

# Cliphoard

## Letter to the Editor

3 Faith LUN Horace

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my concern about the conservation of the Asian Elephant, also known as *Elephas maximus*. In the early 20th century, there were about 100,000 elephants across the world. However, fast forward to 2025, there are only about 50,000 or fewer elephants left in the wild, showing at least a 50 to 70 percent decline over the years, leaving it as an endangered species now. This situation is most critical in Sumatra, with fewer than 1,000 individuals left. In this letter, I will first talk about the major threats elephants are facing and then suggest solutions to the problems so as to reduce the declining trend of the species.

There are a few reasons why elephants have become endangered. First of all, one of the reasons is habitat loss and fragmentation. The size of East Sumatran elephant habitats decreased from 9524 km<sup>2</sup> in 2000 to 4886 km<sup>2</sup> in 2020, forcing elephants into human-dominated landscapes. According to a study in 2023, elephants will experience crop-raiding conflicts, correlating to the loss of habitat. In Yunnan, China, rising temperatures and inconsistent protection policies have pushed elephants into the northwest regions with high human population. To combat the potential crop damage that elephants may cause to the farmers, the elephants may be poisoned or electrocuted, further reducing their population.

Secondly, poaching and illegal trade is another reason why Asian Elephants are facing the risk of extinction. Despite global bans, poaching persists for male elephants' ivory, which might have great medical value in traditional medicine. Furthermore, selective poaching of male elephants endangers genetic diversity, threatening long-term population viability. According to the reports conducted by the Wildlife Conservation Society, it shows that 40% of Asian elephants reside in areas that are

outside of anti-poaching zones. If we do not deal with this problem in time, Asian elephants may not exist on the Earth anymore.

To remedy this situation, I suggest that the local government of where Asian Elephants inhabit can enforce an area of non-fragmented habitats suitable for the elephants. Lastly, and also most importantly, I suggest imposing stricter trade rules on illegal poaching and trading as they are the very root cause of the decline in the population of these elephants.

In conclusion, Asian Elephants may face extinction one day due to illegal poaching, trading, and habitat loss. We should impose stricter bans and give the elephants a chance at habitat in order to stop this from happening.

Yours faithfully,  
Chris Wong



## Story

3 Honesty CHIU Chin Yiu Chloe

3 Hope NG Hei Yin

### WHISPERS OF THE FORGOTTEN TIME

"So, this is the library, huh?" I murmured before walking in. In the heart of the ancient library, where time drifted like dust motes in the slanted sunlight filtering through stained glass windows, a solitary figure stood before a weathered oak desk. The room exhaled the scent of aged parchment and leather-bound tomes, its shelves reaching towards the vaulted ceiling like guardians of forgotten knowledge.

As I went through the old, destroyed library, a strange book was lying on the floor, covered in dust, revealing its age. It felt disproportionately weighty in my palms. Mysterious liquid was dripping from the book. The sight of it made it almost forbidden to touch. My curiosity urged me to muster the courage to flip through the old pages until something caught my attention.

A mysterious shaft of light was cast on one of the pages, strangely enough, page "666". As I turned to that page, I noticed something slipping down the book. Before I could catch the enigmatic artifact, a loud "clang!" echoed through the room.

"Huh? Is that a metal key?" I whispered to myself.

I picked up the key that was surprisingly clean, as if someone had found this artifact before me. A crimson diamond on the key was refracting light directly into my curious gaze. I smirked to myself, thinking that I'd gotten myself a nice treat. I whispered, "I'm gonna become rich, baby!" as I wiped the key with a thin cloth. Before I could put it in my pocket, the key disappeared, and then "Poof!"

A swirling vortex of shimmering light erupted where the key had been, its edges pulsating with hues of violet and gold. Tendrils of mist curled inward, while faint whispers hummed from its glowing core.

"HUH?! IS THAT A... PORTAL?!" I screamed.



### THE SECRET BOOK IN THE SECRET LIBRARY

We had been told that in ancient times, there was a library in the mysterious basement of a pyramid. Two days ago, I went to Egypt to inspect a geographical site. While walking to meet my friend, I tripped over something. I immediately looked at the object protruding from the sand. My friend saw me digging and came to help. When we unearthed it, we were very surprised—it was a key! The leader of our group came to see what we were doing and shouted, "That's the key we've been looking for!" Apparently, this key had been around for millions of years, lost and forgotten. It was the only way to unlock the library in the mysterious basement of a pyramid.

We discussed how to get there to open it. When we arrived at the basement, we used the key to unlock the door. Inside, we found a multitude of books. One book caught our attention—it was glowing. My friend snatched it, and we poured over its pages. It detailed a glorious battle between two sorcerers millions of years ago.

The book recounted how sorcerers Gogo and Sukuna waged a great war. Deciphering the words was challenging, as they were as blurry as a foggy window.

When we exited the pyramid, a blinding flash of thunder and light split the sky. Before we could say a word, the ground beneath us shook, and everything went white. Moments later, we found ourselves lying in the middle of a desert, disoriented and confused. The pyramid had vanished, and the air was dry and heavy.

Behind a sand dune, a figure slowly emerged. A bloodied man staggered towards us. His clothes torn and covered in dust. He looked up with wide, desperate eyes, breathing heavily. With trembling fingers, he stretched out his hand towards us and whispered, "You have the book... it's starting again."



## THE OMINOUS STAIRWAY

There it was again. As Joe was having a nap during lunchtime, he awoke from the mysterious noise that had been bothering everyone in the school these past few weeks. It started as a rumor that strange noises were coming from a locked room inside the school's basement. Everyone was doubtful at first, but the noises kept getting louder. Joe was particularly annoyed, as the school's basement was near his classroom, which disturbed his incredibly comforting naps during the afternoon. He pondered what the noises could be; however, his laziness decided that this matter should be dealt with later as he drifted off to sleep again.

BANG!

This was the last straw. He grumbled and stormed off to check what had happened outside. He followed the sound's trail as it grew louder. As he approached the disturbance's origin, he noticed it was from the school's basement. His classmates had gathered around the door, feeling curious about what was occurring there. A group of teens announced that they were going to investigate the noise after school by sneaking in. Joe approached them, asking if he could join. They agreed, telling him to meet up near the cafeteria after school.

After he finished his last class, Joe arrived at the cafeteria to meet up

3 Perseverance YU Yan Lok Sharon

with the teens. They all introduced themselves. There was Mary, a girl with a surprisingly bulky build for her age; Mark, the short yet energetic leader with a heart full of determination; Lily, a grade A student who wore glasses and always carried around a book; and, last but not least, Joe himself, a lazy one who constantly failed his tests. Discussing their plans, Joe got bored and drifted to sleep again.

BOOM!

Out of the blue, the noises jolted Joe awake. Looking around, he realized he had overslept and his group had left him behind. The sky was pitch black, as though it had been spilled with ink.

KABOOM! He remembered his goal was to investigate and shut down whatever made the horrible, annoying, and frustrating sound. He ran as quickly as lightning towards the school's basement.

The door was open.

The doorway led to a staircase encased by shadows. Heart throbbing, he realized what he had gotten himself into. His breath grew deeper as the stairway seemed to stare him down. As if it were alive, he felt it breathing down his neck. He steadied himself and told himself, "If Mary, Lily, and Mark had gone in there, could it be that bad?" He stepped down the stairs. As he kept walking down, he looked back at the doorway. His face turned as pale as a ghost as he saw what had happened.

The door had shut itself..

1 Perseverance CHAN Chun Yin Elvis

1 Love LAM Summer

## 1 GUY – THE 1 YOU NEED

The overwhelming flavours of the newly opened vegan burger joint's burgers are better than any other! Just the other day, my friend and I decided to give the newly opened vegan burger place, 1 Guy located at Mong Kok a try.

The moment we stepped into the burger joint, we were greeted by some kind and welcoming waiters and waitresses. We sat down next to a window with a spectacular city view. The never-ending menu was filled with numerous scrumptious options. After a good look, my friend and I ordered the double plant-based burger with a side of fries, followed by a can of Diet Coke (68 HKD) and a plant-based cheeseburger with a salad, accompanied by a can of Sprite (65 HKD) respectively. We decided to order plant-based alternatives because of how much an animal has to sacrifice for a mere piece of steak.

When our burgers arrived, we were taken aback by how big the portion was. Our food looked like it was descended from the heavens' realm. They looked so irresistible, and I immediately took pictures to capture the beauty of our dishes. After taking a bite, the flavour and texture made me crave for more as I continued my meal. The crunchy lettuce and fresh tomatoes paired well with The double vegan-patty, which was very juicy and succulent. Every bite I took burst with juice and melted in my mouth. And don't get me started on the buns, they were as soft as a cloud. I almost thought I was taking a bite out of one! The fries were crispy and perfectly salted. My friend even asked for some as he saw me enjoying it so much. Before I knew it, I had licked the plate clean in a matter of minutes.

My friend also enjoyed his meal. His vegan cheeseburger was flavorful with an addicting sauce that makes you crave for more. The cheese was incredibly creamy, the vegan patty perfectly well-done, the pickles tangy and the pillowy buns made him feel like he was in a flavour paradise. The salad was absolutely refreshing. The lettuce, cucumbers and cherry tomatoes were fresh and the salad dressing was the cherry on top.

This vegan burger joint was a once-in-a-lifetime restaurant experience you could never get anywhere else. I am without a doubt coming back here to experience the other eye-catching menu items soon. I highly recommend burger critics to come here for a wonderful time. Trust me, you'll be visiting more than once. I hope you guys enjoy it!

## THE MOST DELICIOUS BURGER

Located at K11 Musea in Tsim Sha Tsui, Five Guys is a renowned burger chain with a global reputation. Recently, I had a great first-hand experience, and it did not disappoint.

Upon entering, the red and white simple yet stylish decor immediately caught the eye, creating a relaxing atmosphere. The open kitchen concept allows customers to watch their burgers being prepared, adding an element of fun to the dining experience.

In terms of food quality, Five Guys excels. The burgers are made with fresh ingredients, and the beef patties are juicy and tender, offering a burst of flavor with every bite. I opted for the classic cheeseburger loaded with lettuce, tomato, and cheese, creating a highly delicious blend of textures and tastes. The fries were another highlight—so crispy on the outside and soft on the inside, with a wonderful aroma. The Cajun fries, in particular, had a delightful spicy kick that leaves a lasting impression.

Service is another area where Five Guys shines. The staff is friendly and enthusiastic, providing excellent service throughout the ordering process. Even during busy times, the wait for food is minimal, ensuring a pleasant dining experience.

Although the prices are relatively high, the quality and portion sizes make it worth it. We can customise our burgers with a wide range of free toppings, allowing for a unique and personalised meal. Additionally, the free refill option for soft drinks adds extra value and convenience.

Overall, Five Guys is a highly recommended burger joint. Whether you are a burger enthusiast or a fries-lover, this place will satisfy your cravings. The clean and comfortable dining environment, along with the friendly service, makes Five Guys an ideal choice for enjoying delicious food at K11. Each visit promises new surprises and satisfaction. So see you there!





## WHAT AN UNFORGETTABLE TRIP!

Last week, I went to another country, Japan, with my family. We had an amazing experience there.

In the morning, we packed up the things we needed. Then we ate some food and headed to the airport.. Everything was ready, the airplane flew.

We were going to stay in a wonderful hotel. There was a waterpark in the hotel that spanned the 5th floor to the 8th floor, the 9th floor and 10th floor were restaurants, and the other floors were hotel rooms.

After we had arrived, we went to the hotel and put down our luggage. While mum and dad were unpacking the things that we brought, my brother and I changed our clothes

because we wanted to play in the waterpark at once. 'Done! Let's go to play now!' Mum said happily. We walked to the 5th floor, 'Wow! That's amazing!' We were shocked.

There were a lot of different types of waterslides, and water games. We played there the whole afternoon. At night, we went to have dinner on the 9th floor. The next day we went shopping and took photos in those scenic places.

All in all, in these two days I played happily all the time. That has been the most unforgettable trip I have ever had. I hope I will have another amazing trip again soon.

## REVIEW ABOUT AN AMAZING TRIP

I went to the Netherlands and Belgium last March and April with my mom and dad. It was a memorable experience. It was the best trip of my entire life. I'd love it so much. I tasted the traditional Netherlands meatball with mustard. It was savoury and yummy! To be honest, I was hesitant to try it at first but I overcame my worry. At the end we went to several majestic museums too! I was afraid it would be boring. Luckily, I found the paintings, structures, antiques and so much more fascinating. I adored every story behind each piece of art. They were also interesting. I also visited churches as well. They exceeded my expectations. The architecture was jaw dropping and elegant. The designs were so authentic. It was so quiet and peaceful inside. We have to move quietly. There were lots of chairs and glass artworks.

In Belgium, we saw a lot of chocolate since it was Easter. We went to lots of chocolate shops. The sample chocolate was so tasty. I nearly ate all of them. I saw huge scriptures and fountains made from chocolate. The smell was heavenly. Finally, we went shopping to buy clothes and souvenirs. The quality of the clothes was amazing.

The trip lasted for 15 days. It was a blink of an eye for me. It was so fun and I got a chance to admire historical objects. The trip will always be in the back of my mind, I highly recommend it to my friends and family. It's a huge difference from Hong Kong and our lifestyle. I personally think a lot of people will enjoy it.



## AN AMAZING TRIP TO TOKYO DISNEYLAND

My family and I went to Tokyo Disneyland during the summer holiday.

When we first arrived, the atmosphere was inviting and the castle was enchanting. I felt like the whole place was truly whimsical.

When we first got there, we played a game called "Beauty and the Beast". This ride includes some of the iconic scenes from the movie "Beauty and the Beast". It was so touching to see that the true love between the Beast and Belle broke the curse and the Beast became human again. The moment was so touching that my mum cried!

Later, we went on the 'Monster, Inc. Seek and go' ride. This game is inspired by the movie 'Monster, Inc' from Pixar. It captures the humorous moments in the movie, which are suitable for all ages. It is for sure a family-friendly game!

After playing for a while, we went to eat lunch at a restaurant that is inspired by 'Alice in Wonderland', called 'The Queen of Hearts'. At the entrance, there were two soldiers. When I first saw them, I got a little scared. We ordered Mickey waffles and noodles. The food was scrumptious!

After a while, we played more games. It was eight by then. It was time for the fireworks. The fireworks were stunning and the music was vibrant.

Overall, it was a spectacular day. Experiencing the games firsthand and interacting with the characters made it truly unforgettable. I can't wait for another chance to go there again!

## SCHOOLS SHOULD SET RULES ABOUT APPEARANCE

Nowadays, schools enforce rules about students' appearance to create a better learning environment. While some would suggest that students should be given the freedom of choice on what they should wear, it is my firm belief that schools should set rules about appearance. Therefore, students should wear school uniforms because of the following reasons.

Firstly, wearing school uniforms promotes unity. When everyone dresses similarly, it fosters a sense of belonging and reduces competition over who has the best clothes. Additionally, dress codes promote equality and respect among students by preventing inappropriate attire that could offend or upset others. For example, in a school where uniforms are mandatory, students often report feeling more connected to their peers, as they are not judged by their clothing choices. School is a place for learning, not for comparing outfits.

Secondly, school uniforms help students save money. If students spend too much on accessories, such as luxury brands like Chanel, it can be wasteful. In contrast, school uniforms are not costly. For instance, a typical uniform can be sourced for a fraction of the price of trendy streetwear, allowing families to save money. As a result, appearance-related school rules help ensure that teenagers do not spend money unnecessarily.

Thirdly, standardized dress codes help students focus on learning. Uniforms eliminate the need to decide what to wear each day, making them a more convenient option. When students wear uniforms, they can concentrate better during lessons with fewer distractions from their differences in appearance, making the environment more productive for everyone. For example, studies have shown that schools with uniform policies often report higher academic performance.

In short, it is without doubt that wearing school uniforms is a beneficial practice. Schools should implement clear and straightforward rules to guide young people in wearing uniforms properly. ,



2 Hope MA Hei Yee Hayley

2 Honesty LEUNG Hui Ching Cassy

## SCHOOLS SHOULD SET RULES ABOUT APPEARANCE

Nowadays, many students try to look good by styling their hair, wearing makeup and putting on accessories when going to school. However, I think schools are for learning purposes and do not require extra styling or accessorizing. In this essay, I will discuss the reasons for supporting schools to set up rules about appearance.

Firstly, wearing accessories and makeup might distract students from their tasks. For example, they might think about how their makeup or accessories look to others and worry if it looks good. This not only affects their learning but may also create anxiety or constant worry.

Secondly, although wearing makeup and styling your hair is detrimental, we should not do it on school days. Students may wake up early just to put on makeup, which might affect their sleep schedule and their overall performance. Consequently, they may struggle both behaviorally and academically.

Lastly, wearing makeup and buying accessories can be very costly, not to mention wearing them every day. Many students already have limited pocket money, if they were to use it on cosmetics and accessories, they might not have enough money for food, transport or going out with friends. As a result, they should spend their money on things more useful and beneficial.

In conclusion, students should have rules set by the schools regarding their appearance because it will hinder their performance and might negatively affect their health.

## SCHOOLS SHOULD SET RULES ABOUT APPEARANCE

There is an ongoing debate about whether schools should establish rules regarding students' appearance. In my opinion, implementing such rules is beneficial as it helps maintain a positive learning atmosphere. In this essay, I will elaborate on my views with three key reasons.

Firstly, setting rules about students' appearance can promote a sense of equality among students. Differences in fashion can lead to bullying or jealousy. For example, some students may mock others for their unconventional hairstyles or outfits. By establishing guidelines for appearance, schools can reduce instances of bullying and foster a sense of equality among all students.

Secondly, laying down rules regarding students' appearance can effectively minimize distractions in the learning environment. Students need to focus on their studies to achieve academic success. Certain accessories can divert attention during lessons, making it difficult for students to concentrate. When students discuss their accessories instead of engaging with the learning materials, it disrupts the educational process. Thus, it is essential for schools to provide a distraction-free environment conducive to learning.

Thirdly, establishing appearance rules enhances safety during physical education classes. Oversized or sharp accessories can pose safety risks, especially during physical activities. Schools must ensure a safe environment for students to participate in sports and other activities without the risk of injury.

In conclusion, the benefits of setting rules regarding students' appearance far outweigh the drawbacks, creating a safer and more focused school environment. Therefore, I firmly believe that establishing guidelines about students' appearance is of paramount importance.

## WHETHER STUDENTS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO JOIN VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS

In today's fast-paced and fiercely competitive society, students are always under great pressure. This often causes them to have no time to do other things, such as joining volunteer activities. Therefore, many people disagree with this request. In this essay, I will argue why I think students should be required to join voluntary programmes.

First of all, volunteer work cultivates students' sense of social responsibility. When students join in voluntary programs, they will realize that they're part of a larger community. For example, students who volunteer in local orphanages can directly witness the needs of the children there and understand that they can contribute to the well-being of others.

Secondly, volunteering can improve students' practical skills and abilities. Volunteer work requires them to solve problems with others, communicate effectively and work together. For instance, students can join environmental volunteer projects, such as beach cleaning, where they need to organize clean-up activities. They learn to plan activities, communicate with the volunteers, and deal with unexpected problems in the process.

Last but not least, volunteering is a good way for students to relieve stress. Students do not have to focus on learning all the time, but can take a break and participate in activities that can bring them happiness and a sense of accomplishment. Students who volunteer in animal shelters can spend time with animals to play and relax.

To conclude, students should obviously actively participate in volunteer activities. By doing this, they can cultivate a strong sense of social responsibility and improve their skills. Let's encourage more students to step out of their comfort zone and embrace the beneficial experience of volunteer work.

2 Perseverance Sahi Eunice

## WHETHER STUDENTS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO JOIN VOLUNTARY PROGRAMS

A lot of schools require students to join at least one voluntary program, but many other schools don't require students to participate in such programs. We need to understand the benefits of making voluntary programs mandatory for students.

My first argument is that it should be mandatory for students to join voluntary programme because it helps develop important skills like teamwork and social responsibility, according to a survey from 2023. Furthermore, it ensures that all students, regardless of background, benefit from these experiences, becoming responsible and well-rounded individuals who can contribute to society. Therefore, making voluntary programs mandatory is essential for fostering life skills and promoting equal opportunities for all students to grow into responsible citizens.

My second argument is that mandatory volunteering teaches valuable daily skills like communication, problem-solving, and responsibility. Studies show that volunteering improves communication and teamwork skills, which are crucial for daily life and future careers. However, some argue that making volunteering mandatory may reduce genuine engagement and motivation, as students might participate simply to fulfill requirements rather than out of interest. This could limit the development of authentic skills and personal growth that come from volunteering. Therefore, while mandatory volunteering can provide valuable skills, it is important to design programs that foster genuine engagement to maximize their benefits and ensure students develop authentic personal growth.

My third argument is that mandatory voluntary programs help people by encouraging good habits and building stronger communities. They support health and happiness for individuals and society as a whole. As we become more individualistic, it is important to build and maintain connections within the community.

In conclusion, making voluntary programs mandatory in schools has many benefits as it helps students build important life skills, daily skills and gives students a chance to participate in meaningful experience building stronger communities. While some people may worry that students will not be truly interested if they are forced to volunteer, these programs can still be designed to make volunteering enjoyable and meaningful.

4 Honesty LO Hoi Yiu Kerry

### Briefly describe your photo:

In this heartwarming photo, nine family members including my cousin, my parents and grandparents are gathering around a table, engaging in the "Prosperity Toss" or simply called "Lo Hei" Festive. "Lo" represents the action of tossing, and "Hei" has the meaning of "fong sheng shui qi", which means blooming and thriving. The laughter and joy permeated every nook and cranny, making it a time of joy, renewal and family togetherness. There are shredded smoked salmon, egg, cucumber, carrot and cabbage with soya salad dressing in the dish. The colourful ingredients symbolize the richness of life. After the tossing, the ingredients overflow, as well as our happiness.

### Why is this photo special to you?

The reunion dinner symbolizes family unity and blessings for the coming year. Also, "Lo Hei" is a special dish which has the auspicious meaning of flourishing and thriving. Most importantly, it is special for me because it is a rare occasion when our whole family of nine comes together. During the year, everyone is busy with their own lives. But Chinese New Year, and especially this "Lo Hei" ritual, brings us all back to the same table and enjoy our precious time together. It's a time to witness the joy on my parents' faces as they see different generations' members united. Therefore, I took this photo, wanting to create a lifetime memory, reminding myself that I'm surrounded by unconditional love.

4 Hope MA Yifan Roger

### Briefly describe your photo:

This photo was taken by myself. I stood at the other side of the table and took this picture for my family. It was taken last month during the Lantern Festival. Nine people are in the picture, including my parents, my cousins, and my grandparents. Because of the Lantern Festival, all of my family members gathered, which symbolized solidarity.

The reason why I took the photo is that we seldom eat dinner together and I feel that this is the most joyful moment which is worth capturing. In the picture, we are putting the dishes on the table which may bring us luck.

### Why is this photo special to you?

First of all, I am reminded of the importance of these moments that strengthen our bond. Knowing that my grandparents are getting older, I should take more photos to capture their gratitude and warmth.

In addition, this experience is special not only because I was truly myself, but also because it symbolizes the spirit of unity and love. The picture is filled with gratitude and warmth.

Above all, my grandparents are not young, and I had a wonderful time making this photo so special.

## A Joyful Family Reunion



*Family Magazine is going to include a special feature celebrating family love in the Chinese New Year special issue. The magazine is now asking interested readers to submit a photo they took with their parent(s) during the festival and a photo description. Well-written entries will be published. You have chosen the photo below. Finish the template of description in about 200 words and give a suitable title.*

4 Faith KWOK Hin Lun Henin

### Cherish the Feasts

This picture holds profound significance for me. Taken during Chinese New Year, it captures my family and me feasting at a restaurant. To others, it may seem like an ordinary family meal—we wear traditional festive clothes and smile for the camera. Yet, this photo marks my family's last complete gathering.

The man on the left, in black formal attire, is my Uncle Ben. Shortly after this celebration, he received news of a promotion that required him to move to the U.S. Seven years have now passed since I last saw Uncle Ben in person. I miss him deeply to this day and often reminisce about our heartfelt conversations. He treated me like his own son, showering me with kindness and love. Though different time zones make communication difficult, our hearts remain connected.

Now, I realize how swiftly time passes. You may feel young, with a long life ahead and time to spare. Then, suddenly, seven years are gone. Every time I look at this framed picture, it reminds me to cherish life's small moments. We might idly wait for dull days to pass or casually waste hours, but things can change in an instant. It teaches us not to take anything for granted. Though everything fades eventually, we must cherish the days spent with our loved ones—that's what makes life special. It's a lesson Uncle Ben shared, one I recall often. He taught me to be grateful for the moments spent with loved ones and to cherish every feast we share.

4 Love CHAN Cheng Yin

### Briefly describe your photo:

This photo shows my family's gathering at Chinese New Year. Everybody is having a great time eating yusheng - a tradition that family members use their chopsticks to pick up the food over and over again in order to mix the food together, which is also known as the "prosperity toss". The activity's symbolism is to bring wealth and good luck into our lives. Everyone in my family here is in high spirits, laughing, smiling without worries. Our love for one another is strongly expressed on this day.

### Why is this photo special to you?

Chinese New Year is the day where families gather and celebrate together while putting each other's worries away to rest. Everybody has their own struggles, with waves of problems crashing over us constantly, wiping off our joyful faces in the process. However, in this photo, everybody temporarily forgets their own difficulties in life and focuses on the most important thing ever - family. This photo marks the memory engraved in my heart forever - seeing everybody, no matter old or young, having a bright smile on their faces. This rare occasion never fails to bring me to tears.

4 Honesty KAUR Jasmeet

### Briefly describe your photo:

This photo shows a lively family gathering I had last year. My family and I gathered around a table filled with delicious Chinese New Year dishes, celebrating the festive meal. Everyone was reaching out with their chopsticks, sharing food and laughter. The atmosphere in the photo was warm and joyful, as we came together to enjoy each other's company and celebrate our bond.

### Why is this photo special to you?

This photo is special to me because it captures the essence of family love and togetherness. In our daily lives, it is rare for my family to gather in one place, sharing stories and a delicious feast. However, during Chinese New Year, our family makes it a priority to reunite, no matter how far apart we may be throughout the year. This photo reminds me of the laughter and happiness we share and how these moments strengthen our relationships. Moreover, I also get reminded that despite any challenges, we always have each other's back. This simple yet heartfelt moment is something I will always cherish.

# Clipboard

Speech

5 Honesty WU Man Hei Jasmine

Good morning, Principal, Teachers, and my fellow schoolmates. I'm Chris Wong, the Chairperson of the Business Society. Today, we gather here to talk about a topic of profound significance that touches us in different ways – the growing power of influencers on our spending habits, especially impulse buying. In an age when a simple scroll, tap, or click can lead to a purchase, we must take a moment to examine how buying without much thought may cause financial strain and guilt among our peers. And of course, simple solutions to these consequences will also be provided.

Let me first talk about how the increasing trend of impulse buying leads to financial failure for us. Influencer endorsements may look vibrant and captivating; everyone, including me, would like a fancy beauty product Rihanna owns! However, teenagers like us could easily fall into the rabbit hole of shopping online quickly and frictionlessly. How many of you would skip lunch to compensate for the money used in impulse buying? How many of you always say you have no money to spare? This is no coincidence. A report from the University of Hong Kong in 2022 found that on average, a teenager spent at least HKD 150 on unnecessary purchases every week. Not to mention, teens receive around HKD 300 as their pocket money. Therefore, without proper financial management, our purchases will only accumulate into a huge financial burden.

Moving on, let's delve into the regret and guilt from impulse buying. Teenagers may buy unnecessary items like stationery and clothes that may not truly fit their needs. Honestly speaking, the clothes and jewelry owned by influencers may not fit everyone. At the end of the day, an impulse purchase may just be a waste of time and money. Can you remember what items in your room have not been used for a long time? I'm pretty sure you do! Yet, very often, most likely you will only regret spending money on useless redundant products endorsed by influencers.

Therefore, to combat this uphill battle against impulse buying, we must practice mindful browsing. When you begin to open your laptop, think: "Why do I go online?" When you're scrolling through online shopping platforms, reflect: "Does this purchase help me solve a real-life problem?" We should always be aware of advertisements which are customized by algorithms to target us. Also, we can use useful tools like browser extensions that block shopping ads. They can directly reduce our exposure to tempting products.

Another way is to set budget plans. Recording your daily expenses and setting a goal for saving money can help you do exactly that – and it has yielded great results for us. One app that I use is EveryDollar, which keeps track of my monthly expenses and helps me organize every dollar I own. Besides, we can always use the built-in iOS feature called Wallet. No matter which method we choose to control our spending, the most important thing is to persevere in our habits and remain focused on our expenses.

Lastly, we're not here to demonize influencers promoting products, but to reflect on ourselves. How do we spend each dollar? How do we practice mindful browsing? The decision is up to you! Thank you for listening. Your presence and engagement are very important to me, and I hope to share more with you in the future.

5 Honesty YAM Ka Fung

Good morning principal, teachers and fellow scholmates, I am the chairperson of the Business Society. As we all know, influencers have already invaded our daily lives, playing a pivotal role in entertaining us. And with the rise of influencers also comes the rise of Impulsive buying. You may not know, but sometimes our decision-making can be influenced by what we see Influencers do, and that is a major concern for us.

The rise of influencers can influence your sense of spending. Influencers often promote products on social media or in advertisements because that is an effective method of swaying consumers into buying that product. Influencers have a more trustworthy image in consumers' eyes, and this can be a weak point for most of us. With that trustworthy image and our loyal belief, we can be easily persuaded into spending more than we actually need. This causes a financial imbalance and can happen not only once. For example, we sometimes see influencers' stories stating that a product is on a "24-hour sale". This pushes buyers to spend more and more to try and reap all the benefits in this sale, causing financial difficulties for some. It is not uncommon for people to feel a sense of self-loathing after the impulse spending, because they realised that they had lost control of spending and ended up using too much money.

Other than that, companies use influencers as 'bait' to lure consumers in. As influencers have massive followings online, companies will often pay influencers to advertise their products. The influencers will then list out the benefits of the product, changing public opinion on the products. Using the Halo Effect, where one's opinion is used to change another's opinion on another thing, companies can successfully lure in buyers to spend large amounts of money for their different products, as we tend to follow what influencers recommend to us. Studies show that 61% of customers trust influencers more than the company's advertisement. This convinces companies to actively use influencers to advertise their products, and also to sway us into buying more than we need under their influence.

Impulsive buying can lead to many problems that you have to face in future. It can really become a burden on your financial standing. It causes people to go into debt and have a hard time recovering. This also applies to our mental health, as after impulsive purchases, we often feel guilty and regret our decision, which may lead to us taking it way too hard on ourselves.

In order to prevent this from happening, we should take action beforehand by setting a budget. We can set dedicated budgets before buying to help with impulsive buying. This limits our spending and increases our awareness of the money spent, which can be useful in the future too. Aside from that, we can also use money tracking apps to help limit our spending. This raises awareness of how much we have spent and helps us think logically before making a purchase.

While the rise of influencers leads to an increasing trend of impulsive buying, we can also take actions to prevent ourselves from falling into the trap of impulsive buying, saving us from a lot of trouble. If you do not want to have regret later, let's take action together now! Thank you.



## 5 Hope MAU Kwan Lam Marcus

Good morning, Principal Lee, teachers, and fellow students,  
As the Chairperson of the Business Society, I'm excited to share my thoughts on a hot topic that's buzzing around amongst teens today.

Let me kick things off with a question for my peers: Have you ever scrolled through social media and seen an influencer promoting a product? I'm betting most of you have. So, why am I bringing this up? You might think there's not much to say—after all, influencers are just trying to sell us stuff, right? Well, you're partly right! The truth is, that there are tons of influencers using many tactics to market products, and this trend is skyrocketing. And I bet you're wondering: What's the big deal about this? Well, according to a recent news report from the US, one major issue about influencers promoting products online is that teens are more prone to impulse buying than adults are. That's right! many of us are falling into the trap of overspending, which can result in financial debts.

One problem of impulse buying is that it wastes money. Most of us do not realize the huge financial impact influencers have on us. Some of you might relate to this: Imagine your favorite celebrity or online streamer was raving about a product in a video. You might think that they they love it, so I need it too. So, off you go, smashing that 'buy' button, and there goes your hard-earned cash. In the end, you were swayed by the celebrity and have spent extra money just because your favourite star recommended the product.

Another problem of impulse buying is that it produces extra waste. Sometimes we may buy things that we may never use. Let me share an example I came across a few weeks ago: an online streamer promoting a microphone. Now, don't get me wrong—the microphone was top-notch with great reviews. But the kicker? Some teens bought it even when they didn't need one! Sure, a few might genuinely need a new microphone, but most were just following the hype because their favorite influencer recommended it. In the end, those mics might end up collecting dust in a corner at their homes. Whether you would ever use the product is now often irrelevant for teens when they buy a product.

So here are my suggestions: If you're feeling the pull of this trend, think twice before you whip out your wallet—especially if it's your parents' money! Don't just mindlessly buy what an influencer has recommended online.. Ask yourself: Do I really need this, or am I just trying to support the influencer? Otherwise, you'll waste not only your money but also precious space in your room. After all, not all of us live in mansions, right?

I hope my words inspire you to think more mindfully about your spending habits and the harms of impulse buying. At the end of the day, even though it is your money to spend, you should think twice the next time you're tempted by an influencer's recommendation. Don't let me catch you overspending again!

Thank you all for listening!



## 5 Faith SUNAR Sarhana

Good morning Principal Lee, teachers, and my fellow schoolmates.  
I'm Chris Wong, the Chairperson of the Business Society. I'd like to take a moment to address a concerning issue that has been affecting teenagers lately. With the rise of influencers promoting products online, there has been a surge of impulse buying amongst young people. And I'm certain that some of you in this room have fallen victim to such online rabbit holes.

The root of this problem stems from none other than social media. I'm sure you all have been hearing how social media is doing more harm than good, and how it contributes to mental health issues and deteriorating social skills for teenagers, but did you ever think that they could very well be the reason you make bad financial decisions? Let's begin from the very beginning. You are all are familiar with platforms like Instagram and TikTok's addictive nature. However, ever since they designed built-in online shops in the apps, people have been recklessly purchasing products. To add fuel to the fire, TikTok and Instagram influencers endorse sponsored items or their overpriced merchandise. This has caused young, vulnerable teenagers to throw money down the drain, or worse, use their parents' hard-earned money by maxing out their credit cards.

This is a time when teenagers are at a pivotal stage in their lives, and learning to make wise financial decisions, is being manipulated by psychological marketing tactics. Due to the sheer volume of advertisements can be quite overwhelming for teenagers. Nevertheless, if an advertisement is successfully able to stand out with high-quality, eye-catching elements, it can entice consumers to hit "Add to cart" and "Proceed to checkout" and then is soon followed by "Payment and order confirmed". Let me help you paint a picture of the vast dilemma of this situation. The findings of a survey conducted by the Business Society late last year have concluded that over 70% of students have purchased items without prior consideration and have regretted it. This shows that teens often face buyer's remorse all thanks to their lack of planning for the future.

With that being said, I still firmly believe there are effective methods to turn this trend upside down. To kick things off, when you're about to press checkout, it doesn't hurt to stop and ask yourself, "Do I really need this, or am I just being influenced? Is this a want or a need?". By doing a little self-reflection, it can be a step in the right direction to foster more mindful consumer habits. Retail therapy isn't always the solution and shouldn't be something you should resort to. The feeling of instant gratification is rather fleeting, and it is just a matter of time before you hoard all the unnecessary purchases and belongings. Another solution for mindful spending that works wonders is setting up financial budget plans. By deciding how to allocate your pocket money and keeping track of your spending and savings, this will ensure that you stay within your financial means and avoid overspending. Finally, should remove all the influencers who constantly promote material possessions and over-consumerism from your feed. The more you expose yourself to such online content, the more tempted you are to buy the products.

Believe me, I myself enjoy online shopping. Just the thrill of placing my order and then having my package greet me in front of my doorstep gives me immeasurable excitement, but these feelings fade quickly. It's much more fulfilling and responsible to make thoughtful, considerate purchases that align with our needs, instead of cluttering our lives with meaningless purchases. So, please think twice before spending to avoid burning a hole in your pocket!

Thank you for listening!

## 5 Faith GURUNG Pratikchha

Good afternoon, Principal Lee, teachers, and my fellow schoolmates,  
I am Chris Wong, the Chairperson of the Business Society. Today, I would like to dedicate a few minutes to talk about my concerns regarding impulse buying from the point of view of a business student and suggest methods to hopefully combat this harmful habit. Do you find yourself longing for random products that you come across on social media? I am sure we all do, as even I do so myself. However, the difference between simply eyeing a product and actually purchasing one without any prior thinking is significant, since buying a product without thinking is impulse buying. By the end of my speech, I hope to have provided a wake-up call for all of you experiencing this harmful habit by sharing my concerns and helping you to fix your habits.

First and foremost, impulsively purchasing products can be financially straining, especially given that you and I are all still students. I am sure that you all don't want to add to your mountains of stress, so why would you deliberately create financial stress for yourself? What's more, I always hear some of you complaining about money issues, so why would you continue the habits that bring you money issues? I think everyone here would benefit a lot by not buying products impulsively. Sure, you may at firs enjoy these products. However, many of these products are only temporarily popular due to short term trends. Therefore, after a while, your once 'hot-and-cool' product won't make you 'cool' anymore. Moreover, impulse buying can result in long-term debts, and may affect savings put aside for your future and university studies. With inflation becoming more severe, buying products on the spur of the moment isn't a good decision in the long run.

Secondly, buying products without thinking can lead to a hoarding problem for many people. Impulse purchases nowadays are mainly encouraged by influencers, who often promote anything and everything. Because of their marketing strategies, whether it is their apparent trustworthiness or their relatability, it all leads to us being swayed by influencers and buying products they endorse. With the endless stream of influencers, this allows for more brands to promote their products, thus leading to more impulse purchases by people. Not only this, but influencer culture also now promotes hoarding, that is, overconsumption, which enforces that hoarding is a normal behavior. One key takeaway I want you all to get from this is that hoarding is a serious issue, as it can create waste, which isn't environmentally friendly for us and our planet. Therefore, this accumulation problem that results from impulse buying is a major problem.

However, you don't need to fear, as I have a suggestion for those of you who who suffer the pitfalls of impulse buying. You can create a budget plan to keep your daily spending in check and make sure that you aren't spending too much money. This is very beneficial to make sure that you don't end up regretting your purchases later and having them just sit in your junk pile. Additionally, this helps you to save money for much more fulfilling purchases, such as traveling or university. However, it is very important to note that you shouldn't set your budget too high, or else the point of creating a budgeting plan will be pointless. Feel free to consult your teachers, parents, or even me! This should also help you find and evaluate unnecessary expenses.

To conclude, although buying something you like on the spur of the moment often seems like a good idea, it is generally harmful in the long run, as it can cause financial strain and thus lead to a hoarding problem. However, the right budgeting plan should help you stay on track with your spending, thus mitigating this problem. Thank you for listening.



Good morning, Principal Lee, teachers, and fellow schoolmates. I am Chris Wong, the chairperson of the Student Union. In today's morning assembly, I am honored to be here to shed some light on the demerits of the soaring popularity of short-form content. Before I begin, I would like to know what comes to mind when you hear the phrase “short-form videos.” Probably reels from Instagram and shorts from YouTube, but do you ever think about what the detrimental impacts of these “harmless entertainments” may lead to? And what can we do to mitigate the adverse effects they may create? Without further ado, let's dive right into it!

To begin with, my first concern about short-form videos is the adverse effect it can have on our attention spans, which is the time we can focus on tasks. Born in this digital and social media era, it is a universal trend to see juveniles spending hours scrolling through short-form videos on social media platforms. Yet, have you ever wondered why reels are so addictive?

It is because short-form videos have bite-sized content and usually last only around 15 to 60 seconds, this quick and easily digestible entertainment caters to a myriad of adolescents seeking instant gratification. Being used to the short length of reels, we teenagers eventually find it tedious to focus on longer tasks, such as studying. With a shorter attention span, teens won't be able to concentrate for an hour-long lesson, nor can we quit binge-watching short videos due to their engaging content, putting our academic results at stake. In the long run, the shortened attention span may even sabotage our concentration and patience. In light of this, there is no doubt that we shouldn't turn a blind eye to the impacts of short videos.

Worse still, short-form videos may pose a threat to the mental well-being of teens, given that we are susceptible to peer influences and often have fragile self-esteem. In a world where social media has become prevalent, many adolescents like us often find ourselves comparing our lives with influencers after being bombarded by short-form videos related to ideal lifestyles and “perfect” beauty standards. These short videos not only create unrealistic self-expectations for teenagers, leading to negative self-comparisons and decreased self-esteem, but they also contribute to severe psychological health issues, such as eating disorders and depression. Recently, research conducted by the World Health Organization has revealed that the number of adolescents suffering from mental health issues has skyrocketed. Shockingly, 75% of juveniles interviewed admitted to constantly feeling overwhelmed and anxious after comparing their bodies with their peers and influencers from short-form videos. Some have even tried to take pills, hoping to achieve slimmer body shapes, and ended up getting sick and having to go to hospital. In light of these impacts, it is crystal clear that short videos are sabotaging

teens' mental health.

After mentioning my concerns about short-form videos, you may be wondering how can we deal with them? Here are several pieces of advice for you.

First and foremost, I strongly suggest that all of us download a “special” screen limitation app on our phones to reduce our screen time. Given that short-form videos are appealing and easily digestible, it can be hard for us to put down our phones and focus on other tasks. Therefore, it is advisable to leverage the power of technology by downloading screen-limiting apps. In fact, have you ever tried using traditional screen-limiting apps? I have, and alas, I've always ended up binge-watching short-form videos in my bed. However, new “special” screen-limiting apps that contain rewarding systems, such as Y.P.T. and Forest, could help adolescents shift their attention away from their phones back to their work. What's special about these apps is that they include unique features like leaderboards where users can compete on their focus time or even plant an actual tree after reaching a certain target. In the short run, these apps help reduce our screen time, allowing us to spend more time on our tasks without getting distracted by short-form videos. In the long run, with longer concentration times, not only could adolescents achieve better academic results, but they could also enhance their time management abilities.

In addition to downloading “special” screen-limiting apps, schools have the responsibility to engage teens in offline activities by launching initiatives to tackle the sedentary lifestyle of teenagers. Therefore, it is crucial for schools to actively encourage teens to attend offline activities by launching more clubs and extracurricular activities, such as Choir, Chess Club, and a Sports Community.

To further motivate students to participate in these offline activities, I suggest that schools launch a “Healthy Offline Leaderboard,” in which the top 20 students with the highest participation in offline activities will receive extra conduct credits. The virtues of this leaderboard are threefold. Primarily, an engaging leaderboard can help reduce teens' screen time by turning their attention away from short-form videos. Moreover, it can foster healthier social lives and better social skills through face-to-face communication and interaction. Additionally, encouraging more teenagers to stay offline can help them discover their hidden potential, promoting personal growth.

All in all, I hope you all have a better understanding of the harms of short-form video content. I sincerely hope that my observations and suggestions can lend a helping hand in alleviating the impacts posed by short-form videos for you. Thank you.



Good evening teammates, I'm honoured to extend a warm welcome to you all. We are here today to celebrate the end of this remarkable season. To our dismay, we didn't secure this season's victory and weren't able to bring the trophy home. Despite this I stand before you all filled with pride and joy as I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all, my incredible teammates.

First and foremost, I want to emphasise that failure is not the end. Instead, failure can be a stepping stone on your journey. As I remember when we all stepped onto the field during the finals, everyone was brimming with excitement and nervousness. Even though the opposing team was said to be strong and undefeatable, all of you didn't back down or waver but continued to fight back with all your might. As the opposing team kept on scoring, it's admirable that all of you neither succumbed to the thought of failure nor gave up! The results don't matter as much as the lessons you've learnt during the competition. I hope you all will take what you've learnt from the valuable lessons in the competitions with you to face obstacles in the future. Even if we lose, we must accept the ebb and flow of life and carry on.

As your captain, I am truly ecstatic and proud as I witnessed how you all improved and have come so far. Reaching the finals is not a small deal! You undoubtedly achieved something amazing. I remember all of you being amateurs at basketball when you all first joined the team. Being skeptical, all of you doubted yourselves, unable to trust your own skills. Still, all of you knew that only through hard and rigorous training would you improve. Hardly did anyone slack off, and everyone ensured every second of the training sessions were worthwhile, which made me so proud. Now, you've all developed from beginners to experienced players, are equipped with advanced skills and tactics. Appreciate yourselves for going the extra mile when training just to sharpen your skills. Your efforts weren't wasted, and you all did incredibly well!

I'm eternally grateful to have you all as my teammates. Thank you for all your commitment and unwavering determination. We all have truly come a long way. Without your passion and devotion, it wouldn't have been possible for us to achieve this much. I am thankful for the unbreakable bond between all of us, which has allowed us to become a cohesive group. It's been our camaraderie that produced our team spirit! We all weren't afraid as we had each others' backs, as we supported each other. You all have your unique talents and are able to shine brightly on the field due to your passion and perseverance. After facing this loss, I hope we all can comfort and encourage each other. I'm truly looking forward to competing in the next competition with you all as a team in the future.

every cloud has a silver lining. Failure doesn't mean it's the end! We must try again and secure the victory next time. We will rise again. Thank you.

## Speech Festival - News Feature Presentation

This year, we have two students participating in the 'News Feature Presentation' category of the Speech Festival. Competitors in this category are required to create their own scripts based on a provided news article and present them in the style of a TV news broadcast, all within a specified time limit. Our two students delivered exceptional performances and CHAN Wai Ching, Elbert from 4 Honesty won the championship.



Video of Elbert Chan

4 Honesty CHAN Wai Ching

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to STCC News. I am Elbert Chan, your host this evening.

Tonight's top story is renewable energy and how green can save the planet.

Fossil fuels, which are nonrenewable and it takes millions of years for them to form, still account for about 80% of global energy production. Because of the excessive burning of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas, emissions of harmful greenhouse gases are rising at an alarming rate. According to the World Health Organisation, an alarming estimate of 99% of people in the world breathe air that exceeds air quality limits and threatens their health.

Renewable energy sources, including sunlight, wind, water and heat from the Earth, are replenished by nature and emit little to no greenhouse gasses. Efficient and reliable renewable energy technologies can create a system that is less prone to market shocks as well as improve economic resilience and energy security. Every single dollar that is invested in renewable energy generates 3 times more jobs than the fossil fuel industry and the reduction of pollution and climate change alone could save the world an estimate of \$4.2 trillion per year by 2030.

According to an official report, 29% of electricity present comes from renewable sources that are available in all countries but their potential is yet to be fully harnessed. Experts say that carbon emissions need to be reduced almost half by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050 to combat the worst impact of climate change. The transition to the use of these green energy will provide a continuous supply of renewable energy that is key to a safer, cleaner and sustainable world.

Ladies and gentlemen, that is it for tonight. This is STCC news, once again I am Elbert Chan, thank you for joining us.



Video of Katie Chan

4 Honesty CHAN Kong Ying, Katie

Welcome back to STCC News! I'm Katie Chan. Today, we're diving into a special report on "How Green Can Save Our Planet."

We all share the responsibility of keeping our planet safe and livable for future generations, and energy plays a crucial role in tackling climate change. Right now, fossil fuels make up about 80% of global energy production, while renewable sources account for 29% of our electricity.

Unlike fossil fuels, which are limited and harmful to our environment, renewable energy sources—like sunlight and water are abundant and can be replenished naturally. Plus, they produce little to no greenhouse gases or pollutants.

To avoid the worst effects of climate change, we need to cut our emissions by nearly half by 2030 and aim for net-zero by 2050. So, how do we get there? Renewable energy is the answer.

There's untapped potential in renewable energy sources all around us. In many places, renewable energy is now cheaper than fossil fuels. The World Health Organization reports that 99% of the global population is breathing air that exceeds air quality limits. Moreover, the renewable energy sector can create three times more jobs than fossil fuels. And finally, by 2030, cutting pollution and climate impacts could save the world up to \$4.2 trillion a year.

By harnessing our abundant natural resources, we can ensure a steady supply of renewable energy, which is vital for a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable world.

We're committed to keeping you informed about these important issues.

That wraps up today's report. This is Katie Chan from STCC News. Thanks for watching!