

Foreword

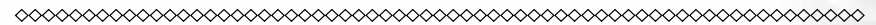
Every student knows that English is an essential subject at school but that doesn't imply everyone will enjoy it especially for writing. In fact, it is a headache for quite a number of students. Nevertheless, we do hope that all will fall in love with writing as it empowers us to express our likes and dislikes, our emotions and how we interact with the world.

No writing is perfect the first time. People, especially those struggling with English as the second language, may find writing daunting at times. However, if you have enough input by reading more extensively, you certainly can write with relevance, clarity and even creativity in a painless way. Start writing on something that interests you in your daily life and eventually you will find writing a pleasurable and rewarding activity.

It is my wish that everyone will feel positive and seize every opportunity to write. I would like to extend my gratitude to Ms Rochelle Martin, Ms Lam L.K. and Ms Chan M.S. for their tireless efforts in editing the students' work.

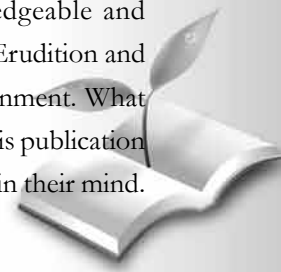
Don't hesitate to let your imagination go wild and have a voice on paper.

Dr. Suen Lee Wa
The Principal



Voice of Erudition

It implies that students should read, learn and be knowledgeable and versatile. The message is deeply embedded in our school motto "Erudition and Determination". Students are encouraged to explore their environment. What they have discovered or experienced can be shared with others. This publication serves the purpose for students to read and express what they are in their mind.



From The Editor

It is with pride we showcase our students' written work with Volume II of the Language Magazine "Voice of Erudition 2009". With such a wide collection of topics, different writing techniques and varied writing styles, it surely can provoke new thoughts and stimulate our readers to hone their writing skills.

I was tremendously impressed by the richness of ideas and creativity displayed by the young writers. Undoubtedly, there would be a few imperfections in their original essays. However, it is of significance that our students can have the courage to keep exploring something new and challenging.

Many people deserve thanks. We are grateful to the writers. I would also like to acknowledge the full support given by all the colleagues in the English Department.

Hope that you thoroughly enjoy the creative work of our youngsters who, we are sure, will help to boost your confidence in writing also.

Virginia Lam

Editor



Editorial Board

Advisor : Dr. Suen Lee Wa, the Principal
Editors : Ms Rochelle Martin, Ms Lam Lai Kuen
Ms Chan Mang Sheung
Cover Design : Hung Man Ching (4B)

Acknowledgement to all English teachers

Contents

- 1 Foreword
- 2 From The Editor

JUNIOR FORMS

Article

- 5 Christmas Carmen Wong 1C
- 5 Christmas Chan Lok Yiu 1C
- 5 Christmas Leung Ka Hin 1C
- 6 A diary entry Liza Lam 1C
- 7 A diary entry Luk Ah Yim, Amanda 1C
- 7 A diary entry Debby 1C
- 8 My favourite shopping centre Mow Ching Yin 2C
- 8 My favourite shopping centre So Chuen Wa 2C
- 9 A Robbery Benjamin Ng 3D

Interview

- 10 An Interview with Donald Tsang Liz Wong 2S
- 11 An Interview with ET Helen 2S
- 12 An Interview with Superman Tim Lam 2S

Poem

- 13 Boys and Girls Natalie Tse 2S
- 13 Examination Joseph Woo 2S
- 13 Ice-cream Wai Tan 2S
- 13 Life Rita Lai 2S
- 14 Desert Alan So 2S
- 14 Quiz Alan So 2S
- 14 Brother Miki Chan 2S
- 14 Angel Helen Lam 2S
- 15 Sky Michelle Cheng 2S
- 15 Teachers Sing Chow 2S
- 15 Summer Elky Ip 2S
- 15 Moonlight James Wong 2S

Informal Letter

- 16 A love letter James Wong 2S
- 16 A love letter Andy Chan 2S
- 17 A love letter Sean So 2S
- 17 A love letter Benny Siu 2S



Contents

18-19	My Favorite Teacher	Lee Hoi Yan 3S
20	My Mid-Autumn Festival	Lam Yat Hing, Jane 3S
A leaflet		
21	Po Leung Kuk Tai Tong Holiday Camp-site	Lau Kwok Fan 1C
SENIOR FORMS		
Diary entry		
22	Our school camping trip	Chan Hong Ting 4B
Article		
23	A Hill Fire	Chan Kong Sum 4B
24	Voluntary work	Ho On Chun 4C
25-27	Shoplifting? The first step	Chan Hei Tung 7A
28-29	Take off your mask	Chan Wai Yi 7A
30-31	Youth shoplifting	Pinky Siu 7A
32-33	Stop bullying and send love to your schoolmates	Chan Ying Yan 7S
34-35	Junk food ban imposed by Principal	Emily Tso Pui Ying 7S
Letter of advice		
36	Getting a summer job	Wong Chuen Ling 5C
37	Getting a summer job	Christina Chan Yuen Kee 5C
38	Adaptation to school life	Lau Yuk Lan 5C
Letter to the editor		
39	Teenagers spending too much time on the computers	Ng Chau Ha 5B
40	Teenagers spending too much time on the computers	Wong King Yuen 5B
41	Computers helps teenagers in their studies	Leung Yu Chiu 5D
Argumentative Essay		
42-43	Government not doing enough to improve natural environment	Lam Hoi Yee 5B
44	Doing part-time jobs doesn't pay	Chu Wun Wun 5C
45-46	Is Beauty the Premium for a Career Success?	Lam Chun Keung 6S
47-48	What is the Secret for Career Success	Vicky Wan Hing 6S
49-50	Effort- the Main Ingredient for Career Success	Chan Shuk Yi 6S
Poem		
51-52	My day with Murphy	Tsang Ho Yi 6A

Christmas

Carmen Wong 1C

25th December is Christmas, and it is coming. I will prepare a Christmas party on Christmas Day. In the party, I will decorate a Christmas tree with some ornaments such as angels, bells and candy canes.

On that day, I will invite my classmates and my friends to the party. When the party is over, my friends and I will go to see a movie. We plan to see "Nobody Watches Over Me". I think this movie is very touching.

After that, I will go to see the Christmas lights with my friends. I think the Christmas lights are attractive.

Chan Lok Yiu 1C

25th December this year, I will go to Central to see the Christmas lights at night. My aunt will hold a Christmas party so my family and I will go to my aunt's Christmas party. It will be exciting.

Before we go there, we will decorate the Christmas tree at home and I will send Christmas cards to all of my friends. I hope my friends will like them. After that, I will buy some Christmas presents and some candies for my cousins and my best friends. I will also buy some sushi for the Christmas party because my family likes it very much. I think all of my family members will be very happy that day.

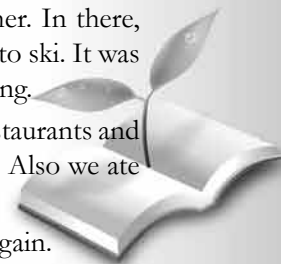
Leung Ka Hin 1C

Christmas is on 25th December. At Christmas, many people send Christmas cards to their friends and relatives, eat festive food and set off Christmas crackers to celebrate it.

Last Christmas, I went to Korea with my father and mother. In there, everywhere was covered with snow. It was so beautiful. We went to ski. It was my first time to learn it and I could see the snow. It was so exciting.

Besides, we explored side streets and found many special restaurants and shops. In Korea, we went shopping and bought many souvenirs. Also we ate some Korean food. It was delicious.

We had a wonderful time and I look forward to visiting it again.



A Diary Entry

Liza Lam 1C

Last Saturday, I was very happy. I had breakfast at KFC in the morning. After that, I visited Ocean Park with my family. I wanted to go on rides but my mother did not agree. My father took me to see the shark and dolphin shows. The sharks were very big. The dolphins were cute. My brother wanted to see a panda so my mother took him to the panda park.

Then it was time for lunch. I had lunch at McDonalds. I ordered a lot of food to eat. My mother had a hamburger and a Coke. My father and brothers ate the French fries. I was full and tired when I finished the lunch, so my mother took me home.

After I got back home, I watched TV and played computer games. Then I slept for one hour in the evening. At night, my family were hungry so we went out to eat the dinner. I ordered some fried rice. My mother and father had congee. My brothers had pork with rice. This dinner was yummy.

It was a great day!

A Diary Entry

Luk Ah Yim Amanda 1C

In the morning, my parents and I had breakfast at home. We had bread, milk and eggs. The breakfast was very delicious. Then my parents and I went to the cinema to watch a film.

In the afternoon, my parents and I went to KFC and ate fried chickens with rice. Next, we went to swim in the swimming pool. After that, we went shopping. My father bought a pair of shoes which were black in colour. They were for playing football. My mother bought an expensive handbag. It was made of fur, so I didn't like the handbag. It was cruel to animals.

Finally, we went to a restaurant in the evening. We ate fish, rice, vegetables, meat and shark fin soup. Actually I did not really like the shark fin soup. After dinner, we sang in a karaoke. I felt happy today!

.....

Debby 1C

Saturday, 18 October 2008 7:30pm

In the morning, I had breakfast at McDonalds with my family. Then, we went shopping. We bought something cute.

In the afternoon, I got a call from my friend, Ivy. She wanted to play basketball with me, so I went to play basketball. Then I had lunch at KFC. I ate fried chicken. It was so yummy.

In the evening, I had dinner in a restaurant with my family. The food there was so tasty. After dinner, we went home to watch TV.

I had a great day.



My favourite shopping centre

Mow Ching Yin 2C

I love going to New Town Plaza in Shatin. I always go there. I like going there because it is very big and there are many shops.

There are always exhibitions in New Town Plaza. During the period of Olympic Games, there was an exhibition of sports and the history of Olympic Games. During Christmas and Chinese New year, there are usually many beautiful decorations for the festival. Many people like taking photos there.

There are many shops such as bookshops, electronics shops, a department store, chemists and jewellery shops. We can go there by bus or train.

So Chuen Wa 2C

When I go shopping, I will go to Hollywood Plaza which is in Diamond Hill. There are different kinds of food, clothes and toys to buy. Although the clothes are very expensive, I still want to buy them.

Hollywood Plaza sometimes organizes charity shows to help the poor people. I always donate money to them. I hope the money can help the needy.

There is a big Plasma TV in Hollywood Plaza. I can watch films for free there. Customers may get special offers to buy clothes or shoes because some shops give customers VIP membership discounts. So I want to buy clothes there.

A Robbery

Benjamin Ng 3D

Last weekend, a robbery took place at a jewellery shop in Mongkok.. A reporter was at the scene. Her name was Annie. There were policemen, passers-by and a lot of people gathering there. The policemen were standing by.

Suddenly, a robber ran out of the jewellery shop from the back. The robber was carrying a black plastic bag in his hand. He wore a blue T-shirt and black jeans. When Annie saw him, she shouted. The passers-by were shouting too when they saw the robber because they felt shocked and scared.

When the robber saw the policemen, he felt scared. The policemen wanted to catch the robber. Annie threw her microphone at the robber and it hit his head. Then the robber fell on the ground. Annie rushed to the robber immediately and used her microphone to hit the robber.

Finally the policemen caught the robber. The police thought Annie had done something very dangerous, but she was a good citizen.



An Interview with Donald Tsang

Liz Wong 2S

- Liz : Good morning. My name is Liz. I'm doing a project. Do you mind if I ask you some questions?
- Tsang : No, I don't mind.
- Liz : Do you mind if I ask how old you are?
- Tsang : This is my secret. Sorry, I can't answer you this question.
- Liz : Fine. Then how tall are you?
- Tsang : Another embarrassing question. About 165 cm.
- Liz : Most of the people in Hong Kong know you like fish. What kinds of fish do you like most?
- Tsang : I like different kinds of fish, especially koi carp.
- Liz : What kinds of cuisine do you like most?
- Tsang : I like eating. I especially like Chinese cuisine.
- Liz : Then what kinds of sports do you like most?
- Tsang : I like playing golf most of all. But now I am too busy to play.
- Liz : How did you feel when you became the Chief Executive of Hong Kong?
- Tsang : I was very surprised and felt under great pressure.
- Liz : How can you make Hong Kong a better place?
- Tsang : Actually, this is a difficult question because the economic development of Hong Kong depends a lot on other countries. Since the financial crisis happened in the USA, it causes economic downturn all over the world. Hong Kong suffers too.
- Liz : Will you join the next election of the Chief Executive?
- Tsang : It depends on the feedback of the citizens.
- Liz : What do you want to do when you retire?
- Tsang : I want to have a long vacation in England first.
- Liz : That's all for my questions. Thanks for your time.
- Tsang : You're welcome.

An Interview with ET

Helen 2S

- Helen : Good morning. I'm Helen. I'm doing a project about interesting persons. Can I ask you some questions?
- ET : Sure.
- Helen : First of all, how tall are you?
- ET : I'm ninety centimeters tall.
- Helen : Oh, you're quite short. On the earth, people are usually 170 centimeters tall.
- ET : In our planet, the average height is eighty centimeters.
- Helen : How old are you?
- ET : I'm eighty years old.
- Helen : But you look so young. You look as if you were only thirty years old.
- ET : But in our planet, people can live to the age of 200 years old.
- Helen : That's amazing. Then how many times do you eat every day?
- ET : I eat ten times a day. Every time I eat, I eat only some vegetables and a little meat.
- Helen : How many fingers do you have?
- ET : I have two fingers only. In the past, we had ten fingers. But our fingers had degenerated since we had computers. The cause of the degeneration was that we use only computers and seldom do other tasks. So our two fingers became long and the other fingers degenerated.
- Helen : Do you have mobile phones?
- ET : We don't use mobile phones. We use our brain to control the computer and send messages to our friends.
- Helen : How well can you speak English?
- ET : I can speak English very fluently. It's because we use English in our planet.
- Helen : How often do you go to school?
- ET : We don't go to school. Since we were born, we can control the robots and computers and they can do everything for us.
- Helen : That's all for my interview. Thank you for your time.



An Interview with Superman

Tim Lam 2S

Tim: Good morning. My name is Tim and I'm from HKCWC Fung Yiu King Memorial Secondary School. I'm doing a project about interesting persons. Can I ask you some questions?

Superman: Sure.

Tim: Thank you. How old are you?

Superman: I'm 40 years old. Don't think I'm very old. I can still help people and catch bad guys.

Tim: Why do you become Superman?

Superman: I want to save people from danger and catch all the bad guys. It makes me happy.

Tim: What kinds of food do you like?

Superman: I like chocolates. Eating chocolates makes me happy.

Tim: You are so strong. Do you often do exercise?

Superman: Yes. Because it can make me strong and healthy.

Tim: How did you learn to fly?

Superman: When I was young, my father taught me how to fly. Since then, I've known how to fly.

Tim: What colours do you like?

Superman: I like red and blue. They are the colours of my outfit.

Tim: That's my final question. Can I take a photo with you?

Superman: Yes, of course.

Tim: Thank you very much.

Boys and Girls

Natalie Tse 2S

Boys
Impolite, naughty,
Fighting, sleeping, slouching,
Playground, Stadium, Library, Bookshop,
Reading, studying, revising,
Helpful, quiet,
Girls

Examination

Joseph Woo 2S

Study and no play
Nightmare haunts me everyday
Freedom will come soon.

Ice cream

Wai Tan 2S

It is sweet and cool.
Vanilla and strawberry,
The best in summer.

Life

Rita Lai 2S

Life is so special.
Sometimes up and sometimes down.
Let's face it with a smile.



Desert

Alan So 2S

Desert is so hot.
Endless sand and dry weather,
Just camels can stay.

Quiz

Alan So 2S

I love quiz so much.
Challenging and exciting,
It is wonderful.

Brother

Miki Chan 2S

I have one brother.
Buy me sweets and care for me.
I love him so much.

Angel

Helen Lam 2S

When darkness falls,
Angel, you light up my road.
Spread your wings around me.

Sky

Michelle Cheng 2S

Sky is beautiful.
Sometimes blue and sometimes black.
I like it so much.

Teachers

Sing Chow 2S

They are so clever.
Some are stern and some are nice.
Always give us help.

Summer

Elky Ip 2S

Oh! Distant summer!
I remember you so well.
But now it is cold.

Moonlight

James Wong 2S

In a cold dark night,
Something's shinning from above.
It is the moonlight.



A Love Letter

James Wong 2S

Dear Dora,

I love you very much, but I don't have enough money to marry you. I am working hard to earn more money. I will buy a big house with a big garden for you and your dog. We will have three children, one boy and two girls. You will stay at home and cook for me. You will look after our children. I will work hard to earn more money for our family.

But at this moment, I cannot marry you. One year later, when I have earned enough, we will get married. So, please wait for me.

Love

Doady

.....

Andy Chan 2S

Dear Dora,

How are you? Yes, I love you because you are young and beautiful. I will work hard to earn more money. When I have saved enough money, I will certainly marry you. I will buy you a big house. I promise I will marry you 10 years later. We can emigrate to America.

Doady



A Love Letter

Sean So 2S

Dear Dora,

It is happy to receive your letter. But I think we are too young, so we can't get married. Besides, I hate dogs. If you want me to marry you, you should leave that ugly Jip!

I would like to marry a rich woman, not a poor one. So if we get married, we will have no future! We are over. Bye-bye!

Doady

.....

Benny Siu 2S

Dear Dora,

I love you and I miss you too. I feel sorry about your situation. Don't be afraid of Miss Murdstone.

I will marry you a few years later when I become a lawyer. I am poor now. I need to find a job. When I have saved enough money, we will get married. After marriage, we will buy a big house with a big garden. And I hope we can have 11 children so they can form a football team when they grow up. We can watch them play football every day. Also, I will buy another pet to play with Jip. I want to marry you soon.

Doady



My Favorite Teacher

Lee Hoi Yan 3S

Dear Ms Chan,

If you ask me who my favourite teacher is, I will find it difficult to answer you because I think all teachers are very kind and they teach me lots of things. If you ask me who my favorite teacher is in my life. I will tell you it is my mother.

My mother does not have a lot of knowledge to teach students, but I learn many things from her.

My mother is so kind. She is very friendly too. She loves helping people. Those who have talked with her will want to be her friends. She has joined a body-massage course. When her classmates don't understand what the instructor says, she will teach or help them. I learn from her what friendship and kindness are.

She is also a smart person. If our clothes are old and need to be mended, she will help us to mend them. Moreover, her food is the most delicious in the world. Her yummy food gives us support. I want to thank her.

My mother has lots of courage. When I was little, I was often bullied by my schoolmates. I was so shy that I didn't tell my teacher. However, I would tell my mother. My mother always protected me. She called my class teacher. After that the bullies didn't bully me anymore. I remember that when I was in F.2, I wanted to beg "Summerbridge" to accept me as a student. However I didn't have enough courage to give a call to "Summerbridge". My mother knew about that and gave me lots of support and courage. Finally I became a student at Summerbridge.

Lastly, I would like to let you know her love. She is the first person that I saw since I was born. She is my first teacher that I learn from. She is the first whom I know. She is also the first whom I love. When I was little, I nearly went to a special school because of my learning ability. Then, she gave up her job to teach me and looked after me. My school results would not be good without her help. Once I suffered from a serious illness when I was in Primary 4. If she didn't help me to look for a good doctor, I think I would have been dead. I realize how great her love to me is.

Her kindness, her smartness, her courage and her love are all I have to learn from her. She is my most admired as well as my favorite teacher in my life.

Who is your favorite teacher in your life, Ms Chan?

Yours sincerely,

JANE



My Mid-Autumn Festival

Lam Yat Hing, Jane 3S

Dear Ms Chan,

Hi. I would like to tell you about my Mid-Autumn Festival.

Last Sunday was Mid-autumn Festival. My uncle brought along moon-cakes and fruits when he visited us. I ate the reunion dinner with my family. My mother cooked a lot of food for dinner, such as steamed fish, fried shrimps and crabs. They were very delicious.

After dinner, we took a pomelo, fluorescent sticks, moon-cakes, candles and lanterns and went to the park to watch the moon. On that day, the moon was very full and it was beautiful.

First I lit the candles and put them in the lanterns. However, my brother played carelessly so he burnt the lanterns. Then we played with fluorescent sticks. There were many colours so they looked beautiful. Also we ate moon cakes together. We had a happy evening.

I like Mid-Autumn Festival very much because I like moon-cakes so much since the moon-cakes are tasty.

Ms Chan, do you like Mid-Autumn Festival?

Yours sincerely,

JANE

Po Leung Kuk Tai Tong Holiday Camp-site

Lau Kwok Fan 1C

Background

Po Leung Kuk Tai Tong Holiday Camp-site is a popular tourist attraction in Yuen Long. It was open in 1996.

How to get there

You can go there by bus or train. The journey takes about thirty minutes.

Things to do

There are some cafes and restaurants in Po Leung Kuk Tai Tong Holiday Camp-site. You can have dinner in any restaurants there. You can have a lot fun there as you can play badminton, basketball, go cycling or have a barbecue.

What to bring

Po Leung Kuk Tai Tong Holiday Camp-site has beautiful views. So remember to bring a camera with you.



Our school camping trip

Chan Hong Ting 4B

Last Friday, we went on a school camping trip. We planned to leave at nine o'clock, but some students were late. Mr. Wong was the leader of the trip, and he waited impatiently for the late students. Finally, at twenty past nine, we set off on our trip.

When we got on the highway, there was heavy traffic. Unfortunately, the air-conditioner of the bus was out of order. So we felt very hot and we were sweating. We were very angry about that.

After a while, it started raining. We were very unlucky as the bus got a flat tyre. The driver had to change it before we could continue our journey.

At 5:30 p.m. we arrived at the Forest Escape Campsite. We were very excited. We kept talking and laughing.

That evening we had lots of fun. We had a BBQ. Some of us were singing and dancing while others were eating greedily. We all had a very unforgettable Friday.

A Hill Fire

Chan Kong Sum 4B

In the recess time, Susan found a poster on the notice board. It was about a School Magazine Writing Competition. Susan was interested in it and wanted to join.

She asked Sue to go hiking with her so that she might get some inspiration.

That day, the weather was good. It was perfect for hiking. They arrived at the Sai Kung Country Park and started hiking. On the way, Susan was thinking about the writing competition. Suddenly, Susan was attracted by something burning. She saw a hill fire!

They were frightened. Sue did not say anything and ran away immediately. Susan used her mobile phone to dial 999. Susan told the police about the fire. The police said they would come as soon as possible. At that moment, Susan was very frightened because she was alone and she feared that the fire might spread and killed some others in a campsite nearby. She tried to get into the campsite. She wanted to inform the people in the camp.

Luckily, the camp master was not at the camp because he had gone out to find some branches to keep the camp fire burning.

After a while, a helicopter arrived and the workers soon put out the fire. Susan was very happy and relaxed.

After this accident, Susan got the inspiration for the writing competition.

Finally, she won the competition. Although she got an award, she did not want to experience a hill fire again because it was too horrible.



Voluntary Work

Ho On Chun 4C

Apart from studies, what do you pay heed to? There are a lot of things which make the life of a student different. Doing voluntary work is one of the ways to achieve this goal.

Firstly, you can improve your communication skills by being a volunteer, for example, visiting the elderly or the children. Talking to different groups of people is a difficult task. You have to adjust your attitude and tone in order to have effective communication. In addition, you have to work with others as team work is of great importance.

Secondly, you can broaden your horizons through voluntary work. It can expand your points of view, for example, you can be the helper of an election or a fun fair. There are a wide variety of events you can join and can gain much experience that would not be made available from textbooks.

In short, you can boost your communication skills and widen your knowledge by doing voluntary work. In fact, it brings a huge difference in your school life.

Shoplifting? The First Step Down a Dark Road!

Chan Hei Tung 7A

When we go out for lunch on regular school days, we see teenagers slinking around in shops. They are often finding opportune chances to steal things. It is bewildering that some of these shop thieves are still wearing their school uniform. Is shoplifting becoming a common problem of youngsters? Why do they do it? In fact, there are many factors causing this problem. It is high time for us to discuss them.

Generally, curiosity is an important factor for teenagers trying shoplifting. Youngsters at this tender age are prone to curiosity. Curiosity is therefore the motivation for teenagers to do something they have never done before. In reality, most teenagers steal things not because they lack money or because of greed. Actually, they just want to have fun and excitement. So, once they have succeeded the first time, they will do it again until they lose interest in shoplifting.

Besides, peer pressure is also an indispensable cause of shoplifting. Youngsters who are immature are easily influenced by friends, especially those who have less self-confidence. When they hang around in shopping centers, shoplifting may become their only entertainment. Under peer pressure, no matter how fearful you are, you may well become one of the shoplifters eventually as you want to show your self-confidence and avoid others mocking you. Worse still, some of the teenagers may even have a misconception about 'friends'. They believe that they should follow and support whatever their friends do. Therefore, teenagers frequently become partners in crime.



On the other hand, jealousy is also a main reason to explain why there are so many youngsters willing to be a thief. Nowadays, due to the blossoming economy, no one can deny that people have become more materialistic than ever; not only adults, but also teenagers. In order to flaunt their wealth, most students would like to have a valuable schoolbag, which is produced by a famous brand. Unfortunately, in this materialistic atmosphere, poor students are targeted for teasing. Everyone laughs at their out-dated schoolbags or even isolates them. If those poor students do not have a good self-esteem, jealousy will prompt them to become thieves.

It is said that punishment is the best method to prevent crimes. However, from my point of view, education is the only means to tackle the root of this problem. First of all, local schools should increase lessons in morality. Under the current education system, school lessons are examination-oriented. Every student tries hard to cram as much academic knowledge as they can. Personal morality is almost being neglected. As I mentioned above, curiosity is the most important cause of shoplifting. Therefore, the schools should take the responsibility to instill the consequences of shoplifting into those ignorant students and tell them that they shouldn't steal. Prevention is better than cure! Schools should play an active role on it.

Furthermore, I think all schools should set up new rules on students' belongings. It is true that valuable schoolbags or wallets will lead to jealousy among students. Therefore, I suggested that local school students should have a uniform schoolbag, which is designed by their own schools. Moreover,



valuable items should not be allowed in schools. Thus, everyone in schools is equal and no more bullying or jealousy will occur.

Lastly, I believe that parents are duty-bound to educate their children. It is known that most parents are so intent upon their work; however, they also need to show their parental care and love to their children. Teenagers are highly vulnerable to materialistic temptation. Parents should therefore actively help the youngsters to cultivate a positive attitude. Besides, parents are advised to keep an eye on their children and prevent them going astray.

To conclude, teenagers are gentle in essence; the appearance of shoplifting can be blamed on their ignorance and lack of education. As long as they have correct moral beliefs, shoplifting crimes can be reduced.



Take Off Your Mask!

Chan Wai Yi 7A

“No! I would never accept it unless it’s for health reasons only.” That is my view. But for some people, it is a marvelous medical advancement and even part of modern living. That is cosmetic surgery.

Most people accept cosmetic surgery just because of the pursuit of beauty. They want to be perfect, but it is unfortunate that nothing can be ensured one hundred percent. Some patients find that there will be side effects such as facial aches, calloused breasts and even cancer. It may only make you beautiful for a short time, but in the long term, it may even be harmful for your body. Is it really an amazing medical advancement? Indeed, natural beauty is praised all the time. However, take the example of Victoria, the wife of the famous soccer player, David Beckham. She has tried different kinds of cosmetic surgeries on her nose, breast, etc. She did it just because of her desire to be beautiful. However, she could not gain the support of the public and was even criticized for her bad cosmetic surgery. That sounds ironic! You pay for beauty but end up with ugliness.

Cosmetic surgery is an unhealthy tendency and some celebrities are encouraging its development. There are many advertisements persuading people that having cosmetic surgery will bring them beauty or even exaggeratedly saying it will change their lives. They are in fact misleading people, especially teenagers. Why are they saying that? It is definitely just because of money. If you think seriously, you will find that it is foolish to pay money for the spurious beauty.

While some people are finding ways to become much more beautiful, others are just pursuing natural beauty for instance, Faye Wang’s daughter. She was born with a harelip. If she did not have cosmetic surgery, it would affect her eating or even lead to mental problems as well. In addition, if it is caused by an accident, cosmetic surgery is acceptable. Some people criticize Michael Jackson’s bad cosmetic surgery. However, the original reason for him to have surgery was not because of vanity but health problems. He had the nose surgery because of an accident and it was due to an illness that his skin colour changed.

What is wrong with natural beauty? Having a complete and healthy body is already the best situation possible. You should never accept unnecessary cosmetic surgery, unless you don’t mind having some chemical materials in your body. Or else, why don’t you just wear a mask? There seems to be no difference between wearing a mask or having cosmetic surgery. The former one will even cost less!



Youth Shoplifting

Pinky Sin 7A

Can you believe that out of every four friends of yours, one has tried shoplifting? It sounds unbelievable, but it might be true. Recently, a youth survey has found that one out of four interviewees has tried shoplifting. In this article, I will discuss the causes of youth shoplifting and make suggestions about what should be done.

One common reason why teenagers shoplift is that peer pressure forces them to try it and follow their friends. First, some teenagers shoplift as they want things their classmates have but cannot afford. As a student, I can say that it is an everyday occurrence, especially due to the trend of buying luxurious brands. As a result, some teens try shoplifting to gratify their vanity. Moreover, some teenagers do it because their friends shoplift and they want to be part of the group. So they follow them in order to show their “loyalty”. Since most teenagers are not mature enough, they do what their peers call cool or daring.

Another reason for youth shoplifting is that some teenagers’ parents do not take good care of them. In Hong Kong, many parents focus on their livelihood and have no time to look after their children, so quite a number of them shoplift in order to seek the attention and family warmth they lack. For instance, my friend who grew up in a single-parent family once stole from a supermarket because she wanted to pretend to be bad so as to draw the attention of her parents. It was sad, but not just an isolated case in this busy and fast-paced city.

If what the survey has found is true, the problem of youth shoplifting is worth paying attention to and needs to be stopped. What can we do to help? Here are some of my suggestions about what should be done.

For parents, they should pay more attention to their children and try to maintain a good relationship with them. If parents find that their children own some expensive products they cannot afford, they should ask where they came from in case they actually got them illegally.

For school, the most important thing is to help students build right and proper values. Owning luxurious brands seems to equal popularity, but it absolutely means nothing to their future. This is what teen shoplifters do not know, so schools should be the ones to tell them the truth. For example, teachers can guide students to weigh their future against momentary popularity. Besides, promoting the serious consequences of shoplifting can also be a deterrent. I have heard of multimedia shoplifting prevention and character-building programs for schools provided by some community youth organizations which are efficacious.

It is everyone’s responsibility to stop the problem of youth shoplifting from worsening. In many cases, shoplifters do not break the law on purpose, but are just forced into it by their environment. As long as we are all concerned about this problem, I believe that someday Hong Kong will become a shoplifting free city.



Stop Bullying and Send Love to your Schoolmates

Chan Ying Yan 7S

Recently, there have been several cases of bullying in schools reported by the mass media. The problem is worsening and it has aroused the awareness of the public. Usually in the case of bullying, younger students are being beaten up or bullied by older students. Fortunately, until now, there have been almost no bullying cases in our school. However, as students, we should take the lead and face the problem and try our best to stop violence from happening in the school as it can cause a myriad of problems.

Firstly, bullying in schools can affect students' self-esteem. The students who bully others usually feel themselves to be stronger and more superior to others. They are arrogant and self-centered too. On the other hand, the victims will develop a sense of inferiority. Worse still, they lose their self-confidence and fear having any contact with others; they become self-protective. They can even be reluctant to go to school and hence this affects their academic results.

Secondly, bullying makes school not a place to learn, but a place to fight. As stated above, some students lose their enthusiasm to go to school to learn. Instead, these students develop a sense that school is a place for someone to express their bad feelings towards others. Moreover, the reputation of the schools where bullying cases are discovered will definitely be damaged.

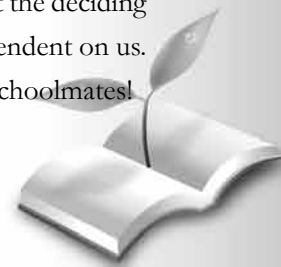
Thirdly, students learn to solve their problems by violence and this causes long-term effects on society. Affected by the environment of bullying in schools, students will learn to solve their daily problems by violent means. As teenagers are the future pillars of society, this will undoubtedly affect the atmosphere of Hong Kong in the future. If the atmosphere of bullying spreads in schools, I am afraid that Hong Kong will become a violent city one day.

Prevention is always better than cure. In order to solve this serious problem, some measures have to be taken. To commence with, the school rules against bullying have to be strengthened. Nowadays, in most of the schools in Hong Kong, the regulations about bullying are not strict or clear enough, this gives an excuse for some students to ignore the rules and hence break the rules. That is why the rules should be amended so that they can help stop bullying effectively. If students notice that they will risk a demerit or even suspension from class if they bully someone, most students will not bully again.

Next, the schools can provide life education lessons for the students. Nowadays in Hong Kong schools, the curriculum and lessons are predominantly about academic aspects. Yet, actually teenagers should learn to respect, love and share with others. Through life education, students can learn to treasure their friendships and forgive others. In this way the number of bullying cases will surely be reduced.

Moreover, schools can organize campaigns to promote a harmonious school life. For instance, a 'caring week' can be held. It may give students a chance to dedicate songs to their friends, participate in different competitions with their friends and so on. An atmosphere of caring for others can be developed in the school and there will be fewer conflicts among students. Finally, fewer bullying cases will result.

In short, I believe that school is a place for us to show love and care. Bullying shows nothing but hate. With the above measures enforced, I am sure that the problem will diminish. Nevertheless, let us not forget that the deciding factor in whether the problem is solved or not is thoroughly dependent on us. Do not hesitate, stop any bullying and show your love for your schoolmates!



Junk Food Ban Imposed by Principal

Emily Tso Pui Ying 7S

Everyone has tried junk food, haven't you? Junk food, as you know, is of very low nutritional value, with low content of vitamins and fibrous matter. The junk food sold in the tuck shop or restaurants are cooked with an overdose of oils and have high content of fats. Therefore, you can usually see junk food like fish balls or french fries that are soaked with oils. Their taste, however, is appealing to modern citizens, especially teenagers.

Our school principal is very concerned about our students. He stresses not only the importance of being hardworking, but also places much emphasis on having a healthy life. Therefore, our principal has told the school tuck shop not to sell junk food in response to the government's campaign to promote healthy eating. Unfortunately, this policy has evoked a strong reaction from some students who insist on their right to opt for their favourite junk food. As a result, a meeting between the principal and representatives of parents, teachers and students has been held to discuss the pros and cons of this newly introduced policy. The following paragraphs will introduce their viewpoints and arguments.

First, the principal supports the motion to halt the selling of junk food at the tuck shop. From his viewpoint the most important reason is that according to statistics, our school tuck shop earns big profits each month. This proves that students depend heavily on the food sold in the tuck shop, including their breakfast, lunch and even at teatime. If students consume junk food without limit, they may eventually suffer from many health problems such as obesity, high cholesterol levels or even heart diseases. Therefore, our principal has mentioned that the consequences brought about by junk food surely cannot be ignored.

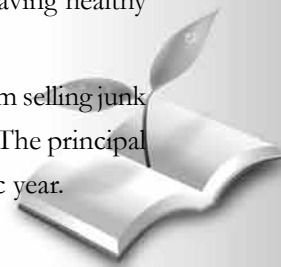
Representatives of parents have also reacted positively to the policy. Most of the parents reflected that students always lose their appetite at home, saying that the meals cooked by their parents are not as delicious as the junk food sold at school. This shows that a vast majority of students have already developed bad eating habits as they choose not to eat nutritious food. So, this policy can effectively reduce the amount of junk food that students consume.

As for the teachers, they find that students always buy junk food, especially fish-balls, hamburgers and fried chicken wings during recess. Food that remains untouched in the tuck shop includes salads and vegetable sandwiches. This shows that students are not fond of healthy food. The teachers' representatives have urged the school to adopt this policy as soon as possible to stop this poor situation.

However, students have the opposite view towards this policy; they think that they should be given the right to exercise freedom of choice and blame the school for not giving enough leeway on school uniforms and handing in homework. They can see no reason for the school to control their eating habits. So, they strongly oppose the adoption of the policy.

After a long discussion between different parties, teachers and parents have agreed that the policy is good for students' health but co-operation between the three parties is really imperative in making the policy a success. This includes not selling junk food at the tuck shop and parents cooking nutritious meals for students at night. Although the student representatives rejected their advice at first, they gradually began to understand the importance of having healthy meals and thus a healthy life at both school and home.

To conclude, the policy of inhibiting the school tuck shop from selling junk food is necessary to maintain students' good health in the future. The principal suggested that the policy will be adopted in the coming academic year.



Getting a Summer Job

Wong Chuen Ling 5C

Dear Joyce,

I am glad that you are coming back from Canada. It has been ages since we last had drinks together. Do you still remember that we had a great chat all night before you left Hong Kong?

I know you would like to get a summer job. I do have some advice for you. First of all, you need to identify your intention for getting a summer job. If you just go for the money, I suggest you not to do it. A summer job is a good chance for you to put into practice the knowledge and skills you have acquired at school. If you really want to have work experience, here is some advice.

There are several popular summer jobs for teenagers in Hong Kong. They are salespersons, restaurant workers, office helpers and telephone operators.

For salespersons, it is a good opportunity for you to practise the communication skills with your customers; to introduce or promote a new product clearly in a short period of time is difficult. For restaurant workers, you need to help preparing food or serving the customers and working conditions can be poor. Anyway, it could be a unique working experience. Office helpers seem to be working in a better environment, but the job focuses mainly on typing and filing, so it may be a bit dull. For telephone operators, there will be thousands of telephone calls in a day. It will also be a repetitive dull job or even a nightmare for some of the youngsters.

Last but not least, you need to be aware of jobs having short working hours but with a terribly high pay. It may be a trap. Oh! It is late now, I need to stop.

Take care!

Love

Chris Wong



Getting a Summer Job

Christina Chan Yuen Kee 5C

Dear Joyce,

Hi! I hope this letter finds you well. I am so glad to hear that you are coming back! You wouldn't believe it if I tell you how high I jumped with glee when I knew that we can finally meet again!

You mentioned that you would like to get a summer job. Well, that's a splendid idea. But before you choose a summer job, there are a few things you need to be aware of. Don't worry! Here are some tips.

Firstly, you need to understand the nature of the job. You also need to know what the requirements are. The higher your education, the higher salary you can get. But in some cases it depends on the experience you have.

Secondly, you need to consider if you are suitable for the job. For example, if you can't swim, then working as a life guard is out of the question. If you are not a very patient person, it could be hard for you to cope with jobs involving children, such as nursing.

Thirdly, you should consider the environment and location. You may not want to work outdoors on a hot summer day or travel too far away from home to work everyday. Right?

Lastly, make sure what you choose fits you well. As for interviewing skills, I'd tell you about it when you come back. We can practise face-to-face.

Anyway, I do hope my advice helps. So, if there's anything else you'd like to know, just send me an e-mail. I'd be ready to help.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Best wishes

Chris Wong



Adaptation to School Life

Lau Yuk Lan 5C

Dear Terrence,

Thanks for asking for my advice. I understand you have some worries and I hope you will find my suggestions useful.

First, you don't know how to make friends in school. I think you should take the initiative to approach your classmates. It is because that can make it easier for you to make friends. If you are keen to talk with others, I think they will respond to you and you can chat together. Also, you can participate in some activities after school. Hence, you can make friends with people of different cultural backgrounds.

Second, you worry that you won't understand what the teachers say. If I were you, I would frankly tell the teachers that I don't understand. I think the teachers will explain to you. You must also seize every opportunity to chat with your teachers whose mother tongue is English so that your English will be improved.

Third, you also worry that your classmates won't understand you. I suggest you talk more in English and don't be afraid that others won't get your message. Maybe you can also use your body language. The people will understand what you say. Let me know if you want any more advice. I'm sure you'll have a wonderful time.

Best wishes

Chris



Teenagers spending too much time on the computers

Ng Chau Ha 5B

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to teenagers' spending too much time using the computers. I trust that using computers can help the teenagers in their studies.

In the first place, computers provide a lot of knowledge for the students. For example, students can use the electronic dictionary on the Internet to look up for new words. Besides that, they can learn more on the Internet than from textbooks. Computers can help teenagers in their studies, and train them to be more active learners. And some of the programmes can arouse teenagers' interest in learning some boring subjects, such as History or Languages. It can motivate them to learn.

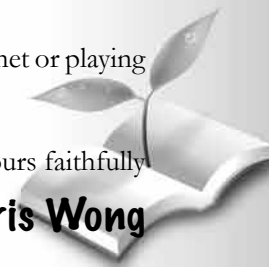
In addition, Hong Kong is a cosmopolitan city. Information technology is needed, so the skills of computers are very important. Teenagers can use Powerpoint, Word, etc. to do their homework. Also they can send their assignments to their teachers for assessment. It is very convenient, and the quality will be better than handwritten work. Moreover, the computer skills, for example, word typing and software usage are necessary for furthering their studies and in their working life. In my opinion, teenagers should learn more about computers and make full use of it.

Many people think that playing computer games is not good for teenagers. But I think if teenagers can play computer games properly, it can help them to release their stress. That can improve study efficiency. And they can chat with their friends on the Internet. It is easier to chat with others on the Internet especially when they are unhappy.

I strongly trust that, if teenagers are not hooked on the internet or playing computers games, computers can help in their studies.

Yours faithfully

Chris Wong



Teenagers spending too much time on the computers

Wong King Yuen 5B

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my views if teenagers are spending too much time using the computers nowadays. I believe that using the computers can help teenagers in their studies.

In my view, information and technology from computers can definitely help teenagers in studying. Nowadays we always talk about interactive teaching and learning. Using power-points, slides or videos are undoubtedly better than using the textbooks while having lessons. Besides, teenagers can also visit the E-class and surf the websites to get the solutions when facing problems in their studies.

In addition, it is convenient to surf the Internet to obtain information. Teenagers can use the search engines such as 'Yahoo' or 'Google' to get information when doing projects. Surfing the Internet can easily get the current and latest news. It is convenient for students to discuss hot issues online. Teenagers like writing blogs and 'Facebook' nowadays. It can help them make new friends globally and broaden their horizons.

Furthermore, computer skills are necessary and practical for work nowadays. A modern society needs advanced technical skills. Students using the computers can learn basic computer skills, for example, typing Chinese or English. Recently many jobs require the employees to know how to use the computers for daily entries of accounts.

In conclusion, computers not only can help students with their studies but also can broaden their horizons. It can allow them to make quality assignments and prepare themselves for work in society.

Yours faithfully

Chris

Computers help teenagers in their studies

Leung Yu Chiu 5D

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to express my total agreement to that the computers are helping teenagers in their studies. In my opinion, computers are highly beneficial although many parents think that working on the computers is just wasting time.

In the first place, teenagers can chat on the Internet with their friends. Certainly, they can make a lot of new friends on the Internet. Moreover, they can acquire more knowledge from the Internet. Teenagers can do their project work with the help of computers or they can search for information that they are interested in. This can broaden their horizons.

Another function of the computers is to complete school assignments. They can use the power-points or make a video for presentation. This will make the end-products more appealing.

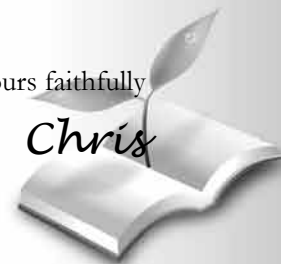
In addition, a computer can check the grammar and spellings and also do the word-counting of an essay. It can help the teenagers to ensure the quality of their work.

Offering entertainment is also a good function of the computers to the teenagers. Teenagers in Hong Kong have to face a lot of pressure from their studies. Computer games can let the youngsters relax and have fun.

To conclude, computers help the students in doing their homework, finding relevant information, making friends, and also providing entertainment. What a significant role that computers have played for the teenagers in this modern world!

Yours faithfully

Chris



Government not doing enough to improve the natural environment

Lam Hoi Yee 5B

In Hong Kong, we are suffering from lots of pollution, such as air pollution and water pollution which is getting worse day by day. As a result, the Hong Kong Government should adopt a series of effective measures to carry out environmental protection, but I think the government is not doing enough to improve the natural environment.

There is no doubt that air pollution in Hong Kong is getting worse as we consume more and more energy. According to a survey conducted by the Green Peace, it is found that the average temperature of 50 shopping centers is 22.6 degrees Celsius. Even worse, the average temperature of 12 shopping centers is below 22 degrees Celsius. It increases the amount of carbon dioxide in the air which speeds up global warming. The Hong Kong Government always encourages people to set the room temperature at 25.5 degrees Celsius, but the government is not doing enough to implement stricter laws to reduce the consumption of electricity in the shopping centers. Meanwhile, the main causes of air pollution in Hong Kong are oil and coal-generated power stations and the fumes exhausted by the vehicles. It is because the government has never tried hard to reduce pollutant emissions.

Moreover, we all know that reclamation is destroying our natural environment. Reclamation provides more high-rise development, more roads, more traffic which result in more exhaust emissions and release of carbon dioxide that we all breathe in. Also, the suburb reclamation disturbs the eco-system such as the northern part of Lantau Island.

In fact, light pollution is also becoming more and more serious in Hong

Kong, but the government cannot monitor it well. Most regions suffer from light pollution every night, such as Mong Kok and Causeway Bay. After midnight, there are rarely people in the streets, but many signboards are still on and that also leads to a waste of electricity. The nightly spectacular view which combines interactive lights of 44 tall buildings on both Hong Kong Island and Kowloon with musical effects to showcase the vibrancy and glamorous night vista of Victoria Harbour really consumes a lot of energy and causes light pollution.

In conclusion, the Hong Kong Government is not doing enough to protect the natural environment. It is obvious that environmental protection is vital to reduce pollution in Hong Kong. If we still ignore the natural environment, a great variety of pollution will be threatening us. Therefore, every citizen and the government must take action to improve the natural environment immediately. The government should adopt more and more effective measures to enforce environmental protection, like recycling.



Doing part-time jobs doesn't pay

Chu Wun Wun 5C

Hong Kong is a fast-paced city where most people are money-oriented. Whether you are adults or the teens, both desire to earn a lot of money for material comfort, especially the latter. They rely on part-time jobs which have already become the most common way for them to gain extra money.

Some of the teenagers think that they can gain working experience and it will help them to get a job in the future. Admittedly, it helps them to gain some experience. However, I still think that having a part-time job is not good for them.

Firstly, the teenagers' academic results will be severely affected by the part-time jobs. As they have to spend much time on it, they will have less time to do their revision. Being a student is a strenuous task, as everyone needs to face many plights in the school life, such as numerous tests and examinations. Therefore, more time has to be spent on their school work.

Secondly, the relationship between them and their families may be affected due to less contact. Parents need our care and company to enhance the communication. Also, work is extremely arduous; it is difficult for the youngsters to handle. Parents who always show concern to their children may sometimes argue with them.

Finally, they may make some cronies from the working place. It is possible that they would learn smoking. Worse still, they may be tempted to take drugs. It will cause serious health problems.

Indeed, it doesn't pay as your part-time job may take away your precious time, family and friends. Furthermore, for the sake of your health and prospect, you should focus on your studies at this present moment. Considering the above, it is not good for teenagers to have a part-time job. Besides, it should not be taken lightly as it may spoil your fabulous life.

Is Beauty the Premium for a Career Success?

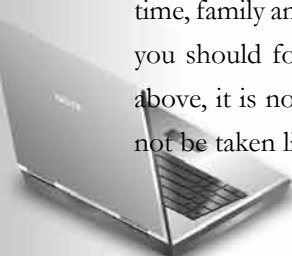
Lam Chun Keung 6S

Plenty of people want to be good-looking, as they think that beauty is the premium for a career success. Yet, do beautiful people definitely become successful in real life? In the following paragraphs, I would like to discuss both the arguments for and against this statement.

Firstly, many people think that they may gain a lot of benefits in their careers if they are good-looking. They believe that they will be provided with more opportunities compared with their plain looking co-workers. Thus, they get a greater chance to show off their intelligence in their career path. In fact, they may also receive "a bonus point" from their boss due to their beauty. Therefore, it makes them become successful more easily.

Secondly, it seems that these pretty girls or handsome boys possess confidence and high self-esteem. This is due to the fact that they seldom worry about their appearance. They can build up confidence more easily. Also, they can concentrate on their work and try to overcome difficulties. As a result, they may achieve success in their career path.

Thirdly, people with a desirable appearance usually have better relationships with others and even work with others more smoothly. As I mentioned previously, these people are full of confidence, and so, people may think that they are more reliable. In our daily lives, co-workers are essential and we ought to work together. As we know, if we can work in harmony with our colleagues, it will be easier to complete a task. At the same time, it leads to greater success.



What is the Secret to Career Success

Vicky Wan Hing 6S

However, it is a significant fact that abilities and intelligence are far more important than beauty for careers. For example, as singers, it doesn't matter how beautiful or handsome they are; if they cannot sing well, they will never be successful. Therefore, some people disagree with the statement and believe that beauty will not surely lead to career success.

Moreover, beautiful people may also suffer from some troubles which may be a barrier in their career path. For instance, some people may envy their appearance and so try to sabotage them. Attractive co-workers may try to compete with each other. It is no wonder that there are many scandals among participants in beauty contests. So possessing a pretty out-look may not be good at all.

In addition, in real life, a successful person would never say that beauty is the premium for success. Actually, it is the efforts they have put in each task. Therefore, beauty is not a must for career success.

To sum up, I think the points of objection outweigh those in favour of the statement. Although some beautiful people may be offered with more opportunities, they have to work hard too. As the saying goes "No pain, no gain!"

Some say that beauty is the premium for career success. Beautiful people would become successful more easily in their career path. I think such claim is true sometimes because of the following reasons.

Firstly, an employee represents the company they are working for. They have to keep a good and sharp image for the company all the time. The boss of the company may give more chances for promotion to those who look good because beautiful staff usually give customers confidence in the service provided. For an employee who doesn't look attractive, people will first have a sense of dislike and doubt about their ability to complete the tasks. For the beautiful ones, they usually look smart. People will have confidence when asking them to handle a job.

Secondly, beautiful staff give a good impression to the clients and customers. Nowadays, most companies have business transactions or communication with some other departments or organizations. They need to work in teams. The employees, even a clerk, would have to contact or meet their trading partners very often. People would be willing to co-operate with eye-catching ones. That is one of the reasons why many companies send a beautiful lady to bargain with their trading partners. The other party may also think that you are polite and respectful for sending beautiful staff.

Lastly, it is human's natural instinct to have something beautiful and keep a distance from the ugly ones. Good-looking people will definitely be more attractive than others. In order to improve the business condition, the employer would prefer having beautiful salespeople and waiters. The appearance is very important in the service industry and especially for the entertainment industry.



Effort - the Main Ingredient for Career Success

Chan Shuk Yi 6S

I agree that being beautiful is a premium for one's prospect, but it is not essential to be beautiful. Actually, not everyone can be born being charming. In fact, outer beauty does not relate to one's working ability. An attractive and charming appearance is just a bonus. The ability of the worker should be the top priority. It is impossible to be perfect in both aspects. An employer would definitely choose the smart one with a normal appearance rather than the beautiful one with a stupid mind. A smart staff would be of long-term benefit to the company but the stupid one will waste its resources.

To conclude, being beautiful would be an advantage for one's career, especially in service industry and jobs dealing with public relations. They will give people a good first impression and others would have confidence in them. However, being beautiful is meaningless if the employee is unable to complete his work efficiently. Therefore, being smart and capable in work is the most important thing. The outer appearance is of minor importance.

"Beauty is the premium for career success." Do you agree with this statement? Some people believe that it is true and will try their utmost to keep their face stunning. However, some argue that there are more important factors than beauty for career success. In this essay, we are going to discuss the validity of this statement.

First of all, there is no doubt that people would like to co-operate with someone who is appealing and charming. During an interview, the officer-in-charge of a company will have to decide whether to hire you or not within the first few minutes. Therefore, if you are tidy, polite and eye-catching, you can give a good first impression. Hence, you may have a greater chance to get a job.

Secondly, if you have a beautiful outlook, you can have advantages in jobs such as modeling and singing. As a model or a singer, it is easier for people to focus on you if you are mesmerizing and have a captivating body shape. In other professions, if you are not skillful, your company would organize some courses and hire coaches for you. As a result, you would become popular and more companies would offer you job opportunities. Besides, if beautiful people are not doing well, most people would forgive them and let them have another chance. People think they still have the potential for further development.

On the other hand, some people think that being beautiful is not the key to unlock the gate to career success. I totally agree with this statement. Firstly, in today's knowledge-based society, most jobs lay great stress on abilities. When an employer wants to hire some people, they focus on the educational



background and abilities of the candidates rather than merely their physical appearance. Also, if there are critical projects, the boss would absolutely give them to an employee who has the ability to handle them, not the one with only a stunning face.

Secondly, 'beauty' cannot last forever; it will fade away one day. However, knowledge will not. Knowledge increases with age. Although your face is seamed with wrinkles, you will be more experienced and knowledgeable, so you can handle more difficult and complicated tasks and have a prolonged and successful career.

Thirdly, it is hard to define 'beauty'. Everyone has different interpretation of the term. Some may think it is used to describe a person who has an attractive face with an excellent body shape. However, others may think that if a person is nice and helpful, they are beautiful. Undoubtedly, for a beautiful guy, he or she may have many job opportunities but success is not guaranteed if no effort has been put in it. Therefore, working hard for your goals is the only way to achieve career success.

In a nutshell, although being beautiful can enable you to gain more attention and maybe job opportunities, you cannot have success in your career if you do not put in the required effort.



My Day with Murphy

Tsang Ho Yi 6A

This is my lousy day with Murphy in my way,
 I woke up late on my little hay,
 as my clock was not in a working state. Hey!
 No time for noodles
 but only a piece of bread as usual.
 I buttered it and I suffered it
 as the buttered side fell on my feet. Oh!
 What sorrow.
 Time won't let me stop to mop
 'cos I gotta wrap myself up and start to walk.
 The lift seems cunning
 and makes me keep on wondering.
 I pass the gate and start to hesitate
 OH MY GOD!
 The light is flashing and my heart is beating
 Three, two, one, the light goes to none
 I'm hungry and I'm sure
 My boss will be angry
 I yell but no one helps
 I press the bell but what's happening, I can't tell.
 It takes me 30 minutes to escape from that hell.
 I'm running for the bus
 But the sun is hiding behind the dust,
 Oops! I don't have an umbrella,
 It starts to rain; my clothes get taint,



.....

The clouds are dripping and I...OUCH!
I've slipped.
"Wait for me!" But the driver didn't see,
Fine! I'll take a taxi to save my time,
It stops in front of me; sewerage splashes onto me!
I'm all wet and I'm mad.
The traffic conditions are bad.
Crash! The taxi becomes trash.
And I...
I'm on the way to the hospital
with my exhausted, frustrated soul,
I know soon there'll be a needle sowing my nose
so I'd better have a doze.
I'm conscious again the next day,
My phone wakes me and I don't know what to say,
"Chris take a good rest now."
This is the best thing I have ever heard.
"Take your rest forever, you don't have to come back anymore!"
My sore heart suddenly pours onto the floor.
Life is that tough, and even tougher,
What we need is a big buffer,
I don't know what's coming,
But what we can do is start praying,
Please, get rid of Murphy!

