

NOVUS

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CONNECTION

EDITORIAL

We tend to believe that development solely relies on ‘new’ and ‘original’ findings. However, that is not always the case. It is not necessary that we make something out of nothing; the crucial point is that we make ‘something’. When we view existing knowledge from a different perspective and make a connection, we can discover new values.

Consequently, different directions are provided, even if it starts from one finding. This way, the data intranet becomes expanded. Such a ‘connection made’ may be anything. The term itself is open to various interpretations; in other words, it is unrestricted: connections between thoughts that lead to more findings, connections of beliefs and values, or connections between people.

In this issue, we have focused on observing ties that we can relate to. As the media has developed, the exchange has become more active. The following article provides an outlook on cultural exchange, raising awareness that a delicate approach is needed. To explore a reflection done on cultural perception, see *Redefining Cultural Ties and Connection in an Age of Globalisation* [page 16].

Another article that we can relate to concerns poems. You would have encountered poems whilst learning at school – or even outside of school. Your reaction might have been sympathy. If you would like to discover why you felt a sense of intricacy towards poems, read *The traits that make a poem relatable* [page 17].

Overall, the most important point is that we keep thinking about ties, and how we can create new ones. I hope that this issue of Novus will help you to discover your own connections with your surroundings.

Best wishes,
Seon Ju Moon

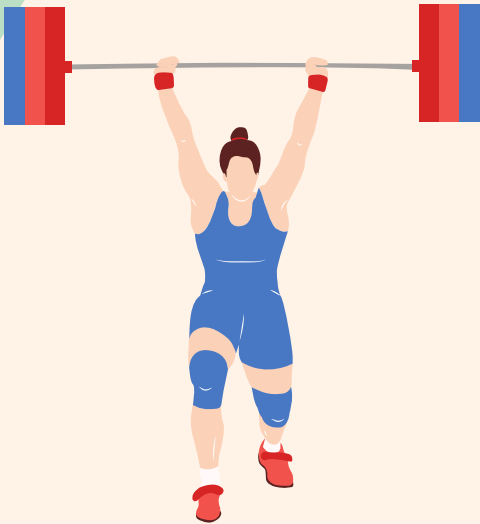
Are Olympic athletes' body types adapting to the sport?

Connection between Sport Selection and Natural Selection

Se Hyun Lee, Y13



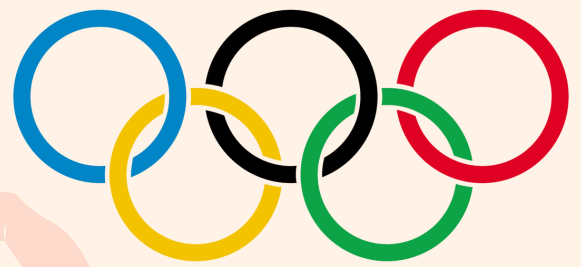
When watching the Olympic games, you may have wondered why olympic and world records are broken every time. The Tokyo Summer Olympics in 2021 faced many unprecedented challenges: a year's delay and extreme weather conditions with games running for one of the hottest on record, not to mention the strict social distancing with "no spectators." Many expected that these difficulties would hinder the athletes' performances.



But The Tokyo Olympics brought record-breaking performances in a number of different sports.

So why is it that sports records are always shattered or constantly improving? Is it due to better tracks and equipment, or are athletes actually getting better in their performances?

It cannot be denied that technology has made a difference in all sports, from lighter shoes to improvements in video analysis. The Tokyo Olympics brought one of the fastest times ever seen in the athletics races due to the new technology of engineered track surfaces. However, technology is not the sole factor contributing to better performances. Although Olympians have not evolved dramatically in a century, it was discovered that the athletes' body types within sports have changed.



Sport Selection - changes in the gene pool in sports

In the early 1900s, sports professionals and coaches believed that the average body type was ideal for Olympic pursuits: medium height and weight that applied for all sports. So in the 1920s, elite athletes' bodies were the same size in all sports.

Later, sports scientists realized that having highly specialized bodies for certain types of sport was better than pursuing an average body type. This resulted in athletes' height and mass becoming more different from one another: the taller became taller, the lighter became lighter. Consequently, artificial selection occurred as athletes containing desirable traits in their sport were considered favourable and became selected.

Not only does the body type vary depending on the type of sports, but it may also change as the characteristics and conditions of the sport alter. For instance, the body type of elite figure skaters has changed in recent years; athletes were relatively taller with more developed muscles than the athletes today.

This is due to the change in the skaters from heavy leather shoes to carbon fibre-based ones. As skater shoes and the blades became lighter, figure skating now favours shorter, lighter athletes. Such body type is less air resistant, enabling skaters to perform faster spins. It can be said that the body type of figure skaters has “adapted” to the changes made in conditions of the sport, which is an example of sport selection.

Sport selection and Natural Selection



There are connections between sport selection and natural selection. Natural selection is a theory of evolution discovered by the famous biologist Charles Darwin. Natural selection indicates that overpopulation in an environment leads to an increase in competition between the species. In the population, some individuals will have desirable traits better suited to the environment, which makes them more likely to survive. In other words, they are better “adapted” and tend to survive in competition against other organisms. This process, known as natural selection, causes species to change and diverge over time. It is a key mechanism of evolution, which is the cumulative changes in the gene pool over generations.

Sport selection and natural selection have similarities in terms of adaptation. This is evident in the athletes' changes in body types, which further changes the gene pool within competitive sport.

However, a number of differences have been found between the two concepts. As discussed above, sport selection is an artificial type of selection, a deliberate classification for bodies that fit certain sports. In contrast, natural selection occurs naturally in an environment due to the varying characteristics of the population. The accumulation of these changes happens over a long period of time, about a million years. Moreover, natural selection involves the reproduction of offspring to pass on their desirable characteristics, while none of this occurs in sports. Despite these significant differences between the two types of selection, the recurring process of adaptation and selection is very closely related.

Just like sport selection, we may observe events that experience a similar process like natural selection. In fact, the ideas involved in the theory of evolution – variation, competition, and selection – are easily seen the world we live in. When we make real-life connections to address concepts that seem unrelatable, in the end, they could turn out to be familiar.



SCIENCE & RACE

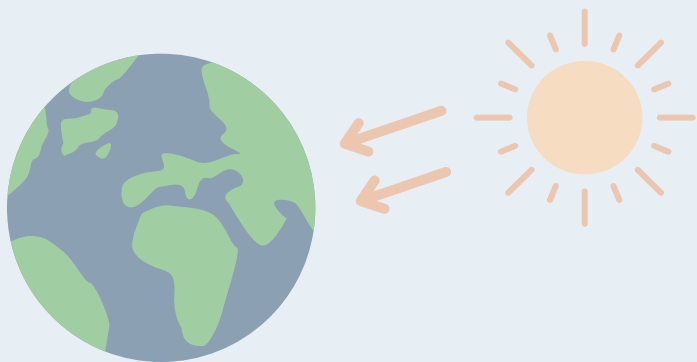
Hye Jin (Kerry) Cho, Y13

If people were to answer why people have different skin colours, they would usually say it is because of melanin. But how did melanin lead to today's various races? How are science and skin colour connected?

Just as we apply sunscreen to protect our skin from sunlight today, melanin protects our skin from ultraviolet rays (UV). It prevents our DNA from being damaged by UV of the sun and decomposition of folic acid. Melanin can function as sunscreen inside our body; the difference is that while more sunscreen whitens our skin, more melanin darkens our skin since it is a pigment that causes jaundice.



It is generally accepted that the first human is Black. Then how could it be diversified from Black to many different races nowadays?

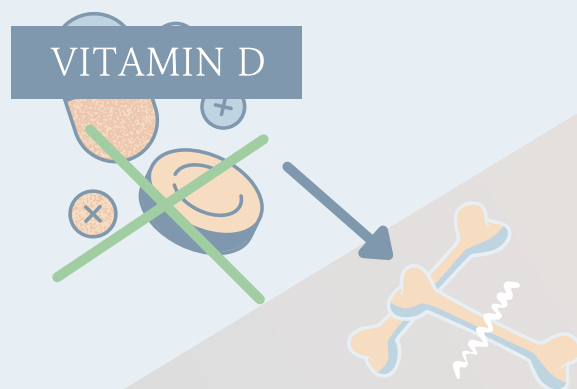


Africa, where mankind first lived, is a place with a lot of sunlight. Of course, it required a lot of melanin to protect from UV of sunlight. As a result, humans naturally obtained dark skin colours.

After then, people began to move toward the Northern Hemisphere. However, as they lived in the Northern Hemisphere, the number of people dying due to melanin increased. Since melanin is crucial for protecting our body from UV, wouldn't it be better to have more melanin? Why did people die because of melanin?

People get vitamin D through UV absorption. Therefore, it was a problem that melanin blocked UV, as it made producing vitamin D impossible. In Africa, because of its strong sunlight, it was possible to make enough vitamin D even with the presence of melanin. However, in the Northern Hemisphere, where the sunlight is relatively weak, vitamin D deficiency occurred due to melanin.

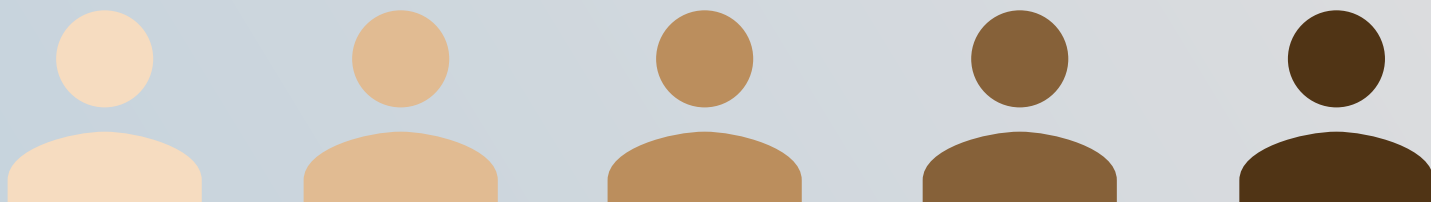
Vitamin D deficiency causes another difficulty with absorbing calcium and weakening the bones. In addition to rickets and osteoporosis, this even causes health problems such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer. For this reason, it was difficult for people with dark skin to survive in the Northern Hemisphere.



However, white people who were relatively lacking in melanin due to gene mutations were different. They were more likely to survive longer because they could absorb enough vitamin D due to the lack of melanin.

Due to natural selection, the White population increased in the Northern Hemisphere. With the same mechanism, various races such as Asian, Latino, or Alaska Native were created in each different region to suit the natural environment.

Therefore, genes with a higher probability of survival were naturally selected depending on the living environment. As a result, there is a diversity of skin colour through evolution. So, this means that there is never an absolute superiority of skin colour. The connection between science and skin colour once again emphasises that racism is never justified.



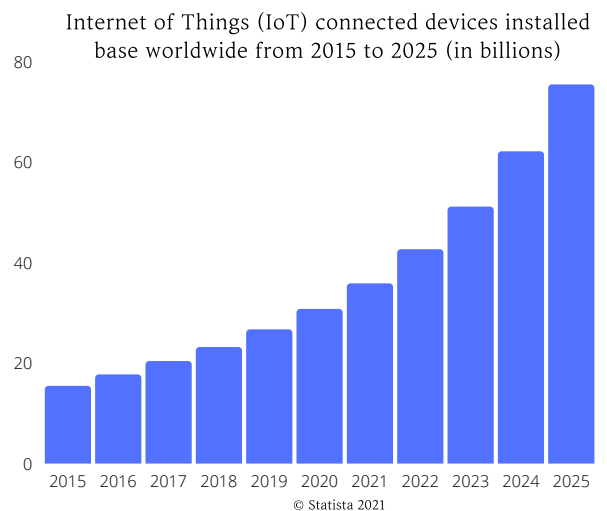
Internet Of Things

: New Connection By The Internet

Hye Rin Yun ,Y11

“Every second, every minute, new connections are being made by the internet.”

The technology and internet have been rapidly developing since the 1960s when it was first created. The internet has let us communicate with others without any physical connection; now, it allows us to access objects that we use in everyday life. This is known as the Internet of Things (IoT), which you may have heard of in various media.



However, what does it exactly do? How does it enable these magical things in your life? Well, we will discuss these in this article.

What IoT exactly is

The Internet of Things (IoT) is a system of interrelated computing devices, mechanical and digital machines, objects, animals or people that are provided with unique identifiers and the ability to transfer data over a network without requiring human-to-human or human-to-computer interaction. (Gills, 2021)

IoT, the Internet of Things, is defined as the interconnection via the internet of computing devices embedded in everyday objects, enabling them to send and receive data. This means that we can communicate and control any objects by using the internet without any physical interaction. For example, we can see many AI voice assistants such as Amazon Echo and Google Home around us. They listen to what the user says and simply turn on the TV, lamps, etc. These are all considered IoT devices. The IoT occupies more parts of our lives than we thought and contributes to making our lives more convenient.

History of the term IoT

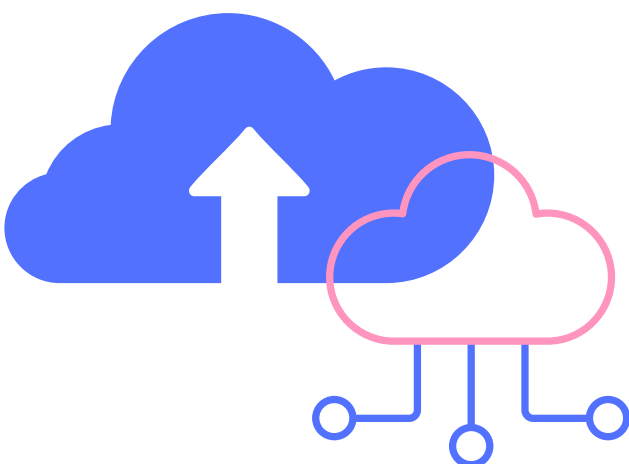
Even though the term 'IoT' itself has been introduced relatively recently, the idea of IoT, the connected device, has existed long before the 1970s. It was called "embedded internet" or "pervasive computing", which means an internet that exists everywhere and is presented in objects. Later, the term IoT was first used in 1999 by Kevin Ashton. Its original purpose was to attract management's attention to new technology, but it now covers wider aspects of internet technology applications.

How does this process work

In order to make 'things' connected to the internet and to make appropriate responses, it requires several processes.

1 Collecting Data

The first step is to collect data from sensors or devices. These devices are attached to objects and collect data such as the temperature or the information from the voice recognition.



2 Sending data to the cloud

After collecting data, they are sent to the cloud — the software that stores data on remote servers — by methods that allow the internet connection such as cellular, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and more.

3 Processing data

Software programmed for IoT services process data. These can involve deciding whether the object detected by the camera is the intruder or not in home security devices or interpreting the user's voice in computer language, allowing it to respond in several ways.



4 User interface

Now, this step produces and present the responses by the data collected. This can be done by notifying users such as text messages, emails, and application notifications. Or this process can include a user interface such as controlling the temperature of your house and turn on and off the light bulb in remote places via phone applications.

Challenges with IoT implementation

Even though IoT devices enrich our life with convenience and high accessibility, there are still some challenges and issues with IoT implementation.

Certainly, one of the most challenging issues is the security of IoT devices. You might have seen someone who is hesitating to purchase IoT devices because of the security issue. As IoT allows homes and private places to be observed and controlled, the security of the authentication and identification of the data are important to consider. Users might concern about the security issues related to hacking which can invade their privacy. However, many platforms and IoT companies are now developing new technologies and methods to secure the data to prevent any potential leaks.

Although the current state of IoT devices is not perfect, IoT can be used in any field and has infinite applications that are useful in our lives. It can make our imagination comes to reality. There is no doubt that IoT is changing and will be changing the world with these marvellous technologies that we haven't seen before.

The ecology of human-nature interaction

Chae Yeon Seo(Y12) and Ye Won Chun(Y12))



Human social systems and ecosystems are complex adaptive systems, said Gerald Marten, an ecologist with more than sixty years of research experience in a variety of ecosystems around the world. Humans and the environment have been interacting since humans first walked on Earth. But what exactly do these interactions look like?



Today, there is a growing acceptance of the interconnectedness of human lives and the natural environment. Throughout history, humans have had an intimate relationship with nature mostly for subsistence, as natural resources have been providing humans with basic necessities, such as food, clothing, and shelter. As society moves to become more modernised with the rapid advancement of technology, humans modify nature for their purposes and obtain benefits from it.



This is particularly evident for dams that require human activities including damming streams to store and divert water. This not only directly impacts nature but also damages the natural environment far away due to the interconnectivity of Earth's system.



Reservoirs created by dams not only suppress floods, but also provide water for activities such as irrigation, human consumption, and industrial use. This demonstrates a clear interaction between humans and nature as the system created by natural resources has contributed to the higher standards of living and has prevented the incidence of natural disasters and resource waste.

While nature offers a lot of benefits and surroundings for humans such as resources, shelters, and food, humans have destroyed nature for a long period of time. Some of these negative interactions occur due to greenhouse gas emissions from industry, a symbol of human activities. In the industry, producers constantly operate millions of factories to satisfy people's unlimited wants and needs.

This is a burden on nature because it creates a considerable amount of carbon dioxide and other harmful gases which are major components of greenhouse gases, leading to global warming and extreme weather. For instance, global warming accelerates the speed of melting icebergs in the north pole which are the main habitats for polar bears and other animals, resulting in the loss of habitats for wildlife. Not only for greenhouse gas emissions but also for transportation, wildlife suffers substantial disturbance or mortality risk such as when vehicles collide with deer or when hikers trample rare flowering plants.



Throughout this article, positive and negative interactions between human activities and nature are demonstrated, including the use of dams, greenhouse gas emissions, and transportation which exist permanently. Hence, we can see the impact of human activities on nature.

Redefining Cultural Ties and Connection in an Age of Globalisation

Bui Gia Han Pham, Y12

Growing up in a traditional family, I have lost count of the times Grandma would lecture me about the origins and unique flavours of every home-cooked Vietnamese meal. 'You must be raised well to become an elegant Vietnamese woman', people would tell me. Yet, contrary to such expectations, I have never been proud of my East Asian heritage. In fact, there were times I felt insecure about my descent, thinking that I was defined not by the rich cultural values of my nation, but by the stereotypes surrounding my culture, propagated by foreign communities that I was never a part of.



As I grew older, I learned about the history of foreign countries and regarded them as more heroic than my own. I consumed media from mostly the West, such as BBC and CNN, and adopted Western liberal ideas in my speeches. I started caring deeply about the housing crisis in America while neglecting staggering problems of poverty in my home country. In this increasingly interconnected world with accessible exchanges of resources, the more I receive international knowledge, the more I find myself losing sight of my roots.

This is not to claim that cultures should remain static, or that outdated practices that no longer fit in this modern context should be preserved. In fact, what I am most afraid of is how a value that was formed in the most crucial years of my childhood could so easily become something I was ashamed of and wanted to extricate myself from.



Hmong people in Vietnam

Crucially, this points to a larger trend happening across the globe. Cultural sites such as mosques are being used as political tools by government leaders. Hairstyles and cultural costumes of an 'exotic' community merely serve as a prop for glamorous performances. Peculiar aspects of culture, such as the tradition of 'bắt vợ' in H'mong region in Vietnam, are being painted by foreign media as despicable, leaving out the nuances of how that tradition was meant to emphasise the role and dignity of the H'mong women, instead of undermining them.

This current trajectory shall not be viewed as a typical transition to ‘a new phase in modernisation’. A closer look into the causes behind attacks of minority communities in India, the labour discrimination of Filipino migrant workers in Germany, or the struggle for Mexican immigrants to assimilate in America, would all reveal a similar pattern: the inability to fully grasp the meanings of different cultures or cultural identities other than our own. Such flaw meant that the most vulnerable communities whose cultural backgrounds vastly differ with the country they reside in had to bear the brunt of this ugly side of globalisation.



How do we change this, and what exactly can we do to preserve culture? On one hand, the solution is not to alter aspects of cultural customs, nor is it to filter certain values in hopes of avoiding controversy. To the other end, protecting cultural ties does not mean elevating one’s culture to be more superior than others. What is needed is a conscious, thoughtful, and



comprehensive learning, or unlearning, of cultural nuances, where exchanges are guided in a way that is not only accessible, but proper and complete. Globalisation does not need to be our enemy — it can be an integral tool to promote meaningful cultural exchange while preserving important values of traditions that ultimately form the collective identity of communities.

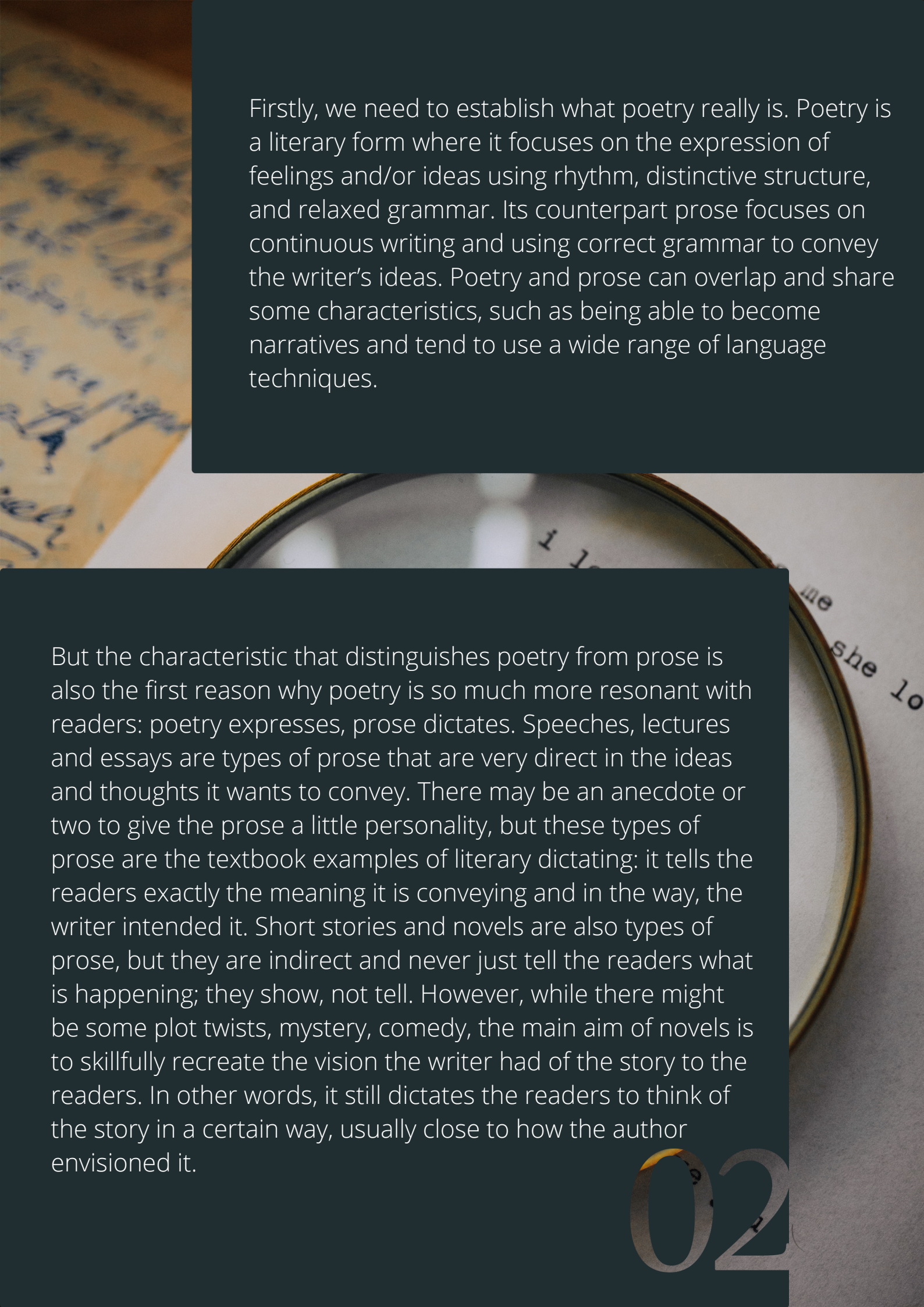
The Traits that Make a Poem Poem Relatable

Nguyen Thuc Anh To, Y11

When we think of poetry, we think of Shakespeare, we think about the endless hours spent analysing it and writing essays about it. Generally speaking, a lot of people tend to dislike poetry. However, while poetry might not be everybody's favourite, it is everywhere beyond just literature. This article will discuss why poetry is so effective at connecting with its readers.

01



The background of the image features a magnifying glass with a wooden handle and a metal rim, positioned over a document. The document has handwritten text in blue ink, which is partially visible through the lens of the magnifying glass. The overall scene is dimly lit, with a dark blue overlay on the right side of the image.

Firstly, we need to establish what poetry really is. Poetry is a literary form where it focuses on the expression of feelings and/or ideas using rhythm, distinctive structure, and relaxed grammar. Its counterpart prose focuses on continuous writing and using correct grammar to convey the writer's ideas. Poetry and prose can overlap and share some characteristics, such as being able to become narratives and tend to use a wide range of language techniques.

But the characteristic that distinguishes poetry from prose is also the first reason why poetry is so much more resonant with readers: poetry expresses, prose dictates. Speeches, lectures and essays are types of prose that are very direct in the ideas and thoughts it wants to convey. There may be an anecdote or two to give the prose a little personality, but these types of prose are the textbook examples of literary dictating: it tells the readers exactly the meaning it is conveying and in the way, the writer intended it. Short stories and novels are also types of prose, but they are indirect and never just tell the readers what is happening; they show, not tell. However, while there might be some plot twists, mystery, comedy, the main aim of novels is to skillfully recreate the vision the writer had of the story to the readers. In other words, it still dictates the readers to think of the story in a certain way, usually close to how the author envisioned it.

This is exactly what poetry is not; poetry loves to dabble in a spectrum of meaning. It loves to 'sit on the fence' and will never discriminate readers' interpretations because it is meant to convey lots of different things. The poet expresses their thoughts and feelings in their poems, which means poetry embodies what is happening in the poem and lets the readers experience it. In other words, we can look at prose as retellings of experience, while poetry is the experience. This so powerfully resonates with readers, as being able to actually experience what is happening, rather than just being shown it, allows them to feel the poem in personal ways. And even though the readers may not understand the exact feelings conveyed through the poem, at the end of the day, the readers' interpretation is never wrong, and the readers can feel it and form a human connection with it. Therefore, it is far more effective than just being dictated to think.

03

Another vital reason why poetry is so resonant with readers is through the use of structure. While language is the element that ties words together and allows the readers to interpret them, structure not only enhances the language but can connect with readers visually and physically. First, structure enhances the language, for example: enjambement creates disassociation between phrases, thereby making the phrases seem disconnected, or enjambement can be used to bring fluidity in the poem and allow the words to be said nicely, creating a comfortable and organised atmosphere, or enjambement can be used to emphasise on certain words that would not be possible if it were on single line, etc. That was an example of how structure can not only enhance the language but also how structural techniques themselves can function and be interpreted differently. Structure can connect with readers physically. For example, the meter used could be iambic pentameter, so the poem may feel very song-like and create an entertaining mood, or it could be used to throw off readers and conversely, create an unstable and chaotic mood, or it could just be used for the sake of fluidity, making the poem feel calm and focused. This second feature is very important because in order to connect with readers, there needs to be more awareness of other senses to use besides just taking in words on a page. Therefore, poetry is unique in that depends heavily on structure to be able to evoke more senses. In this case, structure is very effective in allowing the readers to physically feel the poem, or to actually experience it.

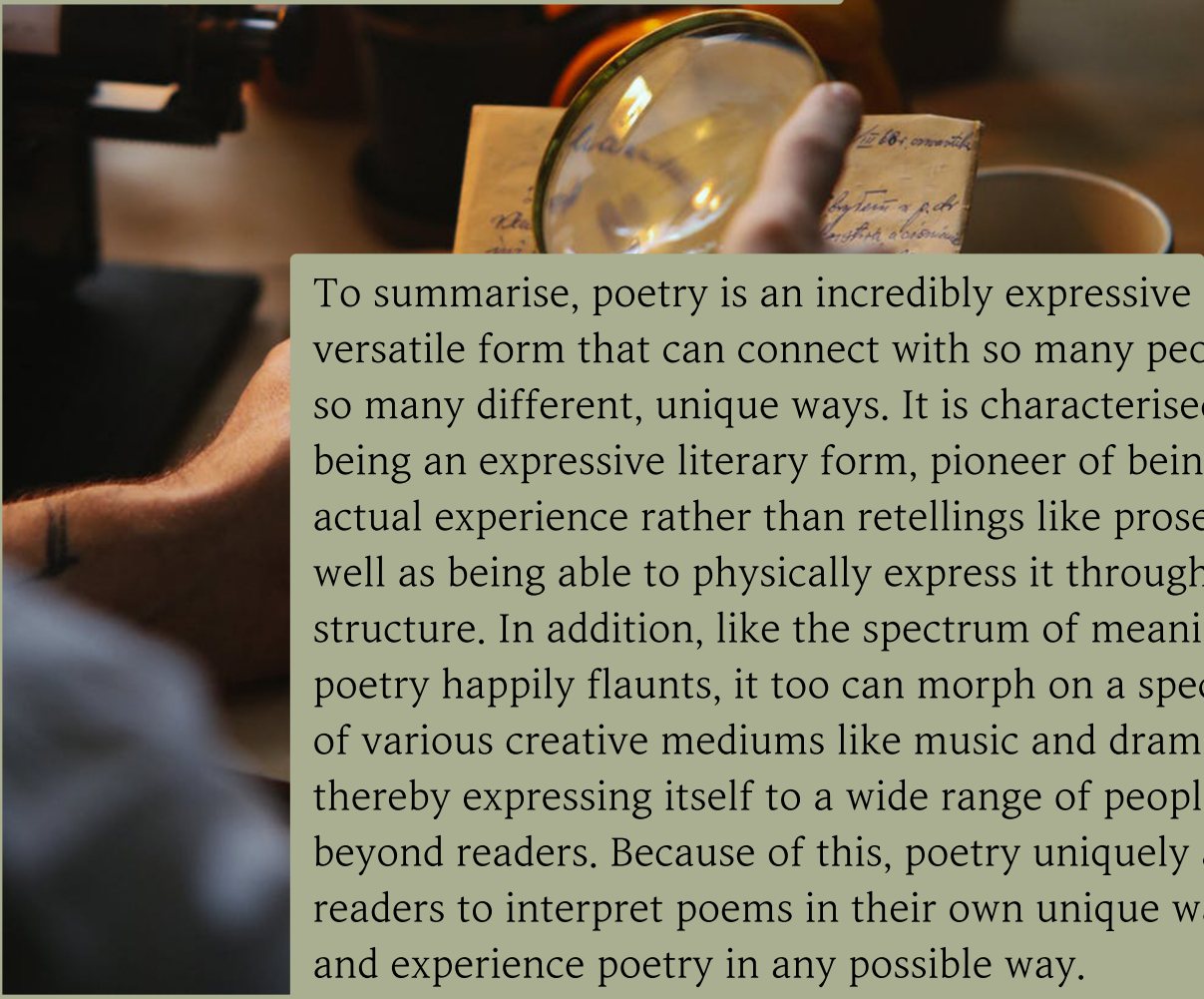
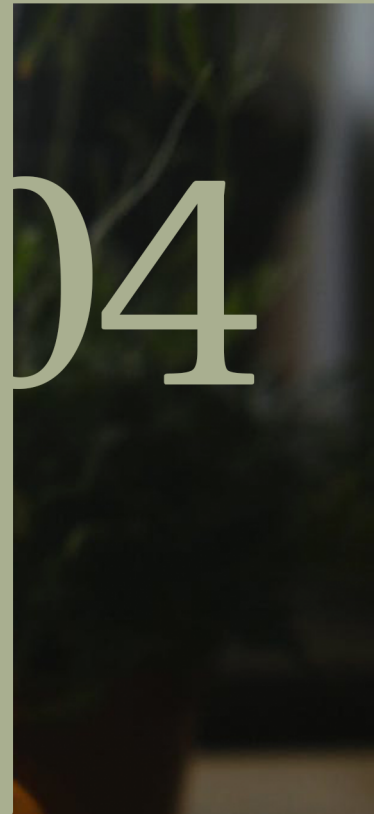
Lastly, poetry is so effective because it is so versatile.

Usually, when the word poetry is mentioned, it is associated with poems, the ones with your typical stanzas, rhyme schemes, meter. However, poetry is an

incredibly versatile literary form: they are in songs, in letters; they are used to tell stories, to recount monologues in plays. They can also be written as epic poems; they can be as short as two words. This ability

to morph into arguably wildly different, creative mediums makes poetry a powerful medium in connecting with different types of people. Like how structure helps connect with readers beyond words,

poetry itself can morph to connect with people who do not even like literature.



To summarise, poetry is an incredibly expressive and versatile form that can connect with so many people in so many different, unique ways. It is characterised by being an expressive literary form, pioneer of being the actual experience rather than retellings like prose, as well as being able to physically express it through structure. In addition, like the spectrum of meaning poetry happily flaunts, it too can morph on a spectrum of various creative mediums like music and drama, thereby expressing itself to a wide range of people beyond readers. Because of this, poetry uniquely allows readers to interpret poems in their own unique ways and experience poetry in any possible way.

Why is art important in life?

Tae Yeon Kwun, Y9



It is normal human nature to admire the beauty around us. This can include both natural and man-made resources such as hills, rivers and monuments. When we look at beautiful pictures, read beautiful poems, or listen to soothing music, we often feel awe, and when we encounter these things, we feel inner happiness and tranquillity.

We usually associate art with the paintings or sculptures we find in art galleries; however, art is everywhere in various forms and has significant value in our lives. In fact, we are surrounded by art without realising it, and we are constantly using it. Most people don't realise.

Although the word 'art' is difficult to describe literally, we understand it broadly as a form of expressing one's feelings through any medium, such as paper, music, colour, technology, magic, photography, etc. Different artists use different mediums to express their feelings.

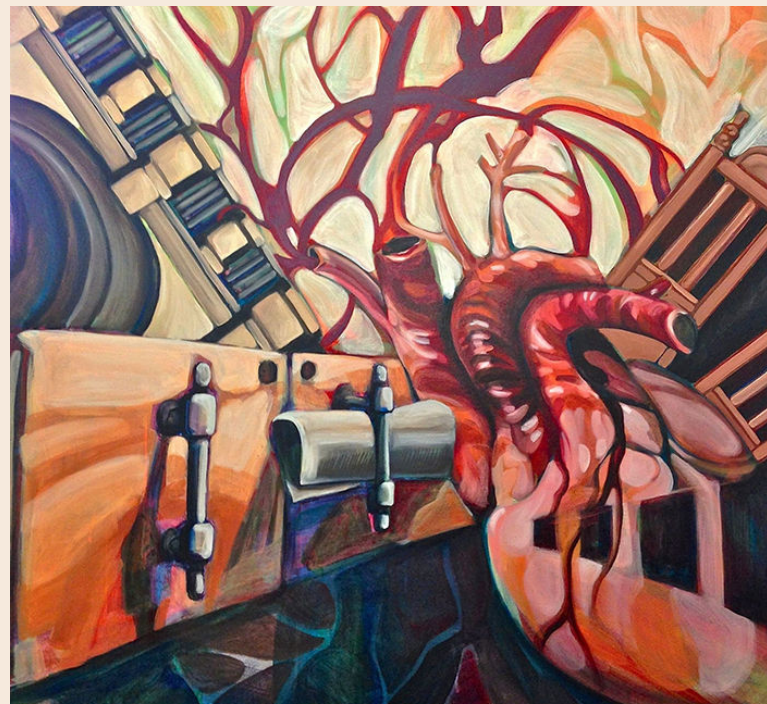
“
**Art is a lie that makes us
realise the truth**
”



It can be abstract, realistic, naturalistic, conceptual, and inspiring. It feels good to be surrounded by art and to rely on it in our daily life as well. However, the importance of art in human life is worth considering. Art can play an important role in our lives in the following ways:

Understanding the world

It's what we crave in the human experience. Art gives meaning to our lives and helps us understand our world. It is an essential part of our culture because it allows us to have a deeper understanding of our emotions; it increases our self-awareness and allows us to be open-minded

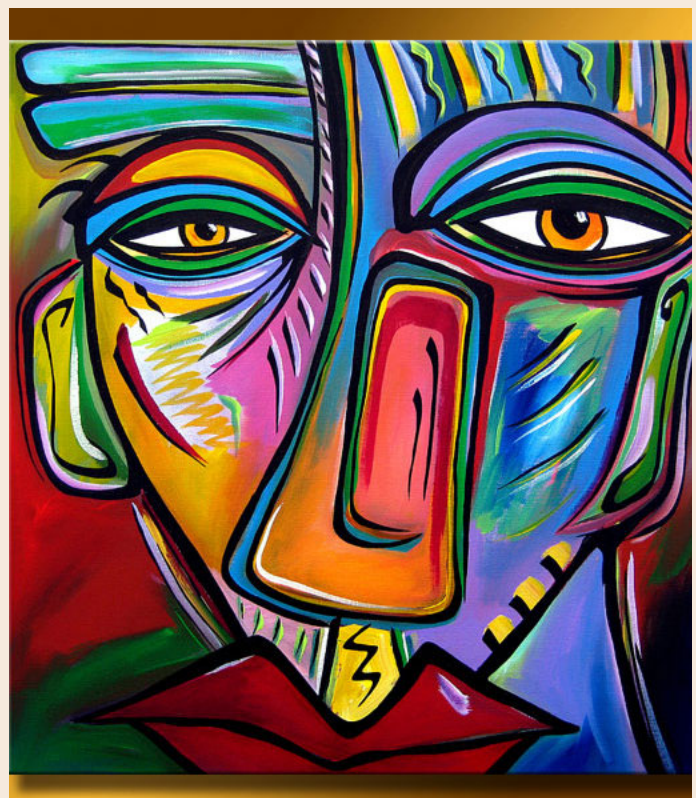


Perserving Culture

Another importance of art is that it preserves our culture. Ancient monuments and other artistic claims including scripts, music forms, dance forms and designing patterns are all included in our cultural heritage. When we see this cultural preservation, understand history and also would help coming generations to realize their roots. Hence art serves to carry our cultural messages to generations.

Inspirational Art

In addition to entertainment and cultural purposes, art can be a great source of inspiration. It's easy to find inspiring artworks like posters in workspaces to keep employees productive. In fact, a growing number of companies are using art and playing background music in their offices as art proves to be really effective of improving the quality of work. You can also find inspirational songs created for teams participating in high voltage competitions, which is also a form of inspirational art. There may be works of art that motivate you personally. Many people find music that inspires them to work out at the gym.



How Artists Encourage Viewers to Feel Emotions with Colours

Thai Anh Hoang, Y9)

Have you ever experienced a feeling of loneliness, overwhelming sadness or euphoria, or excitement from just looking at art pieces? Have you ever wondered how artists encourage you to feel such a way?

Well, the secret is out. It's all about technique (and perhaps the inspirations they have and emotions they feel at the time).

Now, when I say technique, I mean the colours the artists use, the brush stroke choices, (the official art name invented by art-savvies is Formal Elements but we're going to go with techniques for easier digestion) and all that jazz. However, I'm only going to touch on the technique we call colours in this magazine page (or else it'll be too long and probably inaccurate because I am still a beginner in the art world) and how they elicit a specific emotion from you.

Starting off with colours, we can divide them into the two categories: cold and warm! In short, cold colours seem a bit more distant, not giving out any warm cozy feelings or anything; warm colours seem like they are advancing towards you and give out excitement and warmth.

From this, we can say that any artwork with cold colours will look sadder, calmer, as well as a bit negative while warm colours on art pieces will look bright, happy, but overwhelming if used in high amounts, and negative in a different sense (for example, if you use a lot of red it can give off the feeling of anger). So, if an artist wants you to feel happy and uplifted, colours like warm yellow and red can be used. The same works for the opposite situation where sadness or loneliness is the feeling you are encouraged to feel. This use of colours is a **TECHNIQUE**.

Another thing we need to note when looking at colours is the combinations that can be created. There are two types of combinations: harmonious and complementary. Please do not be deterred from reading because of the words. Harmonious colour combinations simply mean they are soothing to the eyes and Complementary combinations are very striking; they capture your attention immediately. At this stage, you may ask how these two types of combinations (or colour schemes) are discovered. Well, to create a Harmonious combination, take colours right next to each other on the colour wheel and there's your harmonious combo. For complementary, you just take the colours that are opposite on the colour wheel! Easy right? Anyway, from what we have learnt about harmonious and complementary colour combinations, we can see that if an artist wants you to feel something. For example, for an overwhelming emotion then complementary combos are the way to go, and harmonious combos are used if the artist wants you to feel an emotion like peacefulness (these harmonious combos may risk the artist not standing out immediately but there's a specific beauty to it).



colour wheel

In conclusion, one of the techniques an artist can use to make the viewers feel with them are colours, which can be grouped into two categories of cold and warmth. All these colours can combine with each other to create right-at-your-face complementary combinations, as well as gentler-on-the-eyes harmonious combination... Wasn't it a fun ride discovering more about one of the backbones of the wondrous world of art? I hope this article helped you grow an interest in art, and just a small note: I may not be going into detail!



COLOUR



COLOUR



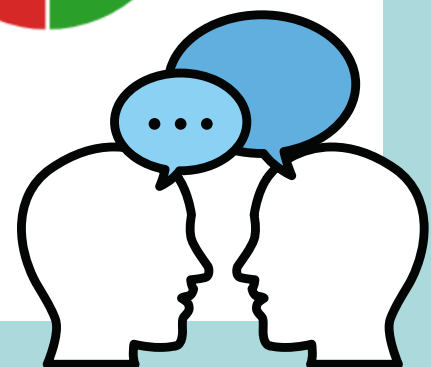
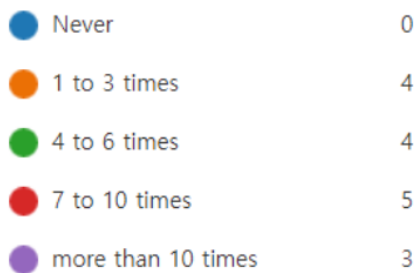
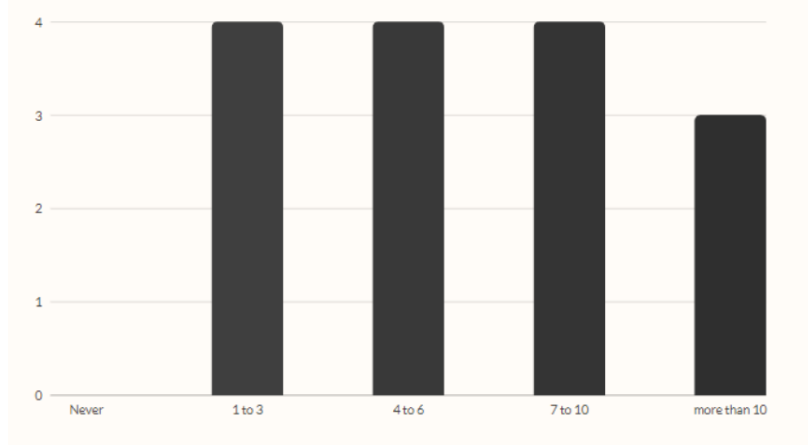
COLOUR

COMMUNICATION AFTER LOCKDOWN

Heamin Jung(Y11) and Su Min Ryu(Y11)

After the lockdown in Hanoi, many things have changed. There are no people on the streets and all the stores are closed. As we have a restriction on going outside, school started online. In this situation when we cannot meet people in real life but should stay in home, communication plays a significant role; so, we investigated how our school community is getting on with communication.

1. After lockdown, how often do the students communicate with their friends, acquaintances, or relatives in a week?



2. What are the reasons of communicating actively?

“Even though we cannot contact each other in person, there are still many methods that I can contact with others such as messages and calls. Sometimes, sending messages can be easier to contact others than meeting in person.”

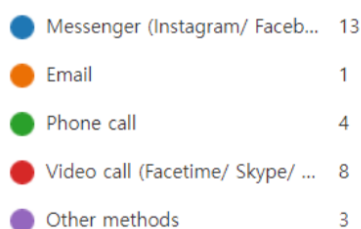
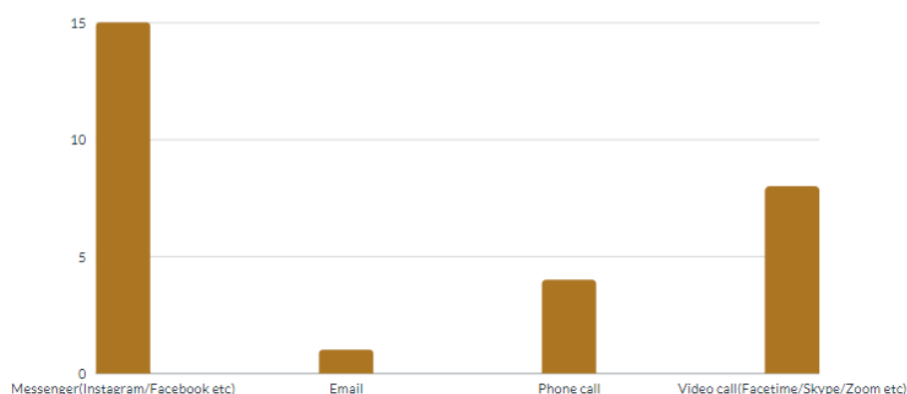
“To know that I am still doing fine and they are still doing fine, too. Also, sometimes asking homeworks to do, and when I or my friend have technical difficulties, I just ask my friend what happened or something that I missed.”

“I talk sometimes with my friends, just to say “hi” and share some funny things happening during online learning or to share anything I found on Instagram, YouTube, etc.”

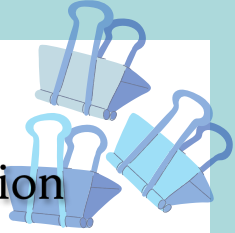
“Because I miss them and socialising improves my mental health. During times of constant isolation, it is comforting to just have a funny conversation with a friend.”

“I communicated more with my friends outside of school than within school because we were involved in the same organisations or projects. Whenever I did communicate with my school friends, it was because I wanted to stay connected or because we frequently talked to each other before lockdown even began.”

3. What methods do students use for communication?



4. What do students think has changed about communication after the lock down (not going to school)?



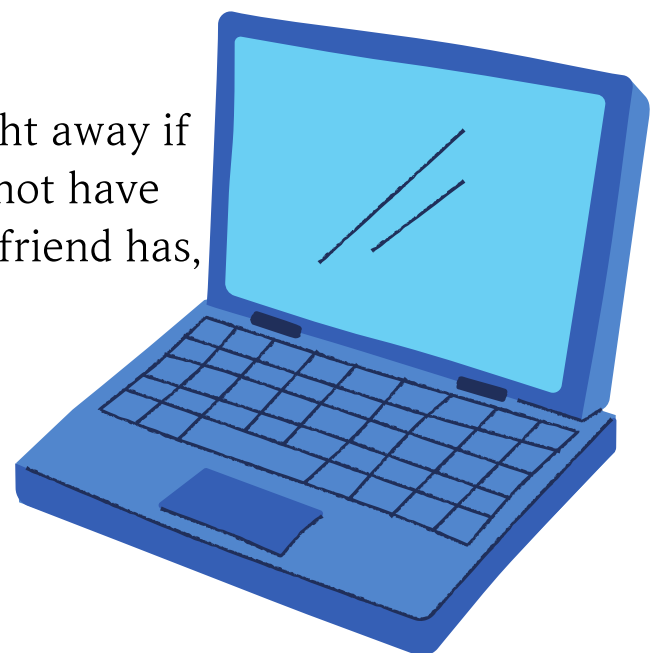
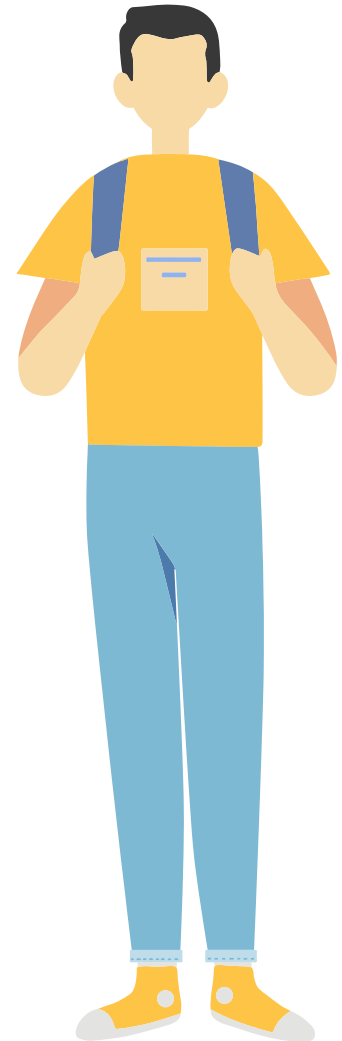
“Harder. It is hard to perfectly know others’ feeling only with texts.”

“It's true that it has been difficult to communicate with others after the lock down. Obviously, it is much better to talk to each other in face to face so that we can see facial expressions to deliver our messages efficiently. However, there is still some positive aspects on the virtual communication. Sometimes, it can be easier to contact others with social media whom I didn't talk too much in person.”

“I used to be very reluctant to call but after the lockdown, it has gotten easier. I got used to calling with my friends and I miss their voices so now I feel more comfortable checking up on my friends or even initiate conversations.”

“It didn't change a lot. I was already talking with my friends online before online class.”

“Much harder as we cannot check it right away if they want to ask something. Also, I do not have the messenger app, which many of my friend has, so I cannot talk to friends a lot.”



5. Are there any disadvantages for communicating with others while pandemic?



“Sometimes there are annoying situations because people misunderstood the texts.”

“One of the biggest challenges in virtual communication is the technical issue which I think most students have experienced. Sometimes, it is really hard to hear what others are saying or showing on the presentation and this makes it difficult to communicate efficiently. Also, I miss the atmosphere and mood of the physical classroom where all classmates could discuss or communicate about the lesson more conveniently as people tends not to turn on their mics or camera even in the break-out rooms.”

“Students' screentime will increase. Laptop uses, phone uses, so it is not good for students' health.”

“Especially if you're calling someone, you have to set a specific time to do so. It's a lot harder to have spontaneous conversations in the corridors or things like that.”



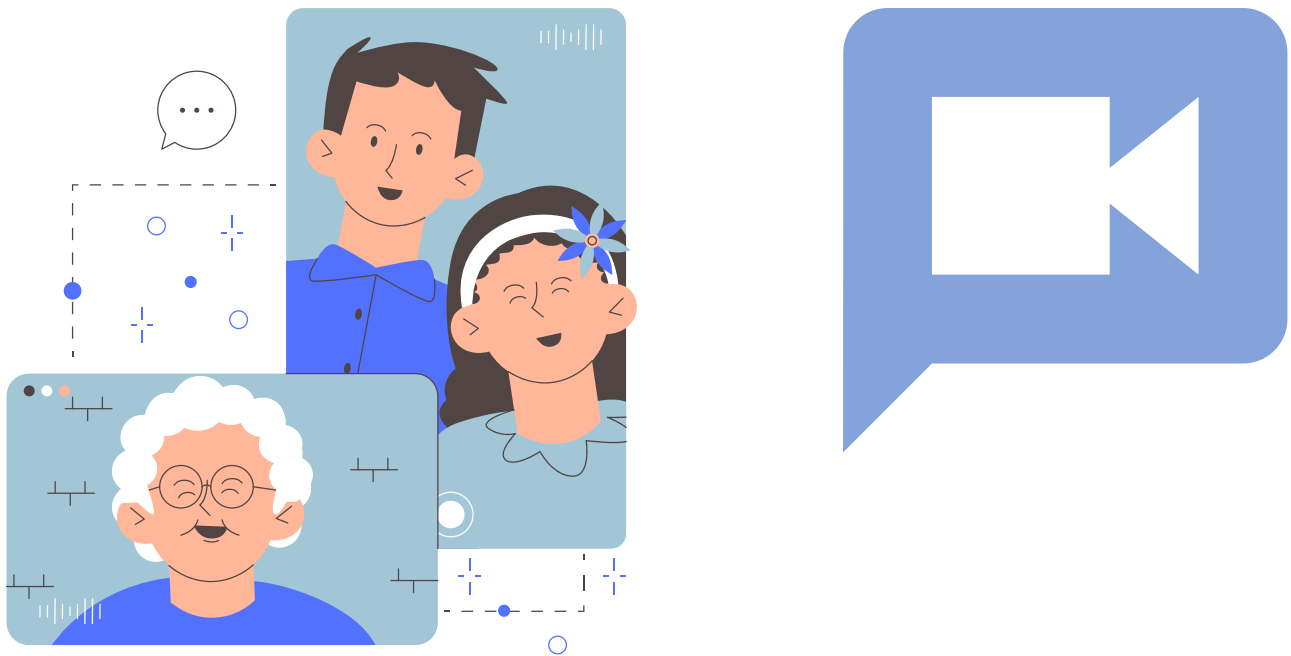
6. Before the pandemic started, did the students communicate with others with the method(s) that they use now or different ones? Why is/are the method(s) same or different from now?

“Of course, I used my social media and emails to communicate with others before the pandemic. However, I used to talk to classmates and teachers verbally when I was in class and now it is not available due to the lock down.”

“I didn't really make a video call before but now I do”

“Before the pandemic, talking in person or texting was my main method and frankly, it is still the same. I do call more often.”

“Yes. I have always used Instagram DMs and Facebook messenger to stay connected with my friends. I also started using Zoom and Discord after the pandemic.”



Students sometimes find it hard to get in touch to each other in numerous ways, but they still know how important communication is. Communicating is the only way we can use to know how our friends are doing in the current situation. As long as it does not harm your health, communicating with your friends is essential.

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