

My father is my role model

My father has been my role model ever since I was a young boy. Some may query whether it is not more sensible to regard an artist or a successful businessman as a role model. My father is like my beacon, always guiding on the right track in life.

My father is a strict and educated person. When I was in Primary Three, my English language was far from satisfactory. My father taught me English at night and gave me loads of exercises. I used to hate him because I couldn't watch television at night. But, I made significant improvement in my language proficiency later on because of it.

My father is an ambitious person. He loves to study. He believes that diligence can make up for lower ability. He always says, "Only after you work hard can you succeed." That is why he took a part-time university course after he has entered the job market. I admire him a lot. His spirit has encouraged me.

My father is an architect. He is the breadwinner in my family. Although he is very busy, he manages to spend a lot of his time at home. Every year, we go traveling. Moreover, he loves nature. He always takes us to country parks to have a picnic. Every family member loves the environment and we strive to protect it.

My father is my idol. "You are the leader of my life. Thank you, father, and I hope I will make you feel proud of me one day."



2B 陳冠僑

My sister from England

I am the only child in my family. Suddenly I have a new member in my family. Don't you think it is weird? No! I have a new sister because of the exchange program. Her name is Talina. She is a student from Oxford University. She is British. She looks like my favourite movie star, Emma Watson. Because of the exchange program, she visited Hong Kong and spent three days with me.

On the first day, I woke up early and went to school to meet her. My schoolmates and I took part in the Opening Ceremony and met Talina and her friends who joined the exchange program. Through participating in the ice-breaking games, we got to know each other deeply in a short period of time. Talina was the first exchange student I met. She became my partner for the coming three days. Apart from that, there was another activity before lunch. It was chatting with the exchange students. We had one hour to chat with each other in English. Talina told me a lot of information about her life in Britain. She also taught me some gorgeous traditional children's songs. I thought they were so lovely. After lunch, I needed to have my lessons and Talina accompanied me. We had English lessons together. Talina helped me improve my English proficiency.

On the second day, I took Talina to travel around Hong Kong. First, I took her to the Hong Kong History Museum and the Science Museum. I told her everything I knew about the history and culture of Hong Kong. Then, we played some science games in the Science Museum. In the evening, we went to The Peak and enjoyed the stunning view of Victoria Harbour.

On the last day, Talina and I went to Ocean Park. We took a ride on the pirate ship, roller coaster and so on. Besides that, we saw many cute animals too. For instance, we saw some giant pandas, dolphins and parrots. We both had a marvelous time.

We had a very happy time. I learnt a lot from her. Although we just spent a short time together, we became great friends. She took good care of me. And she looked after me just as if I were her younger sister. So I genuinely appreciate her care and kindness.



Dating is not appropriate for people under 18

From my point of view, dating is not appropriate for people under 18. Dating is a common phenomenon for teenagers nowadays, but I don't think this should be encouraged among teenagers under 18.

There are three main negative effects brought about by dating. First, if a student falls in love, they will lose concentration in their studies. They will spend a lot of time chatting with their boyfriends or girlfriends. They will date after school. Teenagers may always think about their boyfriends or girlfriends. They will not pay attention during lessons. At home, they will not have the time to revise or do their homework as they may spend long hours talking with their lovers on the phone or Internet.

Dating sometimes affects teenagers' relationship with their family members and friends. Some parents think dating is a waste of time for their children. It may lead to arguments between teenagers and their parents. Teenagers will not have the time to attend family gatherings. This seriously affects their relationship.

Dating may become a financial burden for teenagers. This is because they will have to spend money eating out or watching movies. Then teenagers will have to find some means to earn extra cash. This is quite dangerous for teenagers as they may get involved in illegal activities. This may lead to disastrous consequences to all parties.

In conclusion, dating brings many problems to teenagers. In my opinion, people under 18 should wait until they are financially independent and mature enough to start dating. It would be much more desirable to start dating after they have become adults.



Friends from Great Britain

Have you ever wondered why there are so many students joining the exchange program? Some students from Britain came to Hong Kong on an exchange program which was organized by our school. I would like to tell you what I have learnt from these exchange students and what I have taught them. You will be eager to join the exchange program organized by our school after you have read this article. Trust me on this.

I was the exchange students' local guide. I picked them up at the Hong Kong International Airport. They arrived at our school after a one-hour bus ride. I showed them around our school. They kept asking me questions about our school campus. I tried my best to answer their questions. However, sometimes things just could not go as smoothly as we had hoped. I found I could not understand what they said, as they used some difficult words or expressions, or words that were not commonly used in Hong Kong. I could not figure out what they said. All I could do was to guess what they meant. They asked, "Is that the assembly hall?" I answered, "Ye-ye-yes." I uttered a few words and kept nodding my head. Actually, I did not know the meaning of the word 'assembly' at that time. If you thought it was easy to talk with foreigners, sorry to be cruel, but I would like to tell you the answer was 'no'. Yet, I did think I could speak more fluently after the exchange program.

On the second day, I took them to the History Museum. They wanted to know more about Hong Kong History. They were especially interested in the Qing Dynasty. I told them who Empress Cixi was and what the Late Qing Reform was about. They listened intently to my explanation as they liked Chinese History and culture very much. It was a rewarding trip for them.

I taught them some Cantonese expressions when we had lunch or dinner together. I taught them some simple words or expressions, like 'How are you?' or 'Hello!' in both Putonghua and Cantonese. It was an unforgettable experience for them.

I had such a wonderful time with them. I treasured every moment I spent with these friendly students from Britain. We exchanged our email addresses and we still keep in touch. So, don't wait. Join our exchange program this summer and you will love it!



My father is my role model

My father is the one who supports me always and gives me unconditional love. Without him and my mother, I would not have the chance to see this fantastic world.

It is very true to say that parental love is a gift from God. Their love is the best thing that I have got. My father has been my role model since I was born. He always cares about me and, because of him, I know what real love is. He always puts me and my mother first. He sacrifices everything for us. For example, he gives most of the money he earns to my mother so we can have a stable life. He just wants to see us live happily.

My father is my teacher. He always helps me with my studies. When I was in Primary School, he checked my homework to see if there were any mistakes made. He provides me a quiet environment to study in. He never complains. He just works hard and supports our family. His positive way of thinking towards life has a strong influence on me. I have learned that life is full of challenges. It is important to stand up again after you are beaten.

My father has no bad habits. He does not smoke and he never gambles. When he has time, he goes fishing and hiking with his friends. Sometimes my mother and I go hiking or picnicking with him. He goes jogging every night. He leads a healthy life and I think he sets a good example for me and my sister.

Thank you, my father. One day, I will enter the career world. I will try my very best to give him care and financial support so he can live comfortably.



My Father is my role model

Everyone has a role model. My role model is my father and he has been my role model since I was born. To me, my father is perfect. He looks great and he is the best person in the whole world.

My father is chubby. He wears a pair of glasses. He is taller and heavier than me. He is a clerk and he works in the office all day. It explains why he is a little bit chubby. He loves hiking and traveling. Whenever we have time, we go hiking in the country parks.

I admire my father a lot. No matter how busy he is, he spends time talking with me. He goes home after work as soon as possible every night. He sometimes prepares the family dinner. He is a wonderful cook. I enjoy chatting with him and my mother at the table. It is the best highlight of the day.

My father sometimes picks me up at school. We go for an afternoon tea. It is one of my favourite activities after school.

When I grow up, I will take care of my father (of course, I will also take care of my mother). I treasure every moment I spend with him and I hope I can provide him with all the things he needs in the future. He takes great care of me and I will take great care of him in return. One day, I hope he will feel proud of me.



Nothing is more important than Friendship

An exchange program was organized by our school last summer. Three students from England joined us here at Sun Fong Chung College. The purpose of this program was to let us learn about a foreign culture and language.

Our teacher introduced them to us in the morning assembly. They briefly told us their names, where they came from and which subjects they studied. They were very nice. They tried to speak some Cantonese and said good morning to us in Cantonese, though they couldn't say it fluently and clearly. The foreign students gave us a good impression.

The next day, I was eager to talk to them and get to know them better. I summoned all my courage to talk to them. But I forgot my English was not so good. Fortunately, they understood what I meant. I just wanted to become their friend. They were really kind. We had lunch together and they corrected my mistakes whenever I made one. I also taught them some Chinese words for everyday use.

We talked a lot in English and I thought my spoken English improved a lot. They taught me some slangs and proverbs which are commonly used in Britain. I hoped I would sound like a native speaker. They were interested in learning Chinese, too. They learnt quickly and could even communicate with me in simple Chinese. I was amazed.

On the last day, we took them to Hong Kong Disneyland and the Po Lin Monastery. They found the Big Buddha magnificent and they liked the vegetarian dishes a lot. Then I accompanied them to the airport. We did not want to say goodbye to the exchange students as we all had a great time. We exchanged email addresses and hoped we could keep in touch after the program.

Before I joined this exchange program, I thought they were boring. Now I realize it was an invaluable chance for all parties to learn from each other.

If you have a chance, join the program and make some wonderful friends from abroad.



There has been a lot of discussion about whether people should be allowed to keep dogs in public housing flats. Write a letter to a newspaper editor giving your opinion on this issue.

10th January, 2010

Dear Editor,

I am writing to discuss about keeping dogs in public housing estates. I would like to express my opinion. I would briefly explain why I oppose to the idea of keeping dogs in public housing estate.

Keeping dogs has been popular in Hong Kong for a long time. People in Hong Kong love dogs. Another side of the story, however, includes frequent cases of dumped dogs and their hygienic problems. Therefore, it is essential to know if it is suitable to keep dogs in public housing flats.

First, the major problem of keeping dogs is that it causes disturbance to other residents. The barking noise of dogs disturbs the residents in the estates. It may be a nuisance to residents, and cause them to lose sleep, which will affect their concentration at work.

Moreover, it is disgusting to see the faeces of dogs. It may affect the public hygiene of the estates. The residents may also grumble. Some might be allergic to the dog's fur and feel sick seeing dog excrement on the streets or even at their door. It causes a mess to the living environment.

Secondly, what is also worth noticing is that the dogs with poor discipline may injure people in the neighbourhood. As keeping dogs can be time-consuming, some dogs require a lot of attention. They may escape and injure neighbours, especially children and the elderly. So, it is dangerous for residents.

Despite the fact that keeping dogs causes a lot of hygienic and safety problems, it can also be wonderful to keep dogs if proper arrangement is made.

The benefit of keeping dogs is the happiness they bring. Our spirits get lifted up and the happiness we get from them can be equivalent to, or even more than, that we get from our lovers. In addition, keeping dogs prevents us from feeling lonely, we feel that we have a companion, and the chance of becoming depressed will be lower.

Moreover, people can become more responsible and considerate. In this sense, keeping dogs can cultivate one's qualities, as well as being a necessity for the disabled. For example, a blind dog leads the blind, which is a necessary situation.

In conclusion, keeping dogs in public housing estates has disadvantages and advantages. We need to make a balance to create a safe and comfortable environment to meet different people's needs and concerns.

Yours faithfully,

Chris Wong



Should students do part-time jobs?

If you ask a student where he will go after school, he will probably answer either he is going to a tutorial school or going to do a part-time job. Nowadays, it is easy to observe students working in McDonald's, Pizza Hut or as a tutor. It was quite rare in Hong Kong in the past, but now it has become more common. What causes this growing trend?

Work experience is essential when applying for a job. Apart from academic results, work experience is also a valuable criterion for companies to consider. Students can gain invaluable work experience which helps them with their future careers. The most important lesson is to learn to be independent. Hong Kong's youngsters are over protected by their parents. Parents give them all the things they need so they do not know how hard it is to make money and they don't know some important realities of our society: they need to learn to follow the company guidelines, to be polite to customers, to be responsible for their jobs. Having part-time jobs provides them a chance to face challenges and solve all these problems by themselves. I strongly believe that they can learn something practical rather than just learning academically.

Part-time jobs still have some disadvantages. It is worrying that students may make bad friends in their workplace. Since they are still too young to resist temptation, some people will tempt teenagers to commit crimes. Many teachers find that students who have a part-time job fall asleep during the lessons as they are exhausted after doing a part-time job.

It is not easy for students to handle both their schoolwork and a part-time job. This may badly affect their school results. Also, they may face lots of difficulties at work. Such difficulties may reduce their confidence and lower their self-esteem. This creates pressure for them.

In my opinion, whether doing a part-time job is good or not all depends on the attitude of the students. It is imperative for both parents and teachers to give advice and guidance to students. Students themselves should first consider their abilities rather than the money.



Lost Memories

This year, the government authorized the pulling down of our school building as part of the redevelopment of the area. I doubt if this action is good so I am writing to express my feelings about the redevelopment of the area.

There was a long history in our school which has been the memories of hundreds and thousands of students and teachers. We have been 'living' here for years so we have deep feelings about everything in this school, we care about them. Everything in the building becomes a part of our lives.

Besides, there was no consultation before the announcement of the proposal. It is totally unfair and impractical for the government not to consult and ask for opinions from us. How can a proposal run smoothly without an advisory group? I doubt the government's action on this project. The government tried to dominate the project without asking the public, it is absolutely ridiculous to do so.

Moreover, the pulling down of the school building can bring nothing but environmental problems. Dust and suspended air particles will be produced from the engineering and the working of the bulldozers. It is definitely not worth it to carry on with this project. Not only air pollution, noise pollution is also caused during the project, it will affect the daily life of the local residents.

Furthermore, I wonder if it is really necessary to pull down the school building. Isn't there any alternative project or method to redevelop the district and also preserve the historical, memorable building? Think twice before you act. If we really pull down the building, it will never ever exist again and all the memories will be ruined by time.

There are always new designs and better planning for the district. Are we going to pull down all the old buildings because in the pursuit of sustainable development and a better world? Learn from history! How can our next generation learn if they can't really see and feel the history? I strongly urge the government to consider an adjournment of the project or preserve our memories and our building.

Last but not least, this historic landmark is one of the collective memories among Hong Kongers. I hope the government would reconsider and listen to the public. To formulate other plans and regard preservation as the backbone of the project, let's save the building and our lovely collective memory.



Pete's first interview

One day before the summer holiday, Pete happily told everyone of his classmates that he would have a job interview soon. Pete was a Form 5 student. He was very busy at that time. He has been preparing for HKCEE every night. But he needed to have a job to afford the high expenditure of tutorial classes. His friends, Linda and John, worried about him because Pete was a careless and absent-minded boy. He always forgot to bring his textbooks and homework to school. "Could Pete succeed in his job interview?" John and Linda asked each other. They did not know the answer.

Pete was so well prepared over the next couple of days. He went to the tailor's and had a suit specially made. It cost almost 500 Hong Kong dollars. It was expensive, but Pete did not hesitate and bought it immediately. After that, he went to the barber's and had a stylish haircut. He felt good as he had finished all the preparation and was ready for the interview.

Pete is a very diligent boy. He works hard at school. He has a gift for computer and he is eco-conscious. So he worked until mid-night to finish his proposal on eco-friendly buildings.

On the day of the interview, Pete was exhausted and fell asleep on the train. When the train arrived at the station, Pete was extremely nervous because he was almost late for the interview. He ran to the door but he accidentally left his briefcase on the train.

When he arrived at the company, he suddenly found out his mistake. He lost his telephone, proposal and everything he needed for the interview. He was very upset and frustrated. He thought he definitely would not get the job.

The company's manager entered the interview room finally. He was holding a briefcase and Pete recognized it immediately. 'It's mine!' he exclaimed loudly and excitedly.

"Yes, I know. You are Pete, aren't you?" the manager said.

"Yes, I am. How do you know about it, sir?"

"I like your proposal about the green roof of our building. But you were so careless to leave such an important thing on the train. If I hadn't recognized you from the application form, I think we would have lost such a talented employee. Congratulations! You are one of us!"

Pete was surprised. Finally, he did it. He got the job!



Being Prepared

One day before the summer holiday, Pete told his classmates that he would have a job interview soon. Pete has always dreamed of working in the MTR, because he has always wanted to serve more people, plus, the pay was good.

Pete prepared well over the next couple of days. He went to the tailor's and had a suit made, and he went to the barber's to have a haircut. At the end of the day, he was a brand-new man. Pete said to himself, "I'm so going to get the job!"

On the day of the interview, Pete was very anxious. Due to his anxiety, he accidentally left his briefcase on the MTR. Pete realized his mistake when he reached the company interviewing him. He said to himself, 'Oh! How could I have made such a serious mistake? This is a nightmare!' He was struggling whether to continue the interview or not.

When he reached the office, he was intimidated by the presence of the boss and still nervous due to his lost briefcase. While he was waiting, he kept asking himself, "How could I possibly do the interview without my briefcase?"

Finally, it was Pete's turn. He forced himself to calm down and perform his best. Luckily, the interview went smoothly. He left the office as confident as before.

"May I have a word with you?" the boss asked.

"Yes sir, what would you like to talk about, sir?" Pete answered nervously.

"I noticed you did not bring with you any documents or preparation. Why is that?"

"Oh sir! I lost my briefcase on the MTR. I was so careless!"

"Well, our company does not hire careless people, even though you did a great job in the interview, I'm sorry, we cannot employ you."

"Yes sir, I fully understand, sir. Sorry for taking up your time."

Pete went home that day feeling content rather than depressed. He learnt the lesson, and swore never to forget his briefcase again.



Suggestions to make our school more eco-friendly

Save electricity

For saving electricity, we can teach our schoolmates and teachers these following suggestions to raise their environmental awareness.

- We should switch off the fans, the light bulbs, the air-conditioner or any electronic products when we leave the classroom.
- We should turn on the air-conditioner only when the temperature is above 28°C, not 24°C.
- We can set up some windmills and solar panels on the green roof for wind power and solar power; it would be more environmentally friendly because it would be using renewable energy.

Reduce rubbish

For reducing rubbish, we can use the recycle bins. We suggest placing three recycling bins for different materials (such as plastic bottles, aluminum cans, paper) in each classroom and the canteen. The recycling bins can be very small so they can be placed on the locker to save space. We should teach our schoolmates how to be more environmentally friendly and put these materials into the bins. When the recycling bins are full, we should clear them and transfer the materials to the big recycling bins which are placed in the canteen.

Save paper

For saving paper, we suggest that every teacher should use both sides of paper when printing or copying materials for students. Some students usually waste paper so we can show some documentaries to them about deforestation and the disappearing rainforest. Both events are happening because trees are being cut down to make paper. In addition, we can teach students how to make a piece of paper and let them do this experiment for their school-based assignment. They should do the report and observe the quality of paper. For the sake of saving paper, we could also post announcements and memos onto the internet instead of printing pages and pages for schoolmates and teachers.



Pete's exciting interview

One day before the summer holiday, Pete happily told all his classmates that he would have a job interview soon. Pete was an introverted person. He was very shy to talk with others because he lacked confidence. Now, he found a target that made him more confident — a job interview. So he tried his best to make the job interview succeed. He would show he had talents. However, his classmates doubted if he could get this job.

Pete was so well-prepared during the next couple of days. First, he went to the tailor's to buy a suit, this was the first time that he bought a suit. He didn't know how to choose a good suit. So he asked the salesman to give him opinions. The salesman was friendly. He asked many details about Pete's job interview, and gave Pete some advice for the interview. Pete learned a lot, and this was the first time that he talked to a salesman. Second, he went to the barber's for a tidy haircut. He didn't want to give a bad impression to the interviewer. When the barber found out Pete was to have a job interview, he suggested he gave him haircut which made him look mature. Finally, Pete went back home and practised his interview in front of the mirror and prepared a lot information about his job.

On the day of interview, Pete put all of his information into his briefcase. He went to take a train to the office. Unfortunately, he left his briefcase on the train, and he didn't notice that. After he had left the depot, he found he had lost his briefcase. He felt nervous and went to the lost-and-found in the depot, but the staff couldn't find it. At this moment, the interviewer called him. "Come and see me immediately because you are late, or you will lose this job interview." She sounded angry.

When he reached the office, he found that the interviewer had taken his briefcase. "You are lucky," she said, "but I won't give you back the briefcase just yet. I'd like to give you a challenge. You cannot use your information in your briefcase during the interview." Pete tried to show all he had known, he wasn't nervous, he spoke fluently and did it well. "So you see? I knew you were lacked confidence because you brought too much information for the interview. But you could do it without the information, right?" She looked happy. Pete was then recruited, too. He has become more confident and extroverted now.



Pete's job interview

One day before the summer holiday, Pete happily told his classmates that he would have a job interview soon. "I want to get some work experience," he said. His classmates told him what he should do before the job interview, for example, cutting his hair and buying some new clothes in order to give a good impression to the boss.

Pete followed the advice given by his classmates. He went to a boutique to buy some new clothes and he went to a barber's and had his hair styled. Then he prepared some questions that could be asked by the interviewer. After preparing for several days, he felt very confident and he believed that he could get the job.

On the day of interview, he went to the place of interview by train. But he was a careless person because he left his bag behind when he got off the train. When he arrived at the company he realized he didn't have his bag. And his CV was in the bag! So he went back to the train station to look for his bag.

Meanwhile, Pete's interviewer had found a bag on the train. He opened the bag, hoping to find a phone number so he could return the bag to the owner. He discovered the bag was owned by a person he would be interviewing, so he took the bag to the company.

It was time for Pete to have the interview so he gave up looking for the bag. However, he arrived late. During the interview, the interviewer asked him why he was late. Pete told him what happened. The interviewer noticed that Pete did not tell lies. He thought Pete was an honest person; so he gave him back the bag and employed him.

Pete felt delighted. That was a lucky day for him.



Problem-solution Essay: Environmental Protection

4th January, 2010

Dear Principal,

I am Brian Chau, a Form 6 student, and I would like to express my concern about the effectiveness of current environmental practices. According to a survey by the mass media, only 30% of schools in Hong Kong have built 'green roofs'. I am glad that our school is one of them. Apart from the green roof, I also realize that our school has been carrying out a multitude of measures to protect the environment. All these measures place our school as a pioneer in safeguarding the environment. However, there are more ways to act so as to better the environment. Therefore, to be a 'Green School', betterment of our existing policies is part and parcel of environmental protection.

The effectiveness of current green measures like the green roof, recycling bins and greenhouse could be more exhaustive. It is true to say that the green roof is the greatest stride in our green policies as it can lower the temperature of the school and create a cooling effect. More recycling bins should be placed on the campus because it is observed that many students just dispose cans and plastic items in the trash bins. As for the greenhouse, planting is a considerable way to let students get close to the nature. However, we must get more students to know that our crops are organically grown. This is crucial to promote green farming.

Other than the above evaluations, there are also three new measures I would like to suggest. First of all, reusable dining utensils should be introduced in the tuck shop. Now, the tuck shop offers plastic forks and plastic spoons to us, which is quite wasteful to the environment. Take, for example, the way our lunch supplier provides reusable utensils to us; and it is estimated that nearly 400-500 plastic cutlery items could be saved at our school per day. Thus, it is recommended that our school subsidizes the tuck shop to alter the above plastic items to stainless-steel ones, which are more environmentally-friendly and durable.

What is more, the rule of switching on-and-off air-conditioners should be extended to all rooms. To reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, the temperature of the classrooms, staff room and general office should all be maintained at around 25.5 Degree Celsius while air-conditioners are in use. Furthermore, when the temperature is below 25 Degree Celsius, all air-conditioners should be switched off in all rooms.

Last but not least, recycling of second-hand textbooks and school uniforms should be arranged. Quite a lot of old textbooks and uniforms are still possible to use, therefore, it is hoped that our school and the Student Association could cooperate and organize a fun fair



which could collect and redistribute the useful second-hand items in order to reduce solid wastes.

To sum up, if our existing environmental policies and the three approaches mentioned above could come together, I truly believe that our school environment would not only be improved, but it would also be a great triumph for our school as a 'Green School' deserves. I hope that all of us can enjoy a green campus life in the foreseeable future.

Yours faithfully,

Brian Chau



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Problem-solution Essay: Environmental Protection

4th January, 2010

Dear Mr. Ng,

I am Priscylla Cheung, a student in 6A this year. I am writing to air my views on the current environmental protection measures which are implemented in our school. In recent years, the government keeps instilling the idea that we need to change our daily habits to save the world. In response to the appeal, our school carries out several measures to raise our awareness in protecting the environment. Some of the measures are really successful. However, I think more could be done on to improve the effectiveness of current policy.

To start with, temperature regulation of air conditioners in each classroom can ensure that the emissions of air conditioners will not cause severe damage to the ozone layer. For one thing, it can ensure students stay in a room with a suitable room temperature. For another, it can promote energy saving and a clean air message to us. This measure is entirely successful and it is good for the Earth's health. However, this measure is not implemented in all rooms. It is chilly every time when I enter some special rooms. It seems that this measure is not well applied to the entire campus. To cope with the problem, it is suggested that temperature regulation should be carried out in the whole school.

In addition to the temperature regulation, sharing news about the environment in the morning assemblies is the most effective way to help students be more familiar with the horrible situation our earth is in. Not only can the sharing of such news raise students' awareness, but it lets them know more vocabulary about the environment. Yet, these benefits are temporary. In the long term, the students will have to establish a green life after listening to the news. Society will benefit eventually. To make the program better, different extended activities should be held. Chinese and English teachers can ask students to write reflections on the news which is shared in the morning. Students in secondary school, according to a research conducted by the Hong Kong University, love obtaining extra knowledge outside class. Holding a book fair is definitely a good way. So the school library may as well display some books which are related to environmental protection and our planet.

Beyond a doubt, placing recycling bins in each of the classrooms can encourage students to recycle plastic bottles and reduce the burden of landfills. But if you look inside the recycling bins in every classroom, you are bound to see that the bins are filled with plastic bottles. To ensure the bottles can be recycled, it is necessary to find a student to empty the recycling bins. But this solution of just finding a student to do this only addresses the surface of the problem, not the root. Why are the boxes always full? The fundamental cause is that students like



buying bottled drinks. It is patently obvious to everyone that plastic bottles harm the Earth. But how many of us have refrained from doing so? It is recommended that the school should stop students from buying plastic bottled drinks or should ask students to bring their own bottles to school.

Frankly speaking, I really appreciate the efforts you and the teachers have made to introduce various measures in the previous year. I firmly believe that if our school and students always work hand in hand together, it will mean a great deal to the Earth. I would appreciate it if you could take my aforementioned suggestions into account.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,
Cheung Priscylla Oi Lam



2C 胡仲軒



Problem-solution Essay: Environmental Protection20th December 2009

Dear Principal,

I would like to express my concern about the effectiveness of current environmental practices to you. As we all know, our school has been working hard in implementing a series of measures to protect the environment. For instance, we have built a green roof to foster greenery and to cool the school. Also, we have used organic fertilizers and solar energy to grow them. However, the students do not seem to notice about this setting. Hence, there are three ways to raise their awareness of environmental conservation.

It is important for us to improve the environment through an improvement in the use of the green roof, recycling bins and the greenhouse.

First of all, teachers should use their free time to take the students to the green roof and green house. They should take the first step to act as an example to demonstrate how to plant to the students. Teachers can let them use the organic fertilizers, which is better for our health. Teachers can organize some activities to encourage students to plant the vegetation.

What is more, the school can provide more recycling bins in the classrooms and corridors. This is more convenient for students to recycle water bottles and other items. The Principal and teachers can act as role models by recycling bottles during lunch-time, and this will lead students to follow suit. Besides, I would also highly recommend our students bring their own bottled water instead of buying bottles of water at the tuck shop, as this is the best way to reduce solid waste.

Last but not least, I think the school could do more promotion in introducing these green measures to the students. Student Association can basically pay class visits to tell the students about the importance of environmental protection. Additionally, we could organize some activities like an inter-class planting competition. We may also provide some rewards and gifts to those who help plant in order to encourage them to be committed planters.

The Earth is now in trouble. As we are a part of the Earth, we have the responsibility to protect and save it. It is our duty to protect the environment. Through promotion to students and teachers, it is hoped that students' awareness of environmental protection can be raised. Therefore, from now on, let's work hand in hand and do our best to protect the environment.

Yours sincerely,

Simpson Wong



A letter of advice

7th January, 2010

Dear Nancy,

How are you? Are you getting ready for the public exams? I'm busy for the public exams but I'm also busy preparing for the mid-exams these weeks. We haven't met for nearly a year since last Christmas holiday. I really miss you so much! I've read your letter that you sent to me last week. I know that you're upset about your situation. I also understand that you are on the horns of a dilemma, as you don't know whether you should accept your step-father or not. Here is my advice for you to deal with your worries.

You may be shocked by your mum's sudden decision to have a second marriage. But I think that you should be happy with your mum's situation because she has found love again, which had left her for five years. She must have felt lonely and upset those five years without a blissful marriage. I know that you are her only daughter – the only one! I also think that her second aim for this decision is to provide a blissful family for you in order to give you a better growing environment. You should chat with her and share her happiness or express your feelings.

The fact is that your mother has decided to get married again. It's difficult, if not impossible, for you to ignore or accept her decision. You should be courageous enough to think about how to deal with the reality that you are going to have a step-father. I know that you don't welcome this idea, but on the other hand, why don't you try to get along with him? He may be a nice man who deserves your love and respect. I deeply feel that your mum must have chosen the right man, because she's a mature adult. I suggest that you should communicate with your step-father by chatting with him, and telling him more about yourself. You can also know him more deeply by asking your mum. But there is one thing you should bear in mind: you should respect your step-father as you do to every elder.

You're going to sit for the public exam in two months time. You should now spend time and make effort on your studies. If I were you, I would put this concern aside first and just concentrate on the future, so you would not fall short of success.

In the final analysis, I think your mum's marriage is a blessing rather than a curse. As the old saying goes, 'every cloud has a silver lining'. Don't be so pessimistic! I will always be standing at your side. I hope that you can perform well in the exams and enjoy your new family life. Family love transcends everything! Write back when you're free.

Best Regards,
Chris



A letter of advice

7th January, 2010

Dear Nancy,

Great to hear from you, gal. I've heard from many of our friends that you're leading a new life in London with your mom right now and I can imagine how wonderful it is. Since Lunar New Year is coming soon, I think I can visit London and spend my holiday with you! I'm really excited about the trip! Meanwhile, I'm glad you trust me well enough to tell me about your distress. It is understandable that you feel puzzled about your mum's second marriage. I think you've got to talk to your mom. Anyway, I hope my advice will help you sort out the confusion you are undergoing and the ordeal will be straightened out.

You should talk to your mom and tell her how you are concerned about her decision. I know that you feel frustrated about it and don't want to talk with her. But your mom probably thinks that you no longer love her, so it's important for her to know that you do care about her but still want to express your care. So you should go and talk with her. Just tell her you are feeling upset about this and I do think a sincere communication between you and her can solve many problems about this matter.

The next thing you can do is to have a frank meeting with your future step-father. I believe that you'll be shocked by this advice, but buddy, it's important for you to know more about his background as well as his personality. Of course, you should put away your bias first before you go to see him. After that, you should tell him you are in a dither about having a step-father and ask for a better understanding of each other. A chat will help. I suppose that you will accept him gradually after that.

Also, whenever you face snags and don't know how to cope with them, you can always seek help from social workers. They are always willing to help you. They're actually in a better position to help you and your mom as they're experienced in handling relationships like this. So don't be afraid of seeking help from them if you need any. Just tell them your worries and I'm sure that they can give you some constructive suggestions.

I hope my advice will be useful to help you and that your family will get along better in the future. Please don't be too anxious. Many teenagers have new family members as you do now and you all face similar stress. I'm proud that you can face the problem. Just take my advice and drop me a few lines soon if there is any progress. You can always reach me by phone if you need to talk. See you in February!

Bye for now,
Chris



Beauty contests build an inappropriate standard of defining women

Beauty contests are popular in many parts of the world. The aim of these contests is to find a woman who possesses ideal characteristics. She will be the 'beauty queen' of the year. Certainly, the 'beauty queen' must have physical beauty and some talents. If a woman becomes a beauty queen, it means that she is perfect. So, many women want to be a beauty queen. However, these contests have been spoiled. There are three reasons why I think that beauty contests should be banned.

Firstly, the entrance requirement is stringent and unreasonable. For instance, women who want to participate must be under 25 years old and single. That is to say, if you are 26 or above or already married, you cannot enter the contest. Having passed these qualifications to join the beauty contests, the participants will have to answer questions raised by the audience and judges when they are in swimsuits. Also, the mass media will laugh at their drawbacks. This will hurt their dignity and make them feel embarrassed. So the contest does not show basic respect to the participants.

The second reason is that beauty contests affect all women. Beauty contests put pressure on all women to conform to a set of single standard. This can be harmful to women by encouraging dieting, which may lead to eating disorders. They may also opt for cosmetic surgery. The standard set by contests simply makes women feel inadequate and ugly. This cannot help women become better.

Thirdly, beauty contests create a bad atmosphere in society. Women in beauty contests are judged, to a very large extent, on their physical appearance rather than any other attributes they possess. Furthermore, when teenagers watch beauty pageants, they may think that it is just a swimsuit show and they will only pay attention to the women wearing swimsuits and their bodies. This is not a good message for teenagers.

Some say that the women who join the beauty contests can polish up their self-confidence. I agree that such an intention is good. But these women could enter other competitions to improve it. Therefore, it is not a cogent reason.

All in all, beauty contests make a female uncomfortable, embarrassed and spoil the atmosphere of society. So they are harmful to society. Also, they cannot help women in any respect. They should be banned.



School-Based Assessment (SBA) carries 50% of the subject mark in all HKCEE and HKALE subjects. Do you agree?

Currently, marks from coursework are counted in the public exams in some subjects in both the HKCEE and the HKALE. It is acceptable that the percentage of coursework is only 10% to 20%. But what if 50% of marks of all subjects were based on the coursework? If it were implemented, what would happen?

The benefits can be classified into a few points. First of all, if half of the marks are counted from coursework, the stress due to public exams can be reduced. Some sudden sickness such as abdominal pain, headache, etc due to stress would be less disruptive. Students can try their best in their exams in order to get the best results. It will be useful for improving performance in public exams.

In addition, students' performance in the public examination will not be the only source which reflects their ability and hard work. If students make some serious mistakes in public exams, the final result will not be affected so seriously because the public exams only count for 50% of marks.

Furthermore, the SBA encourages students to pay more attention to the class participation and coursework. Students have to participate in the lessons more actively as the marks will be counted into public exams directly. It will be easier to ensure that students learn continuously.

However, every coin must have two sides. There are not only benefits, but also drawbacks. The drawbacks could also be classified into a few aspects. First, students have to spend more time on the preparation of coursework. Because the marks for coursework will be counted into public exams directly, students may spend so much time on it that they do not have enough time for revision, which subsequently hampers their exam performance.

Also, 50% of marks is not a reasonable proportion. It is too heavy. Besides the public exams, students also have to be ready for the coursework in lessons. It is obviously a heavy burden for students. Students are not only required to face the examinations, but also regular coursework.

Moreover, if coursework is counted directly, it can cause unfairness. First, some students may copy the work from others directly because of their laziness. Some of them will copy work in order to get high marks. It is unfair for the original authors whose assignments are plagiarized.

Additionally, the marking standards of teachers may be different. For lenient teachers, students could get a good result easily even if their performance is poor. For strict teachers, it will be difficult for students to get a good result even when their performance is really not bad at all. So it will be fair only if two teachers grade the same piece of work.

After that, the marks given by teachers will not only depend on the quality of work,



but also the teachers' impression of students. If the student is naughty in class, it will be difficult for him to get a good result even if he does a good job.

All in all, the proposal carries both advantages and disadvantages. There are still a lot of uncertainties in SBA. I hope that everyone can understand the circumstances of the issue after reading this article.



6B Chui Ho Fai Freddie

On the business ethics of mobile phone network operators

It is an incontrovertible fact that many Hongkongers have at least one mobile phone nowadays. So there are many mobile network operators and the competition among them is very intense. Unfortunately, this competition brings some disasters which harm many customers.

Many mobile network operators commit fraud to cheat the customers. For example, a customer received a bill demanding him to pay \$2,000 for SMS messaging. He was charged \$50 a message and the operator stopped his mobile service when he failed to settle the bill. The company should have explained to its customer why he had to pay \$2,000 when he was charged \$50 per message.

If I were the customer, I would not pay the bill. Instead, I would ask the company why I should pay more than before and I would also seek legal advice.

The government can take some measures to protect consumers from being misled to pay for text messages. For example, the government can monitor the SMS business and set a maximum fee chargeable to the customer.

The mobile network operators should help customers rather than just demand them to settle the bill.



On Artificial Intelligence

There are two aspects of Artificial Intelligence (AI): learning and creating.

For learning, it means that the AI programme stores some new types of information from the input. Creating means the programme provides us with a suitable answer after analyzing the situation. For example, by dialing 1083, we tell the AI which number we need (input), and it searches for the information in the database and gives feedback to us. If what we ask is not stored in the database, the AI should be able to store the request and search for more information for later use. However, 1083 cannot do that. Instead, it relays your call to a real operator to solve the problem.

True AI should have the power to learn and create, as I have mentioned before. It should also have the power to enrich the database on its own. Therefore, science fiction always represents AI with robots (such as 'I, robot') because a human-like robot should be equipped with the ability to ask for clarifications. In real life, a networked supercomputer is actually close to being AI as it searches for information more quickly.

The so-called 'AI' (again, they are still traditional programmes or roughly designed AI programmes in my eyes) will make our lives easier because we will enter an era in which we ask a computer for answers without telling it how to do it. Again, I use 1083 as an example. Nowadays we don't need to keep pressing a button to look for an answer.

Some skeptics are in a panic because they believe that AI will rule the world soon. Nonsense!

Because AI still depends on what we input, it still lacks the ability of creation.

I have visited a website. In it, there is an online chat room. It can give responses if you chat with 'him'. However, it only depends on what you enter. By typing simple conversational phrases like 'How are you?', you can get a response like 'I am fine, how about you?' but the principle is that it acts like a search engine and searches for the most appropriate answer in the database to answer you. If it faces some new questions, it can only ask for your answer, store it, and prepare to answer in the same way if it faces the same question. But the creator of the answer is still you.



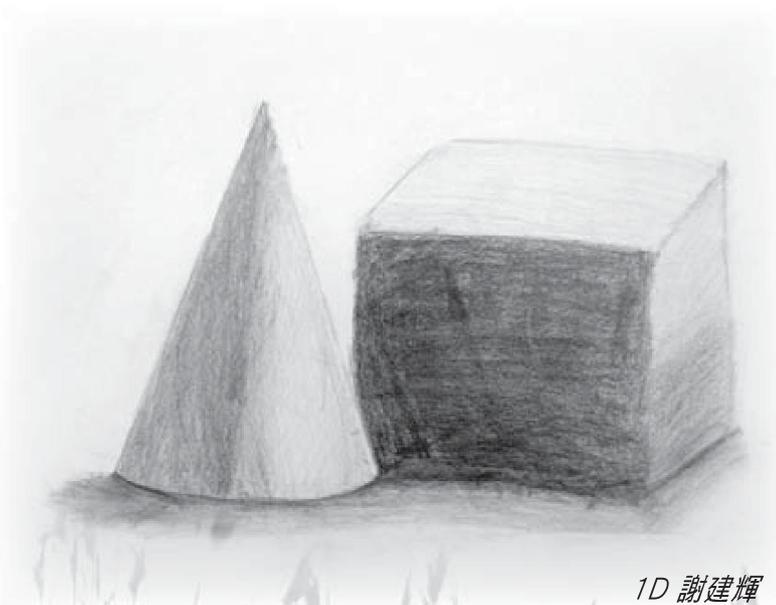
*There were incidents of animals kept in them parks attacking the trainer.
Should whales be kept in them parks?*

From my point of view, there is no point in keeping killer whales for amusement. It is brutal that people confine them in a small pool.

In fact, killer whales are also living creatures which should enjoy freedom. Killer whales should not be regarded as objects for show only. Originally, these killer whales lived in the ocean, which is infinitely large, so that they had no limitations on their daily activities. But in a pool, killer whales only have a tiny space for activities. They are also harassed by the audience. Therefore it is inevitable that they become furious and attack their trainers.

Despite the fact that the killed trainer was experienced and well trained, she was still a victim. Even though the killer whale had performed shows for more than ten years, such incidents kept occurring continuously. It showed that killer whales are not human and have the instinct to kill in order to feed themselves. Killer whales are fed with adequate food in that park, but they will still be likely to attack people out of instinct.

To summarize, people had better consider the feelings of animals and the safety of staff to prevent such incidents from happening.



1D 謝建輝

Will Shanghai outstrip Hong Kong?

Many people claim that Shanghai is already breathing down Hong Kong's neck because Shanghai outstripped Hong Kong in terms of economic output last year. It seems Shanghai will replace Hong Kong's position as the most important international city of China. But there are some reasons which prove that Shanghai cannot overtake Hong Kong.

There is some data showing that Shanghai is better than Hong Kong but we should consider the population of these two places. Shanghai has a population of 19 million, which is almost three times more than that of Hong Kong. It has a fast growing economy, so it is not surprising that the mainland city's gross domestic production is now larger. However, the most recent (2008) per-capita GDP of Hong Kong was \$30,977 whereas Shanghai was \$10,713. It means there is still a great distance between these two cities.

The legal systems of Shanghai and Hong Kong are very different. It is the reason why Hong Kong can stand at the top of China's economy. Hong Kong is autonomous, has a lower tax rate and the free flow of funds to attract overseas money into her economy. Shanghai has to follow the monetary policies of the central government; it is not convenient for people to invest in Shanghai because of the lower convertibility of the RMB.

Based on these reasons, Hong Kong is still competitive, and it will not be replaced by Shanghai.



Change

It is very important for all organisms, even the universe, to change. The natural selection of Darwinism proves that organisms have to change to suit the changing environment. Otherwise, they will be eliminated through selection. So change is a good thing. If you want to be strong, you have to change yourself first.

Moreover, China has experienced many eras of revolution that changed her political style drastically. Now, we can see the success and advancement in the economy, education and so on. So we know that change leads to success.

But how do you change yourself? There is a saying that goes, 'To exist is to change, to change is to mature and to mature is to go on creating oneself endlessly.' We can know that creation is one of the ways of change.

The first thing of creativity is to get out of the comfort zone and try something without fear of failure. Because if you don't, you cannot find anything new or strange and you cannot discover or invent something new. If you go to a strange place, your curiosity will lead you to explore or create something new. In addition, you must not be afraid of failure, or else you dare not try anything.

Also, all learning results from trial and error, and failure is an important part of the process. Like the empirical way to learn in science, you have to try, make and test hypotheses and assumptions. The most important part is to have discussion. We need to discuss why we make errors and think of improvements in order to become more accurate in our knowledge.

Moreover, you must challenge yourself, since inventing or changing one thing is not easy. For instance, Edison invented the light bulbs. He had failed a thousand times but he never gave up. Finally, he did it. And his name is in history. This shows that perseverance is the essential element for making progressive change.



The quality and diversity of free TV programmes provided by TVB and ATV

Nowadays, the quality and variety of free TV programmes provided by TVB and the ATV are better than a few years ago.

They provide different types of programmes, such as educational, entertainment, sports, drama, cartoons etc. Viewers, including children, adults, and the elderly are hooked on these shows.

The quality has obviously improved. Let's take some travelling programmes as an example. The TV broadcasting companies have invested a lot of money in production. They invite photographers with good skills and use better, more expensive equipment to produce the programmes. Therefore, we can see those beautiful, attractive scenes in foreign countries and know more about their cultures.

Besides this, in shows such as 'The Voice', companies have invited music professors to express opinions on the participants. It is not only entertaining, but viewers can also learn something about music from it.

Some TV programmes are educational, like 'The Right Words'. The programme is educational for viewers to learn the correct use of Chinese words. We can learn more from these programmes and have fun. It is quite interesting.

The evidence above shows that the quality and diversity of free TV programmes provided by TVB and the ATV are rising.



Misconduct of professionals

We always regard professionals as respectable and treat them with admiration. However, this attitude is no longer appropriate and we need to consider doctors as a potentially hazardous group. In account of a recent grope case, a male doctor abused his patient's trust and assaulted her. The victims may end up having some psychological disorders, no matter whether they are a mature adult or an adolescent.

Undeniably, both doctors and patients' interests should be safeguarded. It is necessary to have a nurse to stay in the examining room. The government should deal with these incidents seriously to prevent such tragedies from happening again. Moreover, there should be legislation to ensure that a nurse must be present when a male doctor is examining a female patient.

When talking about conduct, we know it is part and parcel of one's upbringing. Conduct is the soul of people and the basis of doing things. The building up of one's conduct depends on the model established by teachers and parents. They have a great impact on the nurturing of children. Although we can find few who exhibit good conduct in this realistic society, there is a need for us to know that good conduct can earn people's respect, which is more long-lasting than an instant of fame and fortune or instinct.

Tiffany responded to a news article titled Doctors denies groping girl, 15. The article appeared in the South China Morning Post, October 29.

