



The ElRo Pawprint



EDITION II

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL



Has Political Correctness Gone Too Far?

By: Jin W.

Grade: 12

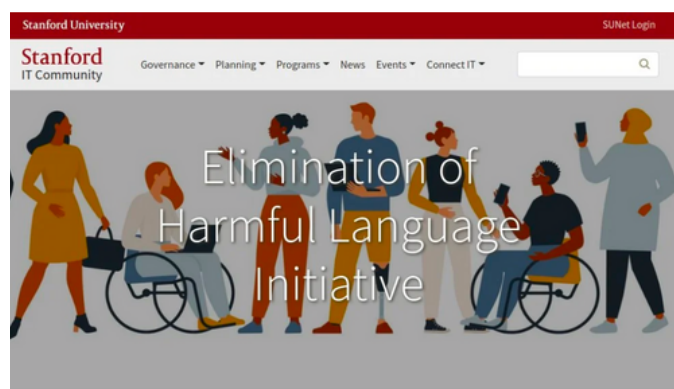
Late last year, Stanford University released its “Elimination of Harmful Language Initiative,” a list of “harmful” terms and their politically correct alternatives. Facing backlash, the university took down the website and clarified that these words weren’t banned. Rather, the initiative simply provided internal guidelines for the school’s IT department in shaping the school’s website and computer code. Let’s take a dive into the list, which Stanford spent 18 months compiling, to consider what consequences, if any, woke language has on our society and politics.

Some of Stanford’s entries are genuinely offensive and do belong on a list of harmful terms. Even when you might not understand why people take offense to a word, it’s important to be sensitive, especially with words that describe or refer to marginalized groups.

In some places though, the list reads like satire. You can’t say a person has been ‘blacklisted’ because the word “assigns negative connotations to the color black.” You can’t say an object is ‘man-made’ because “this term reinforces male-dominated language.” Common metaphors are also off limits. You can’t say ‘beating a dead horse’ or ‘kill two birds with one stone’ because they “normalize violence against animals.”

For other idioms, the website seems to make up connotations that do not even exist. You cannot ‘call a spade a spade’ because the word ‘spade’ can also be a racial slur. You can’t say ‘Indian summer’ because it supposedly “implies that indigenous people are chronically late.” But does it? Admittedly, the phrase doesn’t make sense. Unseasonably warm temperatures have nothing to do with American Indians, but that doesn’t make the phrase racist. That’s just what we call nice weather in November.

At this point, how is anyone supposed to know which widely-used metaphors are no longer acceptable? What if I decide to take issue with another random idiom that doesn’t make sense like ‘rule of thumb.’ Oh wait, they did! Apparently, “this phrase is attributed to an old British law that allowed men to beat their wives with sticks no wider than their thumb.” But even if that is the origin of the term, no one even knows that. It’s dishonest to label the phrase as ‘violent language’ when no one uses the phrase to be violent. Some examples seem downright funny. What could possibly be wrong with the cheer ‘hip hip hooray!’ Other times, the list just promotes poor grammar. The politically correct term for ‘immigrant,’ is “person who has immigrated.” Why would you use extra words to say the same exact thing? The initiative argues that longer, “person-first” phrases prevent us from defining people by their characteristics. But, that’s only necessary if those characteristics are negative. Being an immigrant is not a characteristic to be ashamed of.



Stanford’s ‘harmful language’ website before it was taken down
Credit: archive.today (saved from itcommunity.stanford.edu/ehli)

It’s fun to laugh at the elite institutions who think so highly of themselves that they decree which words we can and can not say. But, does this really matter?

No and yes. No, ‘person with a disability’ isn’t a worse term than ‘handicapped.’ Likewise, switching from ‘African American’ to ‘Black’ doesn’t hurt anyone. But, these constantly changing shibboleths can undermine social justice causes. Instead of scolding people for using the ‘wrong’ term, we should focus on the issues that matter. The challenge facing disabled Americans is not what we call them, but the lack of accessibility in our infrastructure. The term “handicapped space” doesn’t “trivialize the experiences of people living with disabilities” but treating semantics as the biggest obstacle they face does.

Sometimes, woke language even alienates the people it’s meant to protect. According to Politico, only 2% of Latinos prefer the term ‘Latinx.’ This is understandable considering the phrase is unpronounceable in Spanish. In fact, 40% of Latinos surveyed said ‘Latinx’ “bothers or offends them” and 30% said they “would be less likely to support a politician or organization that uses the term.”

When politicians use Latinx instead of Latino or Hispanic, they reveal how out of touch they are with actual Latino Americans. If a New York politician were to say “I’m from Bronx instead of I’m from *THE* Bronx,” that wouldn’t ‘matter’ per say. That politician might lose her career because her small mistake signaled that she was out of touch with the community. It makes it seem like she’s never spent a day in the Bronx in her life. The same thing happens when politicians and the media use politically correct words like Latinx or indigenous peoples. These attempts to be inclusive actually make politicians and institutions appear even more elitist.

With the share of the Latinos voting for Republicans increasing, it is important for Democrats, the party which actually fights for the interests of the Latino community, to do some soul searching. While it may seem that policy is more important than language, as shown by Stanford’s list, language might become a divisive factor in elections.

Isabella C.
Danielle C.
Kevin E
Co-Editors in Chief

Mr. Stevens,
Club Advisor

Dimitri Saliani, Principal

Julian R.
Managing Editor

Grace M.
Pawprint shorts Manager

Olivia C.
Entertainment Manager

Avery N.
Patron Piece Manager

Tough Times Ahead For Both Parties After Midterms

By: Emmanuel S.
Grade: 12

For both parties, there was little to be excited about following the 2022 midterms. Republicans went into the midterms hoping to gain a slim majority in the Senate and a massive majority in the House but ended up with just a slim house majority. Democrats, on the other hand, were hoping to keep their slim house majority and expand on their slim majority in the Senate. Democrats did flip one senate seat, but they lost the House majority. The current setup means that Democrats control the Presidency and Senate, while Republicans control the House and the Supreme Court. Thus, it will be hard for both sides to follow through on their promises in the next few years. Yet there are possibilities for change.

Without control of the Senate, Republicans will have a hard time getting any legislation passed. But Republicans have even more pressing problems in the House. Their slim majority showed its cracks during the showdown electing the Speaker of the House. For the first time since 1923, the House needed more than one ballot (in fact they needed 15) to elect a speaker. Because a majority of voting members of the House needed to vote for a member to become Speaker, 21 far-right “Freedom Caucus” Republicans were able to hold the House hostage for more than four days. During this period, the House was unable to do anything other than vote for a speaker or vote to adjourn (which allows representatives to leave the floor). Now House speaker Kevin McCarthy’s concessions eventually allowed him to take the speakership, but he will be one of the weakest House speakers in recent memory. One Republican can now call for a vote to oust the Speaker. Republican leadership moving right means that moderate Republicans will have to fight to have their seat at the table. Moderate Republicans stayed with Kevin McCarthy throughout the entire speaker election. However, after the election, one moderate member, Tony Gonzales, voted against the House rules package that was key in getting “Freedom Caucus” Republicans to vote for McCarthy. (The rules package passed.) House Republicans have big plans in the form of House committees. They hope to start investigations



– Mike Rogers (R-AL), is restrained during an argument with Matt Gaetz (R-FL) during the 14th vote for Speaker of the House –
Photo Credit: Andrew Arnik (AP)

into Hunter Biden, the son of President Biden, United States Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas (who Republicans blame for a crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border), and election fraud. Yet for these committees to live up to their desired potential, Republicans will need their slim coalition of moderates and freedom caucus members to agree on the best way forward. Through two weeks of this congress, it has already been easier said than done.

Democrats, on the other hand, have two main options for getting their political goals done in the next two years. Control of the Presidency means that Democrats have a much more realistic ability to pass meaningful agenda-pushing legislation due to President Biden’s controversial executive order. He has already used the executive order to enact marijuana pardons, and, somewhat controversially, student debt relief (The Supreme Court seems poised to strike this down, more on that in a minute). Without control of the house, Democrats will need to rely on these orders to fulfill campaign promises in the next two years. Democrats campaigned on raising the minimum wage, supporting unions, and ensuring abortion rights. It seems increasingly unlikely that these won’t get done without miracle executive orders. With such a slim minority in the

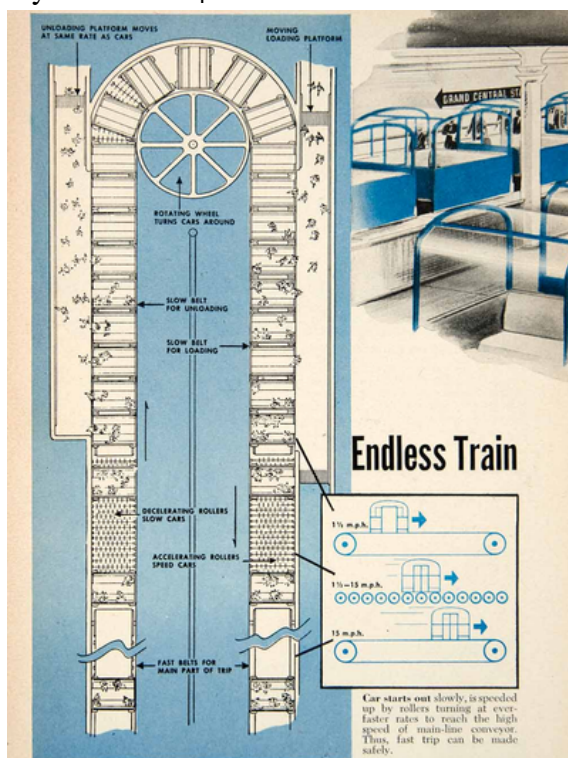
House, Democrats can try to compromise with moderates to get some of their higher-priority legislation through, but there is no indication that a high enough number of Republican moderates (likely six) would be interested in compromise.

Republicans have one more ace up their sleeve: the Supreme Court. Six of the nine members of the highest court in the country lean conservative. This has allowed Republicans to strike down executive orders, like with President Biden’s executive order for student debt relief. When the court hears the case in March, the President will need two of the 6 conservative justices to dissent to keep the relief program alive. At this point, any even somewhat controversial executive order passed by the President will likely find its way to the increasingly partisan Supreme Court.

It will be tough going in the next two years for both parties. Republicans have little ability to pass legislation and will be forced to turn to powerful house committees and block Democrats’ legislation to fulfill promises. Democrats will need to use Executive orders and compromise to get their goals passed, as long as they are not struck down by the conservative Supreme Court.

Dreams of a Times’ Square Carveyor

By: Robert H. | Grade: 11



A peek into the proposed Carveyor project, including the iconic belt and capsules.

Credit: Popular Science Monthly, May 1951, preserved by archive.org

Picture this: a line of tiny capsules, waiting to whisk you half a mile away under the busiest street in Manhattan. Some would say this idea is frivolous, but in the early 1960s, it was genuinely proposed to the New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA), which later became the MTA, as a way to improve subway efficiency. It would have been an alternative to the current 42nd street shuttle, which serves roughly 100,000 people a day and runs roughly every three minutes each way at peak. This radical idea garnered a surprising amount of support from the public at the time and continues to inspire some modern designs.

Now, what is this mystical solution that could “save” the shuttle route? It’s informally known as a Carveyor. The name Carveyor comes from the fact that it was, in fact, a bunch of cars (comparable to tram cabins) running on an oval shaped conveyor belt track. Each side is operated by a large rotating wheel that also manages the turn around mechanism.

This wheel would then push the cars onto accelerating “rollers” which would speed the cars up to a fast belt going 15 miles an hour.

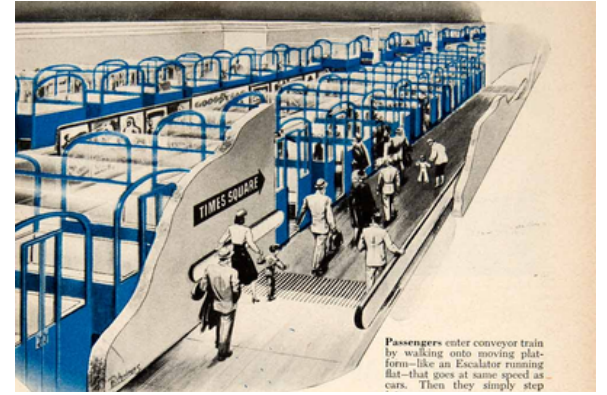
How could this admittedly ridiculous design save money and be more efficient? This option significantly cuts the two biggest costs for a subway line: maintenance on rolling stock (train cars) and driver salary. On paper, this design could also reduce commuter times marginally because there would be no waiting at the station for the train to leave.

This is not the first time such a conveyor based project has been proposed. Forty years earlier in 1922, Daniel L. Turner of the Transit Construction Commission (a predecessor of the NYCTA) proposed a similar conveyor belt plan for the shuttle, just missing the whole cabin design. It was much more than a standard airport moving walkway due to its multiple tracks. It had three lanes: one at three miles per hour, one at six miles an hour, and one at nine miles an hour. You would step between them to adjust to the higher speeds and do the opposite when stepping off. It was certainly a progressive and ambitious plan, but not unreasonable when considering the scope of transit growth during the early 20th century.

Both conveyor ideas are clearly flawed design-wise, which is a significant reason why they were never approved. However, there were simply better options that could reduce the costs of the shuttle without requiring a completely new system. One was to automate the shuttle, a process that started in 1959. Two years later a prototype ran on one track of the shuttle, using relays and punch tape to signal when to accelerate, brake and open doors. This was projected to save significant money, eliminating the need for any unusual conveyor based design. Unfortunately, transit workers' rights groups were vehemently against the idea of a train operating with no workers, and they forced one person train operation (OPTO) for a year. This version of automatic train operation (ATO) ended up crashing and burning by 1964 – literally; there was a huge fire that burned much of

platform 4 and destroyed the relaying equipment. The incident set a precedent for future automation on the line which is currently the case. Still, having to rapidly accelerate and brake three or four 75,000-pound subway cars from a standstill requires a lot of energy, and there could certainly be improvements in the future.

Does all transportation have to conform to the traditional designs of heavy rail? It is absolutely possible to have an interesting, creative design remain efficient. Have we seen any other interesting modern plans for the shuttle? Nope, not really. The most dramatic change seen in recent years has been the larger, upgraded terminal stations, which has garnered generally positive feedback. Would you support a conveyor-based design for the shuttle?



"42 St Connection Project: About the 42 St Shuttle." MTA, https://new.mta.info/system_modernization/42-st-shuttle/about.
 "62 (Kawasaki) -- R-62A (Bombardier)." R, [https://www.nycsubway.org/wiki/R-62_\(Kawasaki\)_--_R-62A_\(Bombardier\)](https://www.nycsubway.org/wiki/R-62_(Kawasaki)_--_R-62A_(Bombardier)).
 "Popular Science : Bonnier Corporation : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming." Internet Archive, Bonnier Corporation, 1 May 1951, https://archive.org/details/bub_gb_hSEDAAMBAJ/page/n101/mode/1up.
 "Shuttle Is Short, except in History; 2,700-Foot 42d St. Line Was Integral Part of the First Subway Here in 1904 (Published 1964)." The New York Times, The New York Times, 22 Apr. 1964, <https://www.nytimes.com/1964/04/22/shuttle-is-short-except-in-history.html>.
 "Tuesday March 20, 1979." The New York Times, The New York Times, <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/browser/searchResultPosition=0>.

A Tale of Two Stations

By: Daniel H.
 Grade: 11

It was the best of lines, it was the worst of lines. Serving the 2, 3, 4, 5, A, C and J lines, Fulton Center is one of the best stations in the system – one of the best at being excessive in every way possible. On a surface level it is the perfect station: pristine and modern, running under a prime spot for business in Manhattan. Under the glossy floors and mesmerizing ceiling, however, lies a much less glamorous truth; this wasn't a project the city actually needed.

For a city to create a successful metro system, there are three core metrics that it has to reach: a high (and more importantly stable) ridership level, minimal/non-existent government subsidies, and a reliable network of stations that reduce dependence on other forms of transportation like cars. Fulton Center barely contributes to any of these. Before the renovations, there was already a Fulton street station, meaning the upgrade did little to raise ridership levels, the benefits of which were certainly not worth the \$1.4 billion price tag. The first phase of the second avenue subway also suffered a similar fate. Although it did lay 2 miles of new track, the new stations are unnecessarily expensive, especially compared to those of the Lexington Avenue line. The station on 86th Street and Lexington, which the 4, 5 and 6 all stop at, had 43,000 daily riders in 2019. During the same year, the Second avenue, 86th street station had just half this ridership, yet was significantly nicer. This raises the question, should the stations with more passengers be granted better stations?

Returning to lower Manhattan, just a few blocks from the Fulton Center is the infamous Chambers Street station. With 30,000 daily riders passing through the station and the connecting Brooklyn Bridge-City Hall, it is by all means an important station. The station is especially useful considering its proximity to the Brooklyn Bridge and the New York Supreme Court. Nonetheless, the station boasts one of – if not the dirtiest – platforms in the system. While Chambers Street is stuck with a deteriorating and poorly maintained (or dilapidated) platform, Fulton Center remains in the limelight of politicians.

There is nothing wrong with restoring a dilapidated station, but there must be restrictions set in place for larger scale and complete overhauls. I believe it would be best for the system as a whole to perform smaller platform or even system upgrades as opposed to huge billion-dollar construction projects. Adding platform side doors, for instance, is something that has been talked about for decades. While it would likely be expensive, it is something that is system wide as opposed to focused on a singular station. I believe the MTA should implement a loose order of



Would you believe they are only one stop apart?
 Credit: Daniel Halpern (bottom left) & Damon Winter/The New York Times(top right)

importance in regards to projects. At the top, in my opinion, should be constructing new track or stations such as the 2nd Avenue subway. Just below that is lowering headways (through CBTC, etc), followed by adding new train cars, and finally making station improvements. While all four layers are important, it would be best for the system as a whole to implement changes that boost the three core metrics mentioned earlier.

So should stations with more passengers be granted better stations? The compromise seems suitable. In the end, while such extravagant station upgrades may not be the best use of money, it is good to see the MTA completing projects. In 2017 we saw the completion of the first phase of the second avenue subway, nearly 90 years after it was first proposed. Anything built is an investment into the future, and, judging by the way construction costs as a whole have been going up, it is better to spend now than to wait. Although it is clear the MTA prioritizes areas heavily serving tourists, I would much rather see tax money going to public works projects like Fulton Center than into the pockets of politicians.

"Subway and Bus Ridership for 2019." MTA, <https://new.mta.info/agency/new-york-city-transit/subway-bus-ridership-2019>.
 Yee, Vivian. "Out of Dust and Debris, a New Jewel Rises." The New York Times, The New York Times, 10 Nov. 2014, <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/10/nyregion/fulton-center-a-subway-complex-reopens-in-lower-manhattan.html>.



**Uncertain about your career path?
 Stressed about the future?**

Check out getdown2business.org in order to figure out if business is the right field for you. There are countless interviews with business professionals of all sorts, sharing advice and their incredible experiences. Learn more about all the opportunities available in the business industry, no matter what your passions are.

The MTA Fare Hike

By: Angela I.
 Grade: 10

A dramatic fare hike may be inevitable after the past few years of Covid-19. In 2023, the projected fare is \$2.90 which is a 5.5% increase rather than the already existing 4% planned increase¹. You may think that such a steep fare hike is outrageous, but after hearing about the MTA ridership statistics and its recent projects, it may make more sense.

Since 2019, the annual ridership has decreased significantly. In 2019, the total amount of ridership was roughly 1.698 billion². In 2020, it was dropped down to a staggering 640 million and in 2021, up slightly to roughly 760 million. It's predicted that it will take several years for the MTA ridership rates to return to its normal amount³. During this phase, the MTA has not increased the fare at all. To add on to their troubles, in January 2020, the MTA was approved to start the "MTA 2020-2024 Capital Program," which included \$54.8 billion of investments to focus on upgrading stations and improving accessibility, investing in new buses and train cars, modernizing signals on the busiest subway lines and commuter rail lines, keeping bridges and tunnels in good working condition, and more.

Additionally, The MTA received a \$15 billion federal bailout, but already spent two thirds of it to stay afloat. The MTA system is barely standing after the combination of federal debt and exceptionally low ridership. "The state comptroller said it would take a fare hike of 28 percent to ease the MTA's financial pain. An increase of that amount would raise the price of a ride from \$2.75 to \$3.50." While this striking increase will not be happening until a few years, it would be the only way to relieve the MTA's financial burden.



Riders waiting for the L train on a packed subway platform
 Credit: Sam Hodgson for The New York Times

"Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Subway Ridership in New York City." Office of the New York State Comptroller, <https://www.osc.state.ny.us/reports/osdc/impact-covid-19-pandemic-subway-ridership-new-york-city>.
 "Subway and Bus Ridership for 2021." MTA, <https://new.mta.info/agency/new-york-city-transit/subway-bus-ridership-2021>.
 Tomassetti, Briella. "MTA Plans 5.5% Fare Increase for 2023." FOX 5 New York, FOX 5 New York, 1 Dec. 2022, <https://www.fox5ny.com/news/mta-plans-fare-increase-for-2023>.

Chat GPT Friend or Foe?

By: The Community Trio

Grade: 12

ChatGPT, or Generative Pre-trained Transformer, is the ultimate conversation companion. Whether you're looking to spice up your text messages, generate creative writing prompts, or even compose an entire novel, ChatGPT has got you covered. With its advanced language generation capabilities, this cutting-edge technology can help you express yourself in ways you never thought possible. So go ahead, chat away, and let ChatGPT do the rest!

While it's a useful tool, the implications of Chat GPT's uses are questionable. Here's a good example: the introductory paragraph you just read was generated by ChatGPT. Given its power, ChatGPT can be used for good or for bad, and oftentimes it is difficult to tell when it has been implemented. A major concern that has come with ChatGPT's recent uprising is its use in schools. With overwhelming deadlines and daily assignments, it is not hard to see why students would be tempted to use this tool. Many teachers and administrators are concerned that students will use this tool to avoid work and copy material rather than ask questions to gain information. Another concern brought up is the issue of plagiarism within ChatGPT's responses. Because ChatGPT is trained on various websites, books, and articles, it can be difficult to trace back sources and where the information comes from. This is especially concerning within academia and schools where having original work is of high importance.

Despite many concerns over plagiarism, the chatbot can also help supplement our learning. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas or defining a word in context, ChatGPT can be a partner in education. Used the right way, AI can be a great and effective tool for teaching and learning. Teachers can use ChatGPT to save time on making assignments or practice questions, and students can use it as a way to get questions answered quickly.

Although some may think the benefits of using ChatGPT outweigh its drawbacks, the representatives at the NYC Department of Education disagree. The Deputy Press Secretary, Jenna Lyle, expressed her concerns, stating that "while the tool may be able to provide quick and easy answers to questions, it does not build critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, which are essential for academic and lifelong success." The DOE stuck with this stance and even banned the site's access on school networks, including ElRo's.



OpenAI, the creators of ChatGPT
Credit: OpenAI

While some may think this position is extreme, it is hard to see the line between right and wrong here. The effects of ChatGPT are majorly influenced by how students use it. The DOE has no control over that, and educators' concerns are fair. The perspectives surrounding ChatGPT can change as long as we work towards making it beneficial to our development. Open AI, the creators of ChatGPT, still have a positive outlook for the future and "[look] forward to working with educators on useful solutions and other ways to help teachers and students benefit from artificial intelligence." Regardless of your position, we must remember that technology is only a tool, no matter how advanced it becomes. We should face new developments with both caution and curiosity as a world of opportunity opens up for us to explore. "As AI continues to evolve and grow, it's important that we adapt and make the most of its potential, rather than resist change." - ChatGPT

The Age of Digital Nomads

By: Julian R.

Grade: 12



– The Polanco neighborhood of Mexico City –
Credit: Fitopardo/Getty Images

COVID-19 changed the way we work. Due to pandemic-related restrictions, it became fairly common to work a hybrid schedule or from home. While many people thought these changes were temporary, apparently some of them are here to stay. This evolution of corporate America has led to a new phenomenon: the digital nomad.

So, who are digital nomads? And why are they becoming more popular? Digital nomads are completely remote workers or business owners, who have taken advantage of work-from-home policies to live in new places. Many opt to live in countries with a lower cost of living, such as Indonesia, Colombia, or Mexico.

Of course, some people wonder why digital nomads prefer to live in developing nations over the United States. After all, many countries that are popular with them have higher crime and poverty rates. However, the substantially lower prices allow them to live luxurious lifestyles. Thus,

they are able to live comfortably while avoiding the political and economic challenges that are faced by locals in those nations. Digital nomads often flaunt their lifestyles on social media platforms, showing how they taste new foods, visit attractions, and experience new cultures.

Unfortunately, digital nomads can have a negative impact on their new communities. In Mexico City, for instance, the increased demand for housing has driven up prices. It is difficult for native Mexicans to keep up with those who earn US salaries. This has led to increased gentrification in the city's center.

In conclusion, the recent trend of remote-work has had several unexpected effects. Most significantly, many American workers now have the option to enjoy a different lifestyle abroad. But how will this play out in the long run? And can other countries accommodate these workers, while protecting their own citizens?

Valentine's Day Trivia:

1. What is the origin of Valentine's Day?
2. What is the meaning behind gifting chocolates on Valentine's Day?
3. What is a way ElRo students share appreciation for Valentine's Day?

(answers below)



Black History Month Crossword
By Olivia C.



Pawprint Shorts
By: Grace M.

Answers:

1. The origins of Valentine's Day are believed to date back to ancient Rome, where a festival called Lupercalia was held in mid-February to celebrate fertility and the coming of spring.
2. Gifting chocolates on Valentine's Day is a symbol of love and affection. It is believed to have originated in the 16th century in Europe, where boxes of chocolates were given as gifts to express love.
3. ElRo students send flower grams created by the ElRo Naturalist's club and the StarGazer magazine.

AI becomes the Master Mixologist of Drug Discovery

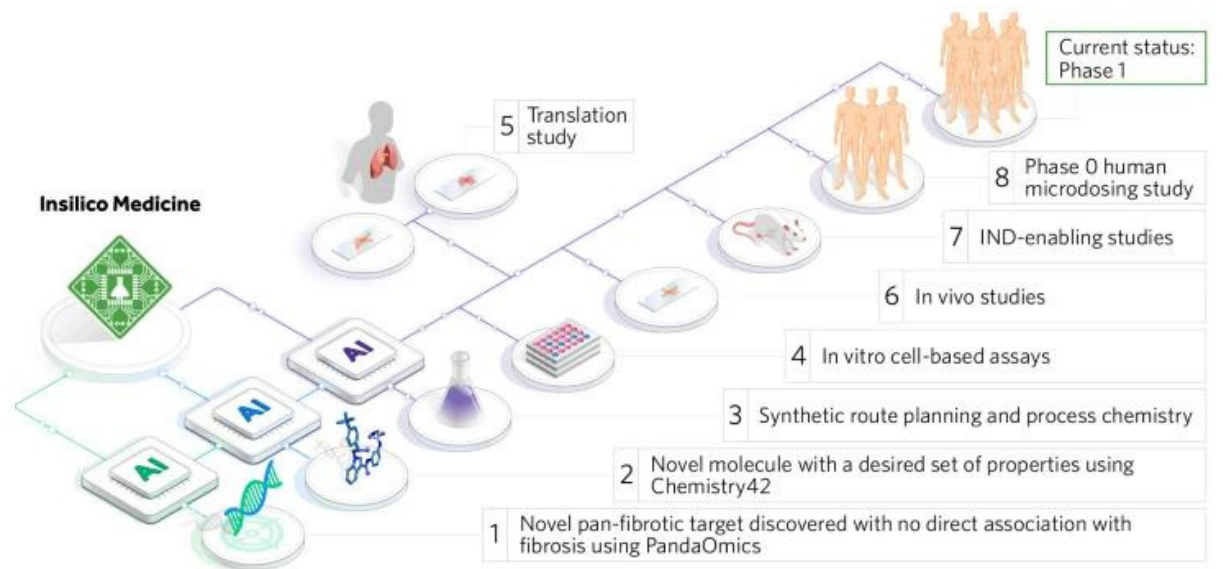
By: Anish S.

Grade: 12

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a fascinating branch of computer science that deals with the creation of intelligent systems. It has been developed over the years with the goal of creating machines to perform tasks that would normally require human intelligence, such as learning, problem-solving, and decision-making. In recent years, AI has made significant advancements and found many applications in different fields, a prominent one being medicine. In the field of medicine, AI has been used in various ways, such as medical imaging and diagnostics, and has even been used to develop personalized treatment plans for patients with chronic diseases, such as cancer. AI-based algorithms have been developed to analyze medical images, such as CT and MRI scans, to make accurate diagnoses.

There has recently been a breakthrough in the use of AI for drug discovery. AI can be used to analyze large amounts of data and identify potential drug candidates quickly and efficiently. Earlier in January, Insilico Medicine announced success in their Phase 1 trials of an AI-discovered drug that can treat Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF)! Although there is a long way to go before this drug can be prescribed, for the first time an AI-discovered drug has had positive results in its phase trials, which indicates a promising future for the application of AI in medicine.

Insilico Medicine is a biotechnology company based in Hong Kong that specializes in the application of AI in drug discovery and aging research. The company uses a variety of AI techniques, such as deep learning, to analyze large amounts of data and identify potential drug candidates. Insilico also uses AI to predict the effects of drugs on the body and to develop personalized treatment plans for patients. Insilico has formed partnerships with several pharmaceutical companies (such as Pfizer, Sanofi, and Fosun Pharma) and research institutions to advance their experimentation and product pipeline. Their technology has been used in numerous pre-clinical and clinical trials, most recently on a drug called INS018_55. This drug is used to treat IPF, a chronic disease that damages the tissue surrounding the alveoli (air sacs) in your lungs. It has been given a median survival of 3–4 years after diagnosis,



Process of Insilico Medicine AI developed drug creation

Credit: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d43747-022-00112-7>

which makes it a very deadly disease. IPF is a serious and debilitating condition that affects millions of people worldwide, which is why a drug like INS018_55, the first of its class, is a big breakthrough.

To develop a drug to combat a disease, it can take decades of research and tens if not hundreds of millions of dollars. Insilico Medicine developed this drug to combat IPF within 18 months of research and \$2.6 million of funding. Imagine this: decades of research shortened to two years! Millions of dollars could be saved, and many more diseases could be tackled and treated. There is no doubt that AI can perform certain tasks much faster than humans, especially data analysis. AI can analyze millions of data points within seconds, as long as it knows what to look for. Insilico Medicine programs its AI to search for certain targets in the body. They focused the AI on the lungs to combat fibrosis using software they call Chemistry42. This piece of AI creates molecules that will carry out their intended functions but do not currently exist in known chemical space. The novel molecule is then used in experiments, where it is observed on a microscopic level to see how it battles the disease. It is then put through Phase I trials to see how well it works in humans. INS018_55 was tested on 78 volunteers from New Zealand. The study found that the drug was fairly safe and well tolerated by the volunteers, and there were no severe adverse effects.

Insilico is pending approval from the FDA before it will be allowed to move into Phase 2 studies. Insilico Medicine is the first company to develop AI software sophisticated enough to successfully create a drug to treat a disease. Although the drug was only tested on a small sample size of 78 volunteers, it has cleared Phase 1 trials with no harm to the patients. Pending FDA approval to further test this drug in Phase 2 trials, Insilico has been celebrating their incredible breakthrough in the concatenation of medicine and AI. The process of using AI to create drugs to treat deadly diseases can save years of research and millions of dollars. There is no doubt that pharmaceutical companies will now divert more funds and resources to this novel field, but some question the safety of patient data and drug manufacturing using AI. Although we see promising results now, who knows whether these drugs will work in the long run. Although we have a long way to go before perfecting the AI model, the discovery of INS018_55 is a great leap in the right direction and opens the door to the quite literally endless possibilities AI has to offer.

Anne, Greta. "First AI-Discovered Drug Has Positive Results in Phase 1 Trials: Drug Discovery and Development." Labroots, Labroots, 13 Jan. 2023. <https://www.labroots.com/trending/drug-discovery-and-development/24417/ai-discovered-drug-positive-results-phase-1-trials>.
Insilico Medicine. "Insilico Medicine Announces Positive Topline Results of the New Zealand Phase 1 Trial of ins018_055, an AI-Designed Drug for an AI-Discovered Target." GlobeNewswire News Room, Insilico Medicine, 10 Jan. 2023. https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2023/01/10/2586249/31533/en/Insilico-Medicine-announces-positive-topline-results-of-the-New-Zealand-Phase-1-trial-of-INS018_055-an-AI-designed-drug-for-an-AI-discovered-target.html.
Nature News, Nature Publishing Group, <https://www.nature.com/articles/d43747-022-00112-7>.

Fusion Energy: The Future of Renewable Energy or Insurmountable Technological Challenge?

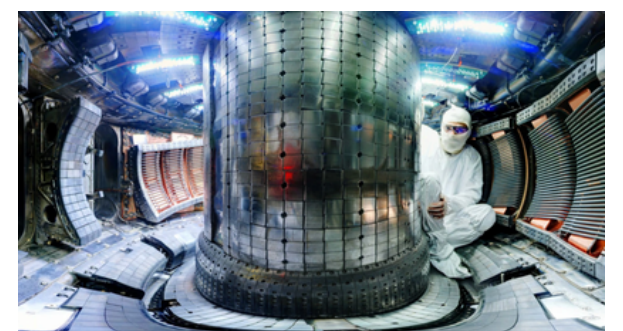
By: Avery C. | Grade: 12

Fusion power is a long sought-after dream for scientists and environmentalists alike. The idea of using the same process that our sun uses to create nearly-limitless power seems like an idea straight out of a sci-fi movie. However, fusion power is real and being developed. Fusion power has a large appeal because it not only produces zero greenhouse gasses or other pollutants, but also provides a nearly unlimited energy source using a cheap and easy-to-source fuel: hydrogen. Fusion power is the pinnacle of renewable energy, but it is important to know how it works to understand the difficulty it is to develop.

Fusion reactions, in short, occur when atomic nuclei come together, thus fusing to form a heavier nucleus, releasing energy in the process. It is important to note the distinction between this process and that of nuclear power, or fission reaction. Nuclear power/fission reactions break Uranium or Plutonium atoms into smaller pieces while fusion power seeks to combine hydrogen atoms into helium. Both are energy-positive processes, but fusion power has certain difficulties. Atoms do not just fuse under normal conditions, and engineers at fusion power plants have to create the proper environment for that to occur. The

environment? Up to one hundred million degrees celsius of temperature and extreme amounts of pressure surpassing that of the sun. This environment creates a plasma out of the heated and condensed hydrogen fuel mixture. Then, an energy reactor uses magnetic fields to confine that plasma in a process known as magnetic confinement fusion. Many developed countries have all followed this rough blueprint of fusion power.

Currently, there are several experimental fusion power plants around the world, including the Wendelstein 7-X in Germany, the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) in France, and the Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) in China. All of these facilities are working to achieve cost-effective sustainable fusion reactions, intended to eventually commercialize the power. Progress has been made with the technology, but most of the facilities remain largely experimental. There are a number of challenges that contribute to this issue. First, the facilities, research processes, materials, and advanced technologies are incredibly costly. Second, achieving a net-energy gain is a challenge. This is because fusion power plants have to consume large amounts of energy to start the fusion process, thus necessitating the reaction to create more energy than the amount that it takes to initiate the process. This is called achieving "break-even." Ultimately, the challenges hindering the rapid advancement of fusion power are significant.



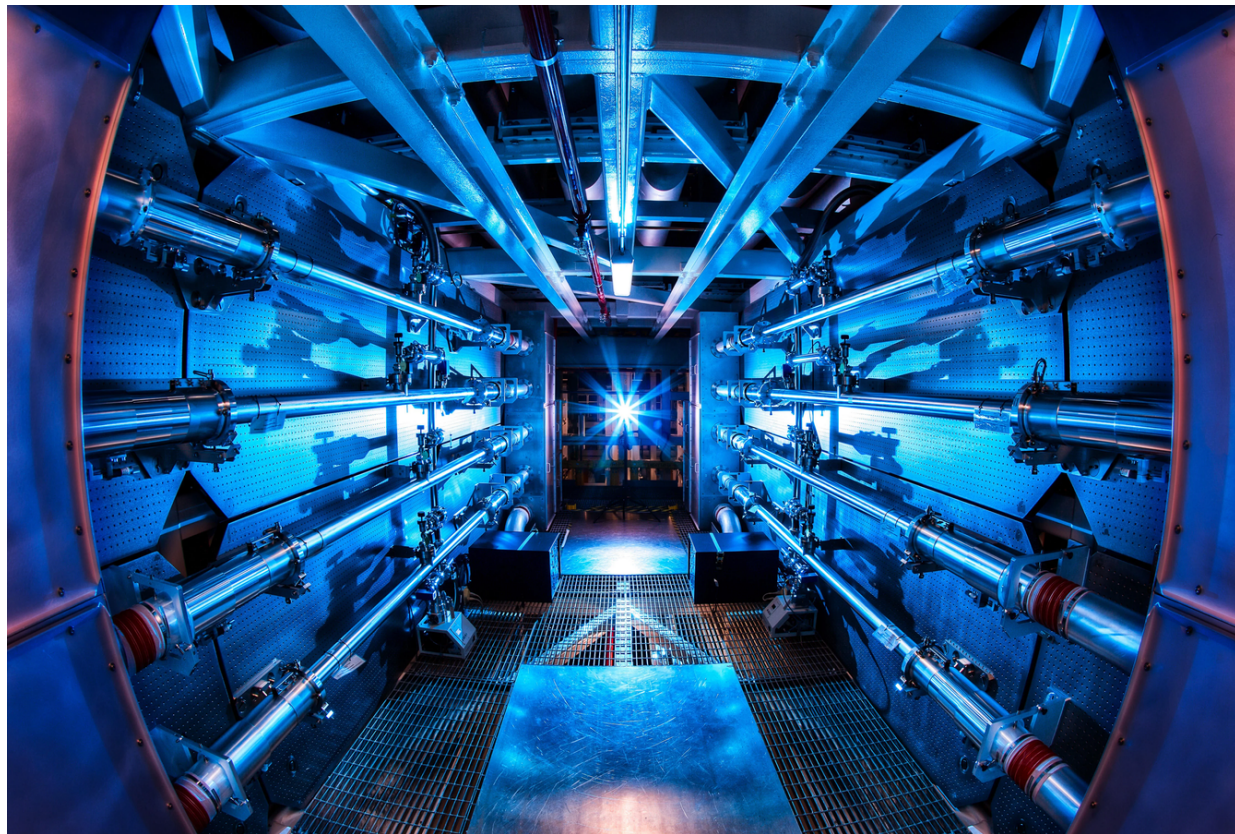
A scientist works in a fusion reactor plasma creation chamber
Credit: Bob Mumgaard/plasma science and fusion center/MIT

Yet the technology of fusion power has been steadily making more progress over the past couple of decades. From records in sustained fusion reactions to achieving net-energy gains, countries around the world have continuously reached milestones. Undoubtedly the potential gains of fusion energy are transformational. Imagine a world where our energy grid has mini-suns that create virtually limitless carbon-free energy. Though this vision is still far in the future, and there are still many engineering challenges to overcome, fusion power has been advancing at a pace unforeseen. Fusion power is the future of renewable energy.

"6 Things about the Nuclear Fusion Breakthrough by Scientists." Asiana Times, 14 Dec. 2022. <https://asianatimes.com/everything-about-the-nuclear-fusion-breakthrough/>.
Jonha, Mariam. "Fusion Ignition Achieved Ushering a New Era of Clean Energy - Prescouter - Custom Intelligence from a Global Network of Experts." Prescouter, 4 Jan. 2023. <https://www.prescouter.com/2022/12/fusion-ignition-achieved-ushering-a-new-era-of-clean-energy/>.
The Truth About Fusion Energy: Hype or Reality? - News of Month. <https://www.newsofmonth.com/science/the-truth-about-fusion-energy-hype-or-reality/>.

Is It Possible to Have Infinite Energy?

Andrew M. | Grade: 11



LLNL, National Ignition Facility Preamplifiers.
Credit: Science History Images/Alamy Stock Photo

Infinite green energy in a finite world. Sounds like something out of a science fiction novel, right? However, it is now possible—theoretically, at least. In early December 2022 at the National Ignition Facility (NIF) in the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California, the first ever nuclear fusion reaction successfully reached “ignition,” meaning that it generated more energy than it used.

What exactly is nuclear fusion? When people think of nuclear energy, they might think of nuclear reactors or their catastrophic meltdowns. However, that type of nuclear power, nuclear fission, is created by splitting atoms, which emits radiation and nuclear waste. Nuclear fusion, on the other hand, occurs when two light nuclei from atoms, such as hydrogen and helium, fuse to create a single nucleus. This resulting nucleus has less mass than the two original nuclei, and the tiny amount of mass that is lost is converted into a large amount of energy. It is the same relationship proven by Einstein’s famous equation: $E = mc^2$.

To achieve fusion, the nuclei must overcome the repulsion created by their conflicting forces. Both nuclei contain protons, which are both the same charge (positive), so they repel. Overcoming this repulsion requires an immense amount of energy, which is why nuclear fusion has been so hard to recreate. Until now, the sun and other stars were the only examples of the creation of energy through nuclear fusion. Nuclei are able to fuse inside the sun because its interior is so hot that the nuclei can move fast enough to overcome repulsion. Since only the sun is capable of producing temperatures that high, new methods like inertial confinement have been developed.

Inertial confinement, the process used by the NIF to achieve ignition, capitalizes on inertia, the tendency of an object to resist change. The process uses a laser to heat the surface of a fuel pellet containing the light nuclei of elements Deuterium and Tritium, causing the crust of the pellet to explode outwards. Because the lasers cannot ensure that an equal distribution of energy is applied to the surface of the capsule, a gold cylinder called a Hohlraum is used as the container for the reaction. The Hohlraum creates an even energy distribution when the lasers hit its walls, which emit X-rays back inwards towards the capsule.

Then, because of Newton’s Third Law of Motion, which states that every action has an equal yet opposite reaction, the rest of the pellet accelerates inwards, compressing the pellet. This compression causes the pellet to become so dense that it generates incredibly high temperatures in its center, sometimes called a hotspot, creating the necessary conditions for fusion to occur. The Deuterium and Tritium can then overcome their repulsion and fuse, generating energy.

So, why is nuclear fusion such a big deal and how could it benefit society? One positive aspect of nuclear fusion is that it does not release greenhouse gasses, such as carbon dioxide, into the earth’s atmosphere. Because of this, nuclear fusion has the potential to be an energy source that does not endanger the environment as coal and oil do. Another benefit is that parts of the fusion pellet, like Deuterium, are abundant on Earth and can even be found and extracted from seawater. Although Tritium, the other component in the fuel pellet, is radioactive, the reaction only requires a tiny amount, so it would quickly be diluted if it were to be exposed to the environment.

There are still many challenges to overcome before we can harness the power of nuclear fusion. Tritium is an incredibly rare substance on Earth, which poses a problem for producing large scale commercial energy from nuclear fusion. However, Helium-3, an isotope of Helium, can be used instead of Tritium, and is abundant on the moon. There is also the challenge and cost of developing the facilities needed to reach ignition multiple times a day, producing the fuel pellets, and building the reactors themselves. If we are able to overcome these hurdles, nuclear fusion has the potential to provide limitless clean energy to the world.

“DOE Explains...Nuclear Fusion Reactions.” Energy.Gov, <https://www.energy.gov/science/doe-explainsnuclear-fusion-reactions>. Accessed 2 Nov. 2023.

“Course on Nuclear Fusion Basics - Topic 4 - ICF: Inertial Confinement Fusion.” YouTube, 12 Jan. 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHmZwScAJE>.

“Fusion Power Explained – Future or Failure.” YouTube, 10 Nov. 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZsaaturR6E>.

“Science | AAAS.” AAAS, <https://www.science.org/action/cookieAbsent>. Accessed 2 Nov. 2023.

“National Ignition Facility Achieves Fusion Ignition.” LLNL Logo, 14 Dec. 2022, <https://www.llnl.gov/news/national-ignition-facility-achieves-fusion-ignition>.

“Scientists Achieve Nuclear Fusion Breakthrough With Blast of 192 Lasers.” NYTimes, 13 Dec. 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/13/science/nuclear-fusion-energy-breakthrough.html>.

Moving to the Moon

Reese B. | Grade: 11

On December 11th at 12:40 p.m an object weighing over 20,000 pounds crash landed into the pacific ocean from space: the Orion spaceship returning from its 25 day voyage to the moon and back. The mission, Artemis 1, was the first of three major missions to come regarding possible permanent sustainable human settlements on the moon. Launched on November 16th 2022, Artemis 1’s main purpose was to test rocket thrusters and engines to make sure that they could reliably complete the journey to the moon. The second of these three major missions, Artemis 2, is scheduled to launch in 2024. Similarly, this mission’s purpose is to test rocket fuel and engines, though with a human crew onboard. The culmination of these two test missions will be Artemis 3, which aims to finally land humans on the moon for the first time since 1972, so that they can begin to build a permanent settlement there.

Many people have asked, why the moon? What of importance could possibly be on this desolate rock orbiting the earth? NASA has four main reasons for establishing this settlement on the moon. First of all, NASA plans to create a permanent settlement on Mars in the decades to come, and this will be a perfect trial run for the creation of that. Second of all, following the huge success of the JWST (The James Webb Space Telescope), and its ability to observe planets millions of light years away, NASA, using a large crater on the moon, plans to build a telescope with over 10 times the strength of JWST. This telescope will have a receiver that measures over one mile wide, and will only be possible to construct using foundations created in the Artemis missions. Third, the creation of this settlement will enable study of the effects of prolonged space travel on the human body. It is widely known that a lack of gravity and radiation can drastically alter the human body, and these missions attempt to discover the true results of living permanently outside of Earth. Finally, the moon can provide earth with near infinite energy. Recent fusion experiments have shown that humans are capable of creating fusion reactions on earth, but the materials for experiments are costly. A promising substitute for the incredibly rare isotope tritium (The isotope used to complete the successful nuclear fusion experiment) is helium-3. While helium-3 is incredibly rare on earth, it occurs in great abundance on the moon. NASA aims to harvest helium-3 while on the moon in order to power both the moon base and Earth, using fusion energy for thousands of years to come.

In order to make this moon base a reality, NASA has a multi-step process for getting humans back onto the moon. First, NASA plans to build The Gateway, the first ever space station to orbit the moon. The Gateway will contain ports for rockets from all different space agencies to dock in, and will serve as a stepping stone for voyagers on their way to the moon. The Gateway will contain a taxi-like spaceship that will then transfer voyagers from the space station to the moon settlement. The permanent moon settlement will reside on the south pole of the moon, an unexplored area to humans. The base will be located there because of its mass quantities of ice for drinkable water, and the fact that it is constantly in the sun. This will ensure that solar batteries on the surface of the moon will experience the max amount of sunlight to produce their maximum amounts of energy. The settlement will contain a mobile home for voyagers exploring the moon, lunar cabins for those staying at the base settlement, and lunar rovers to drive around the surface of the moon. The base will also contain a sustainable food supply, yet scientists are currently unsure of the exact method of growing food on the rocky planet.

While this plan may seem nearly complete, there are still many issues that NASA faces before a settlement on the moon is plausible. NASA is still working on figuring out how to have spaceships of different sizes safely dock at The Gateway, and NASA is unsure of how to safely and comfortably bring moon voyagers back to earth without exorbitant costs. However, the benefits of a permanent settlement on the moon are too great to let small problems get in the way of NASA. Hopefully in our lifetime we will be able to travel to the moon to experience its beauty and uniqueness.

Cloud Computing: How Can New Technology Assist the Constantly Changing HR Facilities?

By: Olivia C.

Grade: 11

We live in a constantly changing society that seems to consume more and more technological advancements each day. Every field, division, organization of work has improved due to new innovations around the world, however some jobs seem to have taken less advantage of our computerized world. As its job is to maintain structure and order within any functioning office, many refer to human resources as the “backbone” of any organization. Though thoroughly important, its analytical nature produces a disadvantage surrounding the use of latest technological advancements.

It's not a surprise that along with every other branch of work COVID-19 has drastically increased the issues dealt with by HR. Personal problems, specifically healthcare affairs, have skyrocketed leaving HR desperate and in need for new solutions. Many workers are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel with cloud based computing. This type of computing offers instantly accessible computing and software services including computing services, databases, computer storage, and more. It does not require the user to actively manage it, it can be used over any distance, and can be issued across a wide variety of locations. Cloud computing is said to boost HR communities and enhance business gain.

Many slow areas of work like attendance, training programs, employment and management systems are now put into action with this new technology. Now recruitment can be achieved from separate locations across the world and people can be hired without being physically in the area. Employees no longer need to keep track of and organize hard copied files. Instead, important records of data can be accessed anytime, and in any virtual location. When looking to hire, resumes can be accessed from any time or place and interviews can be conducted from the comfort of your own home. These interviews can further be automatically saved for later use. Training sessions can also be done online and replayed whenever convenient.



– How many issues can cloud based computing solve in your workplace? –
Credit: Scout Technology Guides

Cloud computing has allowed outside companies to create new available softwares to further help the HR department. The information technology company Coforge has created iCATS, a service that allows management and consultation with interviewees during the hiring and talent acquisition processes. It includes skill-based training assessments for fast and easy recruitment. Other available softwares include IVR based recruitment calls which are sent to thousands of possible employees and can even track a possible hire's eye movements during an interview session.

During the pandemic many had to adjust to new situations of remoteness. Cloud computing allows for access no matter where you are, so anything can be retrieved in any work environment. New hires, retrieving records, feedback forms, performance reviews, and so much more can be done much more efficiently and effectively. Even though the pandemic is easing, new advancements are not. Cloud computing is being carried out to more extents than initially thought possible and the amount of uses seem to be infinite. Human Resources just became a little less human.

Asmaani Kumar You can reach out to her at asmaani.kumar@gopeoplematters.com.
“Modern-Day HRS Are Custodians of Employee Experience: Coforge's Pankaj Khanna.” People Matters, 28 June 2022. <https://www.peoplematters.in/article/leadership/modern-day-hrs-are-custodians-of-employee-experience-coforges-pankaj-khanna-34405>.

Crypto Crash

By: Tyler L.

Grade: 11



For the past two decades, crypto currencies have dominated the topic of many conversations, specifically about what crypto's future entails. Will the industry succeed or will the clownish hobby fail? We are receiving that answer now. Before I discuss the current state of the crypto market, let us understand what cryptocurrency is. First and foremost, a crypto transaction is a mostly untraceable, alternate form of online payment. Experts could use the blockchain to track the path of the currency but this is not a simple task. The digital currencies can be used for virtual accounting or product exchanges. Because crypto currencies are still a relatively new form of exchange, the exchange of crypto coins is very volatile. Unlike traditional monetary transactions, crypto currency exchanges require no banks or third parties, so they are uninsured and intangible. Likewise, because there is not a credible institution backing the transaction, it is difficult to convert crypto currencies into material currency.

As inflation is at a concerning peak of 6.5% for 2022, the stock market is suffering, and tighter monetary policies caused the crypto market's

evaluation to dwindle to \$900 billion from its peak of \$3 trillion². For example, Bitcoin, which values at one third of the total crypto marketplace, has been declining in value since March³. The peak price of a single Bitcoin was 69,000 dollars and is now valued at 17,000 dollars⁴. It is true there are many exterior factors that resulted in the greater economic crisis, such as international conflict and supply chain delays, but the main contributor to the crypto market's implosion is the bankruptcy of FTX or “Futurure's Exchange.”

FTX is a Bahamas-based organization that attempts to reduce the flaws of crypto exchange. FTX is a relatively easy to use platform that aims to help all parties make a profit. However, in the beginning of 2022, FTX filed for bankruptcy, instigating the crash crypto currency market, which, according to Reuters, is a still rampant problem. The decaying industry has resulted in many greater problems, including a declining consumer confidence (64.6 on a scale of 100)⁵, weaker investments into crypto currency, and the bankruptcy of many other companies like Voyager and Luna. All in all, a not widely understood, but hugely influential industry has largely failed all because of an incapability to meet consumer demands on FTX's end.

Ari Levy, MacKenzie Sigalos. “Crypto Peaked a Year Ago - Investors Have Lost More than \$2 Trillion Since.” CNBC, CNBC, 14 Nov. 2022. <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/11/11/crypto-peaked-in-nov-2021-investors-lost-more-than-2-trillion-since.html>.
Best, Raynor de. “Bitcoin Price History Apr 2013 - Feb 08, 2023.” Statista, 9 Feb. 2023. <https://www-statista.com/statistics/326707/bitcoin-price-index/>.
“Bitcoin Price: BTC Live Price Chart & News.” CoinGecko, <https://www.coingecko.com/en/coins/bitcoin>.
Cryptocurrency, <https://ycharts.com/indicators/categories/cryptocurrency>.
“United States Inflation Rate January 2023 Data - 1914-2022 Historical.” United States Inflation Rate - January 2023 Data - 1914-2022 Historical, <https://tradingeconomics.com/united-states/inflation-cpi>.

The World Cup United Nations and Classrooms

By: Grace M.

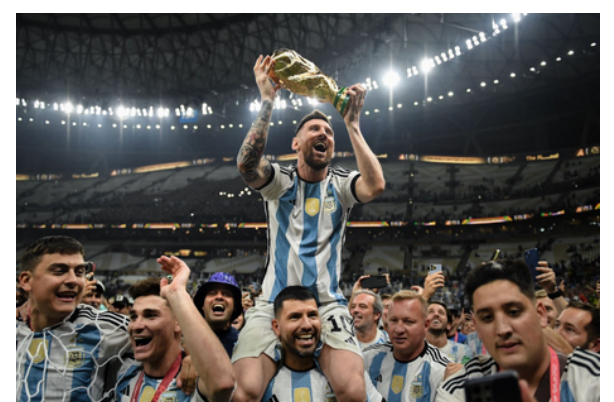
Grade: 12

On December 18th, millions gathered around TVs and in the stands of Qatar's Lusail Stadium to watch the 2022 World Cup final. It was a highly anticipated match: Argentina (with Lionel Messi vying for his first World Cup in what might've been his last chance) up against France (with Kylian Mbappé, one of the best players in the world at age 23).

Every four years, the World Cup brings nations together to cheer on their country's teams in the world's most popular sport. However, this year, there was a unique difference: usually the World Cup is held in the summer, but due to Qatar's high temperatures in the summer months, the 2022 tournament was moved to the end of the year. This allowed students from around the country to watch matches with their classmates during school hours. Students at ElRo were seen gathering in the library and classrooms to cheer on their favorite teams, and all were invited to participate in a bracket challenge to see who could most accurately predict the results of each match.

This was a great tournament to watch, even for the casual soccer fan: it is possible that this was the last World Cup with Messi, Ronaldo, and Neymar, three of the greatest players of this generation. Along with an obvious changing of the guard, there were huge upsets, Morocco made the semifinals, becoming the first African nation and first Arab nation to go as far as the semifinals, and a clear Cinderella story: an upset over favored Portugal along the way. One of the biggest shocks early in the tournament was Saudi Arabia beating Argentina in the group stage in what might be the biggest win in Saudi Arabian soccer history, the entire nation was seen celebrating, as the massive underdog stunned one of the world's great soccer powerhouses.

Argentina was not fazed by this loss, however: they went on to beat France in the final, in a thrilling match that many are calling one of the best World Cup finals of all time. Argentina led 2-0 at halftime, but in the second half Mbappé became only the second player in history to get a hat-trick in the World Cup final. The match was tied 3-3 following extra time, and it was decided by penalty kicks: Argentina won 4-2 to secure the trophy, their first since 1986, which stopped France from becoming the first repeat champion since Brazil won in 1958 and 1962.



Argentina celebrates after winning the 2022 FIFA World Cup
Credit: CNN

After such an exciting tournament, it is only natural for soccer fans to be hungry for more. Even casual fans (including myself) were enticed by the constant action. The next World Cup will be held in 2026, with matches in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. However, there will be World Cup action before then: the next Women's World Cup will be held in Australia and New Zealand and begin on July 20th, 2023.

MLB Free Agency Recap

By: Ryder L.

Grade: 10

This year's MLB free agency has led to a number of shifts and changes within the world of baseball. For those who do not know, the MLB free agency is where players who are not currently under contract with an MLB team can sign with a new team or resign from their previous team. This season, some of the best players in the MLB were free agents, including Aaron Judge, Trea Turner, Jacob deGrom, and many more of the top-tier MLB players. Now, I'll go into a few free agents this season and what they have decided to do.

Let's start with Aaron Judge. Aaron Judge just came off of one of the best seasons ever, breaking the

American League single-season home run record with sixty-two home runs and winning the American League MVP. Judge ended up re-signing with the New York Yankees for \$360 million on a nine-year contract, which is one of the biggest contracts in MLB history. The Yankees also signed Carlos Rodón, who previously played for the San Francisco Giants, to a six-year \$162 million deal.

On the other side of New York, the New York Mets made strides in the free agent market. The Mets re-signed Edwin Díaz, who is the reigning Trevor Hoffman NL Reliever of the Year. The Mets also signed Justin Verlander for a two-year contract, a \$86.7 million deal. The Mets bringing Verlander replaces the superstar pitcher that they lost, Jacob deGrom, who signed a five-year deal worth \$185 million with the Texas Rangers. Over the last two seasons, DeGrom has struggled with injuries, but when he was on the mound, he still looked phenomenal. DeGrom adds some much-needed pitching as the Rangers had below-average pitching this season. Even though the Rangers had below-average pitching, they still had one bright spot in their rotation, which was Martín Pérez.



Aaron Judge - CNN

Pérez was a free agent, but he re-signed with the Rangers on a one-year contract worth \$19.65 million. Where did the free-agent pitchers end up? Tyler Anderson was signed to the Los Angeles Angels on a three-year, \$39 million contract. The Angels desperately needed pitching, and getting Anderson could hopefully fill that need for the Angels. Nathan Eovaldi, who signed a two-year, \$34 million deal, joining Jacob deGrom as a new pitching acquisition for the Rangers, bolstering their rotation. Clayton Kershaw re-signed with the National League powerhouse, Los Angeles Dodgers, on a one-year deal worth \$15 million. Lastly, Chris Bassitt signed a three-year deal worth \$63 million with the Toronto Blue Jays. The signing of Chris Bassitt adds to an already stacked Blue Jays rotation.

Along with starting pitchers being a hot commodity, the shortstop was a very sought after position. Four shortstops were free agents this year: Trea Turner, Xander Bogaerts, Dansby Swanson, and Carlos Correa. Trea Turner signed an eleven-year deal worth \$300 million with the Philadelphia Phillies. Turner brings some much-needed defense to the Phillies. Xander Bogaerts signed an eleven-year contract worth \$280 million with the San Diego Padres, upgrading an already elite Padres infield.

Dansby Swanson signed a seven-year contract worth \$177 million with the Chicago Cubs. The biggest

story of the offseason was Carlos Correa, as originally he signed a thirteen-year contract worth \$350 million with the San Francisco Giants, but that deal fell through due to medical concerns about Correa. Then, Correa signed a twelve-year, \$315 million deal with the New York Mets, but that deal also fell through for the same reason. Finally, Correa re-signed with the Minnesota Twins on a six-year deal worth \$200 million after finally passing his physical. Some other notable free agent signings were Wilson Contreras with the St. Louis Cardinals for \$87.5 million. Contreras replaced Yadier Molina who has been their catcher for the past 19 seasons. Andrew Benintendi signed a five-year contract worth \$75 million with the Chicago White Sox. Joey Gallo, who is looking for a comeback season, as he struggled mightily last season signed a one-year deal worth \$11 million with the Minnesota Twins. Joc Peterson, who was an all-star this season, re-signed with the San Francisco Giants, on a one-year deal worth \$19.65 million. Lastly, there were two notable signings from Japan, as left fielder Masataka Yoshida signed a five-year, \$90 million deal with the Boston Red Sox, and starting pitcher Kodai Senga signed a five-year, \$75 million deal with the Mets.

Martin, Dan. "Aaron Judge Named 16th Captain of the Yankees: 'An Incredible Honor'." New York Post, New York Post, 22 Dec. 2022. <https://nypost.com/2022/12/21/aaron-judge-named-16th-captain-of-the-new-york-yankees/>.
"MLB Stats, Scores, History, & Records." Baseball, <https://www.baseball-reference.com/>.
MLB.com. "2022-23 Free Agents, Position by Position." MLB.com, MLB, 10 Feb. 2023. <https://www.mlb.com/news/mlb-2022-23-free-agents-by-position>.

Art: The Evolution and Lasting Influences

By: Angela Y.

Grade: 10

Creating visual art is one of the defining characteristics of the human species. The scarcity of archaeological evidence means that we have limited information on the origin and evolution of this aspect of human culture. In the article, History of Art: Origins, Evolutions of Visual Art, many historians believe that art originated from Africa. (1) Some of the earliest examples of art are from the Stone Age of Namibia, the Late Palaeolithic of Egypt and the Upper Palaeolithic of Europe. During the Stone Age, seven stone slabs with animal figures were found buried in the cave in Namibia with unknown dates. Though the cave's collapse has been dated around 26,000 - 29,000 BCE. The images communicate a similar style to a more modern example of South African rock art. Additionally, engraved drawings have been discovered in the Nile Valley (15,000 - 16,000 BP). The drawings portray animals and nature such as, birds, fishes, hartebeest, and humans randomly ordinated without an imaginary ground in the drawings. Both African art and Egyptian art have a connection to nature that represents the natural world. Furthermore, Upper Palaeolithic European art discovered the idea of 2D and 3D, and African art uses both concepts. For instance, 2D art was drawn on a flat surface, but traditionally, African art has been more 3D: jewelry, pottery, and castings.

Art, in its many forms, influences human societies. Art expresses how it felt to exist in a particular time. Ancient artists showcased their daily lives in the form of paintings, sculptures, tools, etc. Art helps people from various cultures understand and communicate with each other through songs,



History of Art and Fashion | Credit: We - Heart

pictures, and stories. People often relate to other societies and cultures through their artistic representations. Art has also been a vehicle for social change. Governments use murals, paintings, sculptures, drama, movies and songs as propaganda material to change public opinion and launch public informational campaigns.

The clothing we choose to wear daily is also influential art. Throughout history, fashion and art have gone hand in hand. Many fashion designers have borrowed ideas from art movements for their collections, allowing us to interpret fashion as a form of art. Mainly, art serves us for expressing ideas and visions. In the article, Nine times The History of Art Inspired Fashion Designers, the image chosen for this article is an early example of the fashion-art crossover. Most people recognized lines creating a square with the prime colors.

Dutch painter Piet Mondrian created his most well known drawing that represents the chaotic feels of New York City. In the 1930s, Hermès designer Lola Prusac looked to Mondrian's famous works for inspiration. Featuring white backgrounds, grids of thick black lines and blocks of primary colors, they would inform a range of luggage and bags with square inlays of red, yellow and blue leather. Our daily clothing may not have the exact representation of an artist's works, but the clothing we choose to wear comes from the fashion industry. Whether fast fashion or timeless fashion, it represents an era in which the style of clothing is popularized. Remember the North Face Puffer from the 2000s? Or the flare jeans from the 90s? These styles eventually came back, and are still worn now.

"History of Art Origins and Evolution of Visual Arts." History of Art: Origins, Evolution of Visual Arts, <http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/history-of-art.htm>.

From the Seniors

By: Sydney K.

Grade:12

As the first semester draws to a close, students of all grades have settled back into their school lives. Seniors may find themselves reflecting on their past few years here during times like these. Figuring some of these reflections may be advantageous to impart on current and future students, I collected advice from various seniors I know.

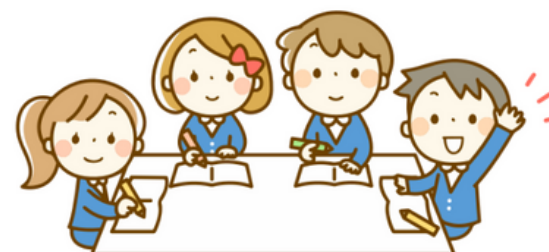
“Don’t drink caffeine, it makes you shake in class,” one senior recommends. “And stop procrastinating, just do the thing.” Although it can be easy to drink coffee frequently— especially since there is a Starbucks only a block away— consuming too much will have adverse effects (such as, in this student’s words, making you “shake in class”). With regards to procrastinating, it can be easy to fall into a loop of constantly putting off work until the last minute. While it may be simpler said than done to stop it, there are ways to encourage finishing assignments in a more timely manner. For instance, students who share classes can plan to do homework together. Oftentimes, it’s easier to procrastinate alone than with someone else. Of course, if both students are procrastinators, this may be ineffective. Another method is to confirm what the assignment actually is by reading carefully and possibly making a list of its required tasks.

This may seem obvious to many, but sometimes procrastination is caused by anxiety related to the assignment’s difficulty, so breaking it down into more digestible parts can be helpful.

“Don’t waste your time being awkward,” advises another senior. “It’s a lot easier to just not think.” Many underclassmen find it hard to navigate school socially. Quite honestly, advice for this could fill up its own article. However, this senior makes the point that “it’s a lot easier to just not think.” It’s true that it isn’t uncommon for students to get inside their own heads and thus get in their own way. In a similar vein, Karla L suggests: “Make more friends. Gather more minions and subordinates.” Fairly self-explanatory.

On the academic side of things, “take an art elective,” implores one senior. “I had to structure every class I took around the fact that I failed to take an art elective. I couldn’t take a third AP Junior year.” It’s important to take classes that interest you, and EIRO has no shortage of electives. Additionally, many students choose their courses based on what they believe will impress colleges the most. However, colleges will probably not be impressed if you don’t meet your graduation requirements.

“Don’t freak out over a 90” is Leah H’s advice. “You’re gonna get much worse scores in your high school career.” It’s admirable to aim for good grades, but many EIRO students will only accept an A. The truth is, even the best students will get a poor grade



Students working
Credit: freesvg.org

or (heaven forbid) fail a test once in a while. While EIRO definitely has a competitive atmosphere, getting a score like a 90 is not a bad grade at all. Comparison is the thief of joy.

Similarly, Katarina M says, “the LogicGate traffic lights aren’t worth your tears.” Although this is somewhat specific to students taking Computational Thinking, the sentiment applies to all classes. As frustrating as an assignment may be, any undue stress it creates is temporary and can be worked through.

This brings me to my own advice for my fellow and future students: don’t be afraid to reach out to a teacher. It may sound simple, but the extra effort can make or break the class for you. If you’re confused, attending office hours is your best bet. Don’t be afraid to ask a “stupid” question— everyone else is there because they need help, too.

And, of course, don’t be afraid to ask your upperclassman friends for advice— we don’t bite, I promise!

The College Process – From the Eyes of a Deferred Student

By: Olivia H.

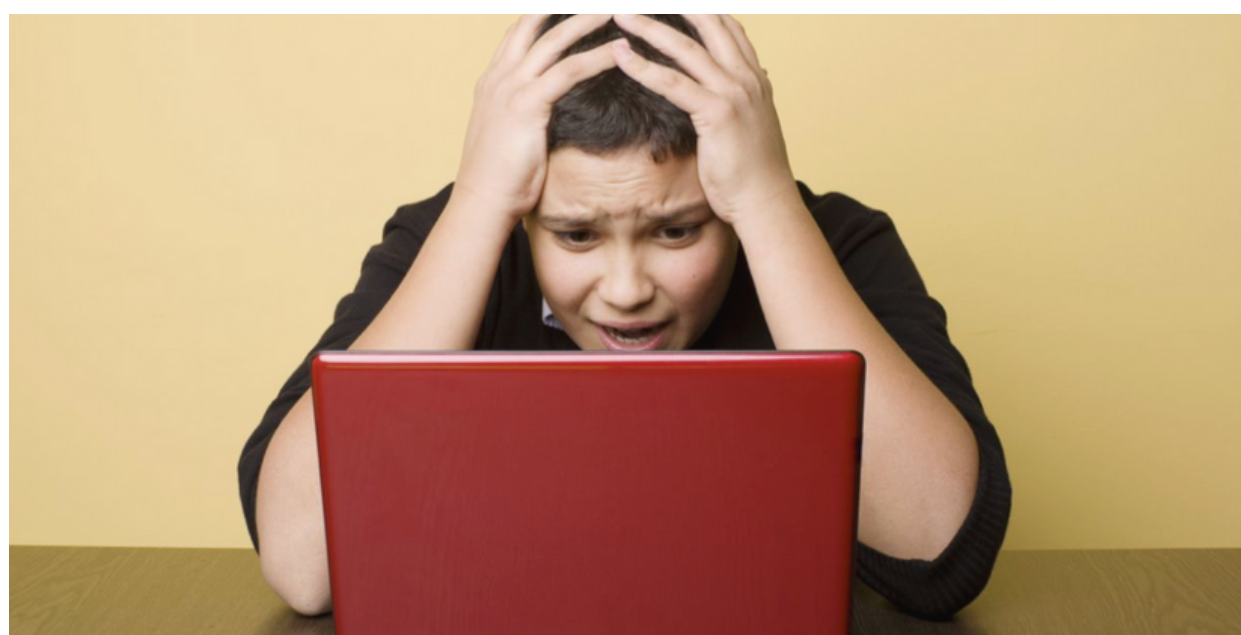
Grade:12

When going about this college process, the only approach I could leverage was one of comedic relief, lest I shut down all together. Even writing this now, making light of a terrible situation frankly feels more of a goal than an accomplishment. However, I am hoping that through writing this piece I make strides to handle this uncertainty with more grace and, as a result, help you stay afloat through the process.

The other day in class, my friend observed that she had been experiencing more hopeful dreams since winter break. Considering my dreams have been about rejection letters and being chased by strangers, I wondered why I hadn’t been having the same experience. After careful consideration, I realized she had committed to college and was already living like a second semester senior, something I unfortunately cannot relate with. Everything about this process is hard. Sure, there is the chatter throughout the grade about who got in where and the constant questioning from family members about what your next steps are. But the noise that was deafening for me came from within. And that felt inescapable. Above all, getting deferred is difficult because it means you must give another final push. It means you must keep going when you have nothing in you left and you must unfollow all of the accounts linked to the college you might very well not be attending. The inner dialogue I face guilts me into thinking there is always more to be done, even when all of my brain cells seem to have disintegrated. That there are only two more weeks left of this semester and therefore, of struggle. We cannot blame ourselves for this unproductive attitude. It is the air we breathe.

To no surprise, I broke down just last week and convinced myself I was going to commit to a school I would have never expected I would be pursuing. I had convinced myself I was foolish for EDing to my school in the first place. Then, as I have done many times, I changed my mindset.

In previous articles I have written, I weave in advice to maximize the small wins and lower your



In light of many college decisions coming out, it could be a hard time for those still uncertain about the next four years. However, it is never too late to revise your outlook, take it from a deferred senior.

Credit: ThoughtCo

tolerance to stress (thanks for the advice Mr. Park).

If grinding for two more weeks means inevitable disappointment that everything could not get done, which it never does, then yes, that meltdown was completely justified. But now, sitting writing this, I have reached a point in my EIRO career where even that action is an accomplishment and two more weeks does not need to be defined by pure misery. When we phrase it like that, we are equipping ourselves for burnout. However, if you go into the process with conviction that you will simply get up everyday, staying true to your own limits, school no longer sounds as daunting. Frankly speaking, I am not sure how long this revived mindset will last until my next inevitable meltdown. However, hopefully I’ll have this stream of consciousness to look back to (and probably make fun of) when that moment comes around.

This “entry” felt like the only authentic topic I could write about. We are living in what has been coined an “enrollment cliff.” How lucky are we! This means that enrollment statistics are predicted to drop significantly in part due to COVID-19 and due to the insurmountable competition, that is, unless you are curing cancer which I unfortunately am not.

My point is, the results are unexplainable and not to be taken personally. The college process introduces a side of yourself you thought you could defeat—take it from me and the people in my grade who have seen this firsthand. However, through this dread I still believe that everybody ends up where they belong, so my suggestion is to be a little easier on yourself and give yourself credit for making it this far. (And if you have sailed through this process, feel free to email me explaining your secret).

**Want to share with
EIRO's community?
Join the Pawprint!**

**Classroom Code:
j5kpuhd**

SOS: My 5 Favorite Songs on SZA's Special New Album

By: Isabella P.

Grade: 11



SZA on the cover of SOS

Credit: Stereogumt

Singer SZA's sophomore album, SOS, debuted on December 9th, 2022. On most albums, many declare certain songs to be "skips," or songs that just are not as good as the other tracks on the record. However, SZA's SOS contains 23 songs that are all fantastic. The 23 track album combines a more classic sound for her, as seen in Ctrl, with experimentations in other genres such as pop-punk or solemn acoustic. SZA's vocal performance is also noteworthy, with her voice being heavenly and rich, with a four octave range. She effortlessly conveys a powerful emotional depth. SZA also masterly shifts between different registers, showcasing her incredible range and control. She sings with a sense of conviction and determination that is electric, making the listener feel her pain, her happiness, and everything else that she writes about. This emotional connection is responsible for her 37.24% adolescent fanbase, as she easily connects to individuals with hormone-driven feelings and insecurities. Truthfully, creating a top five is incredibly challenging as SZA dropped a phenomenal track list.

Note: SOS contains mature themes and explicit language.

5: Used (ft. Don Toliver)

Used is a poignant track that delves into the complexities of relationships and the emotions that come with them. The song's lyrics are deeply personal and relatable for her younger audience, with SZA singing about the struggles of feeling used and the need to take control of her emotions. She paints a vivid picture of the pain and confusion that can come with a broken relationship, and her raw, honest delivery makes the listener feel as though

they are right there with her. "I feel like it's over/ Something callin' to get closer." The production on the song is well done, with minimalist instrumentals that allow SZA's vocals to really shine. The use of synths and trap beats are subtle yet effective, giving the song tension. This production style aligns with the song's theme and SZA's delivery, making it that much more memorable. The Don Toliver feature was overall surprising, as his presence in pop culture has been limited since 2020's TikTok hit No Idea. However, his performance in the chorus juxtaposed with SZA's verses fits the tone of the song well, as his singing voice is as clear and crisp as hers is.

4: Seek and Destroy

Seek and Destroy is a fun yet grim track that really showcases SZA's incredible vocal range and writing skills. The song is a catchy portrayal of emotional vulnerability and strong self-reflection. SOS's main strength is just how personal its lyrics are, and SZA doesn't avoid referencing pain that comes from relationships in this song. She sings about the struggles of being in a toxic relationship and the need to take control and end it. Additionally, the song employs a fascinating metaphor: comparing a toxic relationship to war. SZA uses this metaphor to describe the feeling of ending a difficult relationship. In large part, the song is so engaging because of the unique qualities of this metaphor.

3: Kill Bill

Though it never once references the classic blockbuster that is its namesake, Kill Bill is #1 of SOS on the Hot100 for good reason. The song, similarly to Seek and Destroy, deploys the strategy of exaggerating 'lover's quarrels' through depictions

of violence or tragedy. "I just killed my ex/not the best idea." The track creates a dark, brooding atmosphere with its usage of eerie synths, combined with the catchy beat that earns its place sitting at the top of the charts. The creativity of metaphor in both this song and Seek and Destroy elevate the album beyond becoming an air-headed pop album (unlike many albums that have been ruling pop culture through marketing and social media recently.) SZA also recently released a "sped-up" version of Kill Bill to appease any listeners coming to her from social media platform TikTok, which is somehow more fun to listen to than the exciting and adrenaline-pumping original. Kill Bill is a creative ear worm that showcases SZA's talents in performance art, not just her vocal capabilities.

2: Love Language

Love Language is a serene R&B track that delves into the complexities of communicating in relationships. The song is an absolute masterclass in emotional honesty, with simple lyrics containing exactly what she's trying to say. Love Language doesn't use complex metaphors or elevated lyricism in a way that's almost strategic to its meaning. The song reads almost as a plea to a lover to communicate how they're feeling, and successful communication is direct and vulnerable. SZA excellently illustrates this in Love Language, with the chorus just being a straight request for her partner to tell her how they feel. "Talk to me in your love language/Show me, yeah, how to connect to you." The simplicity of the instrumentals builds on its messaging of the importance of deep emotional communication, and the brilliance of this makes it one of SZA's best.

1: Notice Me

"I don't wanna be your girlfriend/I'm just tryna be your person" is the hook of Notice Me's chorus. The song is a lament on the struggles of self-doubt and insecurity that can come with a twisted relationship. She expresses her fear of being invisible and longing for someone to notice and understand her. The aforementioned hook digs deep into emotional needs in romantic relationships, disregarding any desire for romantic or physical attraction but instead longing to be viewed as a valuable and interesting human being, not just a girlfriend. The synth used in Notice Me is unconventional, a sound most easily described as "chirp-y." It provides the song with a happy and whimsical tone. This is a tactic that SZA has used throughout her career, including other tracks about more negative topics on her debut album such as Normal Girl. SZA combines a real and raw sense of emotion, a fun track and an incredibly relatable subject to create the best song on the album.

Smith, Mariah. "SZA Was 'Mad as Hell' after Her Grammys Losses-Now She's Moving On." GQ, 28 Feb. 2018, <https://www.gq.com/story/the-new-soul-of-sza>.

A How To: Studying Efficiently

By: Carly W.

Grade: 11

As students at ElRo, we all have tests every week that we spend days stressing for and hours the night before cramming all the information into our heads. Studying for tests is awful, time consuming and boring, but it's necessary in order to be fully prepared for tests and allows us to excel and reach our educational goals. Throughout the year it can be hard to maintain consistency and find the best study tool for you. In this article I'll talk about different study hacks that should be maintained throughout this new year and how to keep consistent and not burn out with the multitude of tests that students experience.

One important study hack is to give yourself plenty of time. Your brain doesn't work well under pressure, so cramming won't help you the night before. According to BBC news, a study in 2009 shows that 90% of the participants did better when they spaced out their studying, even though before

the study 72% of them thought that cramming was a beneficial way to study. If you start studying three days before the test, taking two hours each day, you'll process the information easier than if you study for six hours the night before.

On a similar note, it's important to take breaks in between studying. Studying for two hours straight can be exhausting. It's draining, it's boring and it can be hard to stay on task and keep focus for that long. There are many different ways to keep on task, avoid procrastination, and not burn yourself out. One of my favorites is called the Pomodoro Method. The Pomodoro Method is just a couple simple steps to help you remain productive and engaged. First you pick a task, whether it's homework or chores, choose the most important job you need finished. Then you set a twenty-five minute timer. After the timer goes off you take a five minute break. After doing this four times, take a longer break. This will allow you to get work done while also not getting tired too quickly. Taking a five minute break to do something fun gives you a boost of energy while also keeping you from taking those self-inflicted breaks that you say will take a minute but turn into twenty.



- How to study efficiently without the stress -
Credit: Dosomething.org

The most important piece of advice is to find the studying method that works for you. Everyone takes in information differently. Some people work well with flashcards, others prefer study guides. Try different methods, some of them might work perfectly, others might not. Once you find the one that works for you, stick with it. Consistency is key, and remember it's just a number on a paper. Don't let the grade define you, find a study method that works for you but doesn't burn you out.

The Ones Left Behind

By: Jackson F. | Grade: 10



Credit: Fox2Now

As the idea of enduring quarantines and strenuous weeks of worry leaves the minds of most, it becomes easy to forget the quiet aftermath of the pandemic. As they anxiously waited for the world to reopen, young students across the nation lost access to the valuable developmental phases of their early education, while high schoolers were deprived of the amusing, social lifestyle that typically embodies one's mid to late teens. What remains of most American youth is a barely-functioning skeleton, stripped of its inner strength and potential. Recovering from the catastrophic and often-concealed effects of the pandemic will continue to be one of the current generation's greatest challenges. Covid.

When COVID-19 pummeled the United States in early March of 2020, few would have predicted the dramatic suffering of so many children. While it seemed rather harmless to offer students a break from school, several factors emboldened the impact of the pandemic on young minds. Unlike other previous global health catastrophes, younger populations were witness to the deaths of thousands, and later millions of people through television, social media, and other information sources. The rapidly changing, and often contradictory news spread around the world confused and overwhelmed many, instilling a sense of hopelessness as the disease spread with no treatment in sight. Furthermore, most students were forced to disrupt their daily routines, which, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, serves as one of the most critical sources of comfort and development during childhood. Instability over financial conditions and the declining state of the economy fueled further emotional discomfort among children. However, above all other drastic changes, being deprived of social interaction resulted in the most detrimental effects on pediatric health throughout the pandemic.

Although the pandemic's hold on our world will continue to dwindle, the impacts of the previously mentioned examples of discourse will last for years to come. Among the numerous troubles that have arisen in the aftermath of COVID-19, the mental health crisis remains one of the most enduring. In a study published last March, the National Institutes of Health shared that 28% of participants in a 2020 international survey of around 65,500 children between ages four and nineteen experienced lasting anxiety, while 23% were suffering from long-term depression linked to the pandemic. This data seemed underwhelming in comparison to a Centers for Disease Control study conducted nearly a year later, determining that over 37% of American high school students actively suffered from poor mental health, and around 20% had contemplated suicide. Neglecting the likelihood that many students were hesitant to share their mental health concerns, these staggering results will ultimately lead to widespread post-traumatic impacts that will hinder the development of rising generations.

In addition to the mental health crisis, students lost years worth of fundamental education while away from traditional schooling. As a result of sudden mandatory shutdowns, schools were completely unprepared for a catastrophe of this nature. Subsequently, students were without proper instruction for months. By the time educators and school districts could settle on a health-conscious approach to learning, children and teenagers alike were well behind in their core studies and were further perplexed by a variety of unclear and arbitrary methods of instruction, either in-person, at home, or a hybrid of both. Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, digital education and assessment company iReady evaluated

students' academic performance across the nation through standardized diagnostic testing, including programs within the NYC Department of Education. The corporation ultimately determined that on average, students were four months behind grade expectancy in English-related subjects, and five months behind in mathematics. Furthermore, as illustrated in iReady's evaluation, Black, Hispanic, Latinx, Native American and other marginalized students of color were 50% more likely to experience academic difficulties during the pandemic. Students living in cities were also found to be disadvantaged when compared to peers living in rural and suburban areas, while children belonging to a household that generated income below the poverty line were also more susceptible to hardship. This supplements alternative studies which suggest that students living in areas resistant to in-person instruction and more reliant on strict prevention measures were more vulnerable to potentially long-term educational impacts. Children who required specialized education services or who received socio-emotional care at school were further burdened by these losses. Additionally, members of marginalized communities were also more likely to experience anxiety and depression during the pandemic.

What remains unfound is a solution of sorts to the academic deprivation that the younger generation now faces. If left unsolved, the discourse created by the pandemic could cause decades of poor global development and increased inequality. In a recent review of its pandemic strategy, the National Institutes of Health cited, "Necessary actions of [reducing] transmission may enhance physical safety of children... but at the same time come with increased risks of psychological impacts in this vulnerable age group." Although an inconsistent approach to balancing the impact of COVID-19 and the broader health of the population may have disrupted years of learning, children will continue to struggle, regardless of progress made in combating the disease. While forcing students to retake certain courses to properly retain the necessary information may be plausible, it continues to impede their academic progress and may disadvantage them in the future. Cramming additional material into existing courses is also reasonable, but could worsen mental health in already-overwhelmed students. Ultimately, regardless of which approaches are most effective, the world will not wait as students remain on their own to resolve educational discrepancies and mental crises created by the pandemic.

"Adverse Childhood Experiences during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Associations with Poor Mental Health and Suicidal Behaviors among High School Students - Adolescent Behaviors and Experiences Survey, United States, January-June 2021." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 13 Oct. 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm71141a2.htm>.
Nirmita Panchal, Rabah Kamal, and Feb 2021. "The Implications of COVID-19 for Mental Health and Substance Use." KFF, 28 Apr. 2022. <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/the-implications-of-covid-19-for-mental-health-and-substance-use/>.
Theberath, Monique, et al. "Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic on Mental Health of Children and Adolescents: A Systematic Review of Survey Studies." SAGE Open Medicine, U.S. National Library of Medicine, 30 Mar. 2022. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8972920/#:~:text=In%20total%2C%2035%20survey%20studies,common%20mental%20health%20issues%20reported.>

A Linear Civilization

Saudi Arabia, famous for its large oil reserve and architectural wonders, has now envisioned creating a structure that will unquestionably change our perspectives on urban development. Although Saudi Arabia has struggled to be environmentally friendly in the past, they are committed to the global fight against climate change. Since the launch of Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia has declared to have 50% of its power generated from renewable sources by 2030. Though they have taken the traditional steps to creating a greener world, apparently they have also taken a very creative approach to lessening their greenhouse gas emissions as well.

The Line is the name of a plan for constructing a city from scratch. The NEOM company, in charge of the planning and execution, stated it to be "a civilizational revolution that puts humans first" that runs on "100% renewable energy." The ambitions project will also prioritize "people's health and wellbeing." Its goal is to run completely free of greenhouse gas emissions and accommodate 9 million people through a 200 meter wide, 170

By: Eva C. | Grade: 11

kilometer long, and 500 meter tall strip through the desert. Additionally, it is said that when complete all residents will have access to amenities within a five minute walk and have access to a high-speed rail with an end-to-end transit of 20 minutes. The designers are also set on having the outside of this structure to be completely covered in glass. With a mirrored facade, they hope to preserve the land around it and work with nature instead of disrupting it. However, even with these ideas set in stone people are still wary about its future.

Specialists on urban planning have spoken out about this new construction and not all of them have been positive. Emily Talen, an urban design researcher at the University of Chicago, stated it is an "Awful" idea and a "Nightmare" at best with full confidence. She reflected on how it is seemingly too "futuristic." Despite such emphasis on the Line's flashy structure and incredible atmosphere, researchers have found that the technology for building a city from scratch is much too complex. Additionally, the idea of building a city on such a large scale, something unlike we

have ever seen before, is incredibly complex and will require decades of research and work for it to be functional. Keeping the Line linear, Plater-Zyberk says, would require extreme regulations. Historically, cities are known to grow in a hub-like-manner". It might be considered uncomfortable to create such a city that is only set to be on a linear path. However, not all comments are negative. Some people are excited to see where these new ideas will take us in the future. They are intrigued by what the Line can truly provide for our visions of a better world. Its decision to stay 100% carbon emissions free has opened up people to the idea that it could actually be quite beneficial even though it will be hard to create.

It is hard to tell at this point how this structure will pan out and although people have spoken out negatively on the construction of this structure, it has not stopped the NEOM company from wanting to complete this project. So over the next couple of decades we can all keep close attention to its construction and see in real time how real this civilization will become.