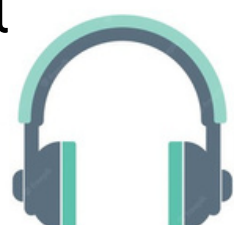
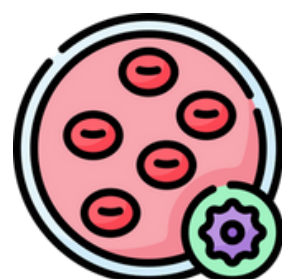


PREVIEW: Bayan writers portray hope in various ways

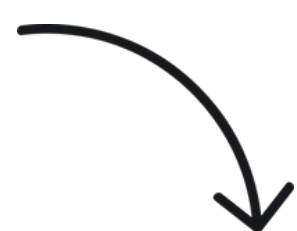
Zain Abu Rumman & Aya Al Daaysi: **Abdel Halim Hafez**



Khalifa Khalid Al Khalifa: **COP27** Much more than a climate summit



Ali Al Jeshi and Zain Al Rayes: Treating **cancer** with the help of modern technology



Budoor Ali and Fatima Kuwari: Behind the power of **hope**



Want to read more?
All you have to do is scroll!

A message from the Editor-In-Chief, Leyana Al Dajani

Despite the semester ending shortly, it can be challenging as work continues to pile up on this final year. Here's a few things to keep in mind: Your hard work will pay off. You are a little closer to success with every passing day.

A poem from the archives of my pining for a city that carries my heart:

Once upon a ferry,
Layered and mature
She had myriad backgrounds to carry,
A great deal to endure

Amidst the splashes,
Her hips sway rockingly
The gull's gaze and mustaches,
Merge into one mockingly

I see her in blue
Multicolored she, her vision I fear
A particular hue
Molding the atmosphere

Blown by gentle companions,
Warmed through natural gesture
Passengers turned minions,
We aim to impress her



ABDEL HALIM HAFEZ AND HIS JOURNEY

By: Zain Abu Rumman & Aya Al Daaysi

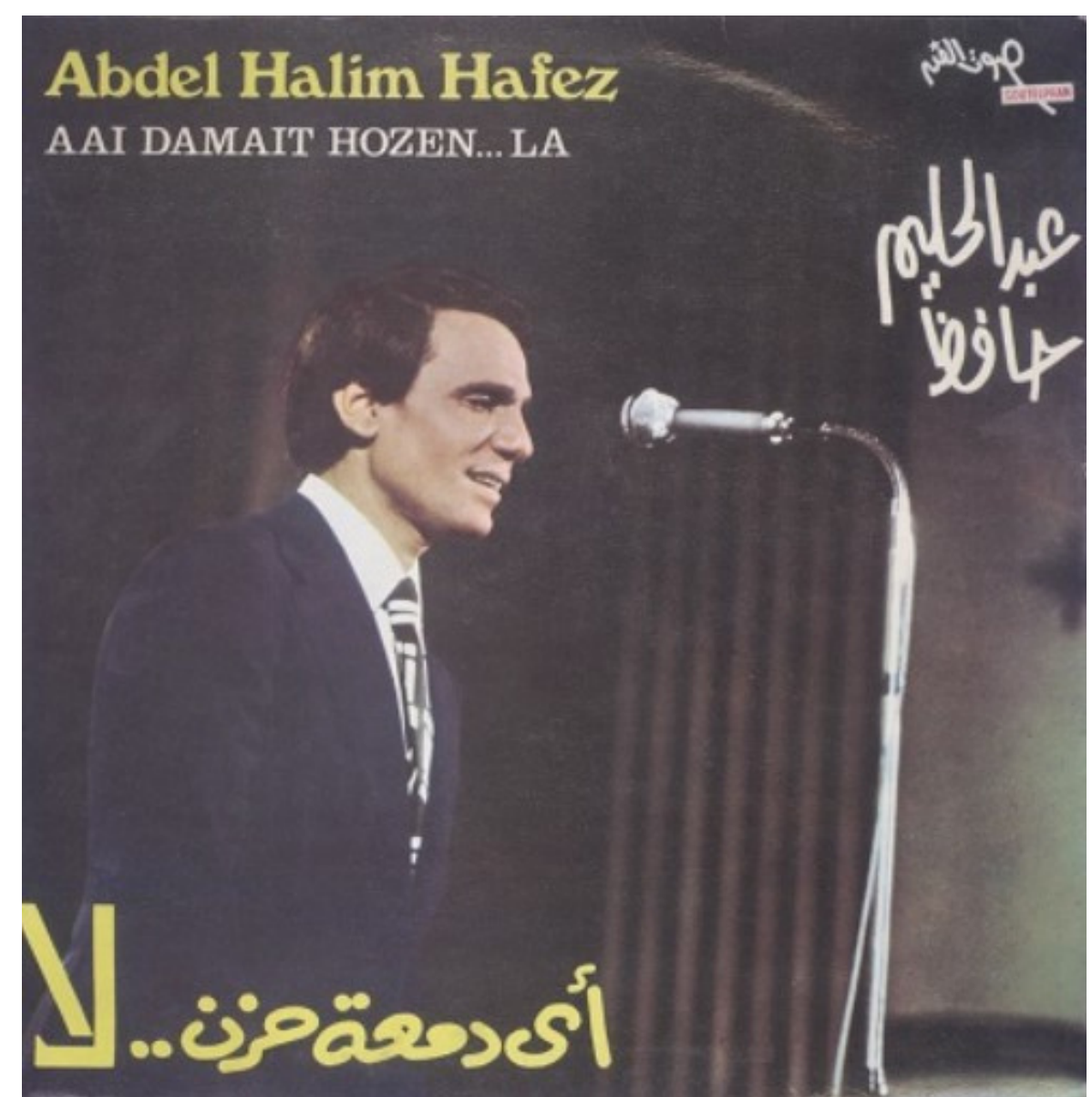
Grade 12



During our summer vacations, we visit our families, whom we haven't seen in months. We go on road trips by the river, blasting Abdel Halim Hafez so loudly that the car next to us would start singing along. Let's go back to the good old days of Abdel Halim Hafez, the man we all grew up listening to. Even today, whenever we are with our families, we only sing his songs because of the significant impact he had on our childhood and how he shaped us.



Abdel Halim Hafez has made a huge comeback. His songs have been trending recently and are used to show the beauty of the MENA region, which has had a positive impact on tourism this year. Egyptian vocalist Abdel Halim Hafez was musically gifted from a young age, and his older brother carefully fostered his abilities. At age 14, he started receiving official instruction at Cairo's Arabic Music Institute. Until he was discovered by a radio executive in the early 1950s, Abdel Halim solely taught music and performed. Despite his notoriety, Abdel Halim was a man of the people which many Egyptians could relate to because of his modest upbringing.



Moreover, he won the hearts of the Arab people by performing uplifting music for nations such as Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia, and Palestine. He made sure to include all of the MENA region so that we could feel loved, heard, and included. It's as if he connected us all together, regardless of how far away everyone was from each other. Not only were Abdel Halim's songs greatly appreciated, but his musical genre also had a big impact on Arab music. He preferred live performances over studio recordings, focusing more on the emotional effect of his lyrics and vocal style rather than technical prowess. "Ala Hasab Wedad" is a ceremonial song that is played at the end of our summer trip back home, reminding ourselves of the love our family holds for us, and that they will always be waiting for our arrival. It is our favorite Abdel Halim song that has stuck with us to this point. No matter how difficult life may be, Abdel Halim has taught us that whatever brings you peace will always be there waiting for you. To us, that is our family. We will always be grateful to have had a wonderful singer like him who helped link many families who were separated by distance, and showed others that they weren't going through it alone.



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COP27: MUCH MORE THAN A CLIMATE SUMMIT



By: Khalifa Khalid Al Khalifa

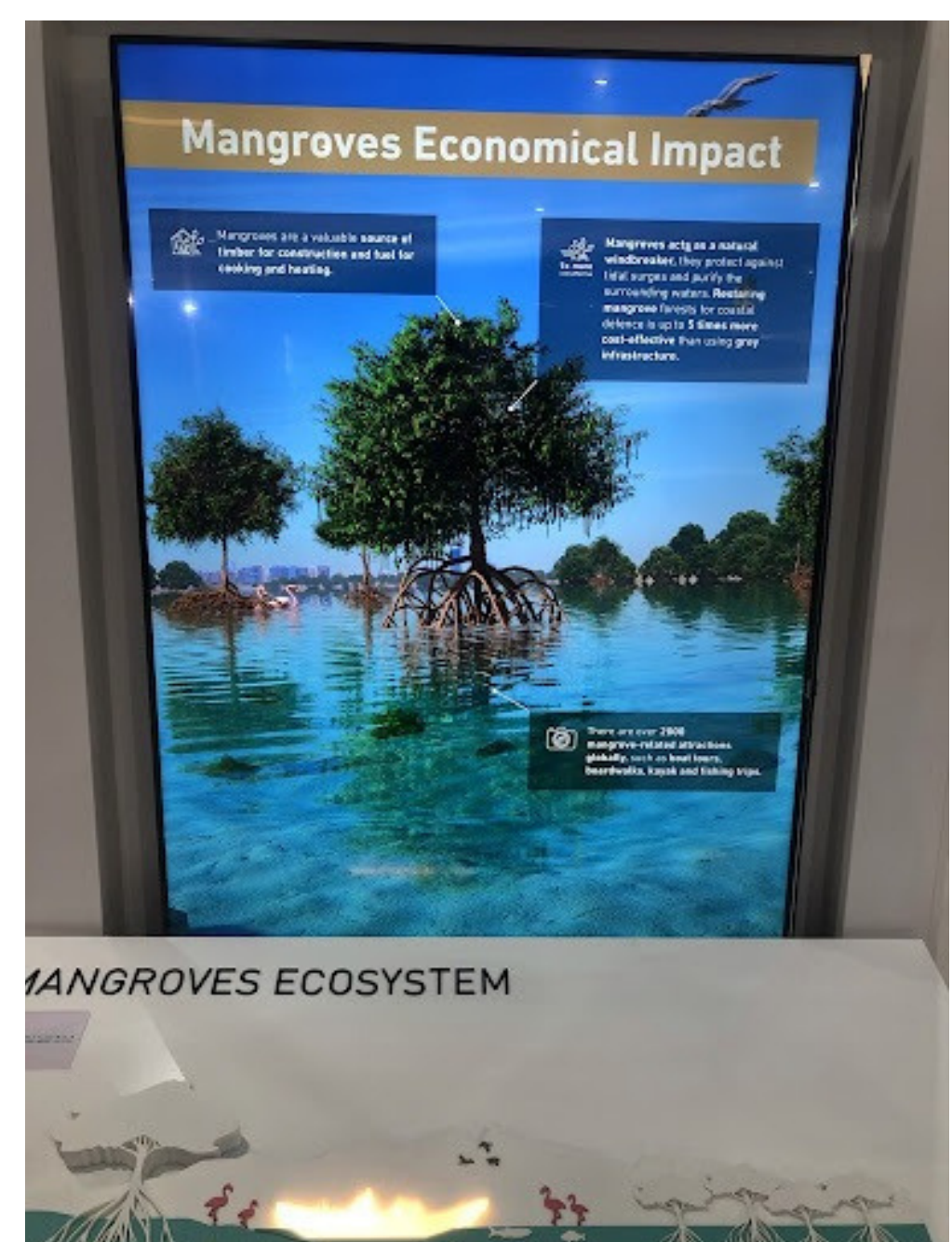
Global temperatures are rising.
The Arctic Sea ice is declining.
Glaciers are retreating.
The Ozone is depleting.



As poetic as it may seem, this is a reality that should be mitigated urgently. Wake up, world!

I recently attended the summit hosted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and it was hosted in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. This global summit is known as COP (Convention of the Parties), and since its dawn in 1995, awareness has been spread to battle the dangers of climate change.

In the convention, countries initiated pavilions whereby they exhibit the steps they have taken towards sustainably developing the environment. This aligns with the Paris Agreement signed in 2015 by 195 countries and further ratified by 190, which mainly seeks to lower the surge in global temperature by less than two degrees Celsius. It was mesmerizing to observe different cultures and backgrounds come together to advocate for a similar cause: the preservation of the environment using sustainable practices. In return, this fed the media as recordings of politicians, country officials, ambassadors of the UN, and organizations echoed across various channels to communicate an empowering message. Additionally, the integration of 3D models and interactive web pages added an edge to delineate the countries' efforts, contributing value to the convention.



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COP27: MUCH MORE THAN A CLIMATE SUMMIT

Upon arrival, I did not expect the summit to look anything like it did! What I had in mind was a large hall with rows of seats, and a large podium where activists take to the stage and express their perspectives. However, it looked more like an exhibition center with different zones, uniquely contributing to the message of sustainability and climate action. For instance, the **Blue Zone** is formal and official, representing countries and some major projects they undertook within the environmental sector. Besides, the **Green Zone** was peculiar by enabling indigenous cultures, academic artists, fashion communities, and youths to voice their endeavors to preserve the environment. This enlightened me about how broadening environmental horizons could only be achieved through innovativeness. This insight contradicts the plain-folk perspective of merely depending on solar energy and wind power to combat climate change, because it is a pressing issue rooted in humanitarian and historical contexts. Just as anthropogenic efforts built up the enigma of climate change, collective action and critical thinking should reverse it.

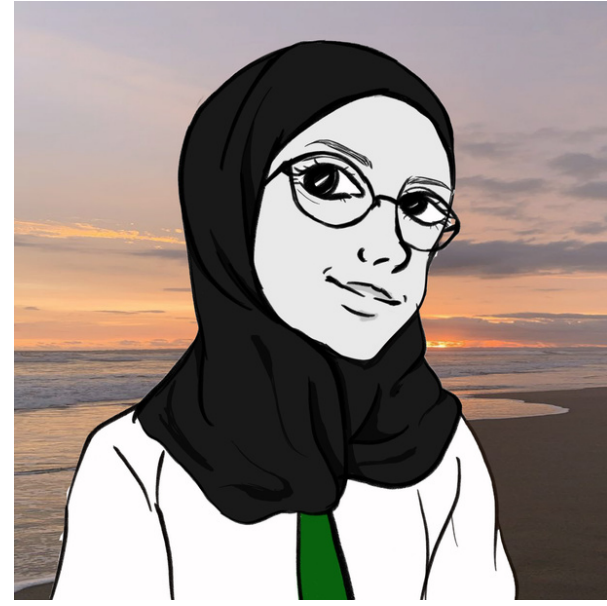
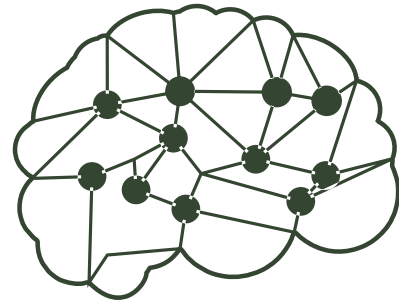
A key takeaway from this adventure is that sustainability is not only green. It is rather a combination of colors and phenomena requiring a new mindset and a distinctive way of thinking. A prime example is Turkiye, who sustainably produced artworks at the summit to express the need for recycling CPU (Central Processing Unit) pieces and integrating them to represent communal identity. Thus, the youths of today should be driven by becoming leaders who uniquely contribute to this grave climate enigma through creativity and zeal. Hopefully, with the perpetual acknowledgment of climate change in global summits, COP will be rethought as a convention that ignites passion, solidarity, and pioneering to mitigate environmental catastrophes and prolong a sustainable way of living.



TREATING CANCER WITH THE HELP OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY

By: Ali Al Jeshi & Zain Al Rayes

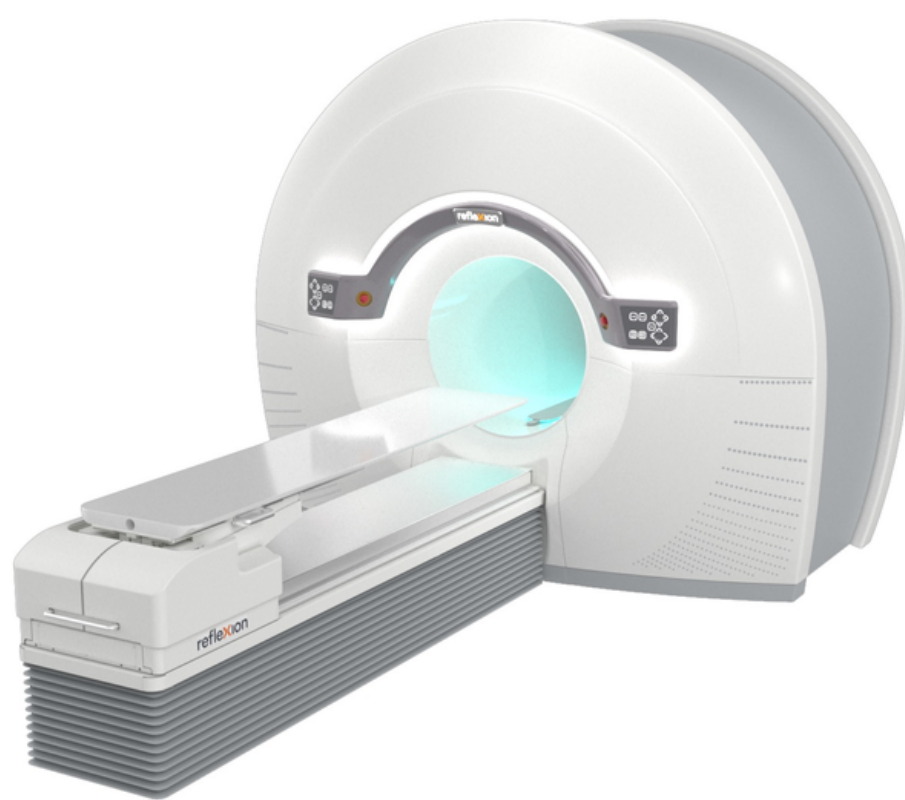
Grades 12 & 11



Cancer is a prevalent concern around the world in this day and age. With the growing number of causes for cancer in conjunction with its notorious nature of being asymptomatic at its early stages, appropriate methods of detection have become a necessity. Luckily for us, people are investing a significant amount of time and effort into addressing a solution to both of these concerns!

So if we look at the ways in which cancer detection has become more accurate recently, it is worth exploring the role of AI and machine learning in doing so.

To do so, a large number of screened samples are collected and labeled. These samples can be organs with cancerous or non-cancerous cells. The labeling process is simple: the parts of the organ that contain cancerous cells are essentially highlighted on the computer. Then, a percentage is calculated identifying what percentage of the organ is infected. This process, however, can be tedious as it has to be done manually for a large number of samples. These samples are then used to form the basis of the training and testing sets of the machine learning. The machine learning model takes in the screened image as an input and decomposes it into individual pixels. These pixels are represented with decimal values representing their respective colors. Then these values undergo complex computations and mathematical operations to produce a percentage, indicating how close the machine learning algorithm “thinks” the given sample has cancerous cells or not.

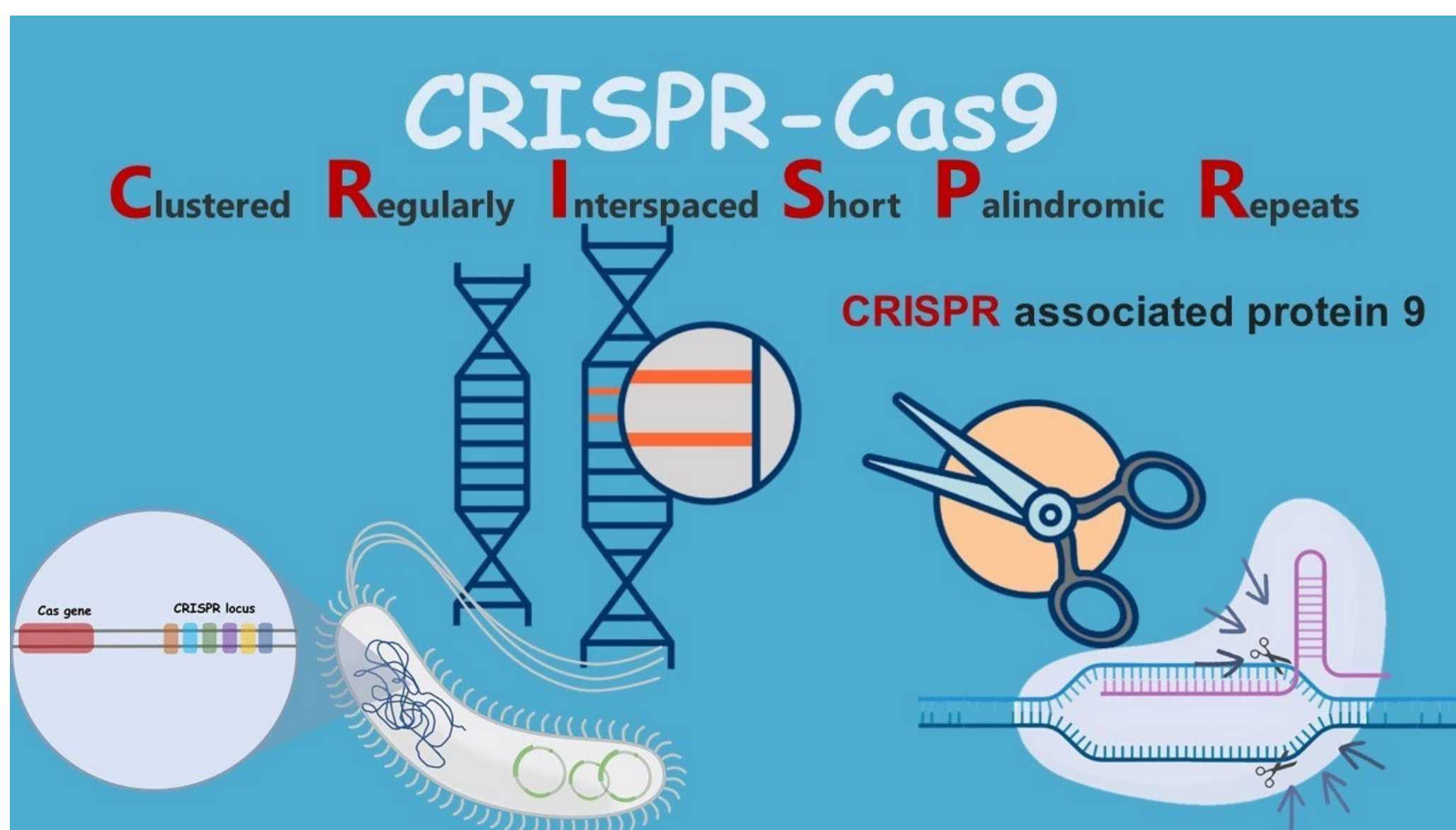


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TREATING CANCER WITH THE HELP OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Long story short, machine learning magic is used to identify the percentage to which an organ is infected. While all this is 'cool,' and has been thought of many years ago, new technology is utilizing the same methods to take samples that do not contain any cancerous cells to predict the possibility of a tumor developing in the future.

With that being said, cancer detection alone is insufficient; treatment is also vital for those who are in advanced stages. A new form of treatment has started to gain some attention in recent times. CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) gene-editing is a new method that revolves around genetic modification. Through the manipulation of DNA, corrections can be made to the cancerous cells to return them to their original state. This method of treatment is highly precise and accurate; however, it is relatively new and under development, hence why it is not available on a commercial scale. Furthermore, this form of treatment raises ethical concerns regarding manipulating the nature of genes and DNA, which many might be opposed to due to the implications it may have on the patients in the long run as well as how this technology can be used for immoral purposes.



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BEHIND THE POWER OF HOPE

By: Budoor Ali & Fatima Al Kuwari

Grades 11 & 10

**"The only impossible journey is the one you
never begin."**

– Tony Robbins.



Faith is everything, but hope is everything more. In a world where we can view life in any color, gray is the color chosen. Neither black nor white, but somewhere in between. Wondering why? In spite of how easy it is to give up, many don't. What more is there to it?

It's funny how hope works. It keeps one going. No matter how small or insignificant a chance may seem, humanity will be drawn to the possibility. A world without hope is one filled with darkness, despair, and doom.

Hope in the context of psychology is when someone is in a positive state of mind, which is based on determination and the expectations of reaching a specific goal or achieving success in any situation. Hope is what sustains humans' strength and mindsets, as it gives them the feeling that there truly is light at the end of a dark tunnel.

According to Snyder et al (1991), there are three components of hope. The first is Goals Thinking, which is being able to turn valuable goals into something that can be accomplished. The second is Pathways Thinking, which is the brain's ability to create methods of reaching the goals in an individual's mind. Lastly, Agency Thinking is the capability of achieving motivation, and maintaining this in order to use the methods mentioned.

Hope is held onto in spite of all logic and reason, because hope is rooted in these two components: faith and love. Hope is the light in the face of fear. Faith acts as the guide through uncertainty and the worries of an unknown future. Whereas, love is an emotion that eases loneliness, despair, and more. The power of hope, along with love and faith, assists people when recovering from the darkest of days and depressive moods. Together, they provide support for people in the face of uncertainty. Hence, they are a source of comfort for people who feel lonely or fearful.

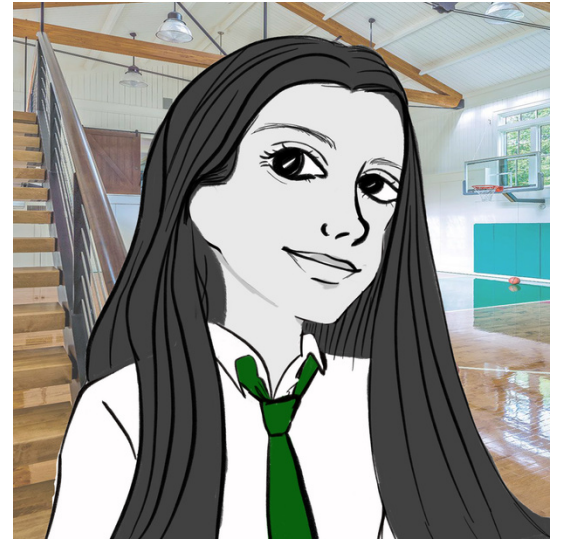
Elaine Houston, a skilled psychologist, came up with a few exercises to help you stay hopeful. One way could be by creating a 'hope map,' which contains the processes and actions that will help you reach your goals. This method increases motivation and confidence, since it aids in the desire to pursue your goals. Another method of maintaining hope could be by creating an 'internal movie,' which is when you envision or write a short movie centered around a goal you're trying to reach (the protagonist). This will help you find ways around obstacles, and help you achieve the goal. By doing these exercises, you will be able to maximize your hope in everyday life. Good luck!



HOPE FOR AFRICA

By: Rayan Dashti

Grade 11



We all know or have at least heard that Africa has been facing various global issues such as poverty, poor education, and health problems. This is why Hope for Africa Inc. was established by a core group of African-American educators and business people. It is a non-governmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Since 1996, the group has been actively working on Africa's sustainable development. Together with other individuals, groups, and countries that sincerely care about the needs of the African people, the executive team is working on developing a vision for a prosperous future of Africa.

Mission:

Their goal is to achieve sustainable development methods that may be applied across Africa. The International Center for African Development (ICAD) is working towards achieving this goal. Benin's Porto Novo was chosen as the location of the ICAD operations office for both symbolic and practical reasons. The ICAD is situated in an African country, allowing the organization to collaborate with and pay attention to the local population since they know best what requirements are needed for their community. Then, using funding obtained from the United States and other countries, ICAD is used to solve the gaps that have been identified.



Hope for Africa Inc. has worked on different projects in the past years.

Some of the projects they have worked on include:

Policlinica Bissau Project:

Access to high-quality healthcare is one of the things that many African countries urgently require. In order to establish an American-style health clinic in Guinea-Bissau, HFA entered into a strategic partnership agreement with the Intercontinental Trading Group (ITG) and the Instituto Nacional de Previdencia Social (INPS) in the late summer of 2006. ITG provided \$450,000 USD in equity in the form of medical supplies transported from the USA, while INPS gave the clinic a \$212,000 USD building by way of deed.



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HOPE FOR AFRICA

HFA also assisted the clinic in receiving a donation of medical supplies and equipment from the Brockton, Massachusetts-based American Medical Resource Foundation (AMRF). To serve a population of 1.4 million people, the nation had only four clinics and two hospitals prior to the creation of Policlinica Bissau. For medical care, many people traveled to Dakar, in neighboring Senegal. Others who had the resources made the lengthy trip to Lisbon, Portugal, for medical care. In November 2007, Policlinica Bissau first opened its doors. The clinic offers general medical services with a strong emphasis on women's health pre and post pregnancy.



Co-sponsor of Royal Visit from the King of Porto Novo:

"Build a strong, perpetual, economic, cultural, and spiritual bridge between Africa and the African Diaspora for the greater development of Africa, both continentally and globally," is one of Hope for Africa's fundamental principles. On April 17, 2008, the traditional King of Porto Novo, Benin, paid an unusual visit. Through the joint sponsorship of Hope for Africa, Wheelock College, UMass Boston, and the Haitian Multi-Purpose Center, King Kpoto-Zounme Hakpon III paid a visit to Boston, Massachusetts. In each speech and interview he delivered, the monarch made it clear why he was there. He openly admitted that his forebears had assisted in the slave trade. King Hakpon stated, "I came here so that the people of African descent can reconnect our lines and heritage, to reconstruct the homeland".

Note: Most of these projects and activities were short-term.

Hope for Africa Inc. is currently working on other projects to help Africa. For more information about the organization, refer to the attached link: <http://hopeforafrica.org/>



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THE LACK OF DIVERSITY IN VIDEO GAMES: WHY REPRESENTATION MATTERS

By: Noora Yousif

Grade 11



Media, in all its forms, has the potential to shape ideas, influencing how we see others and ourselves. Representation in various forms of media especially allows minorities to feel validated and express their feelings with ease. Unfortunately, the majority of media is dominated by predominantly white men, including the gaming industry.

The gaming industry, like many others, is run by a flawed system where white men are given more authority and more of a voice than women or people of color. Rightfully, this presents the issue of little to no representation in the gaming industry for minorities. Even though over the years most industries have tried to include more diversity; for gaming this includes the people who work for the company, as well as those who appear in their content.

There is a debate over whether or not representation in video games is truly important. Most storylines are unrealistic, leaning towards sci-fi and fantasy narratives. In real life, you don't encounter blood-sucking parasites like you would in **Resident Evil 4**, so why should we strive for representation in the first place?

Playing as a character similar to yourself in a video game allows for deeper immersion, and allows you to truly lose yourself in the experience of the game. Sharing characteristics such as skin color, body type, style, gender, and many others not only helps players feel more included in society but also in the game itself. It's one of the most comforting feelings in the world to see someone who's similar to you on screen, and that's something that minorities don't have the luxury of seeing often.

Minorities are often misrepresented in video games with either stereotypical characteristics or traits that don't truly reflect how they act in real life. An example of misrepresentation and not doing enough can be taken from a game that rose to popularity during COVID, **Genshin Impact**. Recently, the developers of the game announced a new update featuring a region primarily inspired by North Africa and the Middle East. When this was announced the majority of the fanbase rose in excitement to finally have more diverse characters in the game, with only two of the characters in-game so far having a darker skin-tone than others (including NPCs).



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THE LACK OF DIVERSITY IN VIDEO GAMES: WHY REPRESENTATION MATTERS

However, when the anticipated region did release, the fanbase was greeted with primarily white characters and only a few characters with slightly darker skin tones. This was met with an uproar from the fanbase, who were extremely disappointed in the lack of characters with darker skin tones. Adding fuel to the fire, some of the characters were dressed in stereotypical Arab clothing, enraging more fans.

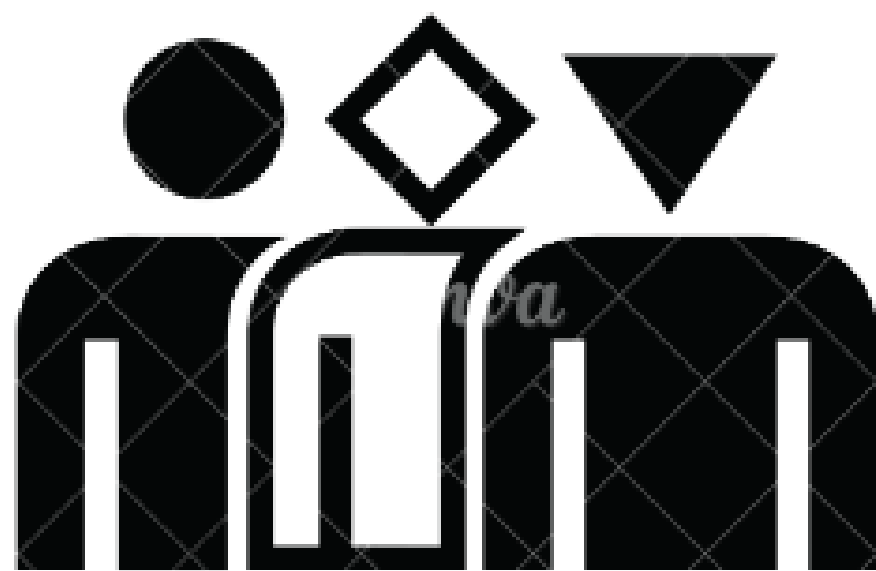


When it comes to gender in video games, there is an unequal distribution of female protagonists compared to male protagonists. Male protagonists are often used because of the demographic, but they're also easier to write when a company has constantly been writing male protagonists since the dawn of time. The male protagonists are frequently showcased as strong and brave, gaining praise from public audiences. Whereas when female protagonists are finally given the spotlight, and given the similar characteristics to male protagonists (Lara Croft from **Tomb Raider** or Aloy from **Horizon Zero Dawn**), these characters are belittled by the public and often objectified, and in some cases, the game itself will objectify the female characters.

A lot of someone's self-identity is based around what they're exposed to and what they surround themselves with. Representation as a whole helps bridge a gap that the majority has never had to struggle with.



The majority has never had to struggle to have someone they identify with seen on a screen; they never had to struggle with misrepresentation or being objectified based on their gender, but marginalized groups always have. Being able to identify with someone similar to us allows us to feel seen, and honestly, diversity is the bare minimum any and every company should strive for.



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HISTORICAL FICTION RECOMMENDATIONS

By: Dana Alshaikh and Fatima A. Rasool

Grade 11

1. **The Boy In The Striped Pajamas** by John Boyne

The story takes place during the daunting Holocaust. Father of eight-year-old Bruno had recently been promoted to the position of commandant in a concentration camp.

Bruno's world changes as he transitions from his suburban life to a home facing a strange camp that is encircled by an electric fence. While out exploring, Bruno becomes friends with a young child, similar to his age, who lives in the concentration camp. Over the course of their friendship, Bruno eventually infiltrates the concentration camp to aid Shmoel in finding his father. As they go through the camp, they eventually find themselves in a cabin that is close in distance to the gas chamber. Bruno and his companion are trapped inside the chamber after failing to escape. John Boyne perfectly captured the feelings of melancholy during the end of the novel. **The Boy in The Striped Pajamas** is a piece of historical heartbreak, merging with great tragedy and fiction to create a movie that is able to remind people that history doesn't always have to repeat itself, and that there is hope in restoration.

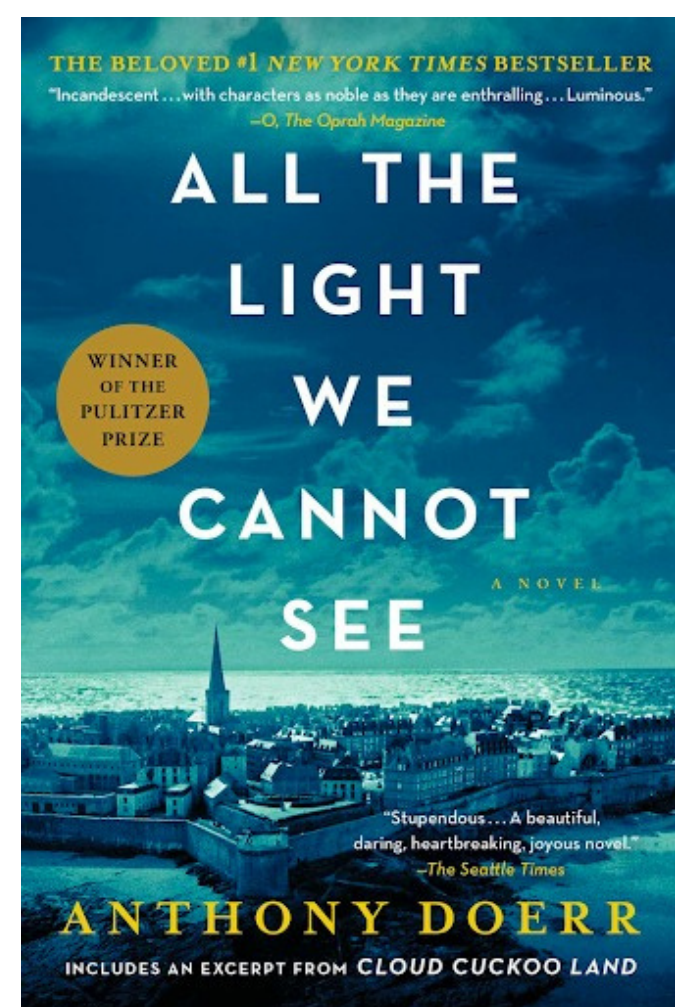
All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

In this highly acclaimed, touching story about a French girl and a German boy in occupied France, Anthony Doerr highlights themes of strength, endurance, and great courage. Marie-Laure, a blind young girl, and her father, a worker at the Museum of Natural History, are forced to flee their home in Paris after it is occupied in World War II. The two go to live with Marie-Laure's great uncle in Saint-Malo, a house by the sea. We soon come to learn that the characters carry one of the museum's most important and dangerous jewels.

Correspondingly, we follow a German orphan, Werner Pfennig, who is utterly fascinated by radios and becomes skillful in tinkering them. With the growing importance and helpfulness of the devices during this period of time, Werner is enlisted to help by utilizing his skills to find the resistance. **All the Light We Cannot See** exhibits Doerr's brilliant writing abilities, worthy of a Pulitzer Prize, as he intertwines the experiences of two young individuals with different backgrounds. The novel is a reminder of how hope can help us persevere through our toughest times, just as these characters did through their story of diligence and patience.



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FASHION

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

By: Maryam Farooq

Grade 11



Throughout history, women have slowly but surely gotten more freedom and have been given back the rights that have been stripped away from them. Fashion has been a powerful outlet in empowering women as it highlights individuality, while simultaneously allowing you to express yourself without the need for words.

Secret Projects, Custom Collaborative, and Sambhali Trust are three very unique organizations that empower women, and improve their chances of meaningful work by teaching them valuable craft and business skills. With oceans dividing them, each organization explores distinctive challenges, yet they are alike in terms of their mission to unshackle women from social reforms, confront gender inequality, and create products that change the lives of their makers.

These three organizations discuss how there are women from all around the world who make the clothes we wear, but never get the recognition they deserve. The organization officials ensure that these women are properly acknowledged and rewarded for their services.

Fashion is more than the clothes we wear and the fabrics we favor. It is about creating an identity and expressing yourself without the use of words. That is why in all of human history, in one way or another, fashion was used as a means of self-expression. It creates a sense of identity and gives them the confidence to say "this is my right!" For example, Rachel Zoe has a brand named after herself that features different types of clothing to correspond with the different tastes people have. She also offers clothing for all body types, ranging from petite to plus-sized, and encourages women to be happy with their bodies and love them no matter what.



Many fashion brands also use slogans like "she believed she could, so she did" and contribute to the #MeToo movement to encourage women to speak out and to believe in themselves. Changes in fashion trends also act as a way of empowering women, such as the shift from skirts and dresses to pants. Women are subject to sexism, racism, and body-shaming everyday and instead of the fashion market continuing this cycle, it decided to work against it by showing the role women play in society; how they raise future generations, take care of the household, and build our future.

By using fashion, women can resist oppression, challenge inequality, and fight for social justice. Empowerment is an ideal that's closely tied to equality, and equality is something that every person, female or male, and every individual of every race deserves. Although we as a society may never reach true equality – though we certainly should not give up striving for it — fashion can be a means of reaching for it.



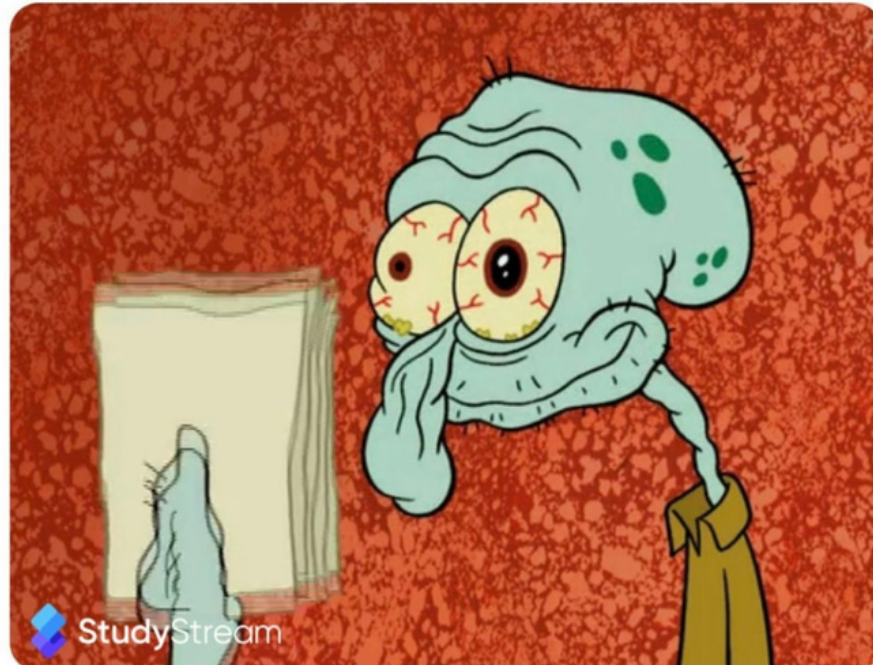
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MEMES

CAUSE WE ALL NEED A LITTLE LAUGH



me trying to focus again after the holidays



Emailing teachers be like...

Me:

polite greeting

multiple paragraphs

perfect grammar

Teacher:

"sure" -sent from my iPhone

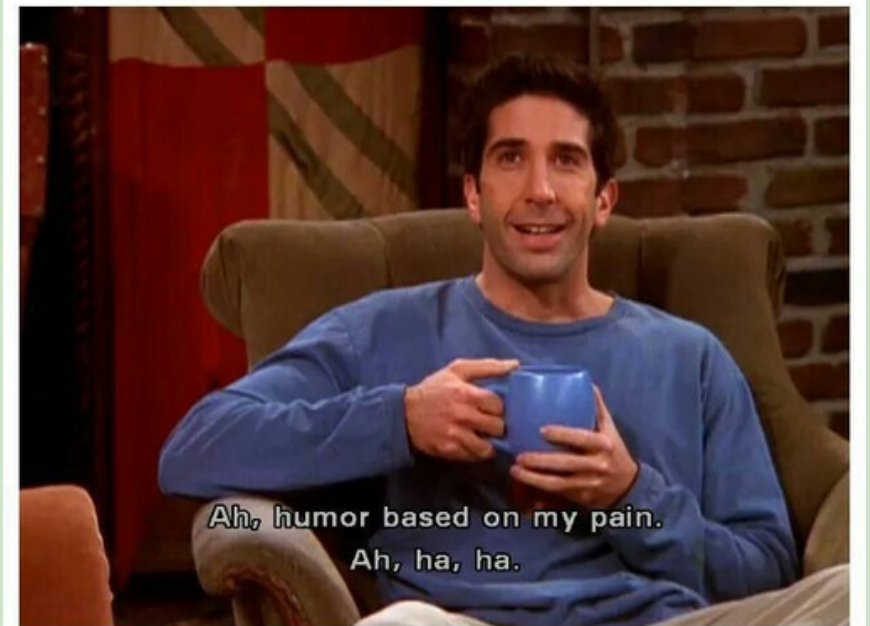
Teachers act like this is how the world will be



Teachers when they add "And Just Have Fun!" to the instructions:



Seeing student memes like...



Freshmen with a paper due in 2 weeks



Seniors with a paper due in 2 hours

chloe @chloeonvine Follow
juniors looking at graduating seniors like



My doctor:

"Have you been eating healthy, getting enough sleep, avoiding stress, and cutting back on caffeine?"

Me:



Post you next time!



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