

The Firefly



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Model Building Club

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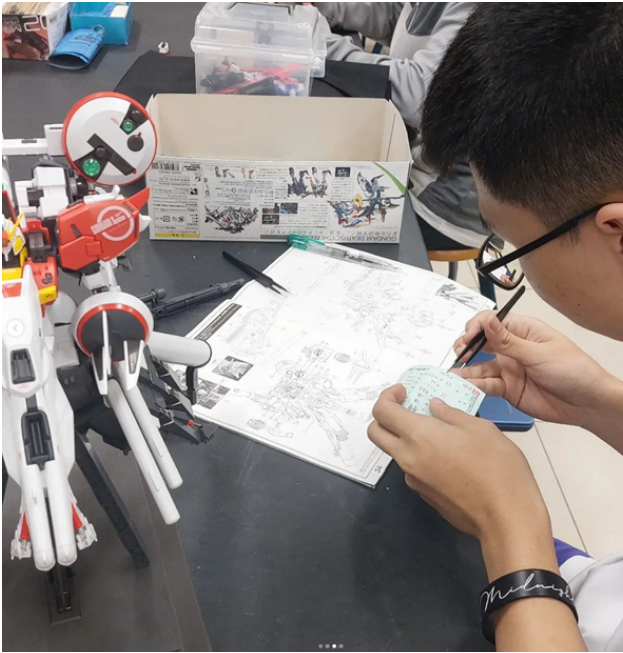
Dear readers, my name is Walter Li from class 202. This year, I started a club about building scale models. Through this short essay, I will introduce you to the wonderful world of scale models and hopefully convince you to join our club.

Scale models are models of either real life characters, fictional characters or objects from anime that are scaled down. For example, Gunplas are often scaled at 1/100, meaning they are 100 times smaller than the original Gundam. Apart from Gunplas, plane and tank models are also available to be built. In our club, we mostly specialize in building Gunpla. Gunpla, short for "Gundam Plastic Model," is the ultimate hobby for fans of the Japanese anime franchise, Mobile Suit Gundam. These plastic model kits allow you to build your own mini mechas to recreate scenes from the anime.

Gunpla kits are made of injection-molded plastic and typically come in several pieces that must be assembled by the modeler. The kits can vary in complexity, with some requiring simple snap-together assembly while others may require glue and paint to complete. Many Gunpla kits also come with a variety of optional parts and weapons, allowing the modeler to customize their creation.

The process of building a Gunpla kit can be separated into three main steps: cutting the pieces off the mold, using sandpaper to remove any blemishes, and assembling. Building models might seem easy, just snip off the parts and attach them together. Although this is quite fun and doesn't take up a lot of time, the end product won't look good. One of the most fundamental skills a modeler needs is the ability to remove imperfections from a piece. Since most scale model parts are injection molded, there are often blemishes present. Therefore, as modelers, we need to use sandpaper and other tools to remove these imperfections. After this step, our model is ready to be assembled.





However, there is much more that can be done to our models that can further increase its aesthetics. Looking for a battle-scarred vibe? Feel free to use a knife to make some nicks in the armor, and brush on some weathering paint to give it a muddy look. Want something that looks factory new? Apply stickers and a coat of glossy finish to make it look shiny and clean. You can even build some scenery to suit the look of your Gundam. These steps are what truly elevates our model to the next level.

As with any hobby, there are various levels of commitment and skill involved in Gunpla modeling. Some modelers enjoy the simple satisfaction of snapping the pieces together and leaving the kit as is, while others may take the time to paint and customize their creations to a high level of detail. Many modelers also enjoy competing in Gunpla modeling contests, where judges evaluate the accuracy and overall quality of the completed models.

Gunpla models can be an enjoyable and rewarding hobby for people of all ages. In addition to the satisfaction of building and customizing the models, the hobby also promotes creativity, attention to detail, and patience. If you are interested in learning more about building scale models, feel free to join our club!

By 202 黎裕熙

An Adventure in Model United Nations

Model United Nations Club

During my time in the Model United Nations (UN) club, I had been hesitating on whether I should sign up for a Model UN conference, which is composed of participants from five different high schools and an honorable dais team. In this conference, each pair of students will play as delegates from different countries and attempt to solve real-world issues with the policies and perspectives of their assigned countries. I finally decided to take on this challenge and clearly understood that I needed to put considerable effort into this grand conference.

I was assigned to represent the Russian Federation, a dominant country in the UN, which means my role is to persuade other countries to collaborate with us and figure out the best solution to the communal situation. However, with the Model UN conference approaching, I began to feel more helpless and nervous as I had trouble contacting my partner. Moreover, although I had looked up a lot of background information and had prepared many speeches, I was tossing and turning all night because of the uneasiness my preparation gave me. Nevertheless, I had never thought of fleeing from a fray or being afraid of trying nor making mistakes, because I firmly believed that the golden opportunity was around the corner, enabling me to show what I had learned in the club.

In a blink of an eye, the first day of the conference arrived. I was eager to share my political stances and solutions to other delegates, hoping to find my tribe. During the unmoderated caucus, in which all the delegates were free to get up from their seats and approach others for individual discussion, I looked for many delegates from countries in the Middle East to win over their trust. What surprised me is that my perspective was tempting and convincing enough to satisfy most of the delegates. I was so excited and eagerly founded a bloc made up of various countries from



award ceremony



discussion in the unmoderated caucus

Europe to the Middle East and even some Oceanic nations to draft our working paper. Still, during the break of the meeting, the opposing bloc leader gave several convincing arguments that induced a few cooperative countries to trim their sails. I started to become more anxious and had no idea how to counter the opposition. Having difficulty finding a more detailed and feasible solution to dissuade them from ending cooperation with the opposing bloc, I collapsed, feeling particularly overwhelmed.

Just when I was down in the dumps, many friendly delegates lent me a helping hand. We persevered in our draft resolution just wishing to stand out in the next session of the conference. Our team pulled out all the stops to talk the entire committee round and then dedicated our efforts to the final resolution. At the concluding session of the conference, we reached a consensus with the entire delegation.

“What an enormous weight off my shoulders!” I shrieked exhaustedly.

It was such a unique opportunity for me to express my ideas to a great deal of my peers in English, face strong opposition and ultimately defend myself. At the award ceremony, not until I heard I received the Honorable Mention did I realize that I did an awesome job in this conference. The endeavor the whole committee made had brought on this rewarding experience that would live on in my memory as well as in that of every conscientious participant.



By 108 31 陳冠丞



Photography Club-- Capturing Starts

It was a mild summer morning, and the sun shone on the ground gorgeously. Yanping's 76th school fair was beginning. Sitting in the stand, I suddenly felt that our club appeared dreamlike.

My high school life started in July 2022. Although I'm still in Yanping which is the same school as my junior high school, with the same teachers and familiar classmates it didn't make me exhilarated. However, I was looking forward to all the activities in my high school years.



The moment I got the school guidebook, I excitedly glanced through the club list, hoping to see 'photography club' somewhere between the lines. However, the list let me down. Nowhere was the club to be found.

I jumped up and dashed to Tr. Lien, who is one of the best physics teachers and the current teacher of the junior high photography club, to ask for assistance. Even though he was quite busy for the upcoming semester, he still promised us to join the club as the teacher. We then started handing flyers out to the school while looking for 7 executives for the club. Fortunately, we found Vivian, Nathalie, Albert, Leo, Claire and Sylvia to help us out. They all possessed various talents which definitely helped the club operate better.

Our first task quickly emerged—the club exhibition. Apparently, a photography club isn't performative, so there was really no chance for us to go on stage to show off how well we can take pictures. The only thing we could do was to convince people that the photography club can also be appealing.

The big day finally came, and half of us took pictures for those who shone on stage, showing our speciality, proving that we were qualified to lead the club to a prosperous future. Meanwhile, we displayed videos of a collection of photos that we had taken for school events while we were in junior high. After all our efforts, our club became so popular that we had 40 people register for the club overnight.



We then had our first club gathering in a cozy little restaurant. Though I have to admit, booking a restaurant for 40 was insanely difficult. After overcoming all these hardships of finding a perfect venue, we had to design activities to spice things up. The process was again, insanely difficult for us. This was the first time that we've ever planned a whole event from scratch.



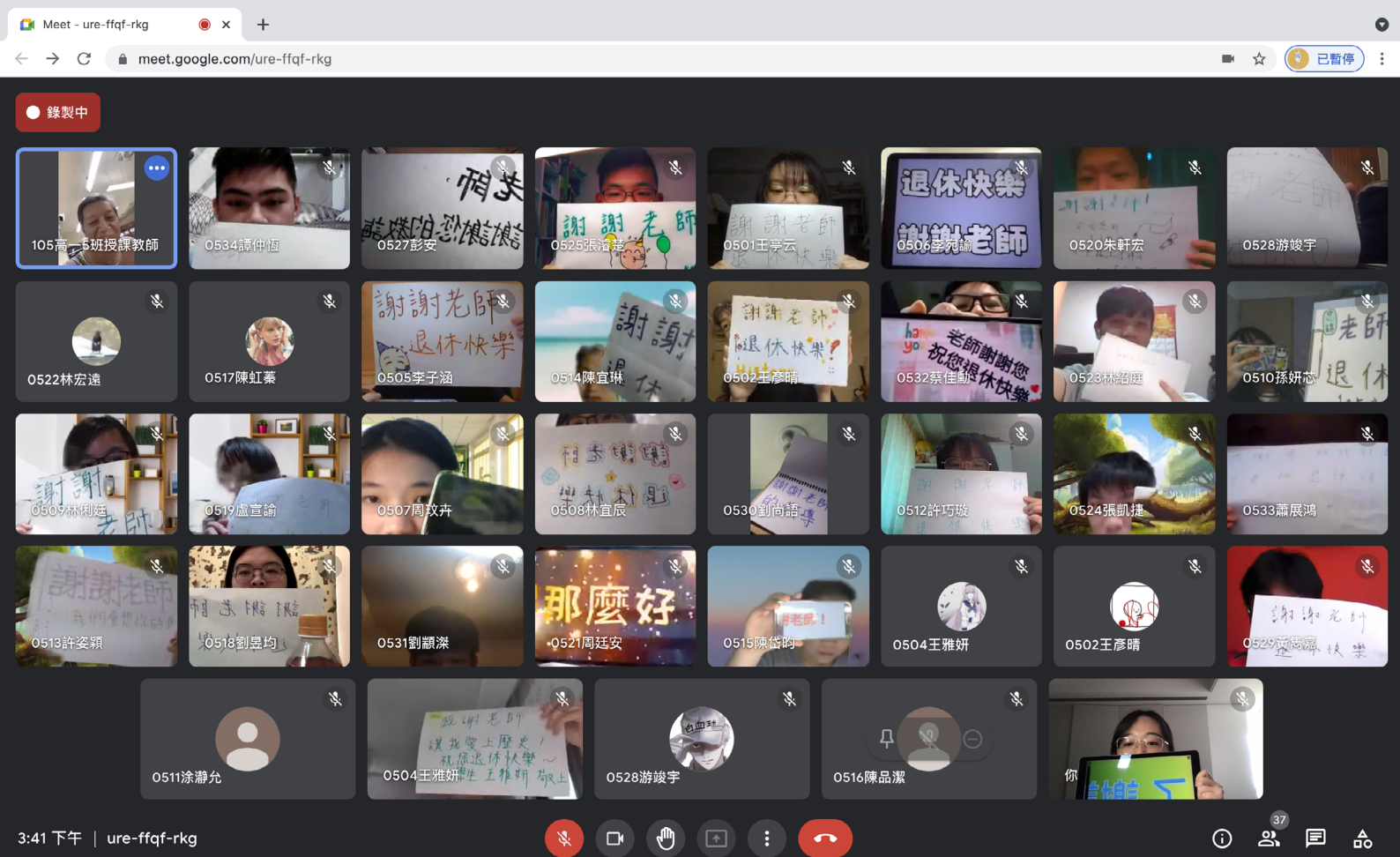
Even after all that planning, we were still anxious about the dinner—would the whole thing be so awkward that half of them would leave before 7pm? We sat in our seats, watching our club mates walking in while worrying. Thankfully, God probably saw how much work we had put into this event, everyone seemed pretty satisfied during the meal and the atmosphere was amazing. The activities went even better, we could tell from their faces that they were actually having a good time.

Fast forward to the school fair in November, the last event that we had to plan for this semester. Although the folders and bookmarks we made weren't the center of the crowd's attention, we still managed to sell them out. Thanks to all the hard work devoted by our club mates, we acquired a higher income than we expected. The other part of our business was taking high quality pictures for our customers, which turned out to be remarkably successful. This whole event really did leave all of us with an unforgettable experience.

We all believe that the next coming semester will bring us a group of club mates who truly have passion for photography and sincerely enjoy being a part of our club.

By 10813 陳宣妤 10825 李睿恩 10906 林愷寧





The Impact of Covid-19 on Students in Senior High School

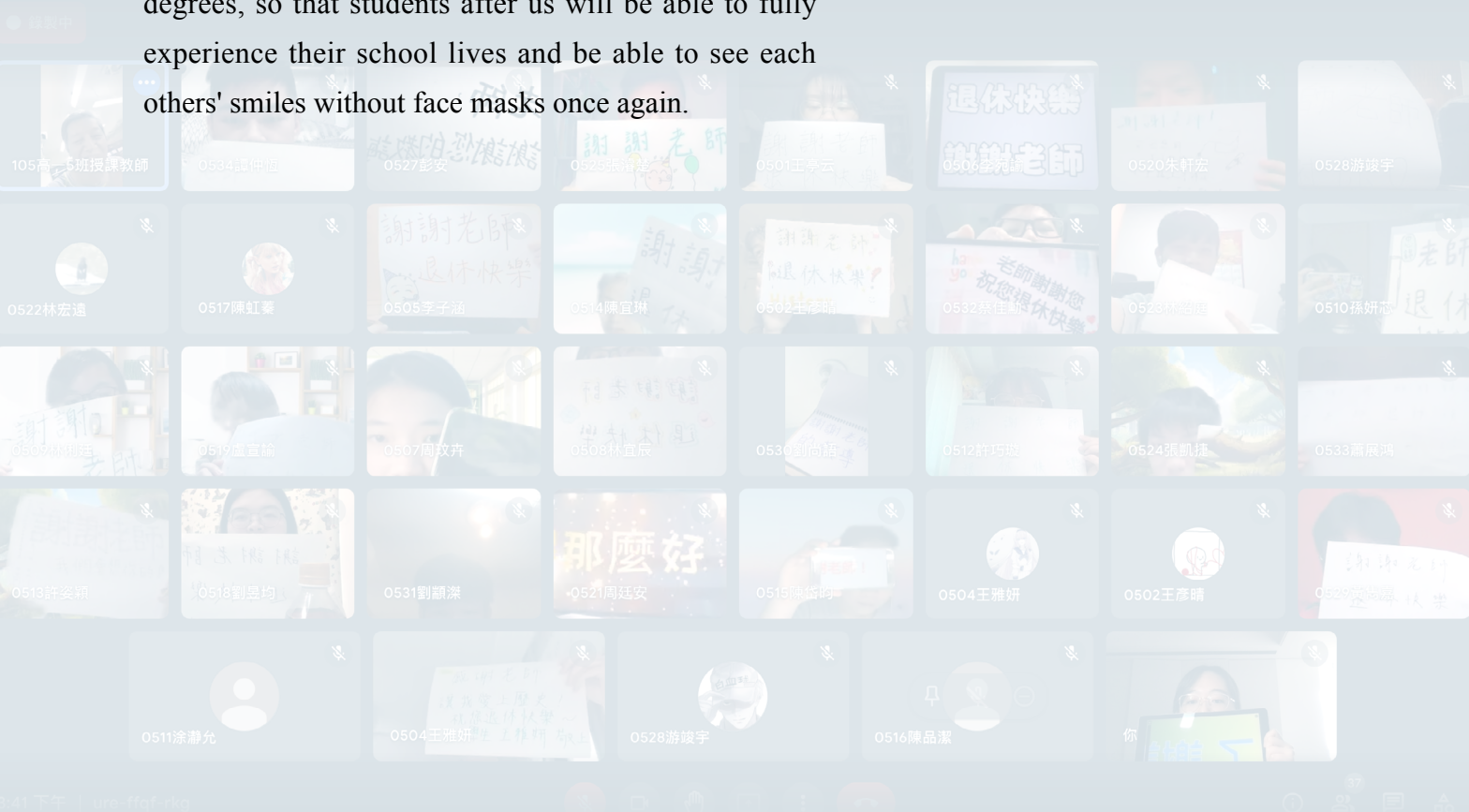
Over the past three years, there have been many changes in student lives as a result of the Covid pandemic. Due to the pandemic, schools were forced to shut down, and we were requested to stay at home, learning online. Besides, extracurricular activities were prohibited consequently. Overall, our chance to experience the most highlighted period of our youth was deprived by the Covid-19 virus. In the meantime, we lost most of our time in school where we were able to have common social activities with others.

In my view, though online classes provide more leeway for us to manage our time, the disadvantages outweigh the advantages. The technology issues, such as an inconsistent Internet connection and the unfamiliarity with technical tools for online learning might reduce teaching effectiveness, causing students to not fully understand the course content. Moreover, online learning may also considerably dampen students' enthusiasm and attention span, which could lead to their overall knowledge falling behind others in the past. Most crucially, learning at home cut down our time in school, which was used to enable us to socialize and build stable relationships with others. In conclusion, the Covid-19 pandemic indeed affected students in numerous negative ways.

Still, to correspond with the new education curriculum guidelines student participation in extracurricular activities is essential. Multiple performances in various activities could influence our competitiveness in entering college, since diverse abilities and experiences are emphasized in the new education curriculum. However, because of the pandemic, we lost most of our opportunities to participate in a variety of activities. Activities such as club events and camps were canceled for a year. As the pandemic restrictions gradually eased, our senior high school lives were also reaching the end.



To my mind, It's a pity that we couldn't enjoy to our heart's content during the most essential time of our youth. Nevertheless, I'm glad to see that the whole world is returning to its original state by varying degrees, so that students after us will be able to fully experience their school lives and be able to see each others' smiles without face masks once again.



By 305 03 王虹蘊 Teresa

Tattoo-art on The Body

Tattooing is a way of pricking a pattern or symbol on your body and it will stay on it for the rest of your life. It could be your lover's name, a symbol of something, or something important you've been in your life. But how does it work? A "tattoo artist" will use a special needle with ink and stab it into your dermis and take it out. This will be repeated over and over until the dots become a line and lines become a pattern.

Let's talk about the history of tattoos: the first tattooing technique was founded during the Qin dynasty in China. It was at first a kind of penalty for criminals. For the aboriginal people of Taiwan, it was a way to know each other's social status, and tattooing became a kind of body decoration over the course of time. During the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, hip-hop and gangster culture was prevalent in the USA, Hong kong, Japan, Taiwan and other countries. Asian gangsters usually had a dragon on the left arm and a white tiger on the right arm. Tattoos became the symbol of gangsters, so people had terrible thoughts when they saw a person with a tattoo. Japanese still don't allow people with tattoos to enter hot spring baths up to now. Everyone avoided getting close to people with them in their life, and parents told their children not to get tattoos. Tattoos became an embarrassment for people who just wanted it as a normal symbol.

Until the 1990s and 2000s the gangster crowds were getting fewer and fewer, and also hip-hop music didn't really emphasize violence and gangster stuff. It became more about lifestyle, love and other things. Tattoos became more likely to be a art work or a symbol of unforgettable things you've been. During and after this time, superstars with tattoos like Justin Bieber and Post Malone sometimes have been asked in interviews about their tattoos. They said that every tattoo they had was just for art or something meaningful to them, they also said that every time you want to get a new tattoo, "just be brave but never regret."

Tattooing is just a performance of art. We shouldn't magnify the dark past, but what we should do is give enough respect and at the same time also be curious about it.



By 804 34 曾睿淵

The Next Stop of K-pop, Taiwan.

It's likely that people around you are big fans of Korean pop music(K-POP). K-pop songs are sure to show up in your daily recommended playlists. Even more, these songs are everywhere; night markets, department stores, bookstores...etc. Put on ear phones, listen to the playlist, and people often enjoy them in their own world. Do you think Taiwanese are only crazy for the songs? Not really! According to a recent survey, Taiwan is one of the countries that is deeply affected by K-pop culture. The reason why we fall for K-pop isn't so simple.



Not only music, but also the members of the groups. Their hairstyles, make up, outfits and even themselves. I mean, their looks and appearance attract a bunch of fans. Whenever they create a new post such as #OOTD(outfit of the day), #newmakeup, a variety of comments about this are posted on social media platforms. "What makes her look taller?" , "Where can I get the same clothes or pants as him?" , "The make up looks gorgeous! .

As soon as these comments are posted, it'll attract experts from all aspects. They offer different kinds of suggestions like tips about color, outfits and so on, which would be put into practice by everyone, just like a chain reaction. Artist Hyunah once made an Instagram post for her new haircut. It was made up of long

hair and with a hime cut on the sideburns. It's also known as a princess cut(directly translated from Chinese). After her post, this kind of hairstyle took off and rocketed to fame in Taiwan. Almost everyone that followed the trend wanted to do it.

You can totally feel Taiwanese people's passion for K-pop simply from the internet, not to mention when they are coming to Taiwan. Not long ago, girls group MAMAMOO announced that their second concert tour will be held in Taiwan. On the “snap-up-tickets day” , tickets to the concert were sold out within half a minute. I was the unfortunate guy who was betrayed by the net, I didn't even get a chance to press the “BUY” button. Terrified by those passionate fans, I believed that K-pop culture was deeply rooted in our heart.

But our following can also lead to some serious problems at times. For instance, people often lean toward the stance and opinions of their idols when something occurs or any celebrity published some words. It's possible that we unconditionally believe and follow without thinking. Therefore, we should wake up and smell the coffee, stand in the grey area and think. Make up our own opinion and compare it with the idols' thoughts. It'll sometimes become some good advice and suggestions and can make the K-pop world a better place.

As you can see, K-pop groups greatly influence Taiwan. This is undeniable. For some of us, anything about K-pop can be thought of as daily life, or even the most important part of life. Having a thing for attractive artists isn't something terrible or embarrassing. Just like most Taiwanese, keep the passion for K-pop and walk side by side to our future with K-pop!

These are my favorite girls, MAMAMOO. They feature beautiful voices and are funny.

I enjoy listening to their songs and watching their videos. Not being too much of a fanatic, but I love them very much. I'm probably the standard case for a crazy Taiwanese affected by K-Pop. Anyway, if you are looking for great songs and funny moments, look no further than MAMAMOO.



By 804 11 張翊蕙



The Debate about Festivals

Have you heard of people arguing about which festivals to celebrate? I was about ten years old when I first heard people talking about this, and I was curious at the time. I decided to ask my relatives, my friends, my teachers, and anyone else I could ask for opinions.

Many elders say(in Taiwanese or Chinese),” Why do you kids celebrate foreign holidays and forget the holidays and traditions of our culture? You might think the traditions are useless and boring, but you should not question the intelligence of our ancestors, which is the combination of all the experiences they faced! The traditions and festivals are there for a reason! They can either bring good luck or get rid of the bad luck we gained in our daily lives.”

Many young people say,” It is boring and tiring to celebrate our festivals, the customs are often complicated and hard to prepare, so why not celebrate foreign festivals which are way more fun? It doesn’ t matter whether the festival is foreign or not, I’ ll accept it as long as it brings us joy, isn’ t this the original purpose of the festivals? Why separate Chinese or foreign festivals, not fun or boring festivals?”

Some people have different opinions and views about this, for example: As a Christian, Christmas is the day that their savior and God was born. It’ s way more important than a regular holiday, but is Christmas a holiday that can be only celebrated by Christians? Some suggest Christmas is a day to love, to be thankful, to share…etc., which everyone should be able to celebrate and share in the happiness of it. It shouldn't be limited as a holiday only for Christians. Others say

Christmas is originally a festival to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, and should only be celebrated by Christians because it is a religious holiday but only cultural to non-Christians.

On Christmas Eve 2022, I sent messages of "Merry Christmas" to all of my friends, relatives, and teachers. I was very excited to get their reply. The interesting thing was: Not many people told me they did or didn't like celebrating Christmas. Maybe it's because telling people you don't like that festival seems to be a bit rude when someone is trying to celebrate it with you. A few of my older relatives were frustrated about me celebrating Christmas, "Why are you celebrating a foreign festival, I'm sure you know it's also our country's Constitution Day, why don't you celebrate that instead? What are you thinking about when you celebrate Christmas, which has nothing to do with you?"

In my opinion, there is nothing wrong with celebrating festivals that are different from our traditional culture. If I were to make a choice, I would celebrate both traditional and foreign festivals. Maybe I'm wrong, but as a teenager, I believe most teenagers care more about having fun than the meanings of the festivals and the reasons we celebrate them.



By 801 36 廖泓宇

Are Social Networking Sites Good for Society



In 2022, more than 4.74 billion people use social media worldwide, spending more than two and a half hours on social media daily. Social media is expanding, and there have been more than 190 million new users since last year. People can connect with their friends and family using social media with just a tap of a finger. Students and teachers can use social platforms to get new facts and valuable information, and teachers can also fill students' Google classroom with a lot of math homework. Social media site users also share posts and music with their friends. Social media also spreads news faster than any other media around the world. Furthermore, law enforcement can use social media to catch criminals.

On the other hand, some people are addicted to social media and might become depressed without getting likes and cry after losing 1 million followers. Also, people might commit suicide if they are cyberbullied on the internet. Social networking is bad for our society because it can encourage cyberbullying, increase privacy risks on the internet, and make misinformation spread faster.

Cyberbullying often happens on social media platforms and means bullying another person using the internet or any electronic communication which includes flaming, outing, trolling, et cetera. The Pew research center found out that more than 60% of kids and teens in the U.S. have been cyberbullied before, and victims may experience anxiety, depression, and shame. Also, 66% of teens believe social media networks aren't doing enough to stop this from happening. People are dying and hurting themselves because of this!

Privacy risks are a problem since social media is such a big hub of lots of secret information. Under 50% of Americans believe that social media companies will keep their private information safe and unknown. Less than 10% of Americans believe they have control over their data. As a result, most people's personal information is in other hands, which is dangerous since another person can get it and post it publicly. People should not give their private information to other people because they might use it in ways you wouldn't think of.

There has been much misinformation on social media platforms lately. Many people don't fact-check most information they get. Misinformation is likely to spread virally when people use social media since users might not check if the attribute is true or false. Fake news might trick people into believing in a certain way that might cause people to do specific actions that might hurt others or do certain things. For example, at the start of the pandemic, there was fake news that said there were fewer tissues since all the materials were used to make masks, but the materials were different! It caused people to snatch up all the tissues in supermarkets. People should check facts and not believe everything they see on social media and the internet.

Social media is a big issue in the world today. Social networking is bad for our society because it can encourage cyberbullying, increase privacy risks on the internet, and make misinformation spread faster. People should be able to define what they see on social media as real and decide what is true or false.



What Kind of Reactions Do We Need to Face Challenges?

Life is challenging for everyone, some people choose to face these challenges and some keep them to themselves. Mostly, those who face their challenges overcome them, and get a good result. On the other hand, those who keep them to themselves are usually burdened by thinking of ways of how to solve the problem and end up being anxious or depressed.

In my opinion, the only solution is to face it. The question is, how do we react when we need to face challenges?

First, we need to stay calm and not get anxious. If we don't, we may make wrong decisions or even act recklessly. Second, we should look at the brighter side, be optimistic, and don't let the situation get worse. For example, when the coronavirus was getting worse, it made a lot of people realize that health is very important, that we might not have more time to live our lives well with our



family. Everything happens for a reason, good things come after challenges in life.

Lastly, we ought to carefully think of a solution and do it accordingly. Solutions that can solve our problems in a better way. An example is, when we are having a test, we usually make mistakes because sometimes, we aren't careful. It means, we have to study hard before the test, check the test and our answers carefully and try not to make mistakes.

If we want to overcome a challenge, we need to face it. Stay calm, think positively, and find better solutions. I hope everyone can overcome every challenge they face in life.

By 803 16 謝昕儒





What We Can Do to Help Protect the Environment?

Now the earth is contaminated, especially our environment, just look at the rivers, many are dirty and colored, because of factories releasing unclean water, and the waste goes into rivers, lakes, and ocean. Furthermore, it also contaminates the plants, then the fish eat them, at last we catch fish to eat, so dirty things go into our bodies as well. We eat what we seed. So I would rather factories first clean their water before releasing it, or else they can hurt not just themselves but also other innocent people.

Moreover, people go to the beach for a swim, they leave a lot of trash on the beach, and it goes into the ocean, the animals in the sea don't know and they eat the trash. Once the news had said that a turtle ate a plastic bag and died. It was very unlucky, because of what people caused, they got hurt and died.

Even worse, cars and motorcycles release exhaust and contaminate the air, then we breathe it; it not only hurts our body, but also causes global warming.

As a result, we need to do something to stop the earth and people getting hurt, by recycling paper, taking public transportation, and not throwing trash on the ground or leave it on the beach. I hope we can have a clean environment.

By 803 16 謝昕儒



Why Are Ethics Important in Society?

We might perceive ethics as constraining, striking guilt in our hearts as we do certain things. With the restrictions of ethics, we might feel like ants on a burning stove, scorched and seared constantly by the fear of doing anything not considered righteous. And that is the magic of ethics – we keep ourselves from going astray.

Law is merely the bare minimum, reminding every individual that committing crimes or violating regulations can result in punishment, straightening out the components of Society to a degree, enough so that Society does not fall apart. Ethics, on the other hand, refines and polishes the gears of the profound machine that Society is, giving it precision, accuracy, and consistency, granting it more value than it has ever had.

Ethics also gives rise to newer laws. Take the concept of “environmental protection” as an example. Should you inquire someone born during the industrial revolution about pollution, they would be indifferent at best. Nonetheless, people in recent decades embarked on the journey of environmental protection, all thanks to their love for the planet, the animals, and the people around them that are susceptible to being harmed by the deteriorating environment. They see beyond existing rules and strive for more, as their moral standards disable them from sitting and watching a farce unfold, one that may end up with the destruction of mankind. We no longer burn leaded gasoline, we no longer poke holes in our ozone layer for air conditioning



and refrigeration, and we are coining novel ways to drain carbon dioxide out of our atmosphere.

Monarchy was also phased out for the lack of ethics. The working class could not bear the immoral ways of their rulers, and thus there were revolutions in hopes that the tides might take a turn for the better. Slavery was abolished for such reasons as well. Some saw the unreasonable oppression and decided to make a change for a brighter, more equal Society. Ethics bring about the Society we are living in, and we should be grateful for the endeavors of ethical people in the past.

Yet, ethics has its flaws. In recent ages when the Internet is booming, bullying occurs in the name of ethics. People can have their homes raided for a minor offense or a comment online. The suffering they endure is far more than what they should receive, and their lives might be eternally ruined beyond repair. Influencers are “canceled” for things labeled “unethical”, and not only are they forever exiled from the Internet, but they might also not even be able to secure a job as a cashier. Ethics has now been weaponized and can be fired upon anyone. This is not the only way ethics can be distorted. Filial piety and other virtues have haunted us for millennia, and there is no sign of it ever subsiding. Not attending to younger siblings can be “unethical”, and not putting up with intolerable elders can get us spanked.

In sum, ethics are the unwritten rules of Society that we are shamed for not abiding by. Some lead us to a more advanced Society, while others can be primitive and degrading. For ethics to bring about a prospective future, it is up to us and our future generations to eliminate misguided values that hinder Society’s development. If that is achieved, then I am convinced that ethics will serve as a driving force for our Society to move on and progress.

此篇文章榮獲 111 學年度全國英語作文比賽 北區特優

By 306 29 黃丞軒

Publisher

張漢鏞

Chief Editor

蕭行恕

連芳國

Advisor

Paul

Steve

Jan