

ISSUE 2

Literati



**EDUCATION IN
THE COVID-19 ERA**



Literati

ISSUE 2

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Editor's Note



POST CARD

Life isn't easy. A statement which strikes even truer in the midst of a pandemic that has, quite frankly, overstayed its reluctant welcome. Trying to compile an entire literary magazine from scratch purely through the medium of the internet and online tools proved to be a much more daunting task than anyone could have predicted. Those long nights spent hunched over the oblong, florescent screens of our laptops, agonising over every minuscule detail. Which shade of beige is just right? What font captures the text best? How do we make Sociolinguistics fun? Getting hit by a wave of sleep-deprived hysteria and briefly contemplating throwing in the towel, changing our names and migrating to Timbuktu. Our backs aching and our eyes taking on that gritty sensation that comes from lack of rest. Well, it was an experience. Do I want to repeat it? You know what, yes, I do – just not while we are exclusively confined to the four walls of our apartments and are able to get real time input from other human beings. That would be nice. So please don't let our collective efforts go to waste. We do hope you enjoy reading this a lot more than we enjoyed the process of producing it for you.

Leena Haider

P.S. Miriam agrees.



Miriam & Leena, 2021



The
B.A.
English

Featured Courses



ENG100 & ENG200

by Hanqi Li

Foundations of English Grammar and Advanced English Grammar are two fundamental courses in the B.A. English. Foundations of English Grammar is student-centered and focuses on editing practice, enabling students to have confidence in correctly understanding and using English structural elements such as part of speech, subject-verb agreement, subject-verb object, and tense and passive voice. The Advanced English Grammar course was set up to make students understand grammatical structures in the English language. This class supplies the student with the ability to apply English grammar knowledge in both written and spoken instances. The course teaches how the various systems of English grammar relate to each other, helping with the overall understanding of the language. It also gives an insight of the structure to writers, whose command of their own writing and speaking is cultivated. These two courses are related to each other, helping students to better learn and understand grammar, as well as how to apply it more proficiently.



DANIEL'S GRAMMAR TIPS:

- **Make a mind map when studying grammar.**
- **Learn to differentiate between temporal, subordinate, active, and passive relationships, and then put them into a complete sentence in the right order.**

We have interviewed a student, Daniel, who has already taken Foundations of English Grammar and Advanced English Grammar. She mentioned that grammar is a foundation of languages and it is significant to learn grammar well. Grammar is the bridge of communication. While grammar courses may be difficult and a little boring, becoming adept at it can help learn the language well and reduce the occurrence of mistakes.



by Sukkrita Tewintarapakti

Academic Writing has been present in the English curriculum since the B.A. English's establishment at Stamford. It is a writing-intensive course designed to help learners improve their ability to write effectively and it is a required class for every B.A. English student.

In the class, students are taught the basics, such as correct punctuation and sentence structure. The lessons become more advanced throughout the course, focusing on writing techniques and processes. At the end, students are expected to have the ability to professionally write academic papers and to think critically in order to tell the difference between opinion and evidence.

To get more information about this course, we interviewed Ajarn Patricia Norman, one of the B.A. English lecturers. She has taught the class on and off since its implementation. She believes that learning to read and learning to write properly so people can understand your thoughts is a great value for her students. She also said being able to deliver the message to other people clearly will provide the students a better opportunity for their future careers. Ajarn Patricia closed the interview by telling us to "take the course with the idea in mind that you want to learn something, and take it with the understanding that it's going to be a value to you."

We asked Ziyi Li, a second-year B.A. English student who is taking the class, to tell us about her experience. She said taking academic writing helped her improve the ability to think logically and analyse problems.

"Take the course with the idea in mind that you want to learn something, and take it with the understanding that it's going to be a value to you."

Ziyi also believes that having good writing skills can help improve other skills of the English language: reading, listening, speaking, and translating. She explains that it allows for a better composition of the message she wants to deliver to others and vice versa.



by Le Liu

Advanced Presentation Skills is a course designed for students that show interest in oral communication. To attend this class, there is a requirement to have completed Public Speaking beforehand; there, students gain the ability to use researched evidence to deliver a powerful and persuasive speech on a current issue. After building on this, Advanced Presentation Skills takes students through a central topic: the nuances of being a successful speaker and presenter.





This course is also designed to provide opportunities to study, organize, practice, and present ideas for several types of speaking situations that students find themselves enjoying throughout their personal and professional lives. The class will also provide opportunities to use the basic skills of public speaking to further create, practice, hone, personalise, and professionalise students' presentation skills.

We met with Jackson, who took this course in the previous term, and he told us that he was able to make strides in all four fields of English at the end of the course. First, he learned successful advanced presentation skills by using deliberate choices in structure, voice, tone, vocabulary, body language, rationale, and verbal techniques flexibly to express concepts effectively and persuasively.

Second, he gained the ability to prepare and create simple and succinct material and engaging graphics to attract the viewer. Third, designing presentations, combining testing materials, and addressing questions taught him critical thinking. Fourth, through cognitive activities that recognize abilities, shortcomings, and strategies to resolve them, his presentation skills were evaluated.



THIS CLASS WILL HELP YOU:

-  **Build confidence**
-  **Practice elocution**
-  **Develop audience relations**
-  **Understand the importance of adequate preparation**

Graduation Feature

CELEBRATING OUR VERY FIRST ENGLISH GRADUATES!

It is called a commencement, because it is the beginning of a new phase in one's life. It is the last celebration of a graduate's "student life"; where they get to reminisce back on all the good and the bad that brought them to this very moment. But after a very long and tough year of not knowing what will happen, not only have they completed their bachelor's degree, but they are Stamford's very first B.A. English graduates.

Stamford International University's 21st Commencement Ceremony was held on December 13th, 2020. Students arrived at the event dressed in their attire and wearing big smiles. There were 39 graduates from both the Hua Hin and Rama 9 campuses. Of these, two students got distinctions, while three graduated with high distinctions. The ceremony started off with the flag walking, representing all nations, followed by the entrance of all the graduating students. Graduands were handed their well-deserved bachelor's degrees by the acting President of Stamford, Dr. Apitep Saekow, as well as Maytee Pakdiponpong, the advisor for the B.A. English.

2020 was highly uncalled for. It was a year of great confusion, loss, and uncertainty. Because of this, many students were not able to attend their graduation, as well as families and friends overseas. Stamford made it possible for many to be there virtually through a live broadcast, hosted on the Stamford International University Facebook page.

As we look at the pioneers of the B.A. English, we remind ourselves that many more are to come.

by Rosheanne Zhane Slinger



**“Hey, Look
Ma I Made It”**



Published Papers

by Junjiang Zhou & Boris Tereshkin

There can be no doubt that Stamford International University is giving the students a huge opportunity to shine, as two B.A. English students have had the chance to publish their papers. Both presented their work on the 13th of November, 2020, at the 5th National Undergraduate Conference on Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Prince of Songkla University.

We asked **Kawin Chalaemwaree** to tell us all about it!

What topic is your academic paper related to?

My paper is about how Thai people use English vocabulary within Thai texts on Twitter. In other words, I studied about the combination of Thai and English on Twitter. I focused on the three English vocabs that they use most often on Twitter, what motivates them to mix English vocabulary into Thai, and how it affects their English skills – in listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

What was your motivation for publishing your paper?

When browsing Twitter, I could see many English vocabularies used within the Thai language, and I noticed that I see more English terms used in Thai texts each day. One day, I heard the word “romanticise” in Ajarn Patricia’s class, which was a word I learned from Twitter without memorising it, so I wondered if the combination of English and Thai on Twitter could help its users learn more English words. Because of this situation, I decided that I would write about it as a research paper for my Sociolinguistics course in term 1/2020, taught by Dr. Russell Rodrigo, which was the course I was taking when I came up with the research topic. Although my purpose to write the research was not to be published in the first place, Dr. Russell highly recommended the paper to be presented and published in the conference. In addition, it was published on December 27, 2020.

Are there any quotes or ideas you want to share with us?

I don't have a favourite quote, but many of the quotes that I like are from movies and TV series such as: "A real loser is someone who's so afraid of not winning, they don't even try," from Little Miss Sunshine (2006), and "People love what other people are passionate about," from La La Land (2016).

What have you learned while writing your paper?

I have learned that I need to improve my time management to do non-academic activities. I wrote this research paper within about one month together with doing assignments in other courses, and I did not manage time properly to do some other activities such as watching movies and having enough sleep. As a result, I was exhausted and burnt out. At some points, I did not feel like doing anything, even writing the paper. Although I finished the paper in time, it was not worth it for my health. Therefore, I have realized that I need to develop time-management skills and have to work on balancing study, exercise, and rest.





I want to work as an English teacher or work in the educational field.

Is your academic paper helpful for your future career?

It's super helpful for my future career. I want to work as an English teacher or work in the educational field. This academic paper can help me achieve my dream more easily because it relates to education and the subject I want to teach.

You can read Kawin's paper here (page 87):



Up next, we learn about **Jameena Ratanaphithayaporn's** experience.

What topic is your academic paper related to?

It's about gender inclusive language, the importance of it and the possible effects of non-gender inclusive language, and also how language influences our perceptions.

What was your motivation for publishing your paper?

Personally, I have always wanted to delve into the academic world, but I never really knew where to start. When Dr. Russell suggested Kawin and I to give it a shot, I thought, "This is the moment I have been waiting for!" It does look good on a CV, but nothing feels better than being motivated to write about a subject you're passionate about. I also wanted to get others in my community to use and also see the importance of gender inclusive language. Whilst writing, I learned so much about a subject I thought I knew a lot about!

This is the moment I have been waiting for!



Are there any quotes or ideas you want to share with us?

About the experience: You don't always have to be so harsh about your own work. The hardest step when you are trying something new is the first step. I never thought I was worthy or capable of publishing my own paper until I actually did it.

About the paper: Gender inclusive language is very important! Language shapes our perceptions and children as young as 6 start to identify and sort which occupations they deem as fitting to themselves. When using non-inclusive language, young boys might get discouraged when they want to be a nurse, and young girls will think reaching out to the stars as astronauts is nearly impossible. Language has a bigger impact on our lives than you think it does!



What have you learned while writing your paper?

I realised it takes a lot of time before something like this can be implemented effectively. This is mainly due to habit. There is also a very natural preference within us to tend to stick to how things are rather than making changes: especially when it comes to something we use every day, like language. After finishing my paper, I'm starting to believe it will probably take generations before noticeable changes occur.

Is your academic paper helpful for your future career?

Honestly, I'm still not sure what I want to do in the future. My life motto has always been, "Wherever life takes me," so we'll see where I end up! Even if my paper isn't helpful towards my career, I feel as though it is an experience I will truly cherish and hold close to my heart. I'd say it helped me with my own character and understandings of the academic world.

You can read Jameena's paper here (page 72):



Successful Interns

by Sarinluk Sriploy & QiYa Yue

There are many students with successful internships at Stamford International University. The internship is not only a test of their three-year learning achievement, but also the first step towards the creation of their career. We asked Pattamaphon Chompuprapet, Sonia Ginzburg, and Arshi Banerjee, three English alumni, to share their thoughts with us.

Where did you intern?

Pattamaphon: I finished my internship at PTT Oil and Retail Business Public Company Limited. PTT is formerly known as Petroleum Authority of Thailand, and also the largest corporation in the country. It doesn't sound related to the B.A. English major, right? But I worked as a Corporate Communication Officer, so I was responsible for creating media, translating documents, and coordinating with all departments, which require knowledge from the major courses.

Sonia: I worked as a digital marketing intern at Marketing Guru, a digital marketing agency.



Arshi: I interned in a magazine called the BigChilli magazine. It is one of the most read expat magazines in Thailand.

What were your expectations as an intern?

Pattamaphon: My expectations involved having good references, getting the opportunity for full-time employment in the PTT group, and gaining real-world experience to get hired in other companies in the future.

Sonia: I was expected to help with a lot of English-related tasks like communicating with English-speaking clients, translating content from Thai to English for the clients' social media, writing English content for both the clients' and the company's social media and blog, and writing an English software manual for a subsidiary company under the agency.

Arshi: As an intern, I really wanted to get hands on with the work and learn each facet of how the magazine was running.

What did you do after your internship?

Pattamaphon: I took the TOEIC exam and I got a score of 830, which qualifies in the Working Proficiency Plus section. Moreover, I would like to work and enroll in a part-time program at the same time. Now, I am applying for jobs, and will pursue a master's degree in Business and Administration next year.

Sonia: I'm now working as a freelance social media specialist, English content writer, and translator.

Arshi: I continued working with the magazine as a social media manager.

What was your final project?

Pattamaphon: My final project within the company was creating a project video with English subtitles to present the company. When visitors come to the company, they can just show this video instead of explaining the process by speaking. It was very challenging because I've never learned how to use a video editing program before, however, I did it well and it was fun.



Sonia: My final project was writing a software manual for the company's subsidiary business. It was quite hard because the software itself was extremely complicated and is still in the process of having the program's interface updated. Since I lack the knowledge in software development, I had to be taught how to use the software and then write out the manual. It took me an entire month learning how the software works to even begin outlining the manual because I realized I was over-complicating the task due to how hard it seemed at first. It definitely was a challenge that helped me learn a lot from. I am very thankful that the boss was a patient and understanding person.

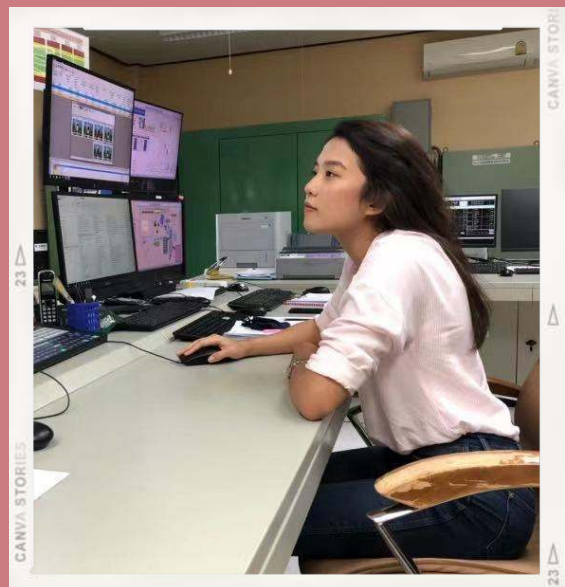
Arshi: There wasn't a final project per se, but I did write an article about my experience in Stamford for the magazine.

Did the internship reach your expectations? Do you think you learned a lot from it?

Pattamaphon: Well, I changed my mind because there is no guarantee that an internship will result in a job offer, so, it didn't go the way I expected. However, I've improved my personal development in the fields of problem-solving skills, time management, and teamwork in the real work environment.

Sonia: Yes, the internship reached my expectations and more. I learned a lot about how to improve and use my writing in different contexts. For example, I realised that my writing style is a lot more technical than I thought it was, so I have to be more aware when copywriting to add more emotional words. Since the internship is a critical time in my life where I'm nearly graduating, I got to learn a lot about myself and what I want for my life during the internship as well. It was eye-opening, despite all the work I got as an intern.

Arshi: Yes, it did reach my expectations, and I learned a lot from it. Something we can't learn from school.



An English major has the possibility of doing their internship in many fields. It is important to have a basic idea of what you are skilled at before launching yourself into the life of an intern.

If you have any questions about your internship, do not hesitate to contact your advisor at:

maytee.suksarn@stamford.edu



Talk Linguistics to Me

Sociolinguistics

by Viktoriia Yelahina & Phap Van Hoang

Dr. Russell Rodrigo states that the Sociolinguistics course gives an understanding of the relationship between society and language, how language influences the way people think and how language changes over time. Studying Sociolinguistics, students have a chance to learn how language shapes culture and how it is used in social relationships. Understanding of sociolinguistics helps to avoid misunderstandings and conflicts in diverse background communities. Having an understanding of the relationship between society and language will be beneficial for English major graduates in any language related jobs. Let's have a look at this year's finest Sociolinguistics papers!

THE EFFECTS OF GRAMMATICAL GENDER



Author: Ketsarin Jianpruthiwet

Ketsarin was inspired by a TED Talks video of Lera Boroditsky on how language shapes the way we think. She suggested a hypothesis on how grammatical genders could affect speakers' perception.

Abstract

The hypothesis of linguistic relativity advocates that people are generally influenced by the language they speak. There are various features of languages that can link to the theory. One of the interesting features some languages obtain is grammatical gender, which is not necessary to match the physical or natural gender of the nouns. This paper aims to investigate how the speakers of gendered language, society, and people who use gendered languages as their second language are shaped by the grammatical gender. The paper is written by compiling and analysing information from online sources. Firstly, it is found that grammatical gender produces some effects on language users. Secondly, the gendered language may decrease the equality of male and female and also the acceptance of the non-binary group. Lastly, the bilingual individuals who speak the gendered language receive some influence from their second language, despite their native language. Still, since a person's personality is not entirely caused by language, people should not generalize the speakers of gendered language.

HOW DIFFERENT CULTURES INFLUENCE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN NAMIBIA



Author: Caitlin Maasdorp

As a Namibian, Caitlin aimed to give foreigners an idea of her culture and language through her Sociolinguistics research.

This paper will thoroughly explain how different cultures influence how people talk to one another by using both their native language and the English creating a creole language such as Namlish. The study is focused on code-switching, syntax, semantics, and slang between the three languages and English within the people in Namibia. The method to collect any results is secondary data, with the help of other articles focusing on German, Afrikaans, and Kavango languages. There are three main points divided on how each specific language influences the way people talk. The first main point is about the German language, the second the Afrikaans language, and the third about the Kavango language – specifically the Oshiwambo language. The subpoints for all the main points include code-switching, syntax, semantics, and slang.



THE IMPACTS OF CODE-SWITCHING AND CODE-MIXING ON SPEAKING AND LISTENING SKILLS OF THAI EFL STUDENTS IN THAI SECONDARY SCHOOL: THE CASE OF SATIT VALAYA ALONGKORN SCHOOL

Authors: Wassana Yabuki & Patsheesa Katepatom

Wassana and Patsheesa investigated how code-switching and code-mixing affect the students' English skills. Their findings suggest that the aforementioned might be negatively impacting one's learning of the English language.



This study investigated impacts of code-switching and code-mixing towards EFL students' English speaking and listening skills. In order to examine the fluency in spoken English, the students are benchmarked with IELTS SPEAKING Band Descriptors (Public Version) and comprehension in listening skills. The method used to collect the data for this primary research was five English questions. The interview was conducted directly with 20 participants who are EFL students at Satit Valaya Alongkorn School, which is a secondary school in Pathum Thani, Thailand. The data was analysed by using the percentage and level of the Brand Descriptors. The results of the study show that the use of code-switching and code-mixing in Thai EFL classrooms causes students to frequently switch and mix Thai language in English conversations. Moreover, the improvement of students' speaking and listening skills could be disrupted because the students were more confident when using their first language than their second one. These findings advocate that the overuse of code-switching and code-mixing has negative impacts on students' speaking and listening skills.

ECOLOGY AND LANGUAGE



Author: Ying Huang

Ying Huang analysed how knowledge in language might solve some environmental problems. She believes that academic knowledge can be more practical if we try our best to explore its functions.

Eco-linguistics is a cross-disciplinary field that reflects the use of a language by studying ecology in the course of ecology in the tide of globalization. This essay mainly discusses and analyzes the eco-linguistic influence in the language diversity, spread and communication in different situations within language and environment crossed combination. From the perspective of language research, it not only focuses on the relationship between human beings and language ecological linguistics, but also discusses the influence of language on the relationship between human beings and other life forms and natural environment in the tide of globalization. In the gradual progress of human society, people are facing serious ecological problems, which affect the survival of human beings and other species and the sustainable development of life. The contradiction between ecological protection and economic development needs to be understood and solved. More and more disciplines begin to broaden their research field, focusing on ecology from different angles, and facing up to ecological problems such as the disappearance of diversity to reduce environmental resources, so as to cope with the sustainable development of human beings and the environment.

Sociolinguistics looks at the way in which language is used and its patterns within a society. Language is, after all, the most versatile and multifaceted form of connection there is and humour is one of the ways to capture the true essence of how much we rely on language beyond just academia and communication. The B.A. English has its own little community, where the teachers are known for their catchphrases:



Patricia Norman

Maytee Pakdiponpong

Dr. Russell Rodrigo

Chutimta Puttikulangura



Crises of an English Major

The Newbie's Guide to University

by Kaung Htet Kyaw

First and foremost, we here at Stamford would like to welcome y'all to our world! And to help you out a little in your first semester, here are some tips and guidelines to make your stay a little bit smoother:

Number 1

Do not miss the orientation. As a senior who missed his orientation, I can safely say you would be going round in circles on the first day of class. To avoid that, we highly recommend you go to orientation. Also, there are activities where seniors and newbies can interact. Perhaps a talent show? Some games? Who knows? So why not drop by? And then, if you follow guideline No. 1, it will help you with a lot more stuff such as.... No. 2!

Number 2

Jokes aside, tip No. 2 is all about clubs. We all know how much students love clubbing, so why not join our clubs in Stamford? You can pick from gaming clubs to music. There are more and if you want to know.... Follow guideline No. 1! All of this information and excitement can be found during the orientation week. Can't find the right club that suits your tastes? Why not start one yourself? We are all ears for new ideas. However, if you aren't able to attend orientation for some reason, fear not! We have all our guidebooks and club details available online too.



Number 3

The Stamford website! A very useful resource for seasoned pros, newbies and anyone interested in STIU. The website will help you with understanding the online system of registration, e-learning and the Blackboard system that we use in here. Vital information regarding registration dates, advising week, and all things visa-related are what we recommend you get familiar with first. A schedule for shuttle services provided by the university can also be found online. Please take care to check if the area you are staying in has van service or not. The fees vary depending on where your pick-up point is, however, shuttle service from the nearby Hua Mak Airport Link Station is complimentary. Other information such as accommodations and how to secure them will also be available on the site. But you might want to take a look around for yourself too. You could always ask a friend or the Student Service Hub. The faster you get familiar with these, the better your student life will be at Stamford.

Last but not least: remember to have fun and experience the uni life. Because you never know what the next chapter for you would look like without taking the first step. So, welcome to the STIU family, newbie! We are all here to help you take that first step together.

Time & Stress Management

by Manu Manakongtreecheep

HOW TO OPTIMISE YOUR UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

Balancing your personal and educational time is important for optimal academic function. As students, we may focus on our studies so much that it might disrupt our personal lives. Whether it is relationships or health, these factors will have an effect on our academic performance in University. Therefore, students should know how to manage time and stress in order to optimize their full potential and hopefully, have a great university experience.

Personal Time vs Academic Time: Finding The Right Balance

- Plan your schedule for work
- Plan your schedule for family and personal time
- Plan your schedule for breaks

Prioritize Your Work

- Make a list of all the tasks you need to do
- Assess the tasks' urgency and importance
- Begin tackling your tasks in order of urgency importance
- Break large tasks into smaller components



HOW TO MANAGE YOUR STRESS LEVELS

Maintaining a Healthy Lifestyle

- Have a healthy diet
- Avoid high sugar and high fat food
- Exercise regularly

Meditation & Why You Should Try It

- Gain a new perspective on stressful situations
- Build skills to manage your stress
- Increase self-awareness
- Reduce negative emotions
- Increase patience and tolerance

Find your Support System

- Spend time with friends
- Spend time with family

What to do if you are too stressed

If you are experiencing stress overload, depression, anxiety, substance abuse or mental health issues, don't be overwhelmed. Help is readily available. You can reach out to the following:

- Stamford Counseling Psychologist - Line ID: care4rm9
- Your student advisor
- Department of Mental Health Helpline: 1323
- Samaritans English Helpline: 02-713-6791 (for English) or 02 719-6793
- Seek professional help from a psychiatrist or a therapist at your nearest hospital



The Ultimate Senior Checklist

by Lu Bach Thu Thuy

Hello, my senior colleagues! Another term has passed us by and you have found yourself one step closer to the door of life after graduation. The final year of university is a wonderful time for you to enjoy the last fragments of student life, explore your interests and build social relationships with both friends and professors. Really, it's one last hurrah before adulthood comes knocking. Still, having fun is not going to ready you for the real world after college. In order to increase your future career success, preparation during a student's academic study is a very necessary and essential process. So allow us to bestow upon you some wisdom that we hope will help you during this important time as a final year student.



WHAT CAREER PATH AND PROFESSION TO EXPECT

Have you ever wondered about your career path after graduation? Indeed, many students have been struggling to answer this question while they are in university. Some of those students could not identify what they want to do for their future careers, even after graduation. Sometimes it can be very difficult and confusing for students to find out their interest or passion for a specific role. Thus, being able to choose the right career path is especially important because it helps students to either determine what field they are best suited for and what major or subject they should study to pursue their goals. The following tips will guide you through this frightening process.



HOW TO PREPARE FOR INTERSHIPS

One of the important periods before graduation is the process of landing an internship. This is when you will be a full-time employee, work in an actual work environment and gain real-life experience in a field that you might want to enter in the future. There is even a likely chance that the company you intern at might hire you right after your graduation. Sounds exciting? However, your first impressions should be well reversed because it is a significant element for the interviewer to determine whether you are a potential employee with the ability to fit in the position, as well as your responsibility towards the job you apply for. Therefore, proper preparation is a priority that needs to be conducted in order to excel at your position.



STARTING YOUR FIRST JOB AFTER GRADUATION

After years of studying hard in university and succeeding, you have finally received your freshly printed and anointed diploma. It is time for you to step into adulthood. Now you have the ability and qualifications to start your own life, to be financially independent but how do you go about doing that exactly? This process of transition can be very daunting. You find yourself overwhelmed by various thoughts plaguing your mind such as, "What should I do next?" or "How do I even start?" Certainly, starting your career for the first time will never be easy, sometimes you get lost in what you have to do with life after. Do not get frustrated! The following tips will help you figure out the way.

There are more boxes to tick but the above is just an excerpt. To checkout the full list, please visit literati.stamford.edu



The Cunning Linguist

by Pathumphon Petsri, Jakkapat Sacjiang, & Gonghuai Yang



Poetry Corner

Poinciana, My Friend

by Vu Duy Vy, Hoang Van Phap, Lu Back Thu Thuy

Once upon a time, we looked at each
other.
You were so huge; we were so small, but
it didn't matter.
Poinciana; you were our friend since we
were nine or ten.
Poinciana; you saw us play our games
under your big roof tent.
But where are you now? Poinciana,
Poinciana.
We cannot see you standing there no
matter hot or cold.
Poinciana; your stand now is just a solid
yard.
Poinciana; we miss your hug, my dear
Poinciana.

An Ode to Time

by Jameena Ratanaphithayaporn

The smoke that folds into the fabric of air
Forever existing, extending and spread
thin
The best and worst you can imagine is not
elsewhere
Instead of seeking for more, look at where
it begins
Swear everything that's lived is forever
gone but
It is forever embedded into what we call
reality
Extinguished fire spread through the
earth's lungs
Still remains, as love and hate and lust
Everything we have learned to our
morality
Won't succumb to time as "everything"
does.

Stranger In the Dark

by Leena Haider

The darkened alley looms,
The hazy shadow lurks,
The opalescent moon,
A black and stealthy murk.
She sways towards the doom,
Within her heart a thud,
The dread insides her blooms,
Upon the sight of blood.
Enclosed in dreadful gloom,
A cold terror surrounds,
The stranger croons a tune,
A vicious eerie sound.
Therein begins a dance,
A tale as old as time,
Of murder and romance,
So wretched yet sublime.

House of God

by Ashnaa Rabbani

In this house of God
I come to wash away my sins
Who would have thought
That demons lurk there with their grins
You strip our robes down
It really doesn't make any sense
You throw your claws around
Of what is left of our innocence
You cut the flowers
way before they bloomed
The clocks stop your hours
You cut the flowers
way before they bloomed
And now the hours
Wait for your doom
Just know you can't win
For father, you have sinned.

And his name was Chance

by Tabitha Alfaro, Miriam Herceg & Meme Zin Oo

The hours of mirk grew wintrous
Whelving whilend the covert
The playing of keys sounding their mourn
As footsteps echoed lone

Though their source appears henotic
Through the sounding of berceuse
Announcing their arrival
To those louring with alew

The brumous living mimetic
As the fright chilling their souls
Yet the figure was resplendent
Signaling their cynosure

“Do not rue your past antics
Or rest insouciant later on,
Live not in trepidation
Or in abience for what will come;

For the winds that are forthcoming
Are luminary and will enthrall,
So long you take my hand
And leap with me towards the gaunt

For I am the path to lavishness,
The seed of fortune and all odds
To all the willing opportunists
Who seek growth and evermore“

And so the frightened souls
Placed his name within their thoughts
Reciting over as in trance
His moniker, his esteem:
Chance.

A Very Merry Trump Impeachment

by Leena Haider

There once was an orange man,
Known all across the lands,
A cock-eyed little buffoon,
He was indeed the village loon,

And so and so his notoriety spanned.
One day he was impeached,
And became a sour peach,
He sat and wailed like a loon,
As all the countrymen booed,
And eagerly awaited his looming breech.

Soviet's World

by Viktoriia Yelagina

My parents used to live in a different world.
They had fourteen united neighbors
to call them brothers not by mother, turned,
by mother country, party, class and wars.

The kindergartners should be raised by board
While selfless commies run on Soviet's fame.
Young pioneers' red scarf that justly earned,
Flaunts like a medal on their neck and name.

Grand chief, a teacher that rescued the world,
The father of nations instead of a God.
Burned churches, stolen icons underscored
Proclaiming the communistic bod.

My parents used to live in a different world.
They loved to sing 'Black Cat' and 'Winds of
Change'.
They loved the soda from machine and
yearned
Crimean beaches, sea and youthful age.

An Ode to the Supernatural

by Nitnem Singh Khanijoun

O' Sun O' Moon I called up unto thy
Blessed be souls, rock, purgatorial shades
Ignite the Flames, thou liberate me
Dante's Inferno, the lost, the damned be made
Drain the Styx, Cleanse the Nile
The cold, shivering down my spine
For like I have been damned in Nifelheim
Valkyries awaken, show me the light
Guide me like the serpent stretching across
the sun
For I shall leave this eternal darkness of blight

Agares! Bartzabel! Your presence lingers
Wherefore why bewitch me?
Mortals be cursed, clenches me fingers
The screaming I hear across the Aegean Sea
Agonizing, Gut-wrenching, extremely
excruciating
O' father O' mighty Zeus I call upon you
Deliver us, condemn the supernatural back to
Tartarus.
Hear me, thunderbolts, shine through
Help us tormented spirits
Come forth in war, come forth in tranquility.



Short Stories



Am I Meaningless?

by Miriam Herceg

"I am but a shell laying in a bed that I have not bought. The bed is my safe space. It is where I sleep, eat, work. Although, it is mostly the place where I wander off. I have a lot of free time in my life. The assignments that I have to do for my courses take some hours of my life, and I barely feel the strain to complete them. Instead, I spend my day lying in bed and staring at the ceiling. My ceiling has some imperfections. The light is not perfectly in the middle, which is bothersome, yet I cannot move it, as this apartment is not mine. There are yellowish stains next to the fire alarm. I do not know how they got there. There are cracks where the curtains are attached to the wall."

The Bookstore

by Leena Haider

"When I was about 6-years-old, my father owned a restaurant that was right around the corner from a massive secondhand bookstore. I used to pass it all the time whenever my mother took us down there but never went in because there also happened to be a playground next to it that appealed to a child of my age a lot more than an establishment selling nondescript, dry novels. However, there came a day when it was pouring rain and playing was off the table and thus, out of abject boredom and in a quest to escape the attention of my hovering parents, I wandered off from the restaurant. My restlessness led me to the rather shabby entrance of that looming building I'd never explored and I soon found myself among the tall, intimidating shelves of the bookstore."

The Death Drill

by Pathumpon Petsri

"With the reports of approximately 264 million people suffering from Major Depressive disorder, I had discovered recently that I, too, carried the same burden. The illness caused me many sleepless nights, making me value sleep so much that I'd rather lay myself down than eat my favorite meal. Being able to catch three or four hours of blissful sleep a day made me shed tears and say thank you to Buddha and the gods above for this reprieve. Then, something weird happened to my body. Like a dead log, I slept the whole day away without getting up for food and water. The stars had already started sparkling on the dark canvas of the sky when I first came to consciousness. I barely registered where I was because everything around me was blurry, intangible."

My Mother

by Miriam Herceg

"When I picture my mother, I often see a strong woman who has had to go through many hardships of her life. Even talking to her now, I feel for her and I wish she could have had a better experience of her early years. We look through pictures of her as a younger woman, and I cannot help but note that most are lacking her gorgeous smile. Yet, one catches my attention. She stands in the middle of a field, surrounded by tall grass, and is holding a bouquet of wildflowers."

The above are excerpts of our students' works. For the full version, please visit literati.stamford.edu

Metaphor Writings



PROMPT: MY LIFE IS A GAME OF PAC-MAN

1. My life is a game of Pac-Man. The twists and turns create a constant maze, and I feel unable to step forward without the electronic noise signalling the ghosts chasing me. Sometimes I get cornered, sometimes I get all the dots without running into them. I try to avoid them to achieve the highest score, but it does not always work. It is called a high score for a reason: I have to start all over from the bottom if the ghost gets me, so I can only keep on going, knowing that there is not an end to this game while putting in my best effort.

by Tábitha Pester Alfaro
2. My life is like a Pac-Man game, navigating through the maze to reach my highest score. I use my controller sticks, twisting and turning. I steer around the screen to avoid these ghosts. I race for the end before the 'Game Over' appears on the screen.

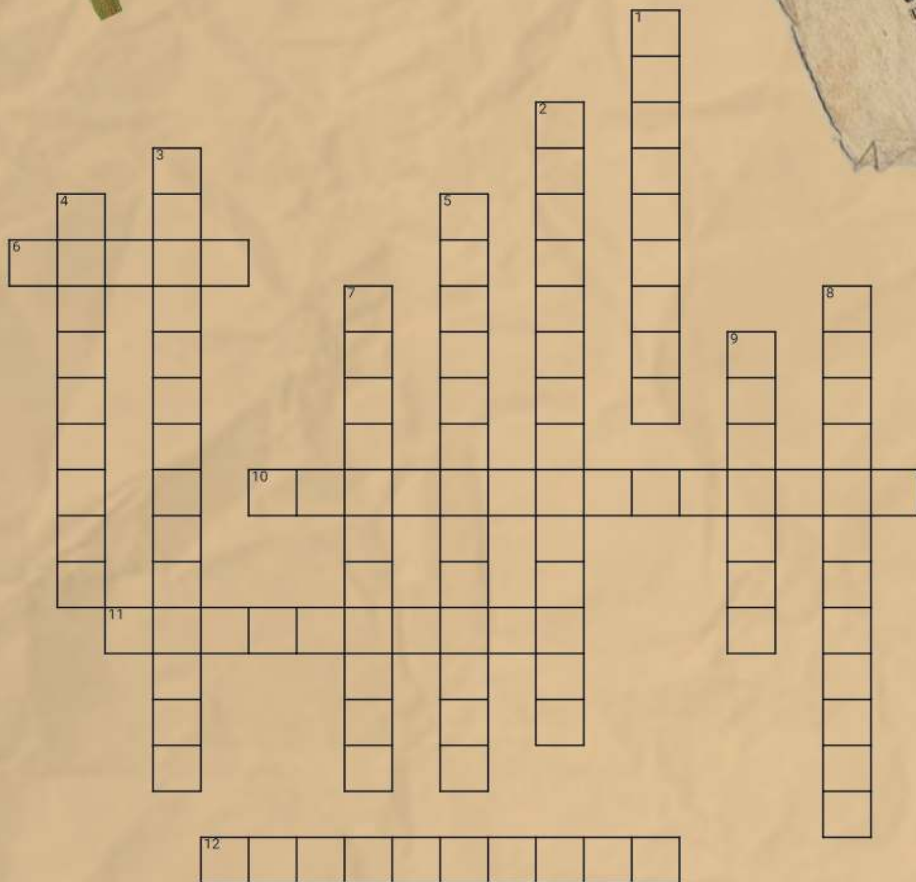
by Junjiang Zhou
3. My life is a game of Pac-Man, I got bad choices chasing me like ghosts. This crazy college is a maze of electronic noise from Apples and Androids keeping me from my high score, but I have got power pellets to save me sometimes. It feels like I lost control over the control stick. I slam left, but the man doesn't move left. Up, up down, down. I am still getting chased by this clown. The blue screen of death and it's game over.

by Jeremy James Thompson
4. My life is a game of Pac-Man. I run through my maze hoping to find something unreachable. I eat my Pac-dots, even though I already know that they will not be enough. I live my life through a screen, my control stick the only thing keeping me alive. Yet, every time I see my high score approaching, I am suddenly brought back to reality by the blaring sound of 'GAME OVER.'

by Miriam Herceg



Of mystery and puzzle, shall I compare thee to a crossword game?



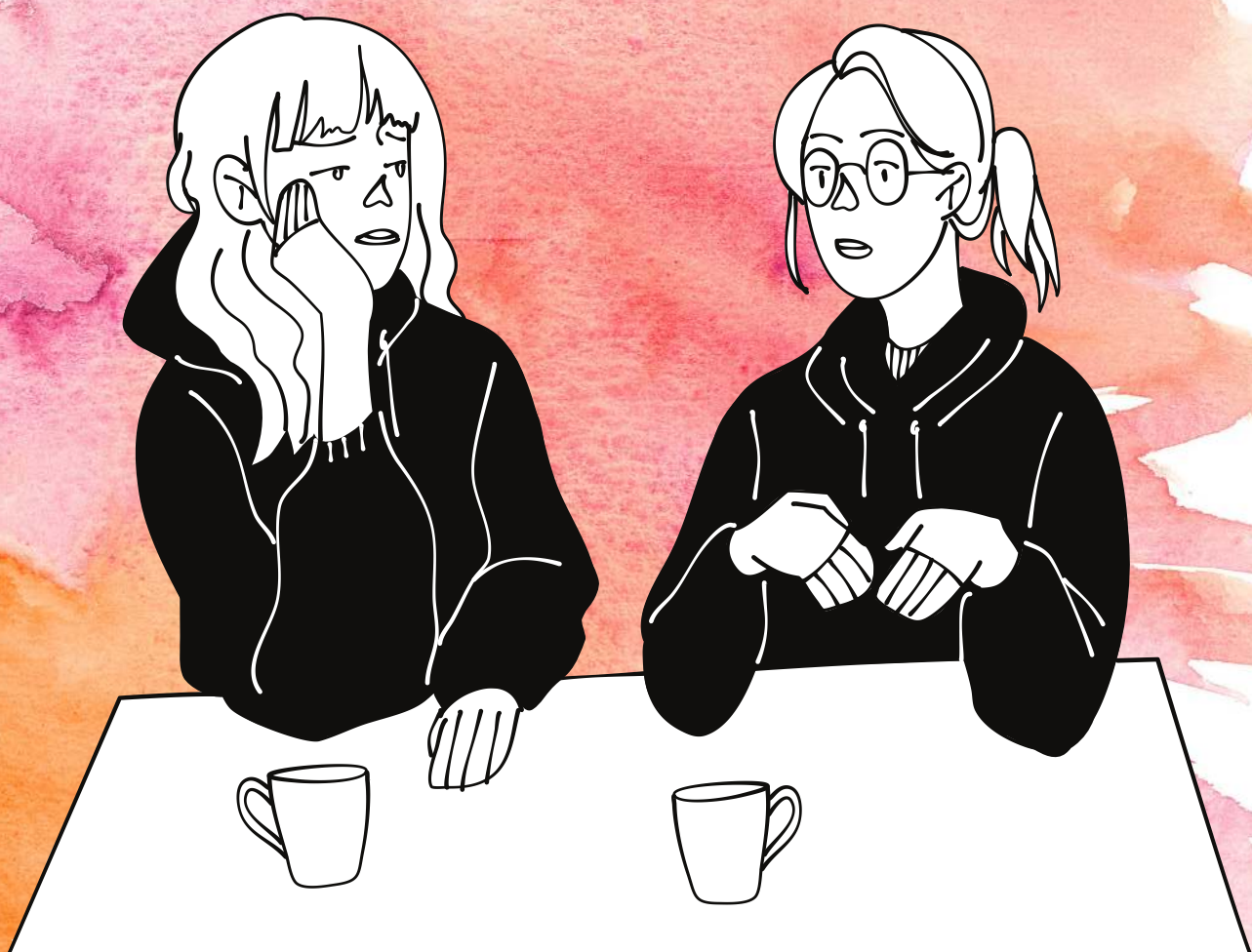
Answers: 1. J.K. Rowling 2. Charles Dickens 3. The Hunger Games 4. Goodnight
5. David Walliams 6. Novel 7. Shakespeare 8. Bad Beginning 9. Stanley 10. The
Magic Finger 11. Jacqueline 12. Goosebumps

Across

- 6. This is the name given to a fiction book.
- 10. This is the name of a famous book by Roald Dahl.
- 11. _____ Wilson wrote about Tracy Beaker.
- 12. R.L. Stine's most famous horror fiction series.

Down

- 1. The author of the 'Harry Potter' series.
- 2. This man wrote 'A Christmas Carol'.
- 3. Suzanne Collins wrote this trilogy which were also turned into a popular movie series.
- 4. Michelle Magorian wrote '_____ Mr Tom'.
- 5. Who wrote 'Mr Stink' and 'Gangsta Granny'?
- 7. This playwright is famous for works such as Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet and Macbeth.
- 8. 'The _____' was the first of the 'Series of Unfortunate Events' series.
- 9. The first name of the main character in 'Holes'.



Dialogues

The Online Learning Experience

By Chalitphakorn Phrommin, Nitida Sakethipohn, & Nathawadee Sasaki

2020 began and it didn't take long before a pandemic took the world by storm.

COVID-19 has quite effectively changed everyone's lives, bringing an era of the "new normal." Tragedy has struck in every corner of the world. Most countries have come to a standstill. The economy has taken a turn for the worse and school has effectively gone digital. Here in Stamford, like the rest of the world, we have been tackling this pandemic by holding classes online, but unlike other places that use Zoom, we use the virtual learning website Blackboard.

A tool to post syllabus, provide a space for announcements and communication and submit coursework, this is the first time Blackboard has been used to conduct online classes. In this segment, we decided to ask our BA English Program students about their personal experiences with online education versus regular face to face classes.

Get to know the Students:

Our Year 1 Students:



Pattaraporn or Jamin is based in Thailand and, quoted verbatim, she "wants this online class to end."

Our Year 2 Students:



Worrancha is currently studying in Spain and taking her classes online.

Our Year 3rd Students:



Tábita is from the Dominican Republic and is currently taking her classes online from its beachy shores.



Lucia is Korean, but moved to Thailand in her later years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she has moved back home and is taking her classes online.



Pantanakan is in Bangkok, but following the current hybrid system and taking classes both online and face-to-face.



Jameena shares her experience taking online classes while travelling through Europe in the midst of a pandemic.

What are some of the problems you faced learning online? Is there a difference between learning overseas and in Thailand?

Tábitha: I haven't faced many problems with online learning. The only issue I've encountered so far has been since moving back to my home country. There's a large time difference and I have to take classes late at night or early in the morning.

Jameena: The most difficult thing I faced was the time difference. I was in Europe and I had 8:30 classes, so I had to wake up at 3:00AM every day that I had class.

Pataraporn: Many of us had such a terrible time when we needed to complete group-related projects and discussions online. It was a logistical disaster.

When you are learning online, do you think you can follow the lessons easily?

Tábitha: I can follow the lessons easily. I guess it's just how I am as a person. It's very easy for me to learn something new, I just listen to the lesson once and I already understand and remember the content haha!

Pantakan: If my internet connection is not working well, it makes me lose a part of the lesson and I have to watch the recording of the class later which means I'm unable to ask any questions I might have.

Worranicha: I think it's easy to follow the lesson because my classes are short, and I can watch the recording of the class when I don't understand it clearly.

Jameena: Travelling and studying at the same time was quite a challenge since there were team projects I had to lead. The majority of the group were also overseas so it was quite difficult to schedule a meeting and plan the workload. Being in your comfort zone at home in Bangkok made it harder since the bed was so close and there were other distractions that were so tempting nearby, it was the ultimate test of determination.

What differences have you felt from learning online and face-to-face? Did you learn anything new?

Tábitha: I've noticed that I have become much more productive since starting classes online. Before I used to procrastinate my assignments a lot but for some reason, now I do everything in advance.

Jameena: I don't think I learned anything other than the course material while I was studying online, it was just easier to have a life outside of school whilst I was studying online.

Worranicha: I think face-to-face is easier when interacting with the teacher and friends in the class. However, studying online, we can't do that. The only thing that I can do is switch on the camera and microphone. But due to the problematic connection, it's sometimes hard to even do that.

Lucia: Since I am in Korea, there are some classes I can't join because they are only available face-to-face on campus for the time being. This leaves me at a loss.

Pataraporn: I think I have the opportunity to make more friends in face-to-face classes, but online classes are more convenient.

What was one memorable moment when you studied online?

Jameena: I was in Iceland for a week and my friend and I were driving up the mountains as we were travelling all over the country in a motorhome. The road and wind in Iceland was very dangerous at times so we were driving through the strong winds and rain. As that was happening I was taking Sociolinguistics and everything in the motorhome was moving around and all the while I held onto my laptop for dear life in the name of education haha.

Worranicha: One time during a class, my host's daughter started crying. I thought she was hungry. Suddenly, my friend texted me saying, "Your baby was crying, go get food for him." I was like... WHAT!. It was then that I realised my camera and microphone had been switched on, so the whole class had heard the crying. I was so embarrassed.

Pantakan: While I was studying online, I went to grab



some food and sit in front of my laptop. Suddenly, I heard my classmates laughing, so I texted my friend asking “What happened? Why are they laughing?” She replied saying, “Your camera is on and we can all see you eating.” At that time, I felt so embarrassed. Luckily, the teacher was not there and had not recorded the video yet. So, I acted like nothing happened and continued to study.

How have online classes affected your attitude towards learning?

Tábitha: I’ve been more productive since learning online and I actually prefer it to face-to-face learning since I don’t have to be stuck in a classroom listening to a lecture but I can also multitask and work on other assignments and work.

Jameena: Online classes tend to feel somewhat one-sided. It was quite discouraging but it forced me to be very self-motivated for classes. And although online classes made me much more organized, it also made me feel like it was harder to distinguish studying and my time browsing the internet as there wasn’t a shift in environment.

Lucia: I think it did not affect my studies since resources or the way professors teach and the system in which they impart information did not change a lot.

After learning online for almost a year, would it be easy to return to face-to-face classes? Are you looking forward to going back?

Pataraporn: Not quite easy for people overseas but since I’m in Thailand, I agree to have face-to-face classes once more. I’m also looking forward to meeting more people here at university.

Jameena: I thought it would be much easier but I feel like the social interactions involved in face-to-face classes really drained me and took me by surprise. After 2 weeks, it was a much smoother transition. I am quite extroverted so it’s very nice to get out of the house and come see the friendly faces of my professors and friends.

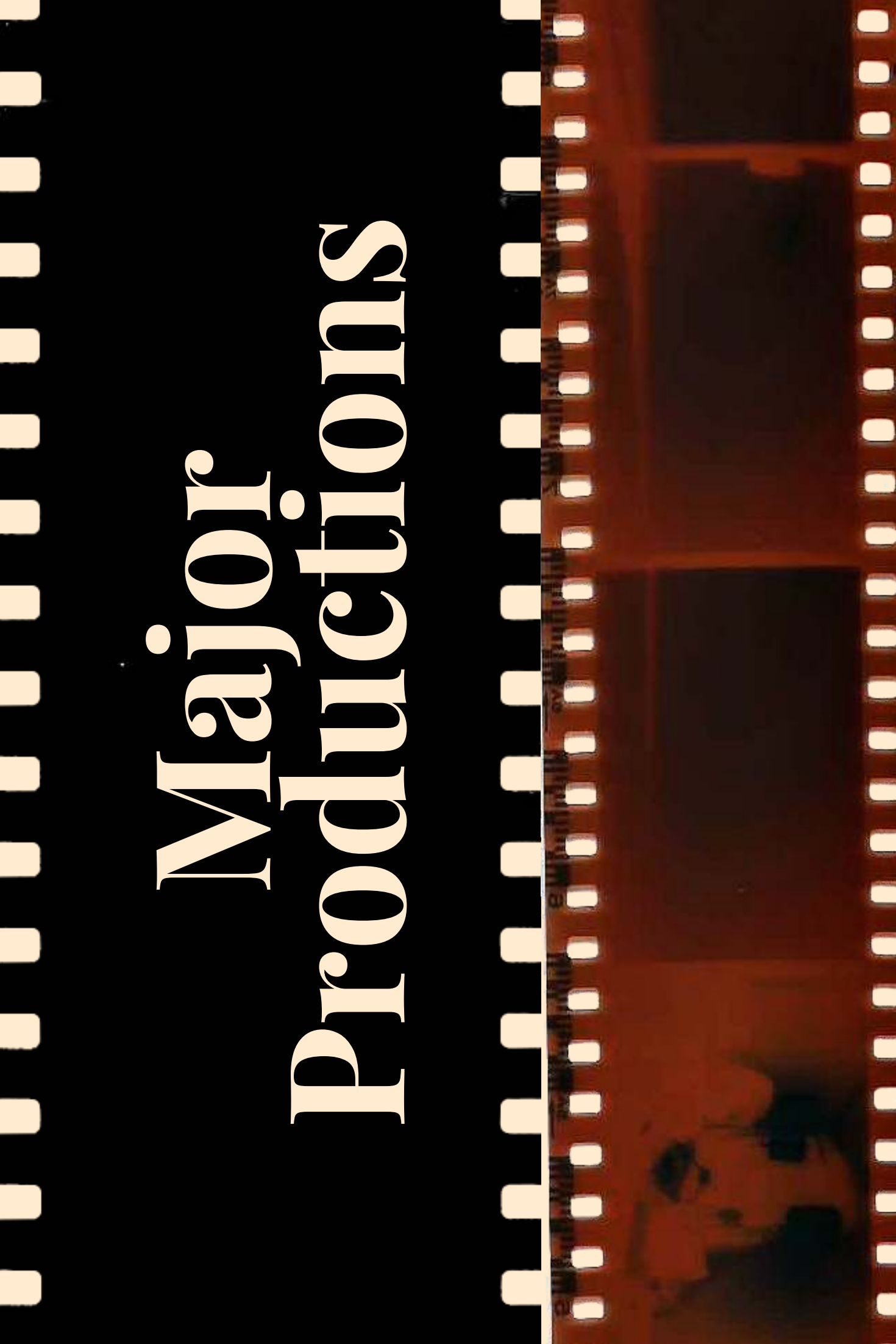
Worranicha: Honestly, I don’t really want to study face-to-face class because there are many issues if we return, like traffic, health and time spent in transit. I like online class more.

Because of the hindrance of a worldwide pandemic, online learning has become the best and most importantly, safest option for schools, teachers and students to ensure our education continues uninterrupted. This series allowed us to gain some perspective about the personal experiences and honest opinions of our students with online classes compared to face-to-face classes.

If you are a fellow student reading this, we hope you can relate this and know that we’re in this together and the same goes to our beloved teachers. Finally, we hope that we can safely get through this situation together. All the best!



Major Productions



Course Projects



LIB235: Campaign Against Body Shaming

by Pathumpon Petsri, Patsheesa Katepatom, Tshering Tonyot, Sukritta Tewintarapakti, Vasinee Srithienchai & Qiya Yue

This group takes a new look at body shaming and its harmfulness.

LIB235: Campaign Against Sexual Harassment

by Leena Haider & Jameena Ratanaphithayaporn

Leena and Jameena discuss the issue of shaming sexual survivors.

LIB235: Illegal Abortion in Thailand

by Nina Fordham, Suchanun Pornprapha, Chanunpas Pitakthongkorn, & Le Liu

This group gives an informative research on illegal abortions in Thailand.

LIB235: Sexual Harassment

by Disanuwat Wutsri, Pantakan Homjun, Piyaporn Buajoy, Nitida Sakethipon, Narumon Phonruang and Moe Tet

Through a short skit, this group analyses the dangers of sexual harassment.

LIB440: Why Pills

by Chalitpakorn Phrommin

Chalitpakorn tackles the topic of birth control with an emotional story.

ENG366: Final Speech

by Viktoriia Yelahina

Viktoriia discusses the naturalisation of Thai citizenship and the main reasons why it should be granted.

Since technology hasnt found a way to print a video yet, scan the code to view them online:



B.A. ENGLISH YEARBOOK



**MANAPORN
KAYEE**



**PATTHAMAPHON
CHOMPUPRAPET**



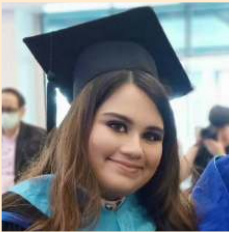
**PRANGWALEE
NOOPRASIT**



**EUNHYE
CHOI**



**SUWANAN
KULASATUENG**



**NATCHA
SATCHATHAMMANIT**



**KAMAITORN
VATANAPITAKSAKUL**



**SONIA
GINZBURG**



**PITCHAYA
RUNGRUANGVANITCHKUL**



**PAWARIN
ULARANGKUL**



**NAJMIE
HEMSERRAN**



**SAWITREE
KERDMAMEE**



**ANYAWEE
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**PATIPHAN
ORRUNGVILAI**



**SORAWIT
CHAROENSAKORN**



**THEPTAI
RUJIRAKKAN**



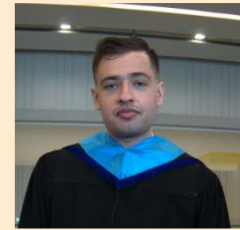
**CHANDLER
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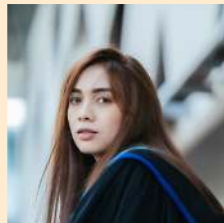
**ABOUBACAR
SIDIKI CAMARA**



**ARSHI
BANERJEE**



**SAQIB
RAZA ALI**



**SITDHIPRON
SUNGSIRI**



**PAKKAMON
THONGYUNGYUEN**

Congratulations
Class of 2020



ODE TO THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

"English is an adjective, a subject, and a noun.
English is drowning in my head, with words I can't bound.
The reality is English is a crazy language.
Let's begin with a fox, and the plural is foxes,
But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes.
Sometimes English gets verbally insane.
If teachers taught, why don't preachers praught?
If fisher caught, why don't bringer braught?
English such a marvel of a language.
In which you fill in a form by filling it out."

— KAN HORASEKUL

Literati

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