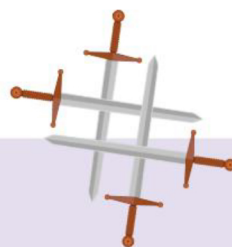


ENGLISH
PORTFOLIO

NEWS ENGLISH

作 者：新竹女中 潘同學

指導老師：盧思嘉老師



THE FOUR
MUSKETEERS

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Introduction

I took an elective course called “English News” in my second year of high school. It taught the foundational elements of news reporting, emphasizing concise language and aesthetically pleasing design. My group gave an international news presentation and created three newspapers, a news broadcast, and a news website. Through intensive training, I achieved full marks in the speaking section of the GEPT High Intermediate test.

Motivation

Due to its global importance and my passion for learning about different languages and cultures, I focused on English courses during my high school years.

As a sophomore, I enrolled in an elective course called “English News.” One of my primary motivations for taking the course was to improve my English listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, particularly my speaking skills. I knew that I needed more practice in this area. Additionally, I planned to take the GEPT High Intermediate test during summer vacation after the course, so I was eager to enhance my English proficiency.

Another reason for my interest in the course was to gain a deeper understanding of media-related industries. I hope to use media as a platform to share meaningful international news, such as feminist issues and the right to education for children. By drawing attention to these important topics, I believe that disadvantaged groups worldwide can have the opportunity to improve their lives.

Reflection

This course has undoubtedly had a significant impact on my English language skills across all four domains: listening, reading, speaking, and writing. My ability to comprehend news articles and extract their main points has improved drastically through the course's extensive reading materials. I can now objectively and comprehensively describe events with greater ease and clarity.

Nevertheless, I faced several challenges that I had to overcome throughout the course. One of the most difficult things for me was presenting in front of others. I often felt nervous and self-conscious, which made it challenging to speak clearly and confidently. However, with practice and support from my classmates and teacher, I gradually overcame my nervousness and learned how to deliver effective presentations.

Another challenge I faced was writing news. In the beginning, I struggled to organize my thoughts and express myself clearly in written form. But through the process of creating English news, I learned to convey my ideas more fluently and coherently. These challenges helped me grow and develop my skills, and I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and overcome them.

The outcome of our efforts, including the newspaper and the news report video, was a testament to the progress I made throughout the course. Looking back, I am thrilled that I made the decision to take this curriculum, and I am confident that the skills I have acquired will serve me well in the future.

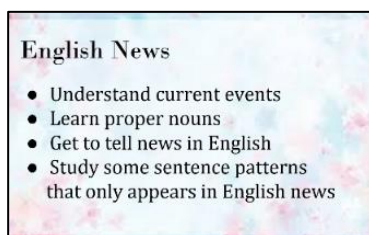
Body

I divided my course experience into 18 parts, each covering what I learned and reflected on in this field. Along with my own insights, I have also included feedback from my teacher. This approach allowed me to comprehensively evaluate my progress and identify areas for improvement.

1. Introduction & Icebreaker

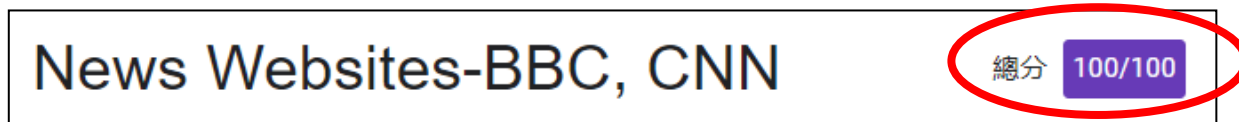


At the beginning of the course, we each gave a brief self-introduction. With only a few minutes to prepare, it tested my ability to respond spontaneously. I introduced myself briefly and explained why I wanted to take the course, as well as the English-language websites I typically use to read international news. I used expressive body language to help my teachers and classmates better understand me, which left a strong impression. In addition, creating a good news story requires constant discussion and exchanging different ideas, so my friend and I formed a group called “The Four Musketeers.”



2. Read News from BBC and CNN

Learning English for News is similar to building a house: laying a strong foundation is the first and most important step. To begin, we read English news articles written by famous online newspaper websites. This not only helps to improve our reading skills, but also teaches us about the wording and layout of newspapers. Additionally, our teacher gave us a reading comprehension test for English news, which I scored 100 on, demonstrating my complete understanding of the material.





▲ The reading comprehension test

3. False Information



Nowadays, due to the convenience, there is a lot of information on the Internet. But, at the same time, there is also a lot of fake news. Therefore, our teacher showed us some news and reports, and asked us to discuss what was illogical or exaggerated. This taught me that when reading news, I must also think about the rationality of the content, and should find other evidence to prove its authenticity. When I write reports, I must also pay attention to truthfully verifying the incidents that I report, and do not add subjective ideas, so as not to cause distortion of the content.

Fake News Examples	
<div><p>FRANCE SAUDI ARABIA</p><h3>Debunked: Was French candidate Macron's campaign financed by Saudi Arabia?</h3><p>Issued on: 02/03/2017 - 19:26 Modified: 02/03/2017 - 19:57</p><p>Emmanuel Macron, candidat préféré de l'Arabie Saoudite à l'élection présidentielle</p><p>1 ligne mercredi 24 février 2017, 23h11 Emmanuel Macron</p></div>	<div><p>Europe</p><h3>France to stump up €100 million to aid refugees</h3><p>Ben McPartland - ben.mcpartland@thelocal.com • 24 Sep, 2015 Updated Thu 24 Sep 2015 08:21 CEST</p><p>f t in</p></div>
<p>CLAIM:</p> <p>The news claimed that the campaign of Emmanuel Macron was financially supported by Saudi Arabia.</p>	<p>CLAIM:</p> <p>The story claimed that the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) will lend the French state 100 million euros to purchase hotels for housing asylum seekers.</p>

FACTS: The story is a fake. The site it appeared on copied the design and layout of the real website.	FACTS: Two separate news stories have been conflated and altered, distorting the truth and exaggerating the assistance available to asylum seekers.
IMPACT: The news has generated almost 10,000 likes, shares and comments on Facebook.	IMPACT: To date, the story URL has generated close to 10,000 likes, shares and comments on Facebook.

4. News Structure

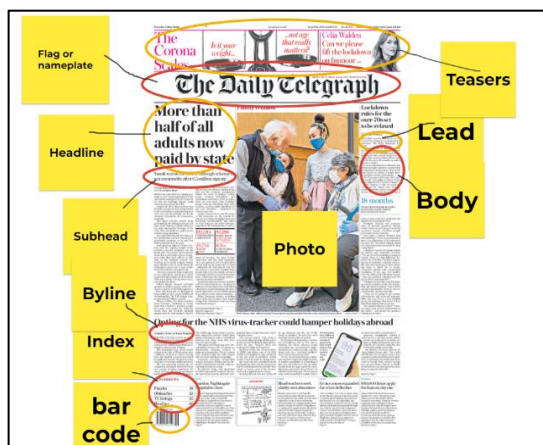
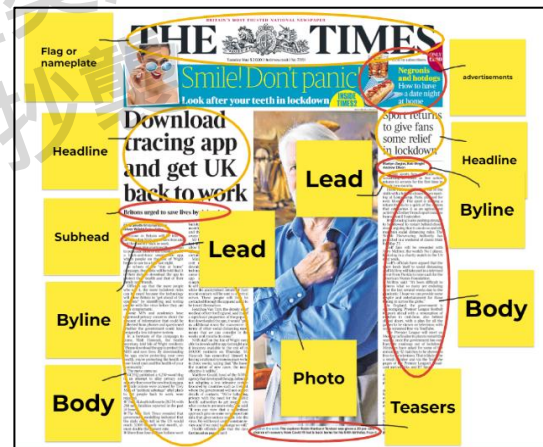


盧思嘉 2021年9月21日

A nice try! Keep going?

A newspaper usually has several elements, such as a nameplate and different sections. One of the most interesting components are the teasers, which are photos and snippets of interesting stories designed to encourage readers to buy the newspaper and read more.

Furthermore, journalism often uses the "inverted pyramid" structure, in which the most important information or what might even be considered the conclusion is presented first. Therefore, I analyzed the structure of four newspaper front pages to become more familiar with it.



▲ The structure of four newspaper front pages

5. Headlines



盧思嘉 2021年10月11日

you meet my requirements perfectly.

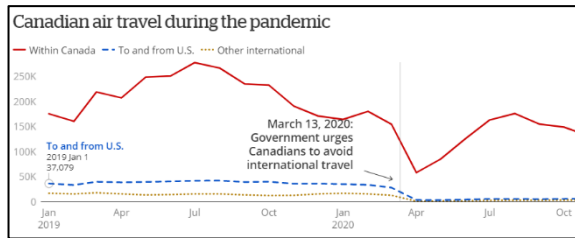
In order to be concise and powerful, news headlines often do not conform to grammar. For example, auxiliary verbs in sentences are often omitted (e.g. "Six killed in disastrous quake.") and quotes from an organization or person to make readers more interested in the article (e.g. "Covid global health emergency is over, WHO says). To practice more, our group restored some news headlines to normal sentences, so that we can better understand what news headlines omit and how to write news headlines.

★ Click: [Group Headline Assignments](#)

6. Photos

Learning to create effective visuals in journalism is an important aspect of modern news reporting. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, and the right visuals can make a news story more impactful and memorable for readers. Therefore, my classmates and I learned how to create engaging visuals, including photos, infographics, and charts. We discovered that by pairing the right image with a news story, we could convey its message more effectively and even make it easier for readers to understand complex topics. In addition, we learned how to create clear and concise graphs that allow readers to quickly understand research findings.

Photo	Story
	The WHO warned that China is under-reporting the impact of COVID-19, especially deaths, and has stopped publishing daily case data. Hospitals and crematoriums are overwhelmed, and there are concerns that the country may see another wave of infections.
▲ Hospitals across China are under pressure amid a fresh wave of Covid infections	
	A drone flying towards the dome of the Kremlin Senate building made an explosion. It seemed like an attempt to assassinate the Russian president. However, Ukraine said it was not involved in the alleged attack and has accused Russia of staging it to escalate the conflict.
▲ The Russian social media videos appearing to show Kremlin drone attack	



Air travel significantly declined during the pandemic, including domestic and international flights to and from the United States. However, it is predicted that the recovery for airlines will be mixed even after restrictions on international air travel are lifted. It will take some years for the airline industry to come close to pre-pandemic levels.

▲ Canadian air travel during the pandemic

7. Leads

The opening paragraph of a news article, also known as the lead, is a critical element in journalism. The lead provides readers with the most important information about the news story, allowing them to quickly understand the main idea. Consequently, the lead is an essential factor in determining whether readers will continue reading. To write an effective lead, journalists often use the inverted pyramid structure, which places the most important details at the beginning of the article. To gain a better understanding of how to write leads, I referred to some newspaper leads and then practiced how to include the important elements of 5W1H (who, what, when, where, why, and how) in a concise and engaging way. By honing my lead-writing skills, I aim to be able to write compelling news articles that captivate readers from the very beginning.

★ Click: [Group Lead Practice Assignments](#)

8. Contents

After learning the structure of the news, we learned how to write the content of the report to make it richer. In addition to using rhetoric, such as personification and parallelism, we should also learn to use proper nouns to make the article more believable. I analyzed the rhetoric in some articles and found out the meaning of proper nouns in them.

Metaphor **It's six weeks of hell: how cicada-phones are surviving Brood X**
The swarm that emerges every 17 years can feel like a horror movie, requiring cicada phones homemade armor and escape plans.

Simile
Ritter Hoy has been dreading this spring in Cincinnati for 10 years, ever since she moved to the midwest. But at least it was time to come up with a plan.

Hyperbole
As the temperatures started to climb last month, Hoy stocked up on groceries and filled her car with fuel against harmless bugs. She bought 2 tennis rackets and 3 bottles of vodka. She had her backyard inspected for breaches. Then all Hoy could do was wait. "I look out my blinds every two seconds," she says. "Just waiting for them."

Simile
Every 17 years, cicadas swarm several eastern and midwest US states, coating tree trunks and walls, bouncing off cars and people, drowning out engines with their deafening call. "Brood X", the largest and most widespread of the known periodical cicada groups, began emerging late last month.

Personification
For most people, the short-lived infestation falls somewhere between irritation and oddity. For some, it is like landing in a horror movie.

Metaphor
Hoy first encountered cicadas in 2008 with Brood XIV, on a different schedule from Brood X. While driving, she came face-to-face with a cicada perched atop the gearstick, "looking up at me with those red, beady eyes".

Personification
Hoy is audibly repulsed by the memory. "It's like they stare into your soul, like, 'Hey, bitch, I'm here. Be afraid.'" You can never trust anything with eyes like that.

Man credits \$100,000 lottery win to a little voice inside his head
A Maryland man said he was about to leave a store when a voice inside his head told him to buy the scratch-off lottery ticket that earned him a \$100,000 prize.

Personification
Nolan Steele, 78, of Sykesville, told Maryland Lottery officials he was preparing to leave the High's store in Carroll County after talking to a friend. He said that he had been to the store one million times but he had never bought any lottery tickets there. At the moment, a voice inside his head, saying, "Don't leave before purchasing a scratch-off ticket."

Simile
The player selected a \$10 Willy Wonka Golden Ticket scratch off from the store's lottery vending machine and scratched the ticket off. The ticket looked like a glittering prize in his hand. It lay in his palm, light but heavy. He used the scanner to check if it was a winner, and the message told him to visit lottery headquarters.

Paradox
"I knew something good was happening," he said. "Usually, you only see that when you have hit something big!" Nolan described himself walking on air.

Metaphor
Steele visited lottery headquarters in Baltimore to collect his \$100,000 prize.

Understatement
The winner said he plans to use some of his prize to have his house painted, and he will put his wife of 43 years in charge of spending the rest. According to Steele, he's not a big spender.

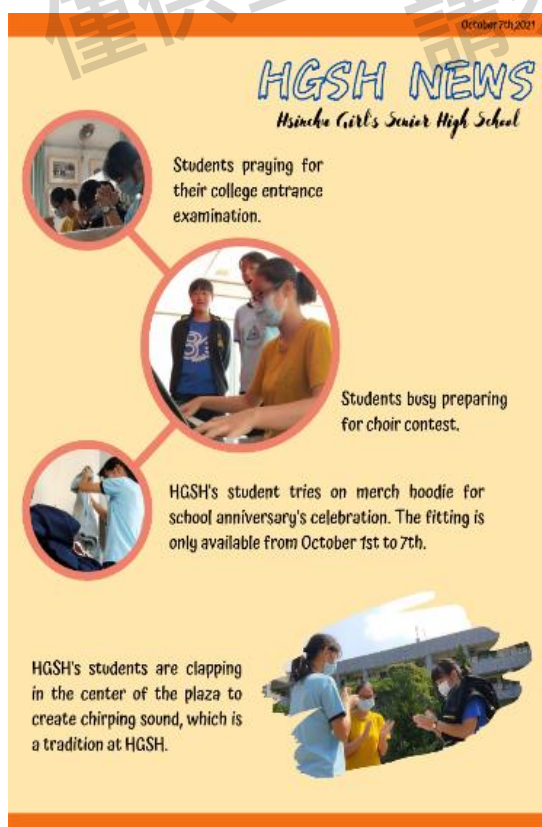
▲ Analyzing the rhetoric in some articles

Abbreviation	Full name	Meaning
COP	Conference of the Parties	聯合國氣候變遷大會
PM	Prime Minister	總理
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	美國疾病管制與預防中心
AUKUS	Australia, UK and US	澳英美安全協議
CECC	Central Epidemic Command Center	中央流行疫情指揮中心
DHS	The Department of Homeland Security	美國國土安全部
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration	美國食品藥物管理局

▲ Find out the meaning of proper nouns

9. Find Materials for the news story

Collecting materials is an essential aspect of news reporting, as it provides the foundation for a story. Our teacher recognized the importance of this and instructed us to gather materials related to high school life, along with interesting and straightforward text descriptions. To accomplish this, I tapped into my creativity and came up with several amusing scenarios that commonly occur on campus. I then collaborated with my classmates to capture these moments vividly through photographs. This exercise taught me how to describe an event using only a few crucial words and allowed me to let the pictures speak for themselves. Through this process, I gained valuable insights into the power of visual storytelling in news reporting.



▲ Small reports of school

10. Newspaper Completion

After receiving thorough training, I gained a comprehensive understanding of the structure of news articles. Our teacher then assigned us to work in groups and produce a newspaper by creating a news report. We began by drafting the report on paper and subsequently creating an electronic version of the newspaper.



盧思嘉 2021年11月22日

Nearly perfect. 請改以下幾點:


1. 除了lead 之外，其他段落一開頭內縮四格。
2. P3 screenshot 三態同形
3. 請改成About the Authors.

Our news report focused on famous TikToker Marcus Shaw, who accidentally shared his nude photos on Instagram, leading to serious consequences. By selecting this news item, we aimed to raise public awareness about the negative aspects of the internet, including cyberbullying, anonymous verbal attacks, incidents of private photo spamming, and the latest hot topic, DeepFake. We emphasized that while technology has made our lives more convenient, it is a double-edged sword that poses potential threats to our privacy and safety, especially for young people.

The Four Musketeers

Thursday, November 11, 2020

OOPS! FAMOUS TIKTOKER SHARES NUDE PHOTOS ON INSTAGRAM



Marcus Shaw, aged 17, goes to a therapist and seems to be pale after the incident.

Famous TikToker Marcus Shaw accidentally shared his nude photos on Instagram instead of sending them to his girlfriend in private yesterday.

Yesterday, a teenager's nude photos went viral on the internet. They belonged to Marcus Shaw, a TikToker who has over 10 million followers. Shaw intended to share his nudes with his girlfriend but accidentally made it public by mistaking "stories" for "messages" on Instagram.

Due to Shaw's popularity, his nude pictures had been screenshot and shared by thousands of people, including his fans and classmates. In just two days, approximately 5 million people had seen the photo. Though Shaw deleted his post seconds after he found out, it is obvious that his actions had already led to serious consequences.


Following the incident, Shaw got very upset and hid at his home for nearly two weeks until his family brought him to a therapist. Shaw said, "No matter where I go, everyone gives me a funny look." With his face flushed, fists clenched, he repeated it three times.

This shameful incident cast a shadow on Shaw, and his future would be seriously impacted since most people knew about the scandal and would look at him differently. Therefore, one should be cautious when sharing information and photos on the Internet.

Last but not least, when seeing compromising photographs on social media, the first thing to do is inform the people who are involved ASAP, instead of sending it to other people, which may make others live in distress and you might break the law.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Energetic HCSH Students



Kuo Chen-Yu
Pan Chia-Yu
Hsu Ai-Chi
Chang Tzu-Hsin
(from left to right)

11. Listening to News

The training for writing English news not only focuses on improving writing skills but also on the ability to listen to and comprehend English news. During one of our classes, our teacher played two news articles and asked us to type them verbatim. At first, I found it challenging to keep up with the fast pace of the news and type everything accurately. However, with practice, I was able to improve my listening and typing skills.

新聞聽力逐字稿繳交處 Dictation

盧思嘉 • 2021年11月10日 (上次編輯時間：2021年12月9日)

90/100

12. Presentation of International News



盧思嘉 2022年1月9日

Visually appealing and well-organized!

The task we were assigned involved writing and presenting longer English news about international current affairs in a group. Our topic was the formation of AUKUS, and we divided our presentation into five parts: Introduction, Facts, Impacts, Perspective, and Conclusion. My responsibility was to analyze the advantages and disadvantages of AUKUS to various countries, which was a challenging task. For instance, while Australia can obtain the technology to manufacture nuclear submarines, it has lost relations with France and China due to AUKUS. Additionally, AUKUS highlights the significance of EU military autonomy, and it's time for the EU to limit China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region by themselves.

I was nervous before the presentation, as politics was not a field I was familiar with, and I had to memorize a lot of terms. However, with a clear understanding of the comprehensive data and regular practice, I was able to deliver a smooth and well-structured report. Overall, this task helped me to improve my presentation skills and broaden my knowledge of international current affairs.



▲ The Meaning Behind AUKUS

13. News Recording



盧思嘉 2022年3月15日

Well-done

The task of recording news has been a valuable learning experience for me, as it has helped me improve both my pronunciation and tone of voice. In class, I was given a news report to read aloud and then recorded it for further analysis. Listening to my own recording allowed me to identify areas where my oral expression needed refinement and where my pronunciation needed improvement.

Initially, I found this task challenging, but with practice, I gradually gained confidence and was able to deliver the news report with more fluency and clarity. This experience has taught me the significance of effective oral communication in delivering news. I believe that this exercise has helped me improve my communication skills, and I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow in this area.

★ Click: [News Recording](#)

14. My Campus News Story

For my news report, I chose the topic of "HGSB Lunch Palette: What's on the MENU?" as I wanted to explore the different lunch options that were available to students at our school. To gather information, I created a questionnaire and collected the opinions of fellow students. After analyzing their responses, I compiled the information into a comprehensive report.



盧思嘉 2022年4月11日

A good design! The photos have to be arranged correctly. You have to state the facts from the survey. Look forward to more information.



Complete Campus News

盧思嘉 • 2022年4月12日 (上次編輯時間: 2022年4月14日)

95/100

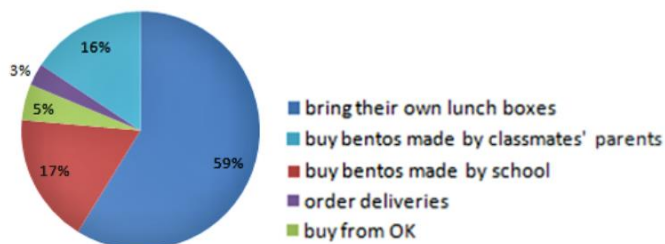
15. Editing The Four Musketeers News

The editing process involved creating a visually appealing composition with the use of pictures, graphs, and sections. It was important to ensure that the layout was neat and organized to make the content more engaging for readers. When our group's newspaper was finally completed, we were delighted to receive praise from our teacher, who used it as an example for future students.

★ Click: [The Four Musketeers News](#)

HGSH Lunch Palette : What's on the MENU?

Which kind of lunch do you have most of the time?



▲ Proportion of different options of lunch in HGSH

By Pan Chia-Yu

In National Hsinchu Girls' Senior High School (HGSH), lunches are no longer provided for free, so students deal with their lunches by themselves; a questionnaire was distributed to comprehend the various types and the opinions on their lunches.

There are various options for lunch: some people buy bentos made by the school or classmates' parents; some bring their own lunch boxes; others order deliveries; and others go to the convenience store - OK, in HGSH.

According to the questionnaire, 59% of students prefer bringing their own lunch boxes, mostly because lunches can be adjusted to one's preferences and are healthier if they prepare it by themselves. Nonetheless, students often forgot to steam their lunch boxes, which leads to no lunch during lunchtime.

Having bentos made by school is the second most popular choice, which received 17% of preference, mostly because of its convenience and much lower price. However, many students revealed that bento is not good to eat and there are few options for different dishes; therefore, they tend to be picky eaters.

Though having bentos made by classmates' parents is only the third choice, 16% of students chose it. Actually, there are more and more students choosing this rather than bento made by school. "Although bentos made by classmates' parents are more expensive, it's more delicious, nutritionally balanced and has a variety of dishes, so I started to buy bentos made by classmates' parents after having bentos made by school for a semester." Alice, one sophomore, said.

At noon, there is always a long queue outside OK. There are many choices in OK, including microwave food, oden, sweet potatoes, and the most popular one: instant noodles. It is found that about 50% of students have tried



▲ A long queue outside OK during lunchtime



▲ Various types of lunches in HGSH

to buy lunch at OK, but many end up changing their options, because buying lunch from OK is time-consuming, expensive, and unhealthy.

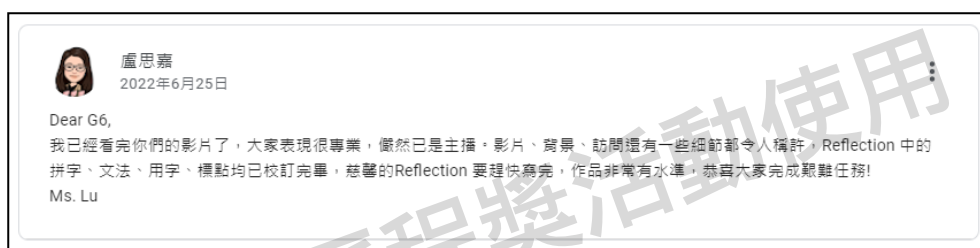
Last but not least, though there are only 3% of people ordering food delivery, they are satisfied with their choice. A sophomore student, Emily, who orders food delivery for lunch. She said: "It's a great sense of achievement when I order a meal successfully, and you can decide the dishes according to your own preferences."

In summary, most students in HGSH bring their lunch boxes for lunch; buy bentos made by the school or classmates' parents have a similar percentage, which stands in the second place; buying lunch from OK or ordering deliveries are the least choices. The reasons most students consider are convenience, health and good taste or not; therefore, about half of the students had tried to buy lunch from OK, but gave up because of time-wasting and unhealthy.



16. News Broadcasting

The task of news broadcasting was the biggest challenge for me in this course. It required not only the ability to speak clearly but also the inclusion of abundant visuals to enhance the visibility of the news report. To ensure that my news report was comprehensive and engaging, I went to great lengths to collect materials such as filming the conditions during lunchtime and interviewing students for their opinions.

Despite the initial difficulties, I found the process of creating a news broadcast to be incredibly rewarding. I was particularly proud when the final product was completed and looked amazing. We uploaded our videos to [Youtube](#), and the positive feedback from our teacher and friends was gratifying. This experience has taught me the importance of visual aids in news broadcasting, and I believe that it has helped me develop my presentation skills, as well as my ability to create engaging content.



<p>News broadcasting</p>	<p>OK during lunchtime</p>
<p>Food deliveries in HGS</p>	<p>Students taking bentos made by school</p>

Respondent 1	Respondent 2
	

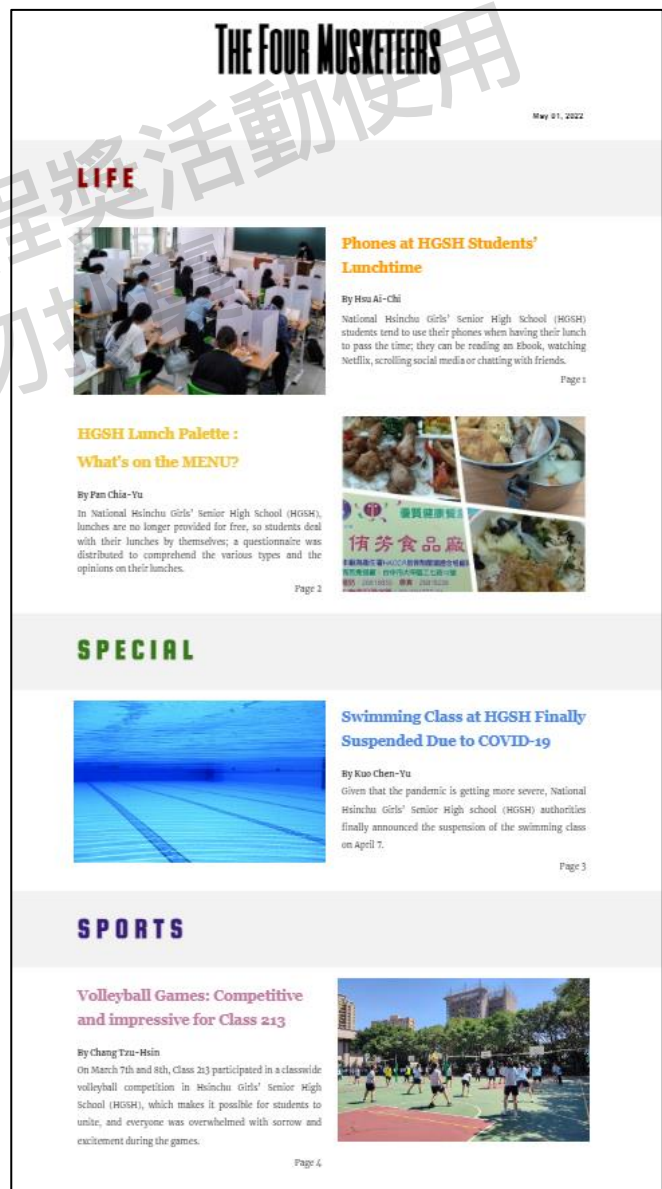
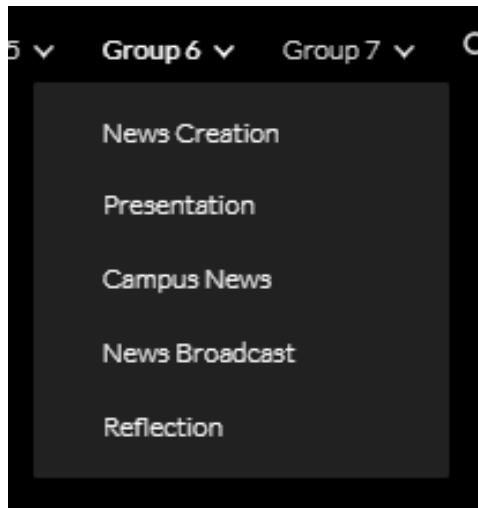
17. News Website: Thursday Morning

Creating the website "[Thursday Morning](#)" was fulfilling project for us. It was our final assignment for the course, and we wanted to make sure that we could showcase all of our hard work and accomplishments. The website contains all of our articles, including a brief introduction and reflection for each one.

We didn't just stop there, however. We went the extra mile and designed the website as an online news platform, with a modern and sleek design that made reading our articles even more enjoyable. This added element not only provided a unique reading experience for our audience but also helped us improve our skills in web design.

Throughout the process of creating the website, we faced several challenges, such as deciding on the layout, finding appropriate visuals to enhance the articles, and making sure the website was easy to navigate. However, with dedication and teamwork, we were able to overcome these challenges and create a finished product that we were proud to share with our teacher and classmates.





18. GEPT High Intermediate Test

Taking the GEPT High Intermediate test was a goal I set for myself after completing the course. I had been working hard throughout the course to improve my English language skills and felt ready to take on the challenge of the test. During the course, we had intensive training in all four areas of the test, including listening, reading, writing, and speaking. I had a particular focus on the speaking section, as I wanted to perform well in this area.

When I received the results of the test, I was thrilled to find out that I had achieved full marks in the speaking section! This was a significant accomplishment for me and a testament to the hard work and dedication I had put into my studies. It was a proud moment to see my efforts pay off, and it gave me the confidence to continue improving my English language skills. I am grateful for the training and support I received during the course, which helped me achieve this great result.

 全民英語能力分級檢定測驗成績單 General English Proficiency Test Examinee's Score Report			
姓名 Name		出生年月日 Date of Birth	
潘佳妤 PAN, CHIA YU		2004/11/11	
級數 Level		測驗日期 Test Date	
中高級 High-Intermediate		2022/07/23	
聽力 Listening	閱讀 Reading	口說 Speaking	寫作 Writing
117	99	100	80
達通過標準 Pass (CEFR B2)		達通過標準 Pass (CEFR B2 ⁺)	達通過標準 Pass (CEFR B2 ⁺)
單項測驗滿分為 120 分。通過標準為兩項測驗成績總和達 160 分，且其中任一項不低於 72 分。 The maximum score of each subtest is 120. A passing score is one that is equal to or above 160 in total, with each subtest score being no lower than 72.		單項測驗滿分為 100 分，通過標準為 80 分。 The maximum score of each subtest is 100. A passing score is one that is equal to or above 80.	

▲ My GEPT High Intermediate Test's Score Report