationalism is. When a storm comes, a tree’s ability to stay upright depends on the roots of the tree next to it holding firm. What keeps a tree standing upright is the strength of its roots. Law is the deep root of the tree, the resistance of its trunk. If the law decays, if justice weakens, the tree will fall at the slightest tremor. If a tree says, “Let the snake that doesn’t bite me live a thousand years,” it actually means allowing itself to wither away tomorrow.

The forest needs rain and clean water to grow. Education is our lifeblood. But if the water is polluted, the trees become sick. New trees do not grow, and saplings do not mature. The end of the forest approaches.

And the sun... In a dense forest, every tree has the right to see the sun. Secularism is that sun. It is the enlightened environment where beliefs can be freely practiced in one’s conscience, where no one’s faith obscures the light of another. Some trees in the forest may be withering, but the saplings are still sprouting.

“Like a tree, alone and free, and like a forest, in brotherhood.”

AYBU Insight

A Student-Led Online Magazine

Campus & Culture

Saraçođlu Neighborhood, Ankara
by Hurinaz Tunç

This image invites you to pause and notice how reflection—both visual and intellectual—shapes understanding.



AYBU Insight

A Student-Led Online Magazine

Campus & Culture

Kızılay Sign, Ankara
by Hurinaz Tunç

This image invites you to connect place and memory, reminding us that learning is shaped by where we stand and what we notice.



AYBU Insight

A Student-Led Online Magazine

Campus & Culture

Ankara Castle & Historic Houses
by Hurinaz Tunç

This image closes the visual journey with openness, suggesting that learning continues beyond the page.



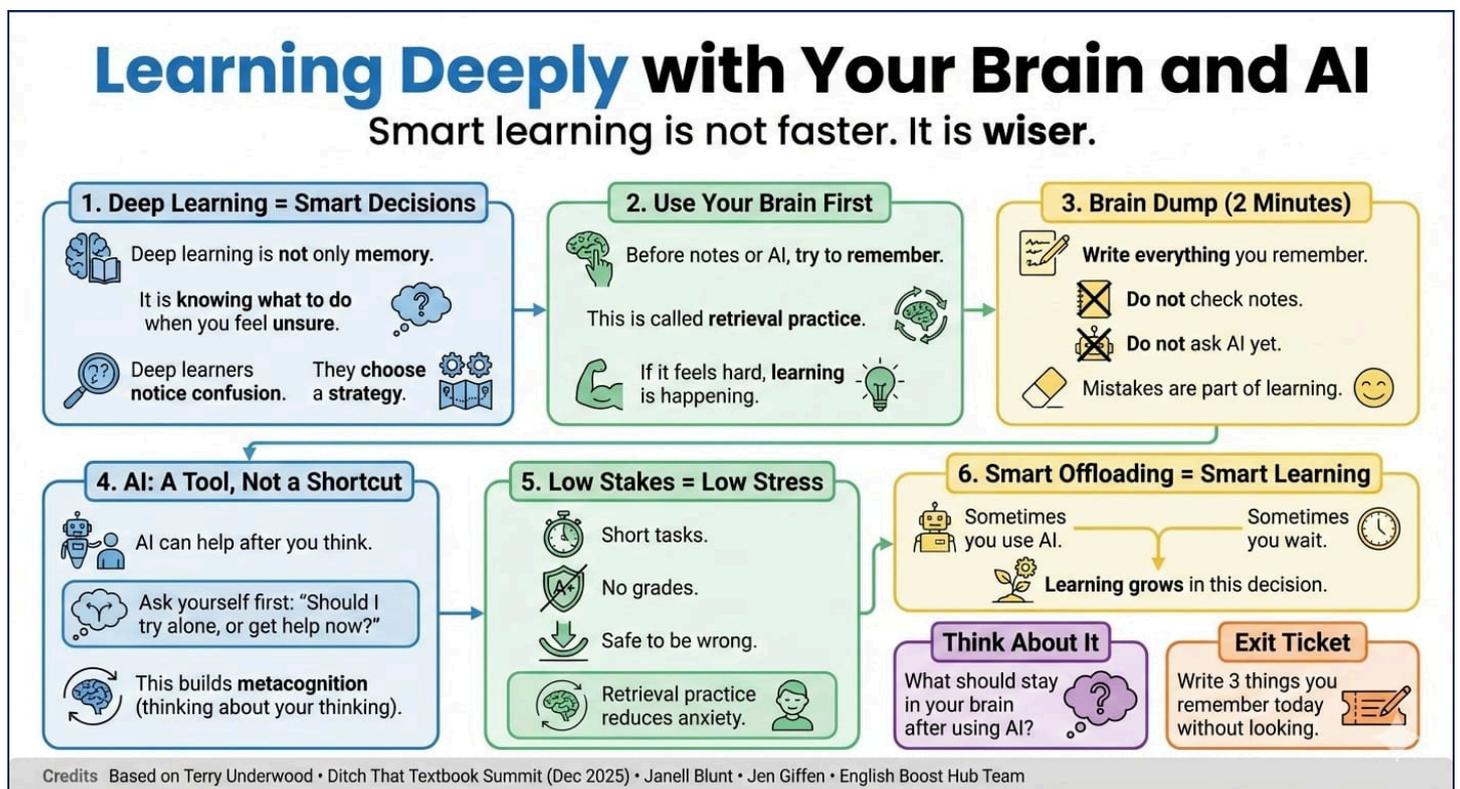
AYBU Insight

A Student-Led Online Magazine

English in Use

Study Strategy Pick:
Learning Together, Learning Better
by *English Boost Hub*

This infographic shares a study strategy set recommended by the English Boost Hub, an AYBU-based online initiative supporting voluntary peer mentoring under the guidance of instructional coaches.



English Boost Hub

The English Boost Hub is an AYBU-based online initiative that brings students together through voluntary peer mentoring, supported by instructional coaches. It creates a flexible space where students share study strategies, support one another's learning, and build confidence in using English beyond the classroom. Follow the hub events via englishboosthub@gmail.com!

Rather than offering formal instruction, the Hub focuses on learning how to learn. Students collaborate, reflect on their study habits, and exchange practical techniques that have worked for them. The study strategy highlighted in this issue reflects this approach: planning learning intentionally, reflecting on progress, and using collaboration as a tool for improvement.



AYBU Insight

A Student-Led Online Magazine

January 2026 Issue

Core Sections

AYBU Insight features a diverse range of topics including Student Voices, Campus & Culture, Creative Studio, English in Use, Life & Ideas, and From the Editors.

Join the Conversation!

We encourage you to explore the content, share your thoughts, and engage with our contributors. If you're a student at AYBU School of Foreign Languages, we invite you to submit your own work for consideration in future issues.

Follow us on social media (@aybuyabdil) for updates, behind-the-scenes glimpses, and opportunities to get involved. Together, let's build a vibrant and engaging online community!

Editorial Team: Dr. Dilek İşler Hayırlı, Dr. Arzu Kıratlı, Dr. Hatice Karaaslan, Dr. Daria Şen, Dilek Kılıç, Rumeysa Demir (Student Editor)