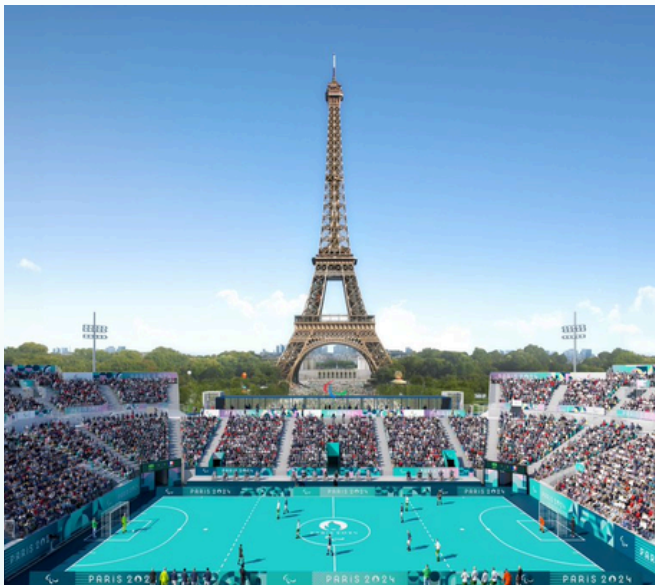




INSPIRE YOUTH JOURNAL

THE 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS - ECONOMY, POVERTY, LEGACY

Daniella Omoruyi



At the time of writing, The Summer 2024 Olympics (26th July - 11th August) have concluded in Paris, France. The event has showcased to the world the richness and creativity of French culture, and much of the world's best athletes. Sporting history has been made for many countries this year, such as St. Lucia and Pakistan, who won their first ever Olympic medals.

The greatest benefit of this year's Olympic Games, however, will most likely be seen in France's economy.

According to an article from UK newspaper The Guardian, the International Olympics Committee (IOC) predicts that The Paris Olympics are expected to generate an economic benefit of \$12.2bn (or £9.3bn) within the Île-de-France region. Even outside of the 2024 Olympic Games, another article published by The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) on the 21st of June 2024 has estimated that the tourism industry in France is supposed to reach an all-time high contribution of €254.7bn (\$272.3bn or £215.3bn) to its economy.



This year, however, an article by French newspaper The Connexion reported that France is experiencing 'high levels' of poverty, and that up to 14.4% of the French population (around 9.1 million people) were in 'monetary poverty' in 2022. The beginning of the decade has not been kind to France, and it is evident that COVID-19, economic inflation and civil unrest due to discontent regarding government policy (such as the increase in retirement age) have led to poverty and increased inequality.

So how does France aim to use the legacy of its 2024 Olympic Games to help its citizens?

According to the IOC website, the current Olympic Village which extends across the three Parisian suburbs of Saint-Denis, Saint Ouen and L'Île-Saint-Denis and accommodates 15,000 athletes will be converted into 2,800 new homes. A quarter of these will be public housing, and the rest will be affordably rented out to residents earning a lower income.

Alongside the refurbished housing, public amenities such as offices and shops will be built in the area to curb the rate of unemployment.

The IOC website also details the many schemes and projects that the French government has put in place to reduce inequality on a national level. Most notably, the very first Olympic legacy-based fund, Impact 2024, was set up to grant funding to projects that promote important societal values such as equality, inclusion, education and health. The funding has already supported over 1,100 grassroots projects and benefitted countless people. Youth programmes (such as 1,2,3 Nagez! (1,2,3 Swim!), a programme that offers free swimming and water safety lessons to young people) have also been made accessible nationwide.

Although these schemes are still in their early stages of development and implementation, they are a step in the right direction towards narrowing inequality, improving lives and promoting equal opportunities in France.

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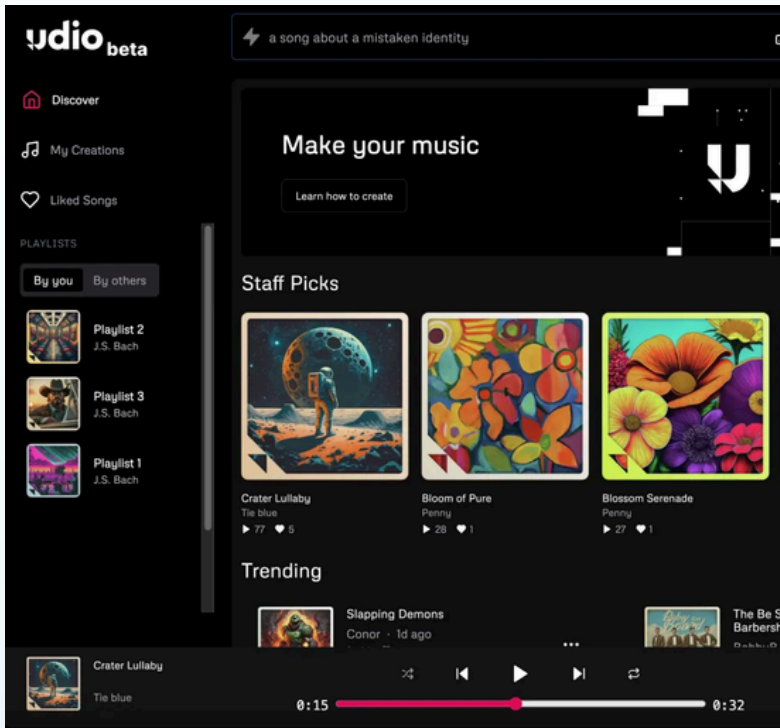
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INSPIRE YOUTH JOURNAL

AI MUSIC’S FRIEND OR FOE?

Tyra Awuku



Introduction

Music. It’s a part of our everyday lives. Whether traveling with headphones on or simply going for groceries, the likelihood of us encountering music daily is extremely high. As our world does, music has had to constantly evolve and improve to keep up with the era it is a part of.

Not too long ago, AI burst onto our radars, creeping into different aspects of our lives. Anyone having trouble with schoolwork has encountered websites such as ChatGPT and its equivalents. But will Music have to conform to the uprising leader that is AI?

Not too long ago, AI burst onto our radars, creeping into different aspects of our lives. Anyone having trouble with schoolwork has encountered websites such as ChatGPT and its equivalents. But will Music have to conform to the uprising leader that is AI?

AI vs Artists:

Some of the biggest names in the Music Industry have signed an open letter regarding their opposition to the use of AI in the Music Industry. These include Billie Eilish, Nicki Minaj, Stevie Wonder and more.

The letter attempts to prevent technological companies from creating AI software that undermines or aims to replace human creators.

The letter claims that the use of AI in the Music Industry is “an assault on human creativity... destroying the music ecosystem”.

Recently, many “AI covers” have emerged on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube and Instagram.

The covers match the sound and style of a particular artist most frequently used to provide the illusion of the artist in question, covering another song. This is a prime example of the “assault on human activity” the open letter is trying to prevent. If AI possesses the ability to copy the artists we know and love now, what is their use in the future if we could create a song in their style or genre just by explaining certain criteria?

Some people feel threatened by the presence of AI in such a prominent industry and argue that AI will take away the personal part of the creative process, something many self-producing artists take pride in. Others see AI as a positive development for music, allowing producers to unlock new styles and tools to play with whilst making the songs we know and love.



We call on all AI developers, technology companies, platforms and digital music services to pledge that they will not develop or deploy AI music-generation technology, content or tools that undermine or replace the human artistry of songwriters and artists or deny us fair compensation for our work.

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Agus Martino | Banda El Recodo de Don | Brothers Osborne |
| Aimee Mann | Cruz Lizárraga | Brunno Ramos |
| Ali McGuirk | Banda Los Recoditos | Bryan Behr |
| Alice Randall | BENEE | Bryan Martinez |
| Alisa Amador | Benny the Butcher | Budah |
| Antônio Zambujo | Bia Marques | Buddy Miller |
| Arkells | Bianca | CAKE |
| Ashley Shabankareh | Big Up | Calema |
| Astrid | Billie Eilish | Calibre 50 |
| Astronomia Interior | Billy Porter | Callie Khouri |
| Aya | Black Spygo | Caloncho |
| Ayra Starr | estate of Bob Marley | Calum Scott |
| Banda Carnaval | Brandi Waller-Pace | Cami |
| | Brian Folkins-Amador | |



INSPIRE YOUTH JOURNAL

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AI in K-pop:

The well-renowned K-pop group Seventeen released their song "Maestro", on April 29th, 2024. The question, "Who is the real Maestro?" was the theme of the MV and aspects of that question were present throughout the song.

Parts of the teasers included AI-produced images, quickly replaced by real-life footage of the group, easily distinguishable from the AI.

After performing at Glastonbury this year, Seventeen made their way to British Media and news stations, collecting new fans from their performances at the festival. However, there is one article in particular that caught fans', "CARATS", attention. A BBC article published not long after the performance claims that Seventeen admitted to using AI to create songs.



Seventeen is explicitly known for being "self-producing idols" in Korea and globally. The article used words from the member and producer of the group WOOZI to defend its claims.

WOOZI said "We practiced making songs with AI, as we want to develop along with technology rather than complain about it" and it is this translation that CARATS believe was taken out of context during the creation of the article.

WOOZI has since then posted what some call an "indirect response" to the article in the form of an Instagram story; a line of text which stated Seventeen's music was "written and composed by human creators".

AI in the Future:

Artificial Intelligence is slowly becoming a staple in our everyday lives and for the biggest Artists in the industry. This might affect their source of income, but could AI ever truly replace the personal aspects of music simply by mimicking a producer's style? According to the artists having signed the open letter, that seems to be the case but for artists like Supercell, they may find AI a new challenge they wish to embrace.



Despite the separate conversations, one question remains the same:

Will AI take over all ways of life or is there something that just can't be done by Artificial Intelligence?

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DHAKA’S EDUCATIONAL CROSSROADS: CHALLENGES FOR ENGLISH MEDIUM STUDENTS

Shaira Anjuman

Transitioning from completing their Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) or A-Levels, students often find themselves in a quandary.

Rather than basking in the relief of conquering this educational peak, they often feel adrift. It’s a phase where the path ahead splits between gearing up for medical and BUET admissions or venturing into applications for foreign universities. This pivotal juncture need not be daunting if students map out clear goals and stick to them diligently.

In Dhaka, the bustling heart of Bangladesh, students in English medium schools (the education systems in Bangladesh that follow mostly the curriculum of Edexcel and Cambridge of the UK and other curriculums of other countries too, such as the IB curriculum, where the main medium of education is English with English oriented textbooks) face a unique set of challenges. Even the brightest struggle with snagging spots in public universities, while only a fortunate few can foot the ever-climbing fees of international institutions. Consequently, many settle for private universities with limited opportunities. Roughly 250,000 students in Bangladesh opt for English medium education to dodge the rote-learning grip of the local system, which stifles critical thinking and analytical skills. Sadly, this means that many talented minds miss out on the chance to grace the halls of the country’s esteemed public universities where the quality of education and practical experience, especially in medicine and engineering, is not only more meticulous and refined but networking opportunities with national leaders are also more abundant.

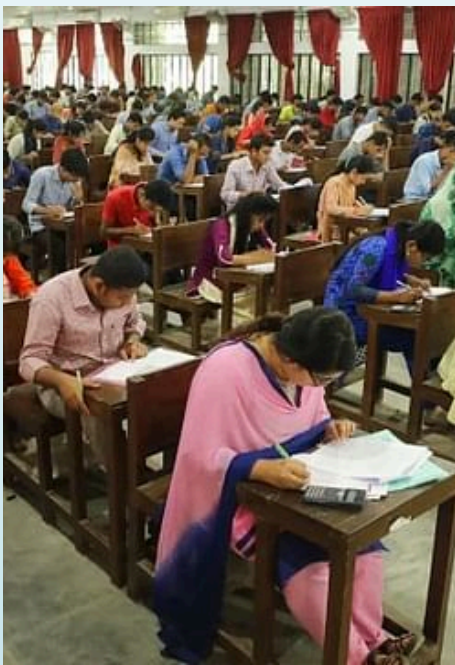
Shouldn’t it be high time for admission boards at BUET, IBA, and medical colleges to make their entrance exams more accessible to English medium (the education systems in Bangladesh that follow mostly the curriculum of Edexcel and Cambridge of the UK and other curriculums of other countries too, such as the IB curriculum, where the main medium of education is English with English oriented textbooks). It’s not about watering down standards but about leveling the playing field for deserving students who aspire to study at prestigious public universities. While the depth of medical exams syncs closely with the HSC syllabus, it often leaves A-level students in the lurch, disadvantaged and scrambling to bridge the gap.

This disparity could be one of the leading reasons why bright minds opt to export their potential to the US, UK, and beyond, rather than nurturing it back home. While many dream of studying abroad, the lack of opportunities domestically also nudges them towards foreign shores.

For those eyeing top-tier international universities and scholarships, the hurdles are manifold. One glaring challenge is the dearth of research facilities in Dhaka. American high schoolers are encouraged to dive into independent research, with programs like MITES and RSI at MIT offering invaluable exposure. In contrast, Bangladeshi students miss out on such enriching opportunities. The spark for scientific inquiry, crucial for a nation’s progress, isn’t kindled in young minds nor nurtured adequately.

Imagine if universities like Dhaka University, Dhaka Medical College, and BUET embraced independent research initiatives, fostering collaborations with research professors. This wouldn’t just bolster applications to foreign universities but also cultivate a new generation of STEM researchers right here in Bangladesh.

There’s plenty that Dhaka universities can do to up the odds of students snagging full scholarships at top international institutions and retaining the nation’s brightest minds. It’s time to spark a research revolution in Dhaka, one lab coat at a time.



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REALITY TV PORTRAYS A DISTORTED VERSION OF REALITY

Lucie Kealey



You know that show you watch religiously with your morning cup of coffee? Or rather the one that you binge repeatedly when nothing else seems to grasp your attention – perhaps Netflix has decided to only release half a season again. That one captivating show that really makes you forget about reality. For me, it is most definitely 'Love is Blind': a show which makes one believe that romantic connections are quite easily discoverable.

It is estimated that in the US alone, 'around 42% of Americans watch reality television shows regularly'. A statistic which is almost doubled in the UK.

Why draw on statistics of global television usage? It is not to penalise those who watch reality television; 1. Personally, I'm also a sucker for an enthralling show, and 2. I understand that we are living in an ever-growing global digital society, both of which make it entirely acceptable to pursue the world of reality TV. However, despite the comfort that one of these shows may provide, could it be argued that this is only temporary satisfaction?

Studies show that whilst an episode of 'Too Hot to Handle', or rather your preferred reality TV show, may sound like a convenient and captivating show to binge, its 'fictional elements' may be more detrimental than assumed. In fact, 'watching these shows may cause people to have a distorted perception of reality, which could lead to actions or beliefs that are not ideal'.

This is consequential to the false ideals that reality television shows unintentionally broadcast; notably, unrealistic relationship situations, and unattainable body images. Portrayed through the rose-tinted lens of reality TV, these fanciful societal expectations leave individuals wondering why their lives are not on par with those that they view online.

Portrayed through the rose-tinted lens of reality TV, these fanciful societal expectations leave individuals wondering why their lives are not on par with those that they view online.

But why is this injurious to society? Take trends for example; individuals view new and compelling trends on social media platforms and take it upon themselves to follow these ideals. Those who control the media, therefore, lead by example – setting the trends which are subsequently followed. But what happens when these trends cannot be matched?

Rather, the media promotes harsh expectations which are damaging to those who mirror them. Reality kicks in; relationships are not perfect, the human anatomy cannot be moulded as though it is clay, and affluence is not something that happens overnight. Life becomes less about a genie and three wishes, and more about the reality that is at hand. Negative repercussions such as eating disorders and low self-esteem arise from such expectations which erupt into harmful and consequential mental and physical health conditions – the antithesis to what should arise from watching reality television.



For that reason, it is pivotal to remember that whilst reality television is a significant global development and source of entertainment, it can quite often result in an unhealthy digital divide between reality and fantasy. One must therefore assess both the positive and gripping aspects of such a platform, as well as ensuring to be attentive to the damaging mentality that the usage of it can cause.

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INSPIRE YOUTH JOURNAL

CLIMATE CHANGE IN VIETNAM



Moon Tran

Vietnam emits very little greenhouse gas, but during the past 20 years, emissions have increased, mostly due to a sharp rise in the country's need for power. Over half of the nation's emissions come from the energy sector, with trash, industrial operations, and agriculture coming in second and third.

Vietnam's Climate Change Situation

Vietnam is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and any company operating in the nation or having supply chains there needs to be aware of this and know how to increase their resilience.

In October of 2021, there were two mega-typhoons that flooded communities, displaced families, and took people's lives.

In fact, over the past 20 years, Vietnam is one of the world's areas most affected by climate change and extreme weather, according to the Global Climate Risk Index 2020.

Climate forecasts suggest that these severe weather patterns will become more frequent and intense in Vietnam by 2030, causing extreme heat waves in large cities like Ho Chi Minh and Ha Noi.

This is not only dangerous for citizen health, but will reduce worker productivity in many different industries like construction, agriculture, and logistics.

Greater rainfall might put stress on Hanoi's urban wastewater infrastructure and expose coastal development to storm surges. The effects are vast, ranging from making pests more common, which reduces crop yields on farms, to making vector-borne diseases worse, putting people's life at risk, and worsening communities' financial situation.

How Vietnam can prepare for climate risks

Thankfully, there are steps Vietnamese firms can do to lower their exposure to climate risk. Businesses may develop climate resilient infrastructure to better prepare for the reality of climate change: the ability to foresee, absorb, accommodate, and recover from pertinent impacts. Companies must methodically investigate potential changes in the business environment in order to achieve this. One method that is frequently used to investigate various conceivable futures is scenario analysis. Using this tool, businesses may "stress-test" their strategies and make sure they are sufficiently prepared for a variety of possible outcomes.

BSR has created three scenarios, one in Vietnamese and one in English, that depict realistic business environments in 2030 and vary based on socioeconomic growth and the severity of the climate. These scenarios are intended for use by Vietnamese firms. The physical effects of climate change are unavoidable and could differ depending on the situation. On top of that, there will be socioeconomic developments and the potentially interrelated effects of a low-carbon economy.

Excessive rain in Vietnam caused landslides and flooding, leading to the government having to close airports, roadways, and harm or even destroy business buildings. Typhoon Damrey in 2017 and other powerful storms damaged Vietnam's economy at an estimate of \$1 billion. In 2020, thousands of local businesses were impacted by climate change disruptions as a result of staffing shortages, limited availability of materials needed, or facility damage.



INSPIRE YOUTH JOURNAL

SHOULD THE UNITED STATES KEEP DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME?

Apple Ngoc



Introduced over a century ago, Daylight Saving Time (DST) was first presented to the United States as a way to make better use of daylight during the longer days of summer. Due to its varying effects, DST has sparked ongoing debates on its various impacts on society. This article explores the arguments for and against keeping Daylight Saving Time in the United States, its historical roots, its varied impact on individuals, and efforts taken to modify DST.

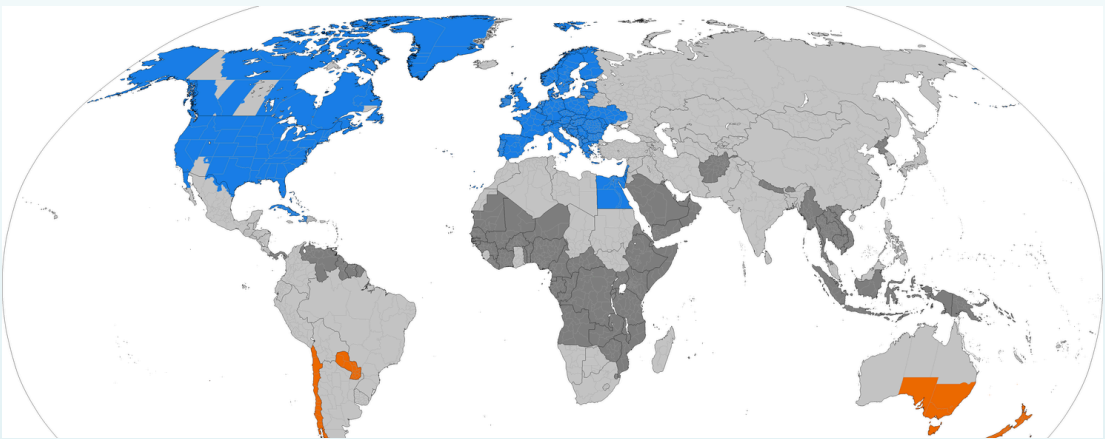
Daylight Saving Time is a seasonal time change measure where clocks are set ahead or behind of standard time during part of the year. When DST starts in spring, clocks are set forward by one hour, meaning one hour is skipped. Therefore, on the clock, the day of the DST transition has only 23 hours. During autumn, the DST period ends, and clocks are set back to standard time again. In terms of hours on the clock, we gain an hour, so the day of transition is 25 hours long.

The concept of daylight saving can be credited to two people. The first was Benjamin Franklin. He noted that when he woke up near sunrise, there was more sunlight to light up his home. This meant the use of fewer smoky and expensive candles resulting in energy conservation. The second was George Vernon Hudson. Hudson was an entomologist and astronomer who first proposed the modern DST to the Wellington Philosophical Society: the idea of moving clocks forward.

One of the most noticeable positive impacts is that Daylight Saving Time promotes an active lifestyle for individuals. With more daylight, after an exhausting day of school or work, this may encourage them to go outside to breathe in some fresh air or go for a stroll to relax.

It can be a valuable gift for people as it's a way for them to connect with both their environment and the people surrounding them. Hendrik Wolff, Associate Professor of Economics at Simon Fraser University, states, because of DST

“people engaged in more outdoor recreation and less indoor-TV watching... An additional 3 percent of people engaged in outdoor behaviors who otherwise would have stayed indoors.”



DST can impact the economy in both good and bad ways. On the good side, DST helps boost the economy. With later daylight, there are more people shopping and driving after work, leading to an increase in sales for the time Americans spend in DST. The golf industry reports that one month of DST was worth \$200 to \$400 million because of the extended evening hours golfers can play. Another way that it boosts the economy is that with longer daylight hours during DST, it allows construction crews to work for an extended period. This can be particularly advantageous as it enables more tasks to be completed in a single day, potentially expediting project timelines.

One of the most distinct negative impacts of DST are the sleep disruptions it causes. When the clocks are set forward in the spring, you lose an hour of sleep. As your body's internal clock, or circadian rhythm, is closely tied to the natural light-dark cycle, DST can disrupt this rhythm. This can lead to poorer sleep quality and difficulty adjusting to the new schedule. This impacts all areas of their lives and can badly affect an individual's mood and performance in school or work, which is immensely significant. Moreover, when the clock turns back during autumn, especially for adolescents, they might utilize the extra hour at night to spend their time on unproductive activities such as scrolling through social media. And this isn't what the individuals who thought of the concept of daylight saving would want to achieve.



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Apple Ngoc

The bad side of DST on the economy is that it's expensive. William F. Shughart II, economist at Utah State University, states that the simple act of changing clocks costs Americans \$1.7 billion in lost opportunity cost based on average hourly wages, meaning that the ten or so minutes that are spent moving clocks, watches, and devices can be spent on something more productive. Coordinating the time change involves significant administrative effort, making it time-consuming and inefficient.

Daylight Saving Time has been the subject of debate in the United States for a long time. Proponents present arguments for DST on how it can promote active lifestyles and can be crucial for the growth of the economy. Opponents retaliate by bringing forward arguments against DST that are about how DST causes sleep deprivation and time consumption. One of the most notable efforts to change or abolish Daylight Saving Time is from the Sunshine Protection Act. It is a bill that advocates for permanent daylight saving time, while other states like Pennsylvania are considering to follow a year-round standard time. Thus, even if we do decide to abolish DST, we can't guarantee whether permanent standard time or permanent daylight saving time is the better alternative.



One of the most notable efforts to change or abolish Daylight Saving Time is from the Sunshine Protection Act.



When the Sunshine Protection Act was first debated in a House subcommittee, experts had claimed that adopting permanent DST, meaning DST would be in place year-round and clocks would be put forward one hour and never be put back, permanently advancing each time zone by one hour. Proponents claim that it would bring advantages, such as saving lives, reducing crime, conserving energy and enhancing health. However, voices from the medical community, such as doctors, criticize the bill's stance, arguing that following the standard time would better synchronize with our clocks, providing improved sleep. Nevertheless, the bill's advocates including Senator Marco Rubio are persistent in promoting permanent DST highlighting benefits like increased evening spend, as evidenced by convenience stores.

Currently, states are actively considering passing measures to end Daylight Saving Time. They plan to implement this by switching the state to year-round standard time. For instance, the Oregon bill was a bill which was passed by the state Senate. This means that they would implement ending DST in favor of year-round standard time. Although the bill also required California and Washington to follow suit, it was a good first step for them to eliminate negative effects from DST. Along with the Beaver State, legislators in states like Minnesota, New York, and Pennsylvania are also weighing legislation that would make standard time permanent, according to Forbes.

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UNDERSTANDING SLANG AND THE COMMUNITIES IT BUILDS

Mahathi Sathish

As time evolves, so does language. Generation after generation and year after year, the young always find a way to communicate through mild innovation in their language by relying on slang to bolster their individuality.

Slang is defined as informal elements of speech that belong to either a particular context or community. The newest generation experimenting with this unique feature of language are those born after 2010 and are fondly called Gen-Alpha.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Silent | Born: 1928 - 1945 This Year: 78-95 years old |
| Baby Boomers | Born: 1946 - 1964 This Year: 59-77 years old |
| Gen X | Born: 1965 - 1980 This Year: 43-58 years old |
| Millennials | Born: 1981 - 1996 This Year: 27-42 years old |
| Gen Z | Born: 1997 - 2012 This Year: 11-26 years old |

This generation is considered the latest buzz of the linguistics world with their additions to the English lexicon being subject to some extensive debate. The quotation above is from a popular TikTok song that contains some of the extremely popular words made prevalent in Gen-Alpha’s lingo.

But what exactly is it about terms like ‘Skibidi’ and ‘Fanum Tax’ that has made this particular coinage of slang so incredibly popular?

The answer lies in the community themselves.

In linguistics, this process is termed ‘accommodation’. Popularised by psychologist Howard Giles, the Communication Accommodation Theory deals with how language users tend to morph their speech patterns, known as idiolects, with that of those around them, to collectively form a sociolect. Such a phenomenon occurs only when there is a budding desire to become like those around, so much so that one begins to accommodate the other’s linguistic patterns. This development of a shared sociolect is known as ‘divergence’ and is extremely popular among younger generations who seek validation from their peers. Furthermore, a lot of slang is built on wanting to sound distinct from those considered outsiders to that community, which when talking about Gen-Alpha refers to their age. Hence, the generation exhibits a conscious choice of language to sound distinct, a process known as convergence, by repurposing old Gen-Z words to sound different from those older.

Gen-Alpha slang also thrives on humour and utilizes keen pop culture references to keep the youngsters connected to the events around them and each other. Disdainfully called ‘iPad kids’, Gen-Alpha is the generation that grew up and continues to grow up in an age revolutionized by technology, and their choice of words reflects the socio-political state of the very Internet they grew up in. ‘Rizz’ for example, is a lexical shortening of ‘Charisma’ and is the equivalent of having ‘Game’ in the dating world. Skibidi’ according to an NBC article is neither a good thing nor a bad one and in the words of an 11-year-old is “just weird”.

The thing that gives Gen-Alpha their unique view of the world, is also therefore an intrinsic part of their identity.



Slang reinforces select groups of society and helps them stand together, build walls against the rest of the old and aging world and live young. Slang builds communities. It adds to the vernacular of daily life and helps people of the same background connect with one another on a deeper level. The minute a Millennial says these words, Gen Alpha will stop using them - because Millennials aren’t their target audience. And the process of convergence here will triumph over that of divergence.

All in all, with every generation that arises, the words they use are key to understanding the world they will build. And so while slang remains that part of speech often overlooked for its colloquialism, it is important to understand the power those simple words contain in the formation of a whole new community.

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INSPIRE YOUTH JOURNAL

A CLOSER LOOK AT BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Ken - Nhat Hoang

Revolutionizing academic debate by far and away, the British Parliamentary style has received worldwide support and recognition, becoming the official format of the World Universities Debating Championship (WUDC).

Turning the calendar back to the mid-1800s of the Victorian Era, in the British town of Liverpool blooms a transformative academic debating format - the British Parliamentary style, deeply rooted with the traditions of Parliamentary debating in the UK.



Venerable History:

Taking flashing glimpses back to the 19th century, when society placed a robust emphasis on intellectual exchange and civic engagement, we uncover the debating format's reputable past, eminent and pervasive from its dawn. An enlightening period, members of debate societies or debate clubs would gather to engage in discussions about multifarious issues of the day according to their assigned roles.

The debates were stupendously well-structured, often hosted by a salon owner, and every debater had to follow specific rules of engagement, strongly reflecting modern debates.

As debating societies like Oxbridge began formalizing their rules and structures, blending in the traditional Parliamentary style, the

British Parliamentary format (BP) was assembled and surged by leaps and bounds in popularity, quickly becoming the UK's standard debating format, realistically simulating debates taking place in the House of Parliaments but also providing participants a uniquely challenging and engaging experience.

Basic Rules:

In the realm of British Parliamentary debate lays the clash between two contrasting forces, the Government and the Opposition House, each consisting of an Opening and Closing team. Every team only has two speakers, but up to four teams grapple with each other, crafting an extra layer of competitiveness and depth to the debate. Amidst the fiery battle against teams on opposing sides, closing and opening teams sharing a common bench also wrestle against each other in delivering the best speeches and contributing the most to the debate - be it pointing out lack of analysis, unengaged arguments, fixing errors of the previous team, or elaborating their points, comparing clashes and weighing impacts.



Each speaker has specific burdens corresponding to their role.

The Prime Minister — first speaker of the Opening Government — would construct the indispensable foundation for the debate by proposing a policy, affirming the motion or painting a world according to the motion, which is then challenged by the following speaker on the Opposition House, the Leader of Opposition. His role would be to rebutt arguments made by the Prime Minister and deliver arguments on his side. Both the Deputy speakers (the Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Leader of Opposition) have to extend arguments and disprove those made by opposing sides. Delving into the second half of the debate, judges embark on new or more layered arguments by the Closing teams. The Members of Government and Opposition must separate their teams with the Opening teams by introducing completely new arguments involving different stakeholders and different impacts, or elaborating the Opening team's arguments, adding a deeper layer of analysis.



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A CLOSER LOOK AT BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

Ken - Nhat Hoang

Unique Offers:

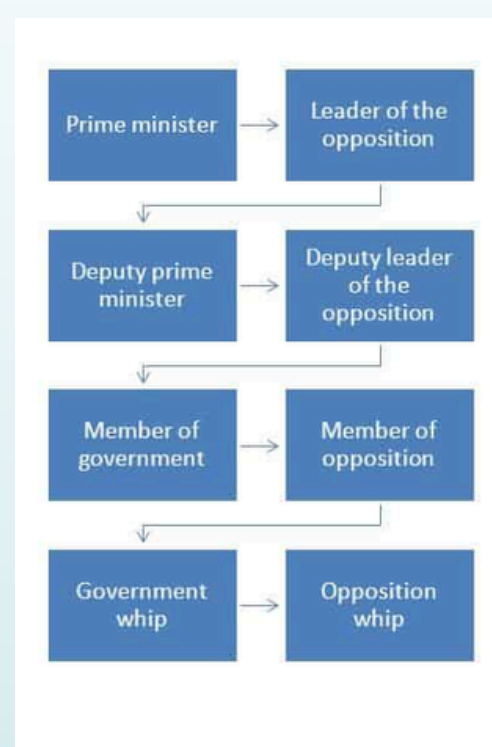
Immersed in a raging battlefield, filled with a competitive atmosphere, riddled by blazing arguments from up to four teams, by no stretch of the imagination could one turn a blind eye to BP's unique miracles no other debating format could offer. There is a prudent reason behind its promotion to the world's standard.

First and foremost, the inclusivity of four competing teams paints a vivid and all-encompassing picture of the issue being discussed about.

Examining the topic through different lenses, navigating through well-layered arguments, deep analysis and complex rebuttals, debaters and observers are blessed with a comprehensive understanding of the motion and new, intriguing knowledge. Furthermore, the presence of four teams significantly carries debate strategies to another extent, urging teams to not only compete against the other side but also distinguish their deliveries, forging a delicate balance between fighting with the other bench and outshining the Opening/Closing. Some unique and shrewd strategies for the latter includes covering as many arguments as possible to prevent extensions from the Closing team (Scorch Earth), elaborating points the Closing team would likely engage in (Stealing), or taking underdeveloped Opening's points and extending them, adding more depth with the incentive to completely take over that argument.



Last but by no means least, BP debate grants debaters a one-of-a-kind experience, from intensive prep-time, with preparation in the position of all four teams and listing as many arguments, rebuttals, and POIs as possible against the other three teams, to flexible and well-structured deliveries addressing a myriad of arguments from other speakers and responding to chaotic POIs raised en masse by up to six other debaters!



Final Thoughts:

A history spanning centuries, British Parliamentary is an effective and efficient debating format, spurring thorough preparation, sparking critical thinking, and fruitful engagement between debaters - only where every topic, every "world" is scrutinized in depth through different lenses.

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CAUSES OF FOOD INSECURITY AND PRICE VOLATILITY IN VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Tran Minh Khang

Recent years have witnessed a wide range of countries worldwide being affected by nutritional insecurity and market volatility. Food insecurity could be interpreted as insufficient access to nutritious food, while market unpredictability denotes the erratic fluctuations in demand and subsequent prices of goods.

Despite efforts by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to tackle these issues, these challenges still greatly influence marginalized communities.



There are several prominent factors leading to this worrying phenomenon. The primary reason leading to food insufficiency could be attributed to conflicts and wars. Both international and domestic conflicts containing armed weapons or nuclear weapons can instantly disrupt agricultural activities, thus causing malnutrition and food shortages. According to the World Food Program, over half of starving people suffering from food deprivation could be found in conflict-affected regions. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the number of families suffering from hunger has almost doubled" over the past year. 700,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition and 100,000 children need life-saving treatment against acute malnutrition accompanied by medical complications.



" Natural disasters are also another main cause of the lack of access to healthy and nutritious food. Floods, droughts, or hurricanes can instantly contribute to the loss of crops, making food distribution networks almost impossible to accomplish, and make current instabilities worse. The Food and Agriculture Organization has announced that in the past three decades, an average of \$3.8 trillion dollars in crops has been lost due to natural disasters. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic also worsened the effects of malnutrition. The lockdowns and economic downturns have led to a chain reaction causing 124 million additional people into extreme poverty, as said by the World Bank.

Besides food poverty, market volatility also creates more pressure for marginalized communities, which is triggered by some main rationales.

Firstly, the changes in supply and demand can result in erratic price shifts, making it difficult for individuals and communities to plan and budget for essential goods. For instance, those in poverty stricken countries found it tough to face high demand or supply disruptions during the Arab oil embargo in the 1970s, leading to the skyrocketing price of fuel in such a period. Another significant contributing factor could be blamed for transportation and distribution cost. For example, the pandemic led to reduced availability of cargo ships and flights; thus resulting in increased shipping costs for importing and exporting food products. It is the residents worldwide who had to be subject to such soaring prices while the majority of them still did not get paid due to lockdown measures, border closures, and quarantine restrictions.

In summary, food insecurity and commodity price volatility are still considered to be critical issues, requiring urgent attention. Conflicts, natural disasters, and the COVID-19 pandemic are the major culprit of nutritional inadequacy while market unpredictability could be attributed to changes in supply and demand, transportation and distribution costs. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated efforts at multiple levels and through comprehensive and inclusive strategies can we build a future where all individuals have access to nourishing food and stable prices.

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THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF CHILDHOOD

Ketrelle Danquah

Childhood is usually depicted as a 'golden age' of happiness and innocence in movies and media, where vulnerable children need protection from exploitation and abuse.

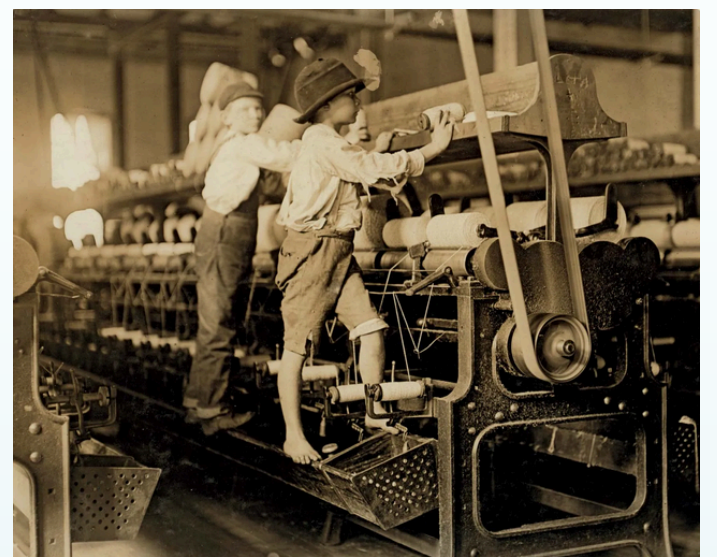
However, this view is not shared by everyone in the world.

This is because childhood is a social construct, it varies over time, place, culture and the society it is found in. Modern Western notions of childhood is that children are fundamentally different from adults as they are physically and psychologically immature. They lack skills, knowledge and experience, and because of this, they need protection and socialisation. This is reflected in laws and legislation such as in the UK, the 1989 Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act.

This law helps protect children by restricting their employment at a young age and ensuring their safeguarding if they are believed to be in danger by their parents who have a duty of care to protect them and ensure their physical safety and well being.

This has led to what sociologists call a 'child centred society'. The social historian Ariès states that we now have a 'modern cult of childhood'- a world obsessed with children.

This can be seen in the use of child models, specific child TV programmes and child play buildings.



Because of globalisation, western views have been transmitted to many areas around the world. Globalisation is the idea that barriers between countries and societies are disappearing and the world is increasingly interconnected across national boundaries. This is a result of global media (internet and social media in particular), improved communication systems and global markets (e.g. Microsoft).

For example, protests against the use of child workers in factories, child soldiers etc. are built on western ideas of the innocence and the golden age of childhood.

However, we must remember that childhood is a social construct, it is not a uniform biological stage of immaturity or a natural state, but something created and defined by society. What is meant by childhood, and the position that children occupy in society, is not fixed or universal as it differs from culture to culture and the society it is found in. For a school research project, we were given the assignment of asking people from the age of 5- 60+ what they were allowed to do as children and what they weren't. This allowed us to compare different stages of childhood for different generations of people. I found that a person (from the age of five to twenty) wasn't allowed to read Harry Potter books as her parents forbid her from reading a book with magic. People in the age range of thirty plus (parents) recalled how they would have to cook for their whole family, and people sixty and above stated how they were allowed to go to the woods/ woodlands but were not allowed to watch certain programmes that undermine authority.



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With this data, we can see evidence of childhood being a social construct since through different generations, the idea of what children should be able to do varied and was not the same. Society is constantly changing, emerging with new ideas on different issues, meaning that the position of children will constantly change.

There is a difference between modern 'western' children and children from non industrialised countries and societies. For example, post Industrialised Britain, has laws restricting child labour such as the Children's and Young Persons Act 1933, which prohibits children working who are under 16 years of age. However, in a Pre-industrial society, Aries found that children and adults had the same skills, same punishments, same work (fields and home), and same rights. His evidence of this was through works of art which depicted children as mini adults, a current idea in some countries which allow children to take up work like their adult counterparts.

Of the 152 million children in child labour 58% (88 million) are boys and 42% (64 million) and girls.

48% of these children are usually around the age of 5-11 years old and their economic activity is in agriculture, industry, and services. Children are seen as economic assets to families and companies, so they use them to generate money.



In the Pacific Island of Tikopia, Firth (1963) found that children are allowed to do dangerous things when they feel ready e.g. fishing in the open sea and handling sharp objects. Obedience to adults is a concession rather than expected (less obedient to adult authority).

Similarly, Samantha Punch (2001) studied childhood in rural Bolivia and found that once children are about five years old, they are expected to take on work responsibilities at home and in the community. Children do this without question or hesitation and deal with much earlier responsibilities throughout their childhood.

This juxtaposes the idea of many Western countries that children can not think for themselves. 'Helicopter parents' are able to dictate what their child should do and meticulously oversee every detail of their lives, ranging from the grades they get in their tests, to bombarding their child's bosses in their workplace. This continuous authority over their children renders them incapable of thinking for themselves and making decisions. Child Liberationists argue that modern society has oppressed children through regulating control over their space, resources, body and time. Hugh Cunningham (2004) found that areas in which children are allowed to travel alone has shrunk to one ninth of the size it was 25 years ago. Unlike in Sudan, where Cindi Katz (2004) found that rural Sudanese children roam freely around the village and outside of it.



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Even though childhood is a social construct, this should not take away from the fact that children are still vulnerable to harm. A key example of this is child marriage and how it is forbidden and practiced in different countries. Child marriage is a formal marriage or informal union that takes place before one or both of the people involved are eighteen years old. It is also the marriage that takes place without the free or valid consent of one or both partners and involves either physical or emotional pressure. Boys can be married as young as 13 in Lebanon and 15 in Iran. Over 650 million women alive today were married as children. 12 million girls are married before the age of 18 each year and more than 150 million girls will marry before their 18th birthday by 2030.

In Nigeria, nine year old Hauwa was abducted and kept captive by Boko Haram, for over four years.

“I was sent to the market to buy something when Boko Haram came and captured me and a lot of girls and women,” she says. “I was forced to get married when I was 11”.

Thankfully, she escaped from Boko Haram and is currently living with one of Plan International's foster families while her family is being located.

As many as 1.2 million children are being trafficked every year and the children who are trafficked often work as slaves on farms, mines and industrial factories.



Worldwide, up to 10 million children are trapped in modern forms of child slavery, showing the need to protect children as they are incapable of protecting themselves.

Even if you agree that childhood is a social construction and that children should be able to earn a wage at any age, we must also take into account and not forget the prominent issue of children being taken advantage of in such sectors and the need for laws to help prevent this.

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THE CURIOUS CASE OF JAPANESE YEN

Vedika Jain

One of the major recent financial surprises in the world is the Japanese yen. Global economies need currency to do transactions, and traditionally the US Dollar, Japanese YEN and Euro are the three major currencies in which trade is carried out.

Post pandemic, almost every currency has depreciated against the USD, most of them taking steps to control this as they face the brunt of expensive imports.

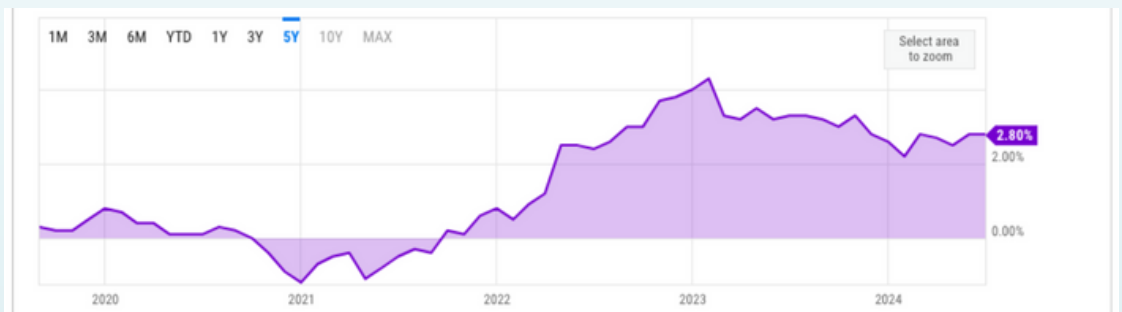
On the contrary, the Japanese government has not taken any major steps to control its currency. The central bank has maintained its stance as neutral for more than 4 years, thereby dropping their currency by more than 40% against the USD. A chart can be seen for JPY v/s USD for the past 4 years.



On the contrary, the Japanese government has not taken any major steps to control its currency. The central bank has maintained its stance as neutral for more than 4 years, thereby dropping their currency by more than 40% against the USD. A chart can be seen for JPY v/s USD for the past 4 years.

It is imperative to study why it is weakening and its pros and cons on global trade.

The prime reason for the substantial weakening, is the divergence of the policies between the Bank of Japan and the Federal Bank of the United States. To battle inflation, the USA has been increasing interest rates while Japan has been maintaining a dovish stance, not increasing its interest rates. The reason is that after the economic bubble burst in 1980s Japan, it has struggled to increase the prices of goods as the population is not willing to spend their money. This created an environment of deflation. The Bank of Japan has been worried about deflation in the economy and did not increase the interest rates worrying that it would further create a more deflationary environment.



Due to the depreciation of the JPY, investors are selling their currency investments which is further fuelling the reduction and creating a vicious loop of a downward direction.

Negative Effects:

On the contrary, Japan depends a lot on foreign imports for basic necessities like staple food, crude oil, natural gas and other resources. The cost of import has risen a lot which has impacted the prices of these products. Furthermore, their industrial products also need a lot of imported raw material which has also risen in the cost for the manufacturers. As a result they are forced to increase the prices of their products thereby canceling some of the benefits of the weak Yen.

Positive Effects:

Japan is a net export economy which means a weaker yen increases the exports from the country as the product becomes more competitive. This can result in a higher demand and create a mildly inflationary environment which can result in more jobs and a better environment for the population.

To strike a balance between these two is a critical role that the central bank has to play.

The weak yen has played a good role for the Japanese economy post COVID-19 as the Japanese government wanted to see a little inflation. But it seems that recently in July 2024, the central bank of Japan is trying to further raise interest rates by a few percentage points.

We need to see how this policy framework plays a role for the Japanese economy as they have been taking a contrarian stance compared to other large economies of the world.

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WHY CERTAIN COUNTRIES DOMINATE SPECIFIC SPORTS IN THE OLYMPICS

Teu - Khanh Phuong

The Olympics occur every four years and has proven itself to be the biggest sports event globally. It is a place where thousands of talented athletes who represent their countries compete on a fair playing field, ready to take medals and pride home. However, a strange but unique phenomenon has appeared: Certain countries seem to be dominating specific sports in the Olympics, and sometimes not just in the Olympics but a variety of other sports championships and tournaments.

Notable examples include the US having a long history of well-known basketball players, Egypt being surprisingly good at squash, South Korea dominating archery, and no other country is as good at judo as Japan.

Of course, in order for athletes to excel in certain sports, they need a huge amount of dedication, resilience, and talent. Nevertheless, this poses curious questions, such as how this phenomenon can happen and what factors contribute to the dominance of certain countries in sports.



The first factor that springs to everyone's mind is the Opportunity Principle. Let's take Australia for example. This country is famous for athletes excelling in swimming. The answer to their success is the early advantage in competitive swimming among citizens, in particular the younger generations. Due to the warm climate with lots of sunshine, along with access to open beaches and a variety of swimming pools, this country has been training and producing potential swimming athletes ever since. The same goes for America, in which it extensively encourages and pushes potential basketball players by establishing well-funded programs such as the National Basketball Association (NBA) to foster a more competitive environment among athletes. The USA continues to advance its training facilities, hire world-class coaches, and invest in a strong support system in order to attract world-wide athletes annually. Geographical advantages, investment in infrastructure, and the development of athletes are all greatly attributed to the opportunity principle.

However, the government plays a crucial role in implementing and supporting those programs and opportunities for athletes. Their support and economic investment are critical to a country's dominance in sports. Countries such as China or Russia prioritize sports as part of their national strategies, so the government actively invests in sports facilities and coaching, ensuring all athletes are well supported in their journey. Consequently, those countries frequently achieve the expected results.



In contrast, countries with low government funding in sports might struggle to compete on the international stage, regardless of talented athletes. Evidence can easily be seen between France and South Korea when it comes to archery, according to Culture Trip: "Today, archery is also very popular in France, but the South Korean government invests roughly three times (US \$871,000) what their French counterparts do towards the sport."

Primarily, sports are a deep-rooted culture and tradition in some countries, leading to their dominance in some sports. These traditions form a country's cultural heritage and are passed down from generation to generation. For instance, in Jamaica track and field is more than just a popular sport; it's a symbol and a national pride of that country. The country's dominance in sprinting events dates back to the early 20th century, but it truly caught people's attention in the 1940s. Today, sprinting is popular among young kids within the country, with children actively participating in sprinting championships at all ages.

Moreover, what strongly drives those athletes to perform their best is their motivation and a huge desire to achieve on the world stage. The Olympics isn't simply about competing and personal achievement; it's about representing an entire nation to compete globally. Therefore, their commitments can be seen in the intense training and their dedication to the competition.

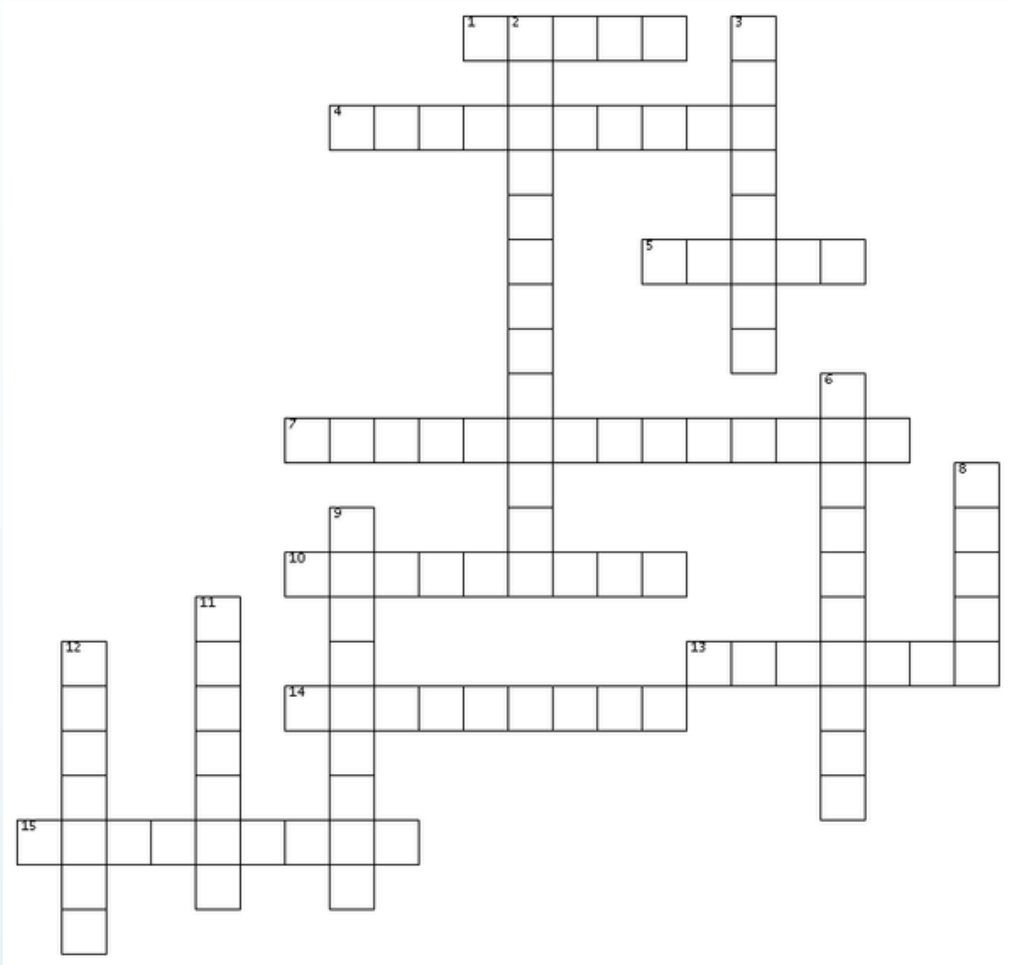
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Crossword: Built by Society



Across:

- 1. "___ day": A holiday where it's customary to wear white.
- 4. The type of parent who's a little too involved.
- 5. E.g. lit
- 7. A big difference between the UK 100 years ago and now.
- 10. A level higher than an individual but a level lower than a population.
- 13. What you might feel the need to do if your younger sibling decides to play with your things.
- 14. The reason that makes slay slang but ain't usually isn't.
- 15. What quoting The Office might be an example of.

Down:

- 2. Make space for.
- 3. The "I do" stage of a romantic relationship.
- 6. How age groups may like to categorize themselves.
- 8. 18 or older.
- 9. Formed when people morph their speech patterns to match that of those around them.
- 11. Includes the food, music, habits, and art or a group.
- 12. It made sugarcane extremely profitable in the Carribean.

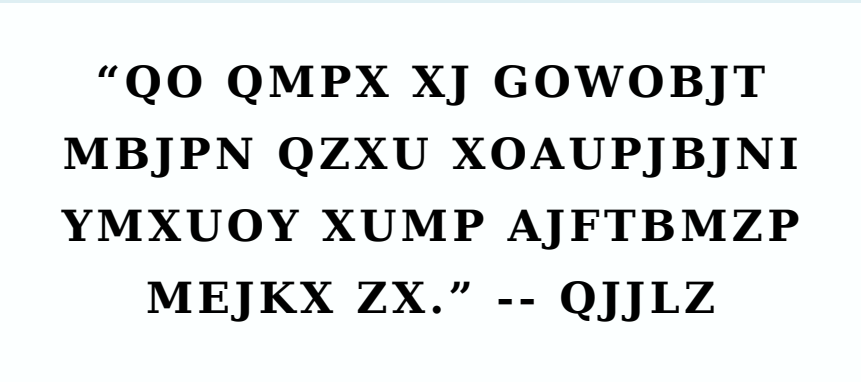
Word Search: Debates, Real or Fake



Word Bank:

- debate
- drones
- moderator
- monitoring
- patrol
- president
- privacy
- security
- soundbite
- televised

Crypto-Quote: Rythm & Algorithms



Rules:

Figure out the quote from one of these articles by figuring out a simple code. In this code one letter will replace another, (it will be the same letter throughout the puzzle). Example: KLFFRFLP = SYNNONYM. Solution is found through trial and error.

