



MI Young Writers Award 2022



MI Young Writers Award 2021

English Writing Competition

Result Announcement

Junior Section











Winner **Disha Deepak Shetty**

1st runner-up Akhtar Nosheen

2nd runner-up **Melody Chong**

3rd runner-up Yeung Tsz Yau

4th runner-up **Liang Chun Yin**

Senior Section











Winner **Chow Hey Mann Dawn**

1st runner-up Ali Raazia

2nd runner-up **Kwong Sung Chit**

3rd runner-up **Lin Yan Tung**

4th runner-up Man Tin Wai



The Most Creative Cover Award (Junior)



The Most Creative Cover Award (Senior)





MI Young Writers Award 2022

English Writing Competition

Objectives

- ▶ To encourage secondary school students in Hong Kong and Macau to realize their English writing talents.
- ▶ To advocate the good habit of magazines reading for Hong Kong and Macau teenagers and develop insights on social affairs issues and related subjects that are affecting their daily lives.
- ▶ To share well-written articles with the public through Mag Digest e-magazine and provide opportunities for students to become a young contributor/editor!

Eligibility

All Hong Kong and Macau secondary schools students (S.1 - S.6 / Year 7 - Year 13)

Topics of Writing

Junior Section: S.1-S.3 (Year 7-9)

"Should smartphones be allowed in school?"

Senior Section: S.4-S.6 (Year 10-13)

"If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about?"

Competition Rules and Registration

To Join the competition, school registration is required on or before 30 Nov 2021. School teacher in-charge can download the online registration form from www.magazines88.com/miywa and email to miywa@magazines88.com

Students should read the reference article provided by publisher and write on the topic. Students are encouraged to create a magazine cover (PDF or JPEG format, A4 in portrait) which relates to their topic of writing to express their feeling and creativity.

Timeline

Registration Period 1 Oct to 30 Nov 2021

Submission Period 1 Dec 2021 to 28 Feb 2022

Result Announcement 30 May 2022





Awards Junior section & Senior section

WINNER

Trophy and Certificate Bookshop Coupon HK\$1,500 Magazines Coupon HK\$1,000

1st RUNNER-UP

Trophy and Certificate Bookshop Coupon HK\$1,200 Magazines Coupon HK\$800

2nd RUNNER-UP

Trophy and Certificate Bookshop Coupon HK\$1,000 Magazines Coupon HK\$500

3rd RUNNER-UP

Trophy and Certificate Bookshop Coupon HK\$800 Magazines Coupon HK\$400

4th RUNNER-UP

Trophy and Certificate Bookshop Coupon HK\$500 Magazines Coupon HK\$400

10 Outstanding Entries Award

Certificate Bookshop Coupon HK\$100

The Most Enthusiastic School Award

Trophy

Top 50 Merit Awards

Certificate

The Most Creative Cover Award

Trophy and Certificate Bookshop Coupon HK\$800 Magazines Coupon HK\$400



The prizes are subject to change by Magazines International (Asia) Ltd. without any notice.

https://www.magazines88.com/miywa Enquiry: miywa@magazines88.com Tel: 3628-6212 / 3628-6335





Hong Kong * Thailand * Taiwan * Macau





About MI Young Writers Award 2022 (MIYWA)

MI Young Writers Award 2022 (MIYWA 2022) is an annual competition organized by Magazines International (Asia) Limited, one of Asia's leading magazines subscription service provider. The competition is supported by LiveABC Interactive English Group (the official licensee of the CNN news element for CNN Interactive English Magazine) as the co-organizer, and sponsored by Joint Publishing (Hong Kong) Company Limited.

The competition's key aim is to foster and recognize excellence in English writing by providing students with the opportunity to develop their expressive talents and creativity. The competition is opened to students of secondary schools in Hong Kong and Macau.

There are two sections for entry: junior section for S1-S3 (Year 7-9) and senior section for S.4-S.6 (Year 10-13). Each section is assigned with a topic of writing. This year, the theme for junior section is "Should smartphones be allowed in school?" and for senior section is "If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about?"

For enquiries, feel free to contact our school team at miywa@magazines88.com.



Meet the Judges

Jason Chen Vice President/Editor in Chief of LiveABC

Education Background:

National Chengchi University / Journalism Major

Soochow University / English Major

Experience:

Editor in Chief of biz Interactive English Magazine

Editor in Chief of CNN Interactive English Magazine

Editor in Chief of ABC Interactive English Magazine

Editor in Chief of How It Works Magazine Chinese Edition

Manager / Translation and Localization Department of PDM Ltd.

Manager / Translation and Localization Department of TV Time Ltd.

Associate Instructor / Language Center of Soochow University

Helen Yeh Executive English Editor

Background Information:

Born in Taiwan and raised in the United States, Helen Yeh received her MA Degree in European Languages and Literatures from the University of London in 1992. She went on to study for her PhD. in Comparative Literature at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. After spending over a decade in Rome, Italy, where she taught English composition at John Cabot University and conducted workshops on business communication in English for various Italian companies, Helen returned to her roots in Taiwan. She joined LiveABC in 2010 and has held the role of writer and executive English editor for both Live magazine and the books department.

Claire Huang Chief Academic Supervisor of LiveABC

Master degree from University of Southern California in TESOL Lecturer for International Symposium on English Language Teaching at ETA Lecturer for Reading and Writing skills at College of California Chino Hills Lecturer for Department of Applied Foreign Languages at Lan Yang Institute of

Instructor for English Teacher's Training Course for children at Office of Continuing Education, NTNU / CYCU

Lecturer for ESL at Adult Continuing Education Center of California Ahmanson

Vivi, L. Wang Editor-in-Chief

Education:

National Taiwan University —

Bachelor of Arts, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures

American Magazine Center (AMC)

Editor-in-Chief, Landmark English and Books

LiveABC Interactive Cooperation

Executive Editor, CNN Interactive English

Editor-in-Chief, Live Interactive English

Editor-in-Chief, ALL+ Interactive English

Editor-in-Chief, First Book Department

Niall Longobardi English Editor

Georgia Institute of Technology - Bachelor's of Science in International Affairs with a minor in Economics

Professional Background:

English Language Teacher at Shane English Schools

Curriculum Developer at Alexander Academy

Business English and Seminar Instructor at Core and Corner

Book's Department English Editor at LiveABC











Words from Judges

On behalf of the two judges tasked with evaluating this year's entries, congratulations to all those who submitted their work and participated in the event. Writing a proper essay is a formidable exercise in any language, and often takes years of practice to fully master. We commend all of you for the high-quality work that was produced for this competition.

Being able to express your thoughts and ideas clearly and logically on paper is an important skill that will serve you well throughout your entire lives. Taking part in these competitions is a great way to not only put those skills to good use, but to also gain experience and new insights into your own writing. Do not become discouraged if you did not obtain the result you had hoped for, but also do not become complacent if your entry landed among the winners. There will always be room for growth, improvement, and advancement. Never stop learning.

In regard to the judging criteria, there are a few points that we would like to touch upon. These will hopefully serve to encourage you to be more critical of your own work and provide you with some helpful tips.

Vocabulary

The right kind of vocabulary can elevate any piece of writing, especially when well-placed. As important as knowing high-level words can be, knowing how to use them properly is even more so. Beware of inserting vocabulary words into your writing that do not add anything to the quality of your work. Such use of vocabulary can actually work against you and result in overly verbose writing that is confusing and lacks flow. Sometimes simple is best.



Words from Judges

Spelling and Grammar

The work submitted for this competition was of very high quality and did not contain a lot of spelling or grammar errors. There are, however, a few points to make. The best way to catch any spelling errors is to always do one final check before submitting your work. You can also either ask a friend to check it over for you or use a word processor with its editing function turned on. One little careless spelling mistake makes a big difference in competitions such as this.

In regard to grammar, always check your subject-verb agreement and have consistent verb tense usage. Knowing which verb tense to use is also important. In the senior category, the topic involved a type 2 conditional tense hypothetical question, which required the use of could/should/would in the essay as opposed to simple future tense.

Logic and Focus

When trying to present an argument, it's crucial to use clear and concise logic that doesn't pose any contradictions. Stay on track and do not let your reasoning run off without you. The best way to do this is to have clearly-structured paragraphs that feature a main idea and its corresponding supporting details. Don't get too caught up in the little details, however, and remember to think about the big picture.

Overall, we were very impressed by the quality of the work that was submitted for this year's competition. Both topics are very relevant to the issues we face in today's society, and everyone did very well in expressing their thoughts and ideas on the subjects. All the effort and hard work you put into your essays clearly shows, and you should certainly be very proud to have produced such great pieces of writing. Your work was both interesting and very insightful. It provided us – the judges – with an in-depth look at what these topics mean for young learners in Hong Kong. Our compliments to all who participated, you all did very well.





請即掃瞄OR Code







ABC 互動英語

適用程度:英文初級

適用對象:小學生、英語基礎初學者

- · 打好英語基礎的最佳選擇
- · 專為英語初學者編訂的基礎英語學習雜誌
- ・活潑、實用、有趣的豐富內容・學英語不再痛苦
- ・情境教學・學英語像學母語ー樣輕鬆自然
- · 3D動畫學英語,輕鬆有趣,快樂學英語













Live 互動英語

適用程度:英文中級

適用對象:一般生活英語,初中生~高中生

· 流行、趣味學英語的最佳指標

- · 教材貼近生活,實用會話輕鬆學
- · 真人拍攝情境會話課程,開口說英語不再困難
- 焦點話題及熱門話題用詞解說,學英語也跟得上潮流
- 情境式英語會話,體驗如在國外環境學英語的驚人效果











ALL[†]互動英語

適用程度: 進階英語學習

適用對象:具英語基礎級的高中生~成人



- · 深度教學內容,題材豐富,讓您的英語更好
- · 大量精選閱讀文章,讓您開始用英語思考
- · 實物圖解:圖解皆用真實圖片介紹,讓讀者能快速理解
- 寫作訓練:主題式寫作訓練,掌握關鍵技巧













CM互動英語

適用程度:新聞英語進階學習

適合對象:中學或以上,追求出色英語溝通的人

- · CNN官方授權 · LiveABC傾力製作
- · 最多大專院校老師推薦的英語聽力訓練素材
- · 財經、政治、全球瞭望,每月給你最新全球大事
- · 科技、旅遊、體育,掌握世界新知娛樂
- · 熱門新聞字, 聽力訓練教室帶你迅速聽懂看懂英語新聞





Live ABC SmartPen智慧點讀筆(16G)

集3大功能於一身









- ✓ 短篇故事、生活情境對話、生態議題、時事新聞、節慶文化
- ✓ 增強英語科及通識科上的知識
- ✓ 靈活運用於功課上、課堂上、考試上及日常日活上
- ✓ 為教師們提供多樣化的教學素材,節省備課的時間
- ✓ 配有師生試卷教材可供老師選擇































列助日本語

適用程度: N3 - N5

- · 超人氣資深外師 + 頂尖日語編輯團隊
- · 情境圖解學單字 · 20段真人影片學會話
- · 課文編排超清晰,生活例句最實用
- · 350題互動試題,輕鬆準備各種考試
- · 提供道地日語學習環境, 學語言也學文化





LiveABC 學校團訂教學計劃









學校團訂教學配套包括:

- 1. ABC / Live / All+ / CNN 互動英語雜誌 (紙本版/ 電子版)
- 2. 每週測驗卷 (Basic / Advanced 程度選擇) (CNN 互動英語雜誌除外)
- 3. 教師手冊 + 教師專門光碟 (CNN 互動英語雜誌除外)
- 教師資源包含每期雙語雜誌內容、教師手冊、模擬試題、每週考試題目、 單元考試題目...等的教學資源,並配備word及mp3檔案,方便老師們直接 編輯考試題目。



雜誌內容 (.doc)



每週考試 (.doc) & (.mp3)



填充題 (.doc)



單完考試 (.doc)

Award List

Junior Section

Junior	School (In alphabetical order)	Student Name
Winner	PHC Wing Kwong College	Liu Yan Ho
1st runner-up	German Swiss International School	Grover Anisha
2nd runner-up	St. Paul's Convent School (Secondary Section)	Law Lok Sum Sophia
3rd runner-up	Diocesan Girls' School	Chan Tsz Wing Sophie
4th runner-up	German Swiss International School	Mok Sin Wai Kaitlyn
10 Outstanding	Diocesan Girls' School	Li Cheuk Wing Angie
10 Outstanding	Diocesan Girls' School	Chloe Wong
10 Outstanding	Hoi Ping Chamber of Commerce Secondary School	Lau Hoi Ying
10 Outstanding	Holy Family Canossian College	Wong Ling Yan Danielle
10 Outstanding	Kowloon True Light School	Lee Ngo Ching
10 Outstanding	PLK Celine Ho Yam Tong College	Fan Ka Chung Samuel
10 Outstanding	Pope Paul VI College	Lam Sze Yi Livia
10 Outstanding	St. Paul's Co-educational College	Mak Wing Tung Gloria
10 Outstanding	St. Paul's Convent School (Secondary Section)	Liu Yan Kiu Tianna
10 Outstanding	Tin Ka Ping Secondary School	Wu Yuxuan
Junior	Award	School
Junior	The Most Enthusiastic School Award	Pui Kiu College
Junior	The Most Creative Cover Award	SKH Tsoi Kung Po Secondary School

The Most Creative Cover Award

Junior Section





Rasco Jenica Zheen Galano

SKH Tsoi Kung Po Secondary School





























Junior Section – Winner Topic: Should smartphones be allowed in school?



Liu Yan Ho
PHC Wing Kwong
College

"Being smart with smartphone use" Should Smartphones Be Allowed In Schools?

As the article, "Being smart with smartphone use" points out, smartphones have become an indispensable part of our lives. We can access a variety of applications with a push of a button. Online purchases, research and food ordering can all be done with ease, despite time and location. However, the use of smartphones has always been prohibited on school campuses since it can be demanding for teachers to supervise. Are smartphones a boon or a bane for students?

Smartphones can bring numerous educational advantages to both students and teachers. Using smartphones, students can use the dictionary effortlessly to find vocabulary items. This saves a lot of time for students as they don't have to search for a word page by page in a traditional dictionary. Meanwhile for teachers, adopting e-teaching in class can be motivating for students. Indeed, many schools in Hong Kong have already been using e-learning. Teachers give in-class quizzes to students via electronic devices and students can see a real-time scoreboard on the screen. This kind of competition can motivate students to learn by lifting up the atmosphere. Allowing smartphones in schools therefore can be revolutionary in terms of teaching and learning.

In contrast to this, the use of smartphones on campus may also bring several negative impacts to students. Under the effects of smartphone addiction, students might not be able to concentrate in class and with the ease and constant temptation of accessing the Internet, they may just think about their games and social media instead of the content of the lesson. Moreover, if students violate the rules and use smartphones for entertainment in class, it can be difficult for teachers to spot. By that time, their smartphones will have become a complete distraction for the students. Even worse, social media can be a potential danger for students. As teenagers are more susceptible to peer influence, they are more likely to be obsessed with social media, which virtually connects teenagers with their friends. A report by Common Sense Media found that more than a third of teens visited their main social networking site several times a day. Allowing smartphones to enter school campuses may further worsen the situation for already obsessed students. It can be detrimental for students' mental health since social media addiction may, according to the report, lead to depression, anxiety, and sleep deprivation.

Although using smartphones on campus will bring both positive and negative effects, on the whole, the positive impacts outweigh the negative ones. There are no alternatives that can help students to learn as effectively as smartphones with its clear advantages in enlivening classes and motivating students. Furthermore, the negative effects can be minimized with proper measures. For supervision, there are some apps that can monitor students' smartphone activity, preventing students from overusing their smartphones for entertainment. As for social media addiction, talks and classes teaching students self-discipline can be held so that students can learn to prioritize and set up a timetable to remind themselves to stop using social media once they have reached a daily limit. Thus, by using smartphones in a suitable and intelligent manner, students can benefit from the assistance smartphones bring to their learning while avoiding smartphone addiction.

To conclude, there are more benefits to using smartphones in schools than drawbacks. It can be an incredibly effective way to engage students and enhance their academic performance. Although the disadvantages are obvious, they can be minimized with appropriate measures. Using smartphones in schools can undeniably make learning much more convenient. As long as they are used in a smart way, they can be a powerful tool for both students and teachers.

Judge's comment

Overall, this essay is phenomenal. Your introduction is really well written, and it leads the reader to understand your opinion without clearly saying it. Your body paragraphs are also organized in a unique way, with both sides of the argument written about and your thoughts on both. Well done!

When writing an essay, you need to remember that the point you're trying to, but if you look at how much you actually wrote for each side of the argument, you will see that your 'in favor of' paragraph is much less filled out than your 'in favor against' one. In terms of grammar, there were only two parts where you made tiny errors; one was "vocabulary items" and the other was "lifting up the atmosphere." I would recommend something like "vocabulary" and "This kind of activity can motivate students by creating a competitive atmosphere." Finally, with word choice, words such as "apps", "e-teaching" and "e-learning" are informal, and should be written out completely.

All in all, this was a wonderful essay, and I hope you continue writing, because you clearly have a talent for it. Keep up the great work!!

Junior Section – 1st runner-up Topic: Should smartphones be allowed in school?



Grover Anisha
German Swiss
International
School

What makes a successful student? Someone that is collaborative, focused, and communicative or someone buried inside a smartphone? I am an eleven-year-old secondary student and there is no denying I love my smartphone. This portable device connects me to friends, educates me and immerses me in new and exciting worlds. However, the question is not whether smartphones are beneficial, but whether they are useful in school. I fundamentally believe smartphones are counterproductive in a school environment and can lead to negative habits such as social isolation, addiction, cyberbullying, cheating and a reduction in children's ability to focus.

I believe learning how to manage relationships is a vital part of a child's education. To do that, students must engage with one another and deal with different personalities. I will admit, occasionally I find it easier to absorb myself in an action-packed Netflix episode or to play a game of Roblox, than engage with quarrelsome peers. However, if smartphones are permitted in school, children may seek comfort or stimulation from devices rather than from friends. It is crucial for children to engage with peers to learn life skills such as empathy and conflict resolution through personal interaction as these skills are vital for future survival.

If smartphones are allowed, it will increase the amount of time students spend on social media. Friendships may be built online, drawing students' attention away from peers in school. If students do not have friends in class, then school could appear lonely and isolating. The more students feel lonely, the more they will be drawn to their phone – a downward spiral. A constant need for digital connectivity can lead to addiction. Research shows social media can be extremely detrimental as dopamine (pleasure molecules) increases with every digital message received. Dopamine floods students' brains, potentially causing individuals to get hooked, enticing them to wait for messages rather than engage with humans.

Smartphones can exacerbate cyberbullying. Cyberbullies are cowards — they prey on vulnerable students without having to personally confront them or to deal with their reactions. According to a Telecom Firm research survey from 2011, children who spend excessive time on their phones are more likely to be cyberbullied.[1] About 25 to 30 percent of the young people surveyed admitted experiencing or taking part in cyberbullying, but only 12 percent said the same about traditional bullying.[2]

Moreover, smartphones are a source of distraction. If students continually check their phone for updates, they could be distracted in class. According to a recent University of Nebraska-Lincoln study, on average students check their phones 11 times per day during class and spend an estimated 20% of class time checking an electronic gadget for reasons unrelated to the lesson. [3]

Cheating is another harmful effect. Mobile phones are designed to be pocket-sized, enabling children to cheat by discretely concealing the device. Students could secretly search for answers during assessments. A study has shown 35% of teens admitted to cheating on either their tests or homework. 65% of the same group stated they have seen others use their smartphones to cheat in school. [4] Unfortunately, cheating is rarely a one-time occurrence; students may find it easier to cheat more frequently or to be dishonest in other areas of their lives.

In summary, I am not dismissing technology; this is necessary in a fast-developing world. However, excessive use of technology can build walls, instead of bridges. I value my friends and do not want to risk being lured away from them into a mobile phone device. I feel smartphones are more beneficial outside of the school environment.

Sources:

1: Naomi Schaefer Riley, "To fight cyberbullying, ban cell phones from school", New York Post.

https://nypost.com/2017/02/06/to-fight-cyberbullying-ban-cellphones-from-school/.

2: Raychelle Cassada, "Cyberbullying Versus Traditional Bullying", Psychology Today.

https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/teen-angst/201205/cyberbullying-versus-traditional-bullying.

3: Leslie Reed, "Study: Digital distraction in class is on the rise", Nebraska Today.

https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/study-digital-distraction-in-class-is-on-the-

rise/#: ``text=College%20 students%20 spend%20 more%20 class, 675%20 students%20 in %2026%20 states.

4: Amy Morin, "How Teens Use Technology to Cheat in School," Verywell Family.

https://www.verywellfamily.com/how-teens-use-technology-to-cheat-at-school-4065364.

Judge's comment

It isn't every day that you see an eleven-year-old student cite their sources! To be honest, I loved your essay; it was so personable, and it felt like it was addressed to the reader. However, essays can be personable and formal, which was where your essay was lacking just a bit.

You must remember that all good essays must be written in a formal style, which means no first-person pronouns. As an example, your sentence, "I fundamentally believe smartphones are counterproductive..." could be rewritten to say "Fundamentally, smartphones are counterproductive..." This keeps that wonderful personality and makes it more formal. Other than that, you did an incredible job, and your essay was a true joy to read!

Junior Section – 2nd runner-up Topic: Should smartphones be allowed in school?



Sophia
St. Paul's
Convent School
(Secondary Section)

Law Lok Sum

Smartphones have become the cornerstone of a multitude of both our personal and professional lives. This is no secret, and society is rapidly reshaping its infrastructure to accommodate for the rise of the digital age. However, one field still on the fence about incorporating smartphones into its age-old system is the education sector. It is no secret that smartphones are particularly tempting to the student body, and both educators and parents alike have expressed concerns over smartphones distracting students from their studies. Here we attempt to dissect arguments from both sides and determine whether students should be allowed to bring their gadgets into the classroom.

A point often brought up by the side lobbying for the integration of smartphones is that technology provides students with invaluable online learning resources. With the rise of COVID-19, many schools have turned to online education to salvage what is left of students' learning progress. Apps like Edmodo, E-Class and Google Classroom are crucial in facilitating communication between teacher and student in these trying times. On the other hand, however, a commonly cited counter-argument is that smartphones may do more harm than good in facilitating education. With its broad variety of entertainment and endless supply of content designed to glue viewers' eyes to their screens, the Internet can be a dangerously addictive thing to anyone, let alone impulse-driven adolescents whose dopamine-fueled brains jump at every opportunity to gain the pleasure they derive from accessing online games and social media. Those against smartphones in the classroom wonder: how many students will be able to keep their focus on lessons when the all-consuming temptation of their smartphones is burning a hole through their desk drawers?

But that brings us to the most important issue at hand—the single factor that will seal the fate of this ongoing smartphone debate: digital literacy. Today, the technology industry is worth a staggering \$5 trillion in market value. IT is now one of the most highly-coveted career paths among the new generation, being paved with opportunities and room for ever-accelerating growth—exactly what the big thinkers of tomorrow are looking for. With constant exposure to digital devices at school, students will naturally familiarize themselves with technology, giving them the tech skills they need to survive in a rapidly technology-dependent world.

In conclusion, while devices are already, without question, an indispensable part of life and therefore necessary in every aspect, including education, we cannot go without setting firm boundaries on the use of smartphones. However, it is simply not feasible to outright prohibit the use of smartphones in learning. Our new world is increasingly dependent on technology—this is an indisputable fact—and our education system should reflect that by moving forward and embracing the implementation of technology in teaching.

Judge's comment

Mechanically speaking, this essay is perfect. You have a natural command of English all around, and that makes your writing very strong as a result. However, there were a few points that you missed the mark on, such as organization and word choice.

Your second paragraph outlines all of the pros and cons of allowing smartphones in school, and then your third paragraph mentions digital literacy, which is "the single factor that will seal the fate of this ongoing smartphone debate." But if digital literacy is so important to your argument, there should be more than four sentences about it! In terms of word choice and sentence structure, you need to constantly ask yourself if what you're deciding to include in your essay adds to it or subtracts from it. Personally, there were a bit too many adjective modifiers that look flashy on the surface, but don't really add to your essay in any way. Sometimes, simple can be better! All in all, you did an amazing job, and your essay was a marvelous one. Keep up the great work!!!

Junior Section − 3rd runner-up Topic: Should smartphones be allowed in school?



Chan Tsz Wing Sophie Diocesan Girls' School

John Dewey, an American psychologist and educationalist, once said "If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow". A lot of people find fault in technology, especially in education, because children are not developing and learning in a healthy and natural manner. The primary convict is the smartphone. Everywhere we go, we see smartphone zombies and if we take smartphones away from teenagers, they would collapse. People look at that and immediately blame smartphones. But if you think about it, this teaches us something very important about ourselves and the future: we cannot live without smartphones. So, should smartphones be allowed in school? There are advantages and disadvantages to using smartphones in school. Personally, I believe that smartphones should be allowed in school because if we use them wisely, they would benefit us more than we think.

Firstly, using smartphones in schools allows students the opportunity to familiarize themselves with smartphones. Smartphones are indispensable in our lives, and people will

rely on them more. Apart from traditional literacy, people, especially Gen Zers, must master digital literacy too, so there is no point in trying to prevent students from using smartphones. At school, there are teachers who are experts in that area. In addition, students that are all Gen Zers can help teach one another how to be an intelligent smartphone user.

Secondly, smartphones in schools can greatly improve learning and communication. As classes grow, teachers will not be able to focus on every single student in every class. With apps on smartphones, this problem can be solved. All students can participate in class through apps such as Kahoot. Kahoot encourages student participation through quizzes. Not only does this make learning fun, but it also enables teachers to easily track each student's progress. Another benefit of allowing smartphones in school is that in case of emergencies, students can contact their parents right away on their smartphones. If they did not have smartphones, they would have to reach their parents through the school, which is time-consuming. In emergency situations, saving these few minutes can bring benefits beyond imagination, such as saving a person's life.

Thirdly, searching up information on the smartphone is convenient. It is like the entire library is stored inside a smartphone. With just a push of a button, thousands of results can be obtained, including people's different opinions and experience from any background and timeline. Some argue that computers have such functions too and there is no need for smartphones in school. However, with their own smartphones, students can immediately search up information when they want additional details about the class, and multiple students can do that at the same time which would increase efficiency.

Some might say that smartphones are unnecessary for learning as our ancestors did not need smartphones in school. However, education is constantly changing because times are changing. If we don't adapt our educational methods to suit major changes such as technological advancements, then we would actually be going backwards and doing a huge disservice to students. We should take advantage of the advanced technology we have now to explore more about the world.

In conclusion, smartphones should be allowed in school. It is definitely true that we should be cautious about our over-dependence on smartphones but when it comes to situations where we can derive a lot of invaluable benefits from using smartphones, we should welcome them. School is one of those places where smartphones can help us, not harm us. This is how we can stop ourselves from robbing students of their tomorrows.

Judge's comment

This is a really solid essay. You use some really creative language and have a really interesting viewpoint on this issue. However, there are some things that need to be addressed that would take it from solid to *great*.

The most important thing I would like to talk about is word choice. There are many places where you switch from formal to informal writing. Perhaps you should consider rewriting some phrases, such as "smartphone zombies" and the places where you used first-person pronouns. This is why word choice is so important, and when deciding what to keep when revising your writing, just ask yourself, "Does this statement add anything to my writing?" Other than that, your essay was very unique and I enjoyed reading it a lot!

Junior Section – 4th runner-up Topic: Should smartphones be allowed in school?



Mok Sin Wai Kaitlyn German Swiss International School

One thing is clear; smartphones are becoming ubiquitous in our society. The question remains, should schools endorse this kind of culture? Contrary to what one might think, as a student, I do not believe smartphones should be allowed at school. Given the fact that students are already required to have a personal computer in class, many of my peers are distracted by devices being present in a classroom. As such, having a smartphone at school would not seem to be beneficial. Smartphones are a distraction and can deviate students' attention and lead to major socialisation issues. I have seen how personal computers have affected students and having done so, think that additional devices at school would heighten the problem.

Small and distractive smartphones are problematic as they can divert a student's attention away from the material taught by a teacher. Educators cannot control what students are looking at during class, thus unable to tell if they are simply conducting research or engaging in another matter entirely. Many schools around the US, including the University of Texas, directed an experiment that focused on the improvement of students' academics when smartphones were banned from school. Researchers at these universities have found that students' academics improved by an average of six percent after phones were banned. This means that when students do not have their smartphones with them in class, they are paying more attention to the lesson. Therefore, eliminating smartphones from a school environment would be exceptionally constructive.

Furthermore, smartphones can also be a hindrance in a school environment in terms of socialisation. It is evident that interacting with each other is the pillar of school and education. The academic curriculum consists of a variety of projects and individual tasks. Thus, students must work together to achieve the goal of the assignment designed to have students work with peers and learn how to cooperate. With smartphones in the picture, searching for extraneous material becomes predominant over working with each other. This shows that if students continue to obsess over smartphones, they simply cannot learn to collaborate. This same idea applies outside of a classroom during recess when children are encouraged to engage with each other.

Unfortunately, if smartphones were allowed at school, there would be a sinkhole in this plan. Students would rather surf the internet than play with peers. In addition to this, pupils might play video games together and though this seems idealistic, children should be encouraged to use their imagination to enhance their creativity rather than follow a concrete video game. Whipping out a smartphone in front of other students to play games would entice other students like moths drawn to flames. This results in students flocking towards a screen and instead of socialising over joined interests in a game, the attention is mainly directed at an inanimate object.

In the intense debate over whether smartphones should be allowed at school, the advantages seem to be in favour. In case of an emergency, smartphones make it easier for parents to contact children, hence they are thought to be an essential item. However, the consequences of adding these chocolate bar sized devices outweigh the positive sides by far. These devices clearly captivate a child's attention and distract them from completing tasks. Additionally, smartphones prevent students from being able to socialise with each other. These examples are proof of why adding these devices to a school environment is an absolute mistake. This is also the answer to the question asked before: should schools encourage this kind of popularity in smartphones? Based on the evidence, I believe the answer to be, no.

Judge's comment

This is a solid essay through and through. There were a few hiccups, but overall, this is a really great piece of writing. You supported your thoughts very well and talked about some important issues in a thoughtful way.

Overall, there are just a couple of places where you could improve. For example, the sentence, "Smartphones are a distraction and can deviate students' attention and lead to major socialisation issues" has one too many 'ands,' and a simple fix would be to change the first one to a 'that.' For word choice, most of your writing is very formal, except when you add first-person pronouns. These are always seen as informal, and should be avoided. For next time, think to use the passive voice. For example, the sentence, "I have seen how personal computers..." can be changed to "It can be seen how personal computers..." Besides these two things, the essay was very well written and I enjoyed reading it very much. Keep up the great work, because you have a talent for writing!

Smartphones are becoming a major part of people's lives nowadays, be it adults or children. Teenagers especially are very attached to their smartphones, except when they are in school, where smartphones are prohibited. While a lot of students are complaining about why smartphones are not allowed in school, have they thought about why this rule is imposed? In fact, banning the use of smartphones in school has more benefits than one would think of.

Most teenagers use their phones to play games, scroll on social media, chat with friends, watch videos and other forms of entertainment. While it is very convenient to be able to do all these things on one device, it is also very distracting for students when they are in school. Students will surely find their smartphones more entertaining than the lessons they are taking, which will not only cause them to lose focus on their learning but also show disrespect towards their teachers, which will greatly affect their conduct in the future if they are not taught to change this habit earlier. When they do not listen to their teachers during class, they will have a hard time catching up after class, which is time consuming and also difficult. Their grades will also drop significantly because they couldn't hear additional, important information provided by the teacher outside of the textbook, which they cannot refer to when they study at home.

The main reason why parents give teenagers a smartphone is because they want to be able to reach their children when they are out on their own to ensure their safety. However, students' safety is guaranteed when they are in school, under the care of teachers. In case of emergencies, teachers can easily contact the students' parents, or students can use the telephones provided by the school. Also, with advancing technology, smart card systems are common among schools, so parents can easily check whether their child is in school or not on an app. Therefore, smartphones are not necessary for students when they are in school and smartphones should not be allowed.

It is no secret that smartphones are very expensive and not all families can afford to buy one for their child, let alone the latest model of smartphones. On the other hand, there are also students from wealthier families who can afford to buy newer or even the newest smartphones. If smartphones were allowed to be used freely in school, what would the students with a lack of the latest technology think? They will surely feel disappointed because they cannot participate in their activities. They may also be perceived differently by their classmates as they do not use the same phone models as them, making them feel indifferent, isolated and even like an outcast, which greatly lowers their esteem and sense of value. To avoid this from happening, students should not get the chance to show off their smartphones, so that all students, wealthy or poor, will be perceived equally.

The main difference between going to local school and being homeschooled is that students can learn to interact with other people, which is a crucial life skill. Because teenagers are so attached to their smartphones, when smartphones are allowed to be used in school, students will most likely be on their phones instead of interacting with their classmates. This is not beneficial to them because excessive time on their smartphones will lead to no development or even a loss in their social skills, and soon enough they will not know how to communicate with people face to face. Studies also show that being overly obsessed with one's smartphone may cause depression, which is harmful, especially for teenagers because their mentality is still developing.

From a student's point of view, smartphones should be allowed in school, but they have never taken the time to think instead about why smartphones are not allowed in the first place. When they do think about it, they will realise that there are more advantages than disadvantages regarding the banning of smartphones in school. Thus smartphones should not be allowed in school to benefit students and ensure that they are learning healthily, happily and effectively.

Judge's comment

Overall, this essay is very well written and makes some interesting points. You have strong feelings about this topic and it shows in your writing! However, there are some things that you could perhaps do differently. In almost all of your body paragraphs, you have what is called a **slippery slope fallacy**. These are types of arguments that say "if X happens/doesn't happen, Y will then happen as a result." This type of argument can jump to conclusions, and so perhaps you could think about how to support your arguments a bit differently. Other than this, you did a wonderful job, and it was a pleasure reading your essay!

Junior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: Should smartphones be allowed in school?

With the introduction of the smartphone in 1992, our lives have changed drastically. At the swipe of a finger, a multitude of tasks can be completed in less than a second. These gadgets have undoubtedly provided us with convenience, mobility, and functionality — but are they suitable to be used in school? Given my age, you might be surprised to hear that my answer is a resolute no.

Smartphones have indubitably improved our daily lives. Millions of applications can be downloaded to satisfy our needs for different services, the latest information and social interaction. With the whole internet under our fingertips, it may seem like this device is near godly.

When applied to school, smartphones can certainly aid learning experiences. The ability to access a sea of knowledge and information allows students to learn more efficiently with the help of these extra resources. Furthermore, the connectivity smartphones bring can enhance student-teacher relationships and boost in-class communication.

The aforementioned benefits are exactly why the smartphone has had a meteoric rise of popularity. The average Hong Kong citizen is sure to have one in hand when travelling, working, and resting. Smartphones seem to be an unbelievable technical advancement for humankind — but is it really as perfect as it seems?

Firstly, there is the prominent concern of vision. An Apple a day keeps the doctor away... or does it? The light from the screen irritates our eyes and the small monitor causes strain. In addition, studies have shown that the blue light emitted by smartphones suppress the production of the sleep-regulating hormone melatonin. Children and teenagers already have busy schedules filled to the brim with work and activity, which often causes insomnia. If smartphones were allowed in school too, added to the frequent usage out of school, the effects would be devastating.

Gambling, drinking, smoking... are smartphones another societal concern for addiction to be added to this list? The feature of endless knowledge is a curse disguised as a blessing — precisely because of its nature to supply users with infinite entertainment, we often find ourselves scrolling aimlessly on different platforms, entranced by all the things to explore. No man is an island — unless he has a smartphone. This is exactly why smartphones should never set foot in a classroom. Students struggle to pay attention in class because of this distraction, teachers are frustrated with the lack of engagement and learning is not effective at all.

In addition, studies have proven that smartphones create a sense of loneliness. Contrary to the belief that smartphones promote close relationships online, social media does not produce as much emotional closeness as in-person interaction. Furthermore, social media causes comparison since people only share the best parts of their life that they want others to see. Our confidence and self-esteem are eroded as we become hooked on this device. The usage of smartphones in school would only enhance these effects because of their accessibility, even encouraging issues like cyberbullying.

What a student needs is a healthy life full of love, care, and proactive learning. Smartphones seem to change our lives for the better, but the disadvantages and side effects it brings most definitely outweigh the benefits. Schools are in loco parentis — it should be a place providing students with protection, a place where students can be focused on learning without distractions. Technology should be used to aid learning at school, however in this case of the smartphone, it completely dominates students' minds and takes away their concentration. Therefore, I stand firm in my belief that smartphones should never be allowed in school.

Judge's comment

This was a really creative take on this topic! I loved the way that you raised all of these questions in your writing. You make some great points, but there are too many things mentioned overall. Next time, focus on three really solid points and talk about them more in detail; this will strengthen your argument and still allow you the creative freedom that you showed here!

Junior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: Should smartphones be allowed in school?

Lau Hoi Ying
Hoi Ping Chamber
of Commerce
Secondary School

With the vigorous development of technology, we can do nearly all things with just a smartphone and growing up in this environment, many students are digital natives. Nearly every teenager has access to a smartphone. Since this is an inevitable trend, I welcome the use of smartphones in schools as it not just enhances learning efficiency but also teaching efficiency.

To begin with, allowing phones in school can help facilitate students' learning progress by supplementing lessons with digital materials. We all know that there is much to learn in class but the teaching time is limited, so if we can get necessary materials immediately from the Internet, much time can be saved for students to discover and discuss more. Also, it can ensure that the syllabus can be completed within the time limit. There is much the Internet can offer, so students can get multifaceted information there with a few simple clicks on their smartphones, and they can explore the core of the topics taught from multiple angles to have a deeper understanding.

Meanwhile, students can do group projects by using apps to share their thoughts instantly. For example, in science lessons, we are supposed to conduct experiments in groups. However, during the pandemic, group work is impossible. Therefore, watching the experiment videos on the smartphone is a good way to build a better understanding of the topic without circumstantial limitations; with the assistance of apps like Google Jamboard, voice recording and camera functions from their phones, students and teachers can share and make discoveries immediately. Unlike traditional learning tools and methods, this can save time from preparing experiments and presentations. Thus, students can learn more efficiently and have a clearer concept as they can have extra time to delve into lesson topics.

When students are allowed to use smartphones in class, it can help teachers to create an interactive, lively atmosphere and assess students' learning progress with the use of online educational games. Playing is conducive to our brain's learning and information retention. According to a recent survey of students' learning experience done by HKU, nearly 50% of secondary students felt bored during lessons and thus they were seldom willing to answer questions.

On the other hand, mobile phones make constant, immediate interaction possible. With the scoring and award function provided by apps such as ClassDojo, students will be motivated to raise their hands to take part in in-class activities because of its novel functions and enticing user interface. Another example is Kahoot, which can hold quiz competitions with joyful background music, which can also attract students to engage in in-class activities. Students can be highly engaged, answer teachers' questions by texting their response to a number, and then live results can instantly be reviewed by the class. This way, teachers can quickly determine the overall understanding of a topic, adjust their lesson plans accordingly, and promote their teaching efficiency.

In brief, although allowing students to use smartphones during class may bring distraction or cause disciplinary problems, the benefits — enhancing the teaching and learning efficiency — outweigh the drawbacks. Therefore, it is time to change the negative image of smartphones that has always been there. Teach students how to use smartphones on campus and make them a good helper for students on their way to becoming smart scholars.

Judge's comment

You raise some really great points throughout your essay, and I enjoyed reading it very much! However, there are two things that I would like to mention; word choice and organization. Try to change your 'I' statements into passive statements, and they suddenly become very formal. Also, perhaps you could take your body paragraphs and rearrange them at random to see how they read and flow next time. You would be surprised and how changing the order of your content can completely change the essay. All in all, it was an incredibly well-written essay, and you did a wonderful job!

Junior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: Should smartphones be allowed in school?

Wong Ling Yan
Danielle
Holy Family
Canossian College

Phones in School - To Ban or Not To Ban?

With the accelerated development of technology, we now incorporate the use of smartphones in our daily lives, whether it is work, education or entertainment. The question comes up: Should smartphones be allowed in schools? I strongly think that smartphones should be allowed in schools.

To start with, as an increasing number of secondary or even primary school students own smartphones nowadays, educators can make use of this advantage instead of shutting it away. Some say that smartphones may distract students in class. However, smartphones are only tools, and we should be the ones controlling them, not the other way around. Therefore, with proper guidance on using smartphones, it will not only keep students focused in class but also boost the efficiency of learning. By integrating the usage of smartphones into the curriculum, such as creating online quizzes, reading passages from the Internet, and watching educational videos, students will undoubtedly be more attracted to new knowledge and learn with motivation.

In addition, students are able to obtain information instantly by utilizing their smartphones when they do not understand their teachers' lectures. This is especially useful as some students may feel discouraged about asking their teachers for clarification on certain topics in class. With just a tap on the screen, students can immediately look up materials on the Internet that are related to their courses. Multimedia, such as text, audio, animation and video, can irrefutably increase learners' sense of understanding. Not only will they be provided with clear explanations, but they may also acquire additional knowledge from the topic which will broaden their horizons.

Furthermore, smartphones might come in handy when students are taking notes. It is inevitably difficult for students to jot down notes while simultaneously listening to what their teacher is saying. They may even write down the wrong information in such a rush. In this scenario, smartphones can facilitate learners. They can use their phones to take pictures of the notes in class, type them into a document, or even record the lectures if teachers permit. In such a manner, students can unquestionably concentrate on teachings in class, and not being able to take notes will not be a worry anymore. Students may simply look back on their digital notes after class for reference, which are accurate and comprehensible.

To conclude, smartphones are advantageous tools that can unequivocally help students learn with efficiency and provide accurate information for their reference. As technology advances, new learning methods shall also be introduced in order to promote effective learning. Hence, it is certain that smartphones should be allowed in school.

Judge's comment

Overall, this is a solid essay, and I really enjoyed reading it! It's very consistent, and it shows a strong foundation. Your first point is by far the strongest one you make; usually, the strongest points should go at the end. Sometimes, all it takes is some rearranging and rereading to see which points are stronger, and which points need to be reworked! However, it was an awesome essay, and you should be proud of what you wrote!

Junior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: Should smartphones be allowed in school?

Recently, there have been discussions about whether smartphones should be allowed in school. In my opinion, smartphones should be allowed in school given that there are proper rules regulating their uses during lessons. Many people believe that bringing smartphones to school may cause distractions to students. However, a recent research from the University of Nottingham leads more and more people to believe that mobile phones can in fact be a "powerful learning tool", serving as a mobile computer in class.

If properly managed, smartphones can be used as tools to help children learn in the classroom. Teachers can take advantage of smartphones by providing students with resources relevant to the topic that they are learning. This can include videos, news stories, online discussion groups and more. For example, short videos have been proved to be more effective in capturing students' attention and developing their understanding of the material. Thus, allowing smartphones to be used during lessons can increase students' interest in learning and is beneficial to the students.

In addition, allowing students to access these resources in class can help encourage participation and discussions. Smartphones can give students access to more information, enabling them to research more about a topic while having class discussions. This is especially applicable for current events that have not yet been covered in school textbooks. Hence, the use of smartphones can also make lessons more engaging to students.

Furthermore, most phones now have calendar options on them. This is an easy way for students to keep track of their assignments and upcoming tests. Since rarely do teenagers leave their phones behind, it would be easier for them to manage their work digitally, than trying to keep track on a piece of paper that could easily get lost or damaged.

For safety reasons, it should be allowed to use smartphones in school if there is any emergency, parents can easily inform their children and vice versa. It also helps after school time if the children have any problem when they are travelling to school or returning home, they can inform their parents immediately. Other than this, in case of adverse weather conditions such as typhoons which cause the school to be closed, it would cause far less hassle for the school, students and parents if the students could contact their parents themselves. Compared to students standing in line at a school phone or the secretarial staff waiting to make calls, allowing students to bring their own smartphones is clearly much faster and more convenient. Therefore, smartphones serve as an efficient way for communication when emergencies occur.

In conclusion, we are living in the twenty-first century, electronics are moving their way into our lives and there's nothing we can do to stop the trend. Applying smartphones to learning added more flexibility and engagement in the learning process. It thoroughly facilitated the way teachers, parents, and students communicate. Therefore, using technology in school is not only inevitable but also realistic and beneficial to all the stakeholders. I believe that smartphones should be allowed in school, particularly for educational and safety reasons.

Judge's comment

This is a great essay! Your overall sentence structure is good, but you could have used some different language. Synonyms are your friend! You thought of some really great real-life ideas as well. Calendar options is in fact very convenient, but as a stand-alone point, it just falls a bit short. Think bigger next time! Perhaps how information can be organized and stored would be a better option, with the digital calendar as a supporting point. All in all, great job, and keep up the amazing work!

Junior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: Should smartphones be allowed in school?

Fan Ka Chung
Samuel
PLK Celine Ho
Yam Tong College

'Boring' and 'difficult' are two common words which Hong Kong students often use nowadays to comment on their lessons. Recently, there has been a heated debate on whether smartphones should be allowed in school. While some schools in Hong Kong suggested using smartphones in order to arouse students' interest in class, others argue that this practice may lead to a breakdown of discipline in the classroom. From my point of view, it's about time that schools embraced the adoption of smartphones in school.

In the aspect of education, smartphones can be useful for students to facilitate their learning. Firstly, smartphones are portable, which are convenient for students to bring to school. With their smartphones, students are able to take notes at their fingertips. Besides, these handheld devices can also provide students with easy access to extra information by letting them research more about a topic while having class discussions. This is especially true for current events which have not been covered in textbooks yet. More importantly, thanks to the educational software, teachers have more opportunities to interact with students through smartphones and parents are able to check their progress too. Undeniably, the use of smartphones is critical for schools which want to make a significant breakthrough in the education system.

Besides the benefits in education, the use of smartphones helps prevent deforestation. Generally, papers are used to provide worksheets and different paper assignments to students. Recent research showed that about forty percent of papers were saved due to a surge in the use of smartphones in schools. In fact, there has been increased availability of educational applications. According to the research conducted by New America, as of June 2019, there were over 80,000 educational applications available in the App store. As a result, schools can replace printed worksheets and notes by using soft copies and e-books. More importantly, schools should also educate students about how to use their smartphones appropriately. Should schools introduce the allowance of smartphones, the use of paper will be cut down.

Some hold the belief that smartphones may contribute to class distraction and inattention. To prevent it, schools can just simply establish a number of restriction policies on smartphones. For instance, students can only use smartphones with teachers' permission for educational purposes during class. Besides, schools can also propose an incentive scheme for the appropriate usage of smartphones. A total ban on smartphones, which may lead to an adverse effect, is definitely not a wise choice.

Unlike the old days, not only are more topics and issues being introduced and taught, which are not covered by textbooks, but the information is also not enough to supplement the needs of learners in the 21st century.

Judge's comment

You make some really great points here! You clearly thought a lot about this topic before writing your essay. For next time, try to write out your main points with all of your support before writing your first draft to see how everything is connected. This will help you with your organization and overall content quality. However, it was an awesome essay nonetheless; keep up the great work!

Lam Sze Yi Livia
Pope Paul VI
College

Junior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: Should smartphones be allowed in school?

There have been a lot of discussions lately concerning whether smartphones should be allowed in school. Due to the undesirable effects which smartphones may bring, some people argue that smartphones should be banned in school. However, as a student, I hold a strong belief that all schools should give a green light to using them because of the following three reasons.

First and foremost, with the wide array of learning resources from smartphones, we can explore the world of knowledge more widely and effectively. There are various types of apps and websites available on smartphones, and they allow us to access so much information within just a few seconds. Furthermore, the information and knowledge from printed books may become outdated and not align with the current curriculum as the world keeps on changing every second. Thanks to the efficiency of smartphones nowadays, we can get the latest information in the shortest period possible. Hence, smartphones should be allowed in school so that students can learn productively and extensively.

Moreover, the use of smartphones in class can also enhance students' interests in learning knowledge and the joy of living life with curiosity. Many apps on smartphones have been created for educational purposes. Those apps usually help students acquire knowledge in the form of funny games, with which students can learn through fun. If you were a student, you would also love to learn in such a harmonious way instead of reading boring words in dull books, wouldn't you? Besides, studies have demonstrated that learning is not a one-off event. It requires repetition and dedication. If the process of learning is fun, students will stay curious and keep coming back for more. Due to these reasons, we can see that the use of smartphones in class can motivate students to keep studying, which will be the critical key to lifelong learning.

Last but not least, smartphones are eco-friendlier substitutes to many wasteful learning materials in school. Surprisingly, schools are throwing loads of waste away, and most of the waste from schools usually comes from paper. With the large storage of data on smartphones, we can save many e-books within just a single smartphone. By replacing e-books with traditional printed books, we can definitely lower the total amount of waste produced. What's more, smartphones are durable so they are less likely to end up in landfills. Most electronic components inside smartphones are recyclable, too. Therefore, schools can go green by using smartphones in school to reduce the production of possible waste.

Some may claim that smartphones should not be allowed in school because they can lead to cyberbullying, cheating, or lack of concentration in class. Admittedly, the use of smartphones may cause the above. However, as every coin has two sides, the key to reducing these unwanted drawbacks is to educate students on how to use smartphones properly. Schools should draw some rules to regulate the use of smartphones. For instance, only allow students to use smartphones under the supervision of their teachers. In addition, teachers should also teach students what they should not do when using smartphones, such as not to bully others and spread rumors. After that, students can surely make good use of smartphones to learn and grow by themselves.

Due to the reasons mentioned above, I believe that smartphones can do more good than harm in a student's life. Therefore, I strongly suggest that smartphones should be allowed in school. It is hoped that all schools can give it a go and students can gain a better education with all the advantages smartphones can bring.



Judge's comment

This was a really great read, and it was also very informational! However, you should always have a title! Even something as simple as "Should Smartphones be allowed in Schools?" would be great. Your organization is strong, and you included a space for talking about the counterpoints. Try to also rephrase your 'I' statements to remove the pronouns; it would make it more formal. Other than that, this was a wonderful essay, and you did a fantastic job!

Junior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: Should smartphones be allowed in school?

Mak Wing Tung Gloria

St. Paul's Coeducational College

Imagine if the government issued a ban on all smartphones right now, how would you feel? You may think this would cause a huge nuisance to your life, severely affect your working productivity, or even make your relationship with others go downhill. Indeed, with our rapidly advancing technology, it is undeniable that smartphones play an integral role in our lives. On that account, I strongly concur that students should possess the right to use smartphones in schools.

Firstly, smartphones allow students to do their own research. Equipped with easy access to the Internet, students can search for relevant information at any time to supplement their knowledge and develop their curiosity on certain topics. For example, watching applicable YouTube videos engages students in the lesson more, especially those who are visual and auditory learners.

Secondly, teachers could utilize various learning apps to enhance learning productivity, including employing video tutorials, useful websites and online games, such as the increasingly popular 'Kahoot' and 'Quizizz', which you may have heard of. Not only does this prompt students to learn in an enjoyable atmosphere, but it also involves students in competition with their classmates, shaping them into sedulous people.

Thirdly, different smartphone apps could aid students in improving their time management and organizational skills, such as calendar and planner apps. For instance, 'Google Classroom', an app widely used by schools due to the pandemic, helps students organize their assignments and reminds them of upcoming due dates. As a result, students will become more active in their studies if they make use of smartphones appropriately.

Furthermore, using smartphones can increase the sense of safety. In case of a crisis, such as medical emergencies, kidnappings, or fires at school, students can contact their parents swiftly, improving the situation considerably since contacting parents mediated by the school often takes time. There are also instances when parents need to get ahold of their child for some important reason or to check up on them on why they are running late.

In addition, the application of smartphones in schools is good for the environment. As you can imagine, relying on smartphones as the main source of learning materials will significantly reduce the amount of paper waste generated by worksheets, assignments and school notices. In particular, sixteen schools in the Clarkstown Central School District in New York have already gone paperless, saving millions of sheets of paper annually. Henceforth, this practice encourages ecofriendly alternatives, making it worthwhile to pursue.

However, it would be inequitable to leave out all the disadvantages of using smartphones in schools. The most prominent concern is students will misuse their smartphones in class. Students may be distracted by the extensive range of games, social media and texting apps on their phones, attributing to their decreased concentration in class. They may even become addicted to these online platforms, diminishing their learning potential. Some students may also partake in or fall victim to cyberbullying. However, this problem can be solved effectively if teachers implement a smartphone policy. For example, students who use phones appropriately can earn points or extra credit, utilizing positive reinforcement, while those who break the rules will receive suitable punishments, producing a deterrent effect.

By and large, allowing smartphones in schools offers many benefits to students and teachers alike, while the disadvantages of this practice can be countered by efficacious supervision of teachers. As the famous American philosopher, John Dewey, once said, 'If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow.' Thus, if we can apply the technology of smartphones aptly, we will surely come a long way in perfecting education.



Judge's comment

This was a very informative and thought-out essay! You provided many different points, which can be a good thing or a bad thing depending on how you look at it. Usually, a strong essay will have three really solid points will detail and support for each of them. If you have six points, it can sometimes feel like you aren't focusing enough on any given thing. Regardless, the points you made were very nice and it clearly shows that you thought a lot about this topic. Hone in on those strong points, and you have a fantastic piece of writing here!

Junior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: Should smartphones be allowed in school?

Liu Yan Kiu Tianna St. Paul's Convent School (Secondary Section)

The creation of the smartphone has undeniably altered the course of human life, not falling behind in the world of education. In this age, it is common practice for schools to ban the use of smartphones, but does banning mobile phones actually do any good? While some might argue that phones cause distractions, promote cheating and plagiarism, the pros of having a cell phone in hand easily outshine its cons.

First, the usage of electronic devices facilitates better learning. A smartphone in hand provides immediate, quick access to the Internet, enabling students to easily gain access to all sorts of information online. The open door to the Internet also entitles students to a unique learning opportunity - independence. The ability to learn without assistance lets students explore solutions themselves, rather than solely relying on their educators for answers. Moreover, educational applications that foster interactive learning becomes effortlessly attainable. Finally, mobile devices help students learn comfortably and efficiently, various types of learners such as auditory or visual learners can utilize diverse learning modes in their academic life at school.

Secondly, flexibility in learning is enhanced with the help of cell phones. Not only is a mobile phone convenient for organization and communication, it is also environmentally friendly and helps students save money. Thousands of files, notes and research papers along with rich digital resources can all be accumulated in a single smartphone. Pupils can make good use of electronic schedules, organization applications and e-learning platforms to track their learning and be systematic. Students can communicate with teachers and friends anytime, anywhere. Additionally, pupils can avoid printing out a piece of information, just to end up reading it once in class. The conversion of paper-based materials to electronic format benefits Mother Nature (and our wallets) too.

On a final note, the implementation of the smartphone into daily life is inevitable. It is a popular belief that smartphones in school cause issues, but why is that? Rather than banning something that will undoubtedly appear in work later on in life, just for the sake of avoiding the misuse of it, why not teach teenagers to use it the right way instead? The subject of computer literacy exists exactly for students to get a deeper understanding of current technology, using a smartphone isn't any different. Instead of keeping students from using it, incorporating it in the classroom and instructing pupils on the best way to apply its functions efficiently while guiding them to reduce abuse and addiction will surely be of assistance in the long run. Schools can actually prevent cases of cyber-bullying, plagiarism or even procrastination caused by prolonged screen time too.

In closing, the smartphone has truly transformed the educational experience. Even though whether it is a beneficial learning tool or a nuisance is still a controversial topic, the advantages of being able to use a smartphone in school readily surpass all disadvantages. Smartphones in school prepare students for life ahead, and is favourably practical in enriching learning, what's not to love?

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Judge's comment

This was a really well-organized essay that was a joy to read! You had a really great structure that developed naturally from one point to the next. For next time, perhaps instead of asking so many questions, answer them! This would provide the reader with more supporting evidence for your argument rather than being left wondering what the answer is. All in all, though, you wrote a fantastic essay! Keep up the great work!!

Wu Yuxuan Tin Ka Ping Secondary School

Junior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: Should smartphones be allowed in school?

Technology has developed and advanced in recent years. There is no denying that smartphones have become part and parcel of everyone's daily life. According to a new nationally representative survey presented by Common Sense Media, 84 percent of teenagers now have their own phones in the United States. Recently, whether smartphones should be allowed in school has become a debatable and controversial issue. While some claim that it is beneficial for students to bring their smartphones to school, it is my conviction that it would be detrimental to students. In the following, I am going to put forward three arguments to explain why using smartphones in school should not be permitted.

To begin with, using smartphones in school would cause distractions and interruptions. Lately, a research conducted by the University of Oxford shows that students check their phones in the classroom on average more than 11 times a day. Just imagine that, if the majority of students are using their smartphones to check social media and text some irrelevant messages to their friends during the lessons, what would be the outcome? Apparently, it leads to disruptions in class and teachers may have to keep reminding students to turn off their devices constantly. There is no doubt that the efficiency of teaching and learning will decrease. With that being the case, smartphones should be prohibited in school as it will adversely affect students' academic performance.

In addition, the use of smartphones would reduce the amount of face-to-face interactions among students. As young students tend to have less self-control, they may be glued to their phones all day. It will become more difficult for them to connect with other students and have social activities, resulting in fewer opportunities to create precious memories with their schoolmates. Students' social skills, such as language expression ability and the ability of reading facial expressions, will undeniably deteriorate or even be lost. This puts students' future in jeopardy. A MIT professor, Sherry Turkle, has published a book called 'Reclaiming Conversation'. In the book, she stated that we may lose our ability to have deeper, more spontaneous conversations with others if we rely on smartphones. In this case, I strongly believe that smartphones should be banned in school as it will affect students' social communications.

On top of that, allowing students to use mobile phones in school would lead to an increase in cyberbullying. A survey done by the Telecom firm, Openet, found that approximately 42 percent of heavy cellphone users (those who send more than 60 texts on a typical school day) have engaged in cyberbullying. Since students have more time to access social media in school when they have their mobile phones with them, it provides more possibilities for them to give impulsive responses to their peers' messages. It is common knowledge that cyberbullying will give rise to depression and sorrow, which severely affects students' mental health. As a result, it is a must to ban mobile phones in school.

In conclusion, it is my firm belief that mobile phones should not be allowed in school as there are many drawbacks. Not only will distractions and interruptions be caused, but the amount of social interactions will also be reduced and the percentage of cyberbullying will increase as well. Although smartphones provide easy access to information, schools can provide other means, such as iPads and computers, for students to learn better. It is not necessary for students to use their smartphones in school. It is time for schools to consider the issue.



This is a strong essay with a rock-solid foundation! You hit all the key points and covered them very well. For next time, perhaps you could review all of your adjective modifiers to make sure that there is no repetition. A lot of your "X and Y noun" phrases use adjectives that are very close in meaning. Just remember, being concise is key, and sometimes simple is better! Other than that, you did a wonderful job! Keep up the great work!

Award List

Senior Section

Senior	School (In alphabetical order)	Student Name
Winner	St. Paul's Co-educational College	Chung Hiu Ching Daphne
1st runner-up	Ling Liang Church E Wun Secondary School	Pearson Matthew Nathaphak Robert
2nd runner-up	Shatin Pui Ying College	Tsang Sze Kit
3rd runner-up	St. Paul's Convent School (Secondary Section)	Rin Kimura
4th runner-up	PHC Wing Kwong College	Sham Lai Man
10 Outstanding	Diocesan Girls' School	Chung Nicole Mong Joo
10 Outstanding	Helen Liang Memorial Secondary School (Shatin)	Tang Chun Ting
10 Outstanding	Shatin Pui Ying College	Leung Sum Yee
10 Outstanding	St. Antonius Girls' College	Chan Tsz Man
10 Outstanding	CCC Chuen Yuen College	Fu Wong Yu
10 Outstanding	STFA Lee Shau Kee College	Cheung Hiu Wai
10 Outstanding	Yuet Wah College	Lai Chi Him
10 Outstanding	HKSYC & IA Wong Tai Shan Memorial College	Law Chung Him
10 Outstanding	HKSYC & IA Wong Tai Shan Memorial College	Tian Hao
10 Outstanding	HKSYC & IA Wong Tai Shan Memorial College	Yau Chak Ho
Senior	Award	School
Senior	The Most Enthusiastic School Award	Ning Po College
Senior	The Most Creative Cover Award	Christian Alliance S.C. Chan Memorial College

The Most Creative Cover Award

Senior Section





Choi Pak Him
Christian Alliance
S.C. Chan
Memorial College





























Senior Section – Winner Topic: If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about and why?



Chung Hiu Ching Daphne

St. Paul's Coeducational College

Living in the Digital Age, our lives unavoidably revolve around the concept of cyberculture, within which we are most familiar with social media. Although all of us have convenient access to such platforms and can easily express ourselves anytime and anywhere, it is undeniable that influencers are "the royalty of the social media empire". Being those who attract masses of followers by sharing engaging content, not only do influencers genuinely act and advertise in the name of sponsors but most importantly also demonstrate their expertise and passion in different fields, not limited to advocacy for global topics. Keeping this in mind, if I became an influencer, I would post about mental health awareness.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic's severity and strict restrictions, we've witnessed the recent uptick in mental health concerns, especially among the youthful population. The forced halt of many social gatherings and the increasing stress from work or school has taken a significant toll on young adults' mental health, exemplified by the rising numbers in statistics regarding poor well-being, such as increasing depression and anxiety disorders. However, the pandemic isn't the only reason for our community's toxic aura, as long-embedded traditional values also contribute to the issue. In Hong Kong, most of the public tend to misunderstand "mental health awareness" as "psychological illnesses", giving the term "mental health" a negative connotation and viewing it as a strong taboo subject. Therefore, to offer people support during difficult times of psychological distress and to advocate for a more open-minded community, I would use my platform as an influencer to promote such content.

In my opinion, the key to being a successful influencer is clear — striking balance between sharing inspirational, engaging content and grasping business collaborations. Although the advocacy for good mental health should be emphasized, the pivotal role of business collaborations for financial support cannot be neglected. I'm certain that the right balance can be attained, by establishing genuine business relationships with reputable partners and of course, acknowledging the wants and needs of my target audience — the youth.

On Instagram, I would share regular updates on specific mental health concerns and stress-relief activities at 2-day intervals. Before updating on social media, I would do extensive research on particular mental health subjects, like the recent growth of depression and the ways to determine whether you require professional help. After I've summarized the key information researched, I would make use of online designing tools to create eye-catching layouts and finally update my Instagram page with attached links to contacts of experts or emergency hotlines to cater for the needs of those in desperation. I hope that these updates would help netizens gain a deeper understanding of psychological struggles and provide the needy with easier access to professional assistance during critical times. Aiming to achieve the advocacy-business balance mentioned previously, I would also eagerly collaborate with local small businesses in Hong Kong which offer stress-relief activities, like art studios for painting sessions, unique and tranquil cafés for relaxation, and yoga centres for exercising. In exchange for the engaging advertising of local businesses which would attract more consumers, I would also attain discount codes for my followers. Therefore, a "win-win situation" for me, the public and the business partners would be achieved, as both purposes of sharing stressrelief activities to the public and business promotion can be accomplished.

Besides Instagram, I would also create mental health-related content on YouTube, uploading unique video clips that the public would enjoy viewing. Hopping on the recent bandwagon of conducting interactive street surveys, I would videotape interviewees' responses to simple questions related to their personal mental health, such as "where do you think your stress comes from" and "how do you relieve stress or even their thoughts on most misunderstood myths like how "all mentally unwell people are very violent". These engaging surveys would allow me and viewers to better understand the general mental state of Hongkongers, and its nature of being informal and casual also demonstrates the creative breaking of traditional rigid boundaries of questionnaires. Other than surveys, I would also actively collaborate with other influencers with a common passion for content creation in vlogs. Unlike the usual vlogs showing enviable lifestyles, my vlogs would be the hybrid of discussing mental health experiences and participating in entertaining games or challenges. After conversing about our experiences with mental health like past struggles or the process of how things worked out, we would engage in the latest fun challenges or play amusing games to ease the previous rather tense atmosphere, and most importantly to appeal to audiences and help them relieve stress by entertainment. Therefore, by shooting interesting videos on YouTube, the goals of deepening "mental health understanding" and bringing amusement to viewers for stress-relief can surely be achieved.

Senior Section – Winner

Topic: If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about and why?



Chung Hiu Ching Daphne

St. Paul's Coeducational College

Exemplified by the diversity of mental health content mentioned above, not only will online advocacy demonstrate immediate effects of helping the youth relieve stress and allowing them to seek professional help when necessary, but on a larger scale, also reducing the social stigma of mental health discussion in the long-run.

In conclusion, if I became a social media influencer, I would make efforts to promote mental health awareness, aiming at witnessing the healthier and more positive well-being of Hongkongers.



Judge's comment

Your essay was clearly well-researched and written in a way that distinctly expresses your thoughts and ideas. It is a great example of clear and concise writing. Congratulations on your excellent piece.

Senior Section – 1st runner-up Topic: If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about and why?

Pearson Matthew Nathaphak Robert Ling Liang Church E Wun Secondary School

Becoming a social media influencer is a dream for many people across the globe. Some would seize the opportunity to post about their materialistic lifestyle, whereas others would take this chance to raise awareness concerning crucial matters, like poverty and slavery. If I were to become a social media influencer, chances are, there'll be a list of things I would post.

Following the recent pandemic, posts on fitness and staying healthy would be a no-brainer for me. As gyms and sport centres close due to strict social-distancing laws imposed by the government, most visitors of these facilities would be left at home without fitness equipment. Although dedicated fitness enthusiasts would still find a way to stay fit, the truth is, most of us aren't like them. Staying fit during a time like now is vital in maintaining a strong immune system to defend ourselves against illnesses and diseases, thus, as a sports enthusiast, I would take this chance to post about home-workout videos or HIIT programs. Not only would this inform the netizens of social media of different ways to stay active and healthy, doing so could also motivate those that are unfit to start taking up fitness, as seeing me showcase of my honed and muscular physique may just be the motivation they need to start their fitness journey.

Moving on, posts regarding simple and healthy recipes or instructional cooking videos would be another bullet point on my catalogue of topics I would post. As a habitual user of social media myself, oftentimes I will see posts about one's cooking or restaurants they've been to. Once more, due to the pandemic taking over the world and forcing many restaurants to close temporarily, people that rely a lot on restaurants for their daily dining may find themselves standing at home staring at their kitchen fridge mindlessly, struggling to find out what they should eat and what not to. Eating the right food is of the essence when it comes to maintaining a healthy diet. Hence, I would use my title of an influencer to share to the world about easy and nutritional recipes and meals, apart from being a handy source of recipes for those who don't have much culinary experience, it would also be a perfect opportunity for me to interact with famous chefs and share their personal favourites when it comes to nourishing dishes.

The next issue I would shine light onto would be related to financial matters. During the COVID-19 lockdown, lots of companies and businesses had no choice but to cut down on salary expenses or even lay off employees massively so as to combat the sudden drop in revenue. In return, many people of the working population, most of which are parents with children, were left unemployed or financially crippled with substantially low incomes that can barely make ends meet for the whole family. As a social media influencer, I would definitely shine the spotlight onto the gravity of the mass laying off of workers and its impact on the many families affected. It is unequivocal that many of us have been affected by the pandemic in one way or another, but these families are undoubtedly the ones that are going through possibly the roughest times in their lives, as with little to no income, something taken for granted in the past, such as putting food on the table or even providing for their children, will prove to be a difficult task for them. A post eyeing this issue and calling for action would certainly not only emphasise the condition of these monetarily hamstrung households, but it would also encourage donations to charities that directly aid these families by providing pecuniary assistance.

Returning to the original topic, were I a social media influencer, I would most certainly create fitness and culinary themed posts. This would likely encourage my followers to live a healthier and more active lifestyle. Moreover, posts on the subject of financial matters will also unquestionably be made since the citizens most affected by such issues are the ones that are desperately in need of help and economical support.

Social media influencers are dominant players when it comes to the game of controlling society and its people, regardless of the content posted by them, imitators are expected to emerge from the crowd, if i were the harnesser of such influencing power, then my first order of business would be to benefit this society as a whole.

Judge's comment

Your essay is structured and presented well. You have a very engaging writing style which allows you to communicate your ideas with clarity and sophistication. Excellent work!

Senior Section – 2nd runner-up Topic: If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about and why?



Tsang Sze Kit
Shatin Pui Ying
College

Pandemic-inspired Posts

In recent decades, due to the dominance of social media, numerous social media influencers have found fame on various online platforms, such as YouTube, Tik-Tok, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. They go viral on the Internet since they can produce content in unique and interesting styles, enticing millions of views and followers. A television show that invited children to describe their ideal future career found out that, surprisingly, much of this generation would love to be online celebrities since they perceive it to be relaxing, lucrative and intriguing. Not only can they enjoy trendy and luxurious products from business partners, but a sizable income and a large fan base can also be generated simply by posting some videos and pictures to share their lives with others. Yet, the work of a social media influencer is not as easy and superficial as it seems. As the popularity of Internet celebrities is increasing exponentially, their words and deeds play a vital role in shaping the thoughts of the audience, especially those of younger generations. In light of this, if I were a social media influencer, I would like to spread meaningful messages to the public to help build a society with a positive atmosphere.

Being a key opinion leader, I would actively participate in voluntary service and assist underprivileged students, thereby raising public awareness about poverty and mobilizing more help from society. Although Hong Kong is a metropolis, there are still many people living under the poverty line. Owing to inadequate learning resources, students from grassroots families usually have poorer academic results compared to those from advantaged groups. In particular, under the COVID-19 pandemic, when most lessons are conducted online, underprivileged students have no choice but to stay in their crowded and unhygienic subdivided flats, using their outdated smartphones to attend online lessons and finish their homework. Hardly can they stay focused on their studies in such an undesirable environment. In addition, the lack of academic assistance from teachers and tutors limits the academic support these students can get. By contrast, students from affluent families can hire private tutors to consolidate their studies, as well as having multiple electronic gadgets such as iPads and laptops for their online study. To alleviate cross-generation poverty, people must reach out to them, especially social media influencers who are powerful in spreading information and mobilizing their fans.

If I were one of them, I would lend a helping hand to the underprivileged by increasing social awareness through a video interviewing these students about their difficulties and hence collecting more support from the community. Since helping others is the foundation of happiness, I am very willing to utilize my influence to help more people.

Apart from reaching out, I would also like to deliver updated health information to the public since I aspire to be a medical professional. Many Hongkongers, especially office workers and video game players, are usually not as healthy as they could be due to their sedentary lifestyles. Because of a lack of available space for exercise, increased occupational sedentary behaviors such as office work, and the growing prevalence of television and video devices, more and more people develop unhealthy lifestyles, which pose a risk to their health. Due to the lack of physical movement, people have a higher chance to suffer from chronic diseases, such as diabetes, coronary heart disease, and high blood pressure. Therefore, it is a matter of urgent concern to remind people how to lead a healthy lifestyle. In my videos and posts, I can share some tips on how to achieve a healthier daily routine. For example, I can record my healthy diet for the reference of my audience and show them how to cultivate a habit of doing sports every day. I will also upload exerciserelated videos to explain the importance of regular exercise, from improving hormonal levels to help us feel relaxed, to losing weight to prevent us from contracting heart-related diseases, and it is believed that Hong Kongers' health level will be improved. I believe this can give people much needed information, guiding them to establish a healthy habit of eating wholesome meals and exercising, hence contributing to the enhancement of public health.

Being famous means that you have to be responsible for every decision you execute. The underprivileged are a part of our city which cannot be neglected, and it is not too late for me to spread the importance of spreading care and love to every corner of our city, including to those who are always marginalized. Moreover, as a sports-lover and health-care provider, I always feel it is my responsibility to change our city's lifestyle at this crucial moment. It is vital for me to be a positive role model for the public so my fans and audience can follow in my footsteps. If I became famous on social media one day, I hope that I can use my influence to make Hong Kong a better place.

Judge's comment

This is a superb essay that insightfully considers the title question. Your confidence with the topic gives you an authoritative but engaging tone. Fantastic work!

Senior Section – 3rd runner-up Topic: If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about and why?



Rin Kimura
St. Paul's Convent
School
(Secondary Section)

The Journey of Self-Improvement as an Influencer

As technology progresses, a whole new plethora of jobs are becoming introduced into our quickly developing world. One of these is influencers. In terms of marketing, an influencer is someone with a platform who has the ability to influence potential buyers of a product or service by promoting the items on social media. To build said platform, these influencers attract fans who engage with them as they post about their seemingly perfect daily lives. Loyal followers break the economic assumption that buyers aim to maximise benefits as they simply just follow the leader, ergo the influencer.

Usually, influencers use their platform to post about themselves, their interests and people around them. However, recently on social media, the terms "activist" and "influencer" have become superficially synonymous. Many influencers choose to use their platform to post about current events and raise awareness about them. On the surface, this rising trend is good. People are becoming increasingly aware of global events and are coming together to try and help. Yet, many still wonder whether their intentions are pure: Are they doing this to appear good in front of fans and gain a larger audience? Or do they simply care? This takes us to performative activism.

Performative activism is activism done to increase one's social capital rather than because of their devotion to a cause. Numerous influencers are guilty of this. They would post about a cause without any information and how others can help and then almost immediately, go back to their scheduled posts about their own personal lives as though the cause they promoted didn't matter anymore. Some would argue that awareness is awareness and as long as they are spreading the word, their intentions do not necessarily have to be entirely pure. However, the problem with performative activism lies with the fact that they are using the hurt of many victims to appear sympathetic in order to gain a larger platform. They are profiting off the loss of others.

Being an influencer is surely no easy task. The difficulty of differentiating between your personal life and your online life can take a toll on you as the lines become increasingly blurred. If I were a social media influencer, I would tend to set boundaries for myself and only share whatever I am comfortable with. Furthermore, my platform would be built for spreading positive emotions. Not every profession grants you access to millions of people who are just waiting to hear what you have to say, so if I were given that honour, I would be using it however I can to improve the world.

I would attempt to break the trend of performative activism. These "activists" tend to share information that may not always be accurate or possibly even offend the marginalised group of people that they are outwardly claiming to support. For example, the news articles that they quote may be implicitly biased or simply untrue. Being an influencer entails a lot of speaking. Speaking to your fans, marketing directors or agents. Yet, an important part of the job is also listening. By listening to your audience, you will become more well-informed on the social issues you decide to spread awareness of. If I were an influencer, this would allow me to share information more effectively and have a larger positive impact on the cause I am promoting. The frequent engagements and interactions with fans would also allow me to build a more personal connection with them, allowing me to grow my platform at the same time and further enabling me to reach an increasingly wider audience and thus, spreading awareness to a larger number of people.

Though fans like to put these influencers on a pedestal and glorify their perfect on-screen lives, at the end of the day they are all human and will make mistakes like the rest of us. I believe that being an influencer, I would recognise my mistakes if called out on them and work on self-improvement. The 'influencer' career as of right now, is relatively new and there is no set rule as to what an influencer should and should not post about. I do believe though, that when given a platform, especially one of that size, we should use it to the best of the world's advantage and help as many people as we can.

Judge's comment

Your piece was very well-written and structured clearly. Your conclusion nicely sums up your key points. All your points are incisive and pertinent to the title question. Good work!

Senior Section – 4th runner-up Topic: If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about and why?



Sham Lai Man
PHC Wing Kwong
College

A dream is fabulous, but it remains a dream if it does not come true. I have a dream which is to be a good influence on people and to deliver information that changes people's thoughts and behaviours for the better. The role of the social media influencer as it is emerging now, can be contrasted with one such as climate activist. Social media influencers are becoming synonymous with selling, for influencing people to buy products that then become an internet phenomenon. I would like to create a different role, one where social media influencers can help people to ensure their actions create a sustainable environment.

With the advent of the internet, it seems easier than ever to spread information and influence people. The information released through the network has a high circulation, breaking the limitations of time and space so that people all over the world can have access. The emerging career of social media influencer means there are a plethora of people who make use of social media to share their lives and become popular on the Internet because of their personal characteristics. Due to the high popularity of social media influencers, many companies cooperate with them to promote their products through soft-sell approaches such as endorsements and product placement. This approach plays down overt commercialization, so audiences are easily tempted to purchase products even when they are unneeded. Social media influencers thereby intensify the prevalence of consumerism. As the demand for products rises, the need to produce also increases, creating more pollutant emissions and the higher consumption of limited resources.

These environmental issues are highly worthy of notice. It is of paramount importance to turn people's attention to environmental issues through social media because it can reach large audiences around the world. Unfortunately, only a few social media influencers turn their own attention towards environmental issues. Ideally, I would be one of those social media influencers and post about the climate crisis on social media.

"I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. I want you to act as if the house is on fire, because it is." said Greta Thunberg, a climate activist who posts her thoughts through social media. Indeed, climate change is the most significant crisis that humanity has ever faced. Changes in the carbon cycle happening due to human activities, such as burning fossil fuels to generate electricity and deforestation for wood and land, are not often mentioned by social media influencers. The homes of countless species are being destroyed. Our food supply chain will be impacted. However, many people are still unaware of the catastrophic effects of climate change and do not act in a way that will help deal with climate change.

If I became a social media influencer, I would tell people the fact that the threats of climate change are looming, that all living things from corals to humans are at risk and that everyone has to act now. Moreover, I would encourage people to participate in activities related to environmental protection, like tree planting days and beach cleaning activities, and practice sustainable living to reduce harm to the environment, for example, getting involved in recycling, reducing the use of plastic and eating less meat.

If I became a social media influencer, I would hope that I could raise public awareness of climate change by exerting my influence and telling them not only the threats, but about people who are willing to live a green life. Advertisers sell hope, but the role of the social media influencer can be so much more than that. My dream as a social media influencer would be to quite literally, help people create a better world.

Judge's comment

You have established a clear position in relation to the question, and developed that position throughout the essay. Your writing has a very logical sequence of ideas. Well done!

Senior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about and why?

Chung Nicole Mong Joo Diocesan Girls' School

What is so captivating about the Kardashians showing off their lavish lifestyle or revealing clothing? What is so noteworthy about countless teens posting videos of dangerous challenges, like dangling off cliffs or reenacting the viral Fire Spray challenge? Are these social media influencers motivated by popularity or purpose? Let's face it, most influencers are motivated by money and fame. Although many start off with the purpose of sharing their expertise, the product of their success is what influences the influencer to monetize their popularity. This is the business model, isn't it? Get enough eyes on your site so other companies can pay you to 'influence' your followers to buy their products. Eventually, influencers become more concerned with generating more views and followers, hence income, that they may do something reprehensible, or post sensationalized content. Are the influencers still able to inspire viewers and achieve their intended purpose through the test of time? I believe that if one aims to truly influence others sustainably, the content has to be meaningful and unique.

If I become a social media influencer, I would post about my journey from someone 'out of shape' to a healthy, athletic teenager. The posts will be centred around developing fitness, even though some viewers may not have an active lifestyle.

According to the World Health Organisation, more than 80% of global adolescents do not meet current recommendations of at least one hour of physical activity per day. [1] Moreover, more than 380 million children and adolescents were obese in 2016. [2] The statistics are alarming. There is a need to encourage society to view regular exercise as a high priority to improve the health of the general public.

This is easier said than done. Being a successful social media influencer demands one's ability to draw a large pool of followers. With an array of interesting content on social media sites, it is important to make one's own stand out from the crowd.

An undeniable criterion is compelling content. Posting videos and photos about my personal fitness journey can paint a raw and 'unfiltered' picture to engage the viewers. By sharing my grueling but rewarding journey as I progressively built my fitness during the pandemic, they, too, can witness my fitness transformation from an uncoordinated bookworm to the Captain of a Division 1 Cross Country Team. More specifically, footage of how I could barely complete a lap on the track three years ago to how I can run 10 km at a competitive pace now shows an embarrassingly unfit version of myself and how that evolved into what I am today. The unglamorous side of myself is shown through the posts, which can captivate the viewers' attention.

In addition to chronicling what I did, I would need to engage the viewers with simple but effective exercises that they could do anywhere, anytime. Squats and planks are basic enough exercises that can motivate viewers to start developing an active lifestyle in their own house, right now. Sharing pictures of my 'Day 1' to 'Day 100' sit-ups form, or my increase in muscle tone on my calves after four months can show what kind of results they may see after a few weeks of commitment. It can help them understand that the path to their fitness transformation does not require expensive memberships, specialised equipment, or 'athletic genes', but their discipline and persistence to commit to a daily regimen that scales up as their fitness level strengthens.

Apart from the engaging content, it is also important to ensure the posts can motivate viewers to start developing a regular exercise habit. The key is to introduce exercise programs that any viewer can complete and scale up as they progress. Creating a low barrier to entry and recognising their success is essential to building their confidence and ensuring that they come back for more. Assuming that some do not have a habit of exercising, posting videos with simple strength exercises, like crunches and easy stretches, would be more manageable for beginners. Stepwise explanations on form can be included. The progressive nature of the content can allow the viewers to develop their fitness in a realistic manner. Making the exercises achievable but slightly challenging can encourage the viewers to continue on with their athletic endeavors.

Relatable content is paramount to establishing a personal connection with viewers. Everyone who has started an exercise program understands how intimidating and physically demanding the first few sessions are. Sharing about how a school fitness test made me have butterflies in my stomach can resonate with a lot of people, even though they are embarrassed to admit it; talking about how my uncoordinated movements resembled that of a newborn giraffe when I first started running can create humour, thus connecting with the viewers; posting about my physical transformation and demonstrations of exercises with words of encouragement can make the viewers feel like they, too, are embarking on their own journey. This makes the content more relatable to viewers.

Senior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about and why?

Chung Nicole Mong Joo Diocesan Girls' School

It is undeniable that social media influencers are result-oriented. They constantly think about ways to increase their popularity — but instead of taking an outlandish route, I can choose a different path by sharing valuable content and having potential to change people's mindsets by taking a lot of 'baby steps' together to show results. As a social media influencer, I endeavor to post inspiring fitness videos and personal stories so every couch potato out there may embrace the thrill and sheer pleasure of bettering themselves. I firmly believe that my content will encourage people to pursue a healthier lifestyle by introducing a fresh perspective of building fitness, starting as a beginner.

'What are you waiting for? Let's embark on our fitness journey now!'

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Judge's comment

The essay is structured and your thoughts and ideas are presented well. Your writing is generally clear and flows. Well done also for referencing the essay!

Senior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about and why?

Tang Chun Ting
Helen Liang
Memorial
Secondary School
(Shatin)

Social media has become an integral part of our everyday life in modern society, and influencers on social media, such as bloggers and YouTubers, contribute to what we think, believe, and do. Furthermore, influencers have the chance to contribute to the education of children, which in turn will help them to gain a better understanding of the world. It is my understanding that some influencers have a positive attitude towards sharing some good advice. Some may share the importance of protecting the environment through a video to campaign and influence the viewers to save the environment. Unfortunately, a few use their popularity to spread harmful messages, such as violence and brutality, on social media. Their inconsiderate act could have some adverse effects on teenagers. My advice is to verify the reliability of the information we see on the Internet.

I believe it is the responsibility of every social media influencer to pass on positive messages to their viewers. Suppose I become an influencer on social media. My post would be sure to make my viewers feel joyful and teach them a new perspective. My focus would be on ensuring that important messages are delivered to the general public, such as the importance of environmental protection. On top of that, I would make a series of videos on how to make our lives better every day. There are some simple things that we can do, like reusing some of the water we use in our shower, or the water from rinsing rice, and we can also recycle our rubbish. I would also conduct a vlog about how to clean the beach at the same time to encourage the general public to take part in this activity. I hope that this type of videos can make more people realise the importance of protecting the environment.

Since I am highly interested in travelling to other countries, I would share some travel experiences and magnificent views in my videos. I saw some videos previously posted by a YouTuber called MingJai14, a traveller who has been to many countries like England, Russia, and America. He loves sharing with his followers so many unique buildings and incredible natural landscapes on his trips. In his video, not only does he provide some entertainment, he also provides some interesting information about the country's culture or history. I believe that he is a role model for aspiring travel bloggers. My pleasure shall be to share interesting experiences and discoveries I have made on every trip I have taken.

Another thing I would share is my experience as a gaming streamer. For example, during this time when Coivd-19 is affecting the world, I hope to make a gaming video to share with my viewers and to make them feel better to get through this challenging time. During my childhood, I idolized a YouTuber named smiling Boris, whose goal is to make his subscribers feel happy and smile, so I chose to become an influencer to do the same for others. My viewers would also be exposed to positive aspects of gaming as I would recommend meaningful games to them.

As a social media influencer, my ambition is to reach as high a level as possible because social media is impacting the world in a very positive way, and influencers are becoming more and more important people in society. As an influencer, my mission would be to instil positive energy in all my followers. To develop my blog and let more information and notions be shared with the general public, I would discuss various topics in my posts. Additionally, I would also insist on the viability of social media platforms to meet my mission and achieve my goals and accomplish the task.

Judge's comment

Your writing was very clear and concise. Remember to read through your work more than once to avoid unnecessary grammar or spelling errors. You made some powerful arguments and your confidence with the material shines through in your writing.

Leung Sum Yee
Shatin Pui Ying
College

Senior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about and why?

Campaigning for Our Planet: Leaving No One Out

Social media influencers have enormous power to affect people's minds. The use of the word "influencer" has increased over ten times in the past 20 years. I was once inspired by an Instagram post of a skinny polar bear starving to death. This post has absolutely turned my life around as it made me feel great sympathy for the polar bears. After that, I became a more environmentally friendly person who takes the initiative to educate myself about environmental issues. If I were an influencer who has the power of changing the world, I would be neither interested in filming plenty of advertisements nor earning money from this title. Looking out for an endorsement deal is not my main motivation for being an influencer. Instead, I would post photos of animals suffering under climate change, making use of this magnificent power to show how wonderful our earth is, and how it has become a nightmare for most wild animals. I want to be the one who wakes others up to the environmental crisis that we are facing.

The most significant reason I have chosen to focus on environmental damage is that we have to take responsibility for future generations. According to an international annual global risk report by the World Economic Forum, humans have reshaped the natural world so drastically that nearly one million species of animals and plants are at risk of extinction. As the extinction of animal species will bring tremendous damage to the food chain, the problem of food shortages will definitely become more serious and may even turn into a widespread famine. In addition, our future generations will not get the chance to see some of the animals which are now becoming extinct, not even in zoos. This means they will be unable to increase their knowledge of these animals by observing and interacting with them authentically, which makes it difficult for them to appreciate the uniqueness and importance of these animal species. As a generation that could do more to protect our environment, we should live and develop our planet more sustainably for our descendants.

Furthermore, humans have a moral obligation to preserve the environment. As our planet has given us plenty of valuable natural resources for developing civilization and satisfying our basic needs, we have to repair the catastrophic damage we have done to the environment. For instance, humans cut down forests, leading to deforestation, because timber and paper are necessities to us. Yet, deforestation destroys the carbon cycle as trees release oxygen and help absorb carbon dioxide by carrying out photosynthesis. As a result, greenhouse gasses will drastically increase due to deforestation and intensify global warming. This brings not only damaging effects to the climate, but also the ecosystem: animals dependent on trees for a living may lose their habitats and food sources. Unable to adapt to new habitats, these animal and plant species are in danger of being lost forever. Since the cause of their suffering is our enjoyment and consumption of the natural resources provided by nature, we have a responsibility to redress the damage we have done. Protecting the environment is no longer an action that anyone can be excluded from. Instead, this is our responsibility as inhabitants of the earth.

Our impact on the environment is so significant and severe that we cannot take the treasures of the environment for granted. As an influencer, I will give myself a challenge that will last for a year. I will capture photos of how natural landscapes and wild animals have been affected by the emergence of climate change. Besides, I will collaborate with some environmental organizations. As I share the photos I have taken on my social media page, there will be a link below the posts to donate to those organizations. I hope my photos will give my followers motivation to save the environment. The amount of money each follower is willing to donate matters less than the determination to save our planet. If everyone who saw these photos had such determination and willingness to contribute, my campaign would undoubtedly have an enormous impact.

Senior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about and why?

Leung Sum Yee Shatin Pui Ying College

The second thing I will do is suggest some easy actions we can do daily to minimize harm to the environment. For instance, I could post a handicraft tutorial teaching my viewers to make reusable straws or design their own shopping bags. The reason why I choose to share these interesting videos is that I want to challenge the stereotypes of environmental protection in people's minds. I believe that many people consider recycling to be troublesome as the process is complicated and takes extra effort. There seems to be too many rules, such as having to rinse the bottles and cans and remove the plastic wrapper on them before throwing them into the recycling bin. In order to create a totally different impression of environmental protection on the public, I will utilize a compelling method to introduce ways to live more environmentally consciously.

At the end of the day, my concern for environmental damage began with an Instagram post I accidentally clicked onto, so I truly believe that my photos posted on my social media will be useful for raising people's awareness of environmental issues. It is time to make a tremendous change to our lifestyles. As actions speak louder than words, we have to cooperate and fight against global issues promptly.



Judge's comment

You have made it very clear how the material you use is related to the specific issues that are the focus of the essay. You use evidence clearly and convincingly to support your ideas.

Senior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about and why? Chan Tsz Man
St. Antonius Girls'
College

The significance of preventing teenage suicides

While some social media influencers are keen on developing content appealing to their followers, I would prefer posting content related to juvenile issues if I were a social media influencer. Teenage suicide, a distressing and alarming social issue in the society, requires our attention. A rash of teenage suicides in recent months have cast a shadow over Hong Kong. It is high time for us to face up to this problem. At puberty, teenagers usually have a strong sense of loss and powerlessness when they encounter countless setbacks. They are exasperated and stressed due to various matters such as unsatisfying interpersonal relationships, low self-esteem and mediocre academic results. To make matters worse, a majority of adolescents are reluctant to express their thoughts and feelings to their parents or even initiates. Finding their suffering unbearable and intolerable, they may turn to suicide. To address the paramount current issue, teenage suicides, I would post some advice on teenage problems and advocate positivism.

Posting some suggestions on social media could give a helping hand to youngsters, especially for those who get lost, when they come across countless obstacles in their daily lives. Being too shy and passive to seek help from others, teenagers may be more vulnerable to suicide since they cannot look for a way out. With the recommendations and guidance published on social media sites or social networking apps, I, acting as an agony aunt, could motivate them to summon their courage to confront the issues. For instance, if they were disappointed and depressed about their isolated parent-child relationships, I would encourage them to communicate with their parents and listen to them patiently by putting themselves into their parents' shoes. More importantly, I would stand by them and show them my empathy. Through giving them alternatives to problem-solving, I could indeed develop them to be a resilient and optimistic person. Once when teenagers realize that there are multiple approaches to solve a problem, committing suicide is never an option for them.

The spread of positive messages on the Net is another effective way to curb teenage suicides. One of the root causes of teenage suicides is that they lose hope and faith in their future. If I were a social media influencer, I would absolutely uphold the right values that are advantageous to teenagers. It is not uncommon that some renowned social media influencers drive teenagers to escape from reality whenever they encounter any issues. In extreme cases, they may lure teens to take drugs in order to alleviate their pain and suffering. Most teenagers, not to mention those who lack independent and critical thinking skills, may easily believe in those social media influencers owing to their clout. If teenagers are pessimistic and irrational, they may probably resort to drug abuse. Being an optimistic and responsible social media influencer is my top priority. I would never lead young people astray and risk their lives for the sake of earning money. Instead, I should exploit my online platform along with my popularity and reputation to promote positive thinking and mindsets. Having positive minds, adolescents can resolve all the difficulties proactively and thus the suicidal thoughts will never be provoked.

To conclude, adolescents are the main pillars of the future society and they are the group that deserve our attention. As a social influencer, I am obliged to stem the tide of teenage suicides and safeguard the future generations. I would not evade the discussion of this current issue and only produce viral content to please my followers, gain likes and positive comments. There is a pressing need to urge all social media influencers to pull together to nourish positive beliefs and nurture generations to come.

Judge's comment

Your essay has been clearly well-researched and you show an impressive grasp of the subject. The material you use is related to the specific issues that are the focus of the essay.

Fu Wong Yu

CCC Chuen Yuen

College

Senior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about and why?

As technology continues to advance, social media has become a part of our lives. Many of the world's population actively use social media. This shows that social media influencers can reach a wide range of people and thus have a large influence on the decisions of many people. These social media influencers maintain popularity by posting regularly and utilizing marketing techniques, anyone can become a social media influencer.

Then what is an influencer on social media? A social media influencer is a user with a large following on the major social networks (mainly YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, a single blog, or most likely some combination of these). There is no specific follower that constitutes a turning point between "popular users" and "social media influencers", but it's worth noting that there are different tiers and that followers of influence are spheres of influence, engagement major factors in degree and cost. From influencers posting WeChat to thousands of followers to the biggest social media influencers of all time posting updates to millions of followers across platforms, influencers come in all shapes and sizes (known as influencer layer). Most influencers start by creating content around a specific interest or topic, such as gaming, lifestyle, makeup, fashion, or travel. By creating consistent and compelling content, influencers can build a fan base, respond to fans' content, and follow their social channels for entertainment and information. Another key element of the social media influencer equation is the value of direct communication and voice. Although associated with authenticity, the method of delivering information and messages through social media influencer campaigns is critical. Influencers deliver messages directly to audiences from voices that those audiences already know, trust, and want to interact with. So what type of posts do I want to post if I become a social media influencer?

I will tell you that I will post positive posts, stories, or videos through social media platforms, for example, YouTube, Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, etc to infect my subscribers who follow me or stumble upon my content. Because as an influential person, I should establish a positive energy personality, so I can impart positive energy to some negative energy people.

Moreover, the daily changes in the pneumonia epidemic caused by the new coronavirus have caught many people by surprise, and are under heavy pressure both physically and mentally. Faced with school closures and insufficient epidemic prevention materials, we all have different negative emotions, including fear, confusion, worry, anger, and anxiety. Negative emotions erupt, and the long-term scourge may be worse than the virus. Therefore, I can make videos of the beauty in my life and share them with others. Sharing interesting things can inspire their enthusiasm for a better life, pass on positive energy, and turn a boring life into an interesting one. Also, if I can be trusted by the people who follow me, they will privately message me about their difficulties and troubles, and then I will reply patiently and give them the right direction. Maybe my replies and suggestions are not very effective for them, but at least I have this sincerity, which can make them feel that I am also very important to them. My followers also have many students who are forced to study at home due to the impact of Covid-19, they are bound to feel bored, so I will post something about science experiments, or stretching exercises, while they relax, can also gain extracurricular knowledge from my interesting experiments. Some people will watch my videos and learn by themselves while watching. They enjoy it and are more vivid than just reading textbooks.

As a social media influencer, positive energy is the most important thing and set a good example, because your actions, words and actions will affect other people, and you often post positive energy, others may be very negative and depressed people, but slowly become cheerful and optimistic because of your video posts. To sum up my views, if I become a social media influencer, I would post positive post to bring them fun and right values!

Judge's comment

You have a very engaging writing style which allows you to communicate your ideas with clarity and poise. Your writing is structured and your ideas have been presented very well.

Cheung Hiu Wai STFA Lee Shau Kee College

Nowadays, everyone regards their mobile phones as the most important thing. Social media is becoming more omnipresent because there are different social media apps available. When you click on those apps, countless social media influencers are creating posts of different nature. Some of them tend to share their daily life with their followers, while some aim at promoting products to the general public. Have you ever thought about becoming one of them when you see those posts?

If I became a social media influencer one day, I would post about environmental issues rather than curating an array of promotional posts because people have always focused on living a materialistic life but not current affairs. For example, they should take notice of the alarming issue of global warming. Since we have been producing a lot of polluting gases, there is a rapid rise in the level of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This seriously affects the life of polar bears because their habitat is being ruined due to the melting of ice. The globe is becoming hotter even in winter so people always turn their air-conditioners on, which will produce a lot more exhaust gases. This problem will become acute if people keep turning a blind eye to the situation. Finally, all the polar bears will sit on the brink of extinction. There are not only environmental but also social impacts to global warming. Therefore, I would post about the issue of global warming, aiming at raising the general public's awareness of the environment.

Apart from that, I would also like to post about the issues of poverty and hunger in some developing countries because there are a lot of children getting insufficient food and nutrients when people in Hong Kong or other countries have big, delicious meals. They will throw away their food if they can't finish it. What a waste! Unfortunately, children in developing countries like Africa do not have enough food because they are poor and are in lack of resources. They are growing but they don't have the food and nutrients they need. On the contrary, social media influencers often pay visits to restaurants, cafes to create some new posts to catch the attention of the general public. We should consider providing support to the needy. We could share news concerning poverty and hunger issues in developing countries in encouraging people to support the children, instead of posting food photos with little to no meaning.

Last but not least, cyberbullying is another issue that I want to post about on social media because many people are bullied but they are afraid of seeking help. They are not willing to tell their parents and teachers and they would hide their emotions. Since it is convenient to use mobile phones nowadays, people can speak online freely and anonymously. For instance, some people are bullied just because they are not pretty or thin enough. Ridiculously, some 'keyboard warriors' harass people online without any reason. This will affect the mental health of the victims. They will become frightened, not confident, and not willing to socialize with others gradually. He or she may intend to commit suicide if the problem gets serious. Therefore, I would post about cyberbullying issues on social media so people would care about their friends and lend a helping hand to them.

Global warming, poverty and hunger, and cyberbullying are the social issues we should be more aware of. We should focus on different kinds of social issues that are happening in our society, instead of where the influencers went today or which famous brand they used. Doubtless, sharing about your daily life is fascinating. However, arctic animals, people who do not have sufficient food, and people who are bullied are the ones who need attention and care.

Judge's comment

You have established a clear position in relation to the question, and developed that position throughout the essay. Your conclusion could benefit from more clarity, but your writing as a whole is clear and concise.

Lai Chi Him
Yuet Wah College

Senior Section – 10 Outstanding Entries Award Topic: If you became a social media influencer, what would you post about and why?

The Mysteries of Street Names in Hong Kong

As technology advances, social media has become increasingly universal and influential over the decades. People create and share information, ideas and thoughts via social networking platforms like Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. If I became a social media influencer who had plenty of subscribers on YouTube, I would create content to introduce street names in Hong Kong.

The contents would be informative, which will mainly be focusing on introducing the history of the streets. I would conduct interviews, making them into videos and post them on YouTube or TikTok, with villagers and history professors from local universities to talk about the meaning, pronunciation and the story behind, letting my subscribers know more about Hong Kong street names in a variety of ways.

Hong Kong's sovereignty from Britain has been transferred back to China for 25 years. The new generations are nonetheless often unacquainted with the history of Hong Kong. Studying the street names creates opportunities for one to gain a better understanding of the city. There are currently over 4000 streets in Hong Kong, most of which contain their allusions or reflections on various eras of social development, making them fascinating to explore.

I would pay visits to some streets and take photos of some remarkable features like buildings with historical value and make trips to the Hong Kong Museum of History to research the history of different streets and roads, as some of which were developed after Hong Kong had become a British colony in the 1840s. The majority of street names at this phase were to commemorate important figures in Britain, respecting as well as displaying the supreme power of the monarch, like the Queen's Road being named in memory of Queen Victoria. In Chinese; however, it was wrongly translated as "Empress Road". This had happened since most of the streets were given English street names before being translated into Chinese.

The distortion of meaning was due to the unfamiliarity of British sovereignty and culture. They did not understand that a woman could be the emperor of a country and thus believed that the Queen was merely the King's wife, ignoring the title of her. The British Hong Kong administration clarified the difference between Empress and Queen in 1890. Despite the flaw, the name of the street is still in use, leaving such a funny mistaken story generation after generation.

Besides video production, I will post old photographs of certain places and their present photos on Instagram and Twitter displaying the changes of those streets. One example is the Narin Road, which was renamed Princess Margaret Road to commemorate Princess Margaret's visit to the place in the 1960s. Since the status of Chinese had risen in the 20th century, more Chinese elites were adopted by the British-Hong Kong government and a few streets were named after them, including Kotewall Road being named after Sir Robert Hormus Kotewall, who was the former Chief Chinese Non-official Member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong. Since then, it was common for streets to be named after the governors and other high-ranking government officials. The Nathan Road and the Stubbs Road, for instance, were named in the memory of the governor of Hong Kong, Sir Matthew Nathan and Sir Reginald Edward Stubbs, correspondingly.

Besides posting photos and interview videos, I would act as a vlogger and podcaster to reveal the fun facts regarding the street names, allowing the contents to be more comprehensive for the target audience. The naming has become more diversified since the Battle of Hong Kong in 1941. Rather than using the officials' names, plants, daily habits, local businesses and even traditional auspicious words were utilized in featuring the culture and community, with Sycamore Street, Sai Yee Street, Hack Po Street and Hung To Road being the most well-known, sequentially. In addition, the names of other cities worldwide were also applied. As an illustration, Shanghai Street was named after the city in China, whereas Oxford Road and Broadway Street were named after places in Britain and America, respectively. Interestingly, some of the street names, which reveal the existence of a lake or a mountain, also reflect the geographical environment, such as Water Street and Hill Road.

Lai Chi Him Yuet Wah College

When it comes to conservation and cultural heritage, the streets that everyone sees and uses daily are often undervalued. Only the names of the streets remain in the history of Hong Kong after most of the old buildings have been demolished or had their original purposes changed. The historical and cultural significance of the street name in the city not only emphasizes the westernization of the city under the influence of British colonialism over the last 200 years but also reveals the fun and diversity of the coexistence of Chinese and British street names. Whether it is a weird street name or an ordinary street name, a commemorative street name or an auspicious street name, they all express the city's individuality, explain its history, and serve as a valuable memory.



Judge's comment

You have established a clear position in relation to the question, and developed that position throughout the essay. Your writing is structured and presented very well. Your piece was very clear and you conveyed your thoughts and ideas well..

Law Chung Him

HKSYC & IA

Wong Tai Shan

Memorial College

With the advancement of technology, the online world has become an inseparable part of human life. The emergence of the Internet has connected people with one another. It has enabled communication around the world without geographical constraints. Apart from this, a new career, a social media influencer, has arisen. Social media influencers share their expert knowledge or show off their enviable way of life with netizens. Netizens can learn from the shared content or view the content to opt for a break from the stress of modern life. If I became a social media influencer, I would post on my travel blog the picturesque scenery and gourmet of different travel destinations. Indeed, there is a practical reason why I would like to be a travel blogger if I were a social media influencer. I would like to earn money to sustain my travel blog, and by running a successful travel blog, I would be able to work towards my dream job — being a photographer for National Geographic. Thus, if I became a social media influencer, I would also use my platform as a means of practice, experience-building, and as a portfolio.

Nowadays, the price of airline tickets is still high. So, for netizens who can't afford traveling physically, they can view my blog on weekends and go on a virtual trip during their holidays, taking a break from the hustle and bustle of our busy life and city. On the top of each of my blog entries, there will be a picture about the place I have been to and would lead them to. The post will also include descriptions of the destinations and my personal feelings about them. If I went to New York, a breathtaking photo of the renowned Statue of Liberty would be put at the top of the blog, followed my itinerary and evaluation of different attractions. For example, there would be photos of me sitting on a mesmerizing beach, typing on a laptop, or posts describing the amazing breakfast that I just ate at the hotel, or just some intriguing snaps of nature taken which visiting some natural landscape.

I would also add variety and style to my blog to build myself a better reputation as a social media influencer. My blog would also shed light on the promotion of different countries' traditions, culture, and nature exploration. I would have different themes for each post like I would talk about some mouth-watering Michelin gourmet in one post, then the next might be about hiking. Without a repetitive pattern, my followers would look forward to my next entry, anticipating my mysterious schedule. To appeal to netizens to visit my blog, I would have my own writing style. Netizens would love reading about my travel experience instead of an article such as "The Best Places to See". I would come up with an eyecatching title to catch their attention. In my opinion, a good design is very important. An attractive title with excellent blog content can catch the eyeball of readers.

I would post in English as it is an international language. Furthermore, the English-language market is the biggest and the most profitable. To maintain my daily cost, like my own travel expenses, and purchasing apps or features to enhance my blog, I would integrate CPA (Cost Per Action) model features on my blog too by partnering up with certain travel agencies or accommodation providers. When a follower or viewer makes a purchase by clicking the affiliated link on my blog to buy airline tickets or book hotel rooms, for instance, I would be able to benefit too.

Travelling is surely a form of entertainment. However, it is only possible when we have made financial planning. If netizens cannot afford the traveling cost, they are welcome to visit my blog. When they have saved enough money, they can refer to my experience and then go on their own trip. That's why I would post travel-related materials if I became a social media influencer.

Judge's comment

Your essay was very well written and you expressed your ideas quite well. You have a very engaging writing style which allows you to communicate your points in an inviting way.

Tian Hao

HKSYC & IA

Wong Tai Shan

Memorial College

Social media has become very popular. People use social media for various reasons, including shopping, getting inspirations, or even learning. Many people have become social media influencers with a reputation built on their knowledge and expertise on a specific topic. They make regular posts about that topic on their preferred social media platform and have gathered a large group of enthusiastic followers. If I became a social media influencer, I would like to be a blogger posting about academic knowledge, current news, and act as an online environmental activist.

Conventionally, people mainly acquire knowledge at school and from experiences in real life situations outside school. However, nowadays, students usually play games or binge-surfing social media sites on their mobile phones instead of doing something meaningful. They have ignored the importance of selfdirected learning. Yet, life-long learning is the key to future success. We should always invest time in acquiring new skills and capabilities. You might think that being a teaching blogger is boring and dull. Plenty of people do not want to listen to teachers at school. So why would they listen to me? You might also think that it may be hard to understand certain topics, such as the concepts or principles behind. To resolve this, I would post my videos in an interesting and funny way and use vivid and vibrant examples to explain the concepts and rationale to let the viewers understand thoroughly. In addition, I would also ask my followers questions and encourage them to post their answers in the comment box. This would be inspirational, and it could encourage netizens of our era to think about different possible answers. This can help train their critical thinking and arouse their interest in doing academic research.

Apart from academic knowledge, I also would post about current news, since people need to know what is happening around the world. Besides, a lot of people actually find out about the happenings of the world through their social media feeds. In a generation where fewer people actually read newspapers, sharing news posts is a great way to get their attention. Moreover, I could give my opinions on different news topics. By encouraging my followers to share their stance and comments, and initiate discussion of the issues related from different perspectives, I would be able to provide a platform for passive online users to exercise real expression and communication skills.

Environmental protection is significant in sustaining our planet and ensuring we all have somewhere to survive on! In the past century, advancement in technology has brought the world inventions like vehicles and multi-purpose appliances. They have undoubtedly greatly improved our living standard. However, the prevalent use and even overuse of these gadgets have harmed our environment detrimentally. With more and more waste gas discharged by cars, air pollution has become an alarming threat to our existence. Likewise, harmful and waste chemicals discharged from factories and farms have also seriously polluted water resources. We have come to living on a dying planet. Our life and health have been affected greatly. Earth is our home, and we have the duty to take care of it, not only for ourselves, but also for our future generations. Therefore, I would have posts about protecting the environment. For instance, I would encourage my viewers to travel by bikes more often instead of driving cars. We can not only protect the environment, but also tone up our body and mind. Besides, I would also promote the benefits of recycling so as to reduce pollution or initiate fund-raising campaigns to support environmental protection. Ultimately, I hope my posts can raise the online public's awareness of environmental protection.

To conclude, social media influencers can affect many people. If given the chance, besides posting fun and humorous stuff, I would rather spread positive values, knowledge and skills, or become an activist to inspire others for the betterment of the world.

Judge's comment

This is a superb essay that insightfully considers the title question. Your writing is structured and presented very well. Your conclusion closes things off nicely and sums up your key points.

Yau Chak Ho
HKSYC & IA
Wong Tai Shan
Memorial College

With the mature development of technology, social media has become more and more popular. Subsequently, social media influencers have taken up a more significant important role on the Internet. What they do brings great impact to everyone online or even changes the whole world. So social media influencers should think twice before announcing or posting anything. With a keen interest in promoting environmentally friendly activities, if I became a social media influencer, what I post would be about environmental protection and recycling. These problems have gradually caught the public's eye, and people have become conscious of them. However, few followers or social media influencers f focus on serious social issues like environmental problems. Therefore, I think I must make good use of my influence being a social media influencer to spread and raise netizens' awareness of environmental issues.

Because of the rapid development of industries, nature has been severely destroyed by humans. In 2020, about 37% of forests were damaged by humans and animals have lost their homes. To remedy the damage, everyone should take prompt action so I would post about how we can deal with deforestation. I think no one despises knowledge so I would provide some easily digestible information, including facts and statistics about the damages and destruction we have brought to nature. Also, the posts should be educational and informative but not totally formal in nature to ensure viewers find it fun to read them. To make my posts more appealing, I would share some tips on curing our Earth as well. For instance, I would introduce procedures of growing plants, how to stay cool without airconditioners in summer, and how to save the Earth by changing our diet. I think these resources would show the seriousness and the consequences of the problem and inspire followers and viewers to take action.

Moreover, I would talk about wasting reusable resources by hosting educational events online using my account. Even though glass and plastic recycling technology has improved a lot, there is still a large scale of such waste. In 2021, it was exhilarating to hear that there was an increasing amount of recycling. However, about 84% of glass and plastic waste was sent to landfills instead of being recycled. Also, we can see numerous plastic bags, glass bottles, plastic straws everywhere but no one reuses them or puts them in the recycling bin even if they are just standing in front of them.

To tackle this issue, I would make videos promoting disparate activities about recycling organised by charities or other organizations. Recruiting followers for beach clean-up trips, re-posting of recycling locations and methods, or even initiating a tree-planting project are all feasible content for my videos. Since the power of social media is undeniable, my posts would spread like wildfire on the Internet for environmental protection groups to partner up with me to diffuse these campaigns. Once more people take part in these activities, they would start caring about reusing, recycling, and even upcycling. Hopefully, waste problems would be remedied gradually in the foreseeable future.

Nevertheless, other than waste problems, global warming is also a crisis which should be solved urgently. According to the statistics from NASA, the water level is increasing by 3.4 millimetres per year. Also, experts predict that most lowlands will be flooded in 2035 if we do not take any action to cope with it. Rome was not built in one day. To enhance the awareness of global warming, I would like to share my own daily life practices on how we could each contribute to alleviating the crisis with the public. This includes what I do to reduce greenhouse gases, how I reserve energy and so on. These actions should be engaging to my followers because I assume most of my followers would care about being environmentally friendly, but they just do not know what to do to help. As a social media celebrity with countless followers, I should take advantage of my clout on the Internet to save the Earth from global warming.

At the end of the day, in the era of information, everything goes viral on the online in a split second. Social media leaders should be held partially responsible for encouraging people to save our planet together and providing information to netizens on how this can be done. Thus, if I were a social media influencer, I would capitalize on my power online to cohere everyone for this greater purpose.

Judge's comment

Your writing is very clear, concise, and engaging. You have insightfully considered the title question and use evidence clearly and convincingly to support your ideas. Your confidence with the material is clearly demonstrated in your piece.





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