



PAPAYA POST

Where Ideas Grow

Playing Sports Teaches People More Lessons About the Life

蔡依軒 CX102130

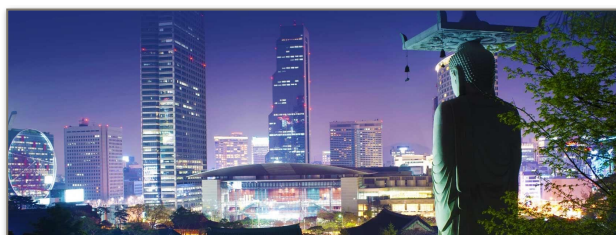
To the best of my knowledge, no matter what their favorite sport: baseball, basketball, football, tennis or swimming, athletics play an indispensable and irreplaceable role in people's lives and teach precious lessons that they may benefit from during their lifetimes.

To begin with, sports give us abiding lessons in winning and losing. Take my best friend's father Ken for example, he told me that every skill he used to become a successful lawyer is what he learned from playing basketball. Little by little he realized that winning is actually essential. No one wants a lawyer who is not going to fight hard for them and win their case. In the same way, playing basketball is much more enjoyable when you win. Playing basketball at an early age instilled him with a competitive drive that has served him well in his law practice.

The Trip to Korea 許瑜真 CX102123

This summer vacation, I traveled to Korea, and found that it has dainty architecture design. I enjoy appreciating and observing special or beautiful structures and always keep my eyes on local buildings when I go to a new place. I think buildings could represent the local culture, climate, terrain and lifestyles; therefore, observing the local structures is really interesting and exciting.

In Taiwan, we have arcades in every house for shelter when it is raining. Due to the climate, we have arcades. However, in Korea, there are a lot of high-rise buildings because they have less land to accommodate so many people. Without earthquakes and typhoons, Korea is safer than Taiwan. Moreover, some parts of their houses are built on an abrupt slope, but they seem to have few landslides. On the contrary, Taiwan also builds houses on abrupt slopes, but there are lot of disasters and landslides. Therefore, Korea is totally different from Taiwan.



Furthermore, athletics provide participants with a platform for teamwork. People learn how to communicate with each other, adapt themselves to the whole team's plan instead of showing their own skills. As I mentioned above, Ken is a lawyer. If a team of lawyers all try to fill the same role, they will not win a case. In a similar way, a basketball team will never win. By playing on a team, he learned how to use each team member's skills to best accomplish the common goal.

Finally, playing sports also teaches us how to interact with an adversary. It can teach us how to compromise or how to intimidate. If he saw that the other basketball team was bigger and slower than they were, they would play one way. If they were quicker and smaller, they would play another way. He utilizes that tactic in the courtroom and tries to discover what the other side's strategy will be and then plan his case accordingly.

In a nutshell, playing sports does enlighten and instruct people. Lessons can be learned through physical activities and have a positive influence on our lives.

I especially liked Korean house designs, which are full of creativity and modern fashion. There are some cute and gorgeous doodles on the streets and houses. With the beautiful paint of the houses, the rows of the buildings seem to paint on the palette. In addition, their architecture is not only modern but also mixes with the past style.

On the trip to Korea, I deeply experienced their eagerness for beauty. Even when you walk on the street, you would realize that Koreans pursue gorgeous things, from makeup, clothes, shoes to buildings, and sidewalks. However young or old, people in Korea all value their appearance. However, the most impressive things are not their beautiful women, but their design of the houses and streets.



MOVIE REVIEW

“Violetta” and “High School Musical”: Happiness Lasts Forever

陳怡秀 CI101143

In 2006, the well-known Disney Channel produced an original movie — *High School Musical*. It featured romances and friendships in high school, with lots of music pieces and dance moves. Millions of copies of DVDs and soundtracks were being sold and the movie soon became a hit. The popularity brought the movie on to the stage and they held a concert. Lots of children attended the concert that they looked forward to. They screamed enthusiastically, sang loudly and danced happily with their favorite actors and actresses.

A few years later, the Disney Channel in Latin America produced a TV series called *Violetta*. It was about a teenage girl with undiscovered music talent following her journey back to her hometown in Buenos Aires. She gradually unlocked her talent. Like *High School Musical*, it had many inspiring songs and moves in every episode and also became a hit show.

Following the success of the TV series, *Violetta* also had a concert coming up. This time the young fans were more engaging with technology than those fans of *High School Musical*. They showed their concert tickets on social network sites and took down some precious clips during the concert with their phones.

No matter how time has changed, *Violetta* will no doubt inspire the new generation to be true to themselves and to sing and dance their hearts out. Just like what *High School Musical* did.

Graffiti Villages in Taiwan 謝瑜芳 CE101237

Nowadays, more and more graffiti villages show up in Taiwan. One of these graffiti villages I like is in Shanhua district, Tainan.

By walking around the community you will see many adorable pictures on the walls and a special wall which is decorated by CDs. Seeing these colorful walls, you will feel relaxed and joyful. All decorations here are from villagers' hands. From that, we can see they are united villagers. In fact, the idea of graffiti stemmed from three sisters. Originally, the three sisters aimed to make their grandma live a new life and not feel lonely with the company of these

pictures. Surprisingly, their behavior affected others in their community. As an increasing number of people dedicated themselves to beautifying their community, the graffiti village was built. Thus, a unique community was born.

To sum up, when you visit the graffiti village, you can not only take pictures but you are also able to enjoy the touching story and friendly people. Therefore, because of the meaningful story and fascinating decorations, the graffiti village in Shanhua district, Tainan is well worth a visit.

Fair or not? The Problem of the National Student Music Competition 李佳穎 CX101128

This March, the “National” Student Music Competition had been announced and all competitors had given all their efforts to make every note perfect. However, the problem of competition “stage” had put that same old problem into discussion.

The problem of this “national” competition is that the “stage” was not national at all. In the northern final, the stage was set inside a stadium of a senior high school, which was neither tolerable nor national. A bad stage, which is not designed for musical performance, can dehydrate the sounds, and thus break the balance of music. Everything can be messed up, and players, who hardly hear their sounds on that horrible stage, can only watch the conductor, who is also being tortured by this terrible design, with their desperate hearts full of fear and uncertainty.

Some people argue that every group plays on the same stage, so it's fair and the only thing that needs to be discussed is how hard students worked. However, the problem is never about being fair, it is about the respect. The government doesn't show respect to this competition because music is never viewed as a “skill” but a useless, unproductive and sacrifice-able “talent.” Players have been maltreated by the society for a long time, but this time, with the help of Internet, it has been put on table to be discussed, though only by people of this music circle.

It is really embarrassing that there is no suitable place for a national music competition to take place. The main problem lies in people's stereotype on music but government should be responsible for the competition that it holds. I always wish the government can do something instead of throwing it aside as if we can make it prosper in such music-unfriendly environment.

Should Prostitution be Legal in Taiwan? 莊昕凌 101421047

On July 14, 2011, the Executive Yuan passed the draft amendment. The Legislature approved an amendment that would allow local governments to set up districts where the prostitution is allowed. Inside the red light districts areas, prostitutes and pimps will not be fined. Outside of the areas, customers and prostitutes can be fined up to NT\$30,000 and pimps NT\$50,000. When the news came out, between supporters and objectors serious disagreements arose. People started discussing the issue whether we should legalize sex work to protect rights for sex workers. However, from the perspectives of public security, human rights, and health care, I consider that it is improper to legalize this type of employment.

Public Security

First, there is no guarantee that the legalization of sex work will improve the problems of public security. Advocates claim that people should bring some light into this dark corner of society. The first step will be the removal of crime. As a result, it will make the industry easier to manage. However, even in Amsterdam, Holland, the city where it is legal to sell sex as a service, admitted that the legalization of sex work brought serious problems such as human trafficking, money laundering, drug abuse and criminal gangsters. Dutch prostitutes have to pay tax on their business income, so illegal immigrants have to rely on criminal organizations to survive. Then, gangsters, and criminal activities increasingly controlled the district repeatedly. **In 2007, the Amsterdam City Council started a clean-up action which was called *Project 1012*. Project 1012 aimed to discourage crime and corruption in the city center by reducing the types of businesses and permitting prostitution in just two areas.** As pointed out by Lodewijk Asscher, deputy mayor of Amsterdam and the head of Project 1012, “There had been warning signs starting in the 1990s that organized crime was basically using the area as its living room.”

Human Rights

Second, the legality of prostitution doesn't mean that the right of gender equality and the right of work will be practiced. Those people who support prostitution argue that only the legality of prostitution can get rid of the discrimination of sex workers' social status from the society. However, when analyzing the gender ratio between supply and demand in the sex industry, it is well-known that prostitution is just a trade with gender domination. From the past to the present, the majority suppliers are female. Even in the Netherlands, a country with the most open sex industry, male and transgender sex workers only amount to 10% of the workforce. Moreover, the customers of these sex workers are mostly males. **According to *Making Sex Work: A Failed Experiment with Legalised Prostitution*, a book published in 2007 which examined the situation in detail after the legalization of prostitution in Victoria, showed that the promised benefits of legalization have not, however, materialized.** The author *Mary Lucille Sullivan* said “Victoria's legalized prostitution system assists in maintaining male dominance, the sexual objectification of women, and the cultural approval of violence against women.”

Thus, the legalization of prostitution is a form of sexual exploitation.

Health Care

Finally, there is no direct connection between legalized prostitution and venereal disease. Supporters claim that legalized prostitution benefits the implementation of all kinds of physical examination. Through this way, it can prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. **Nevertheless, according to the report about AIDS from State Health Facts in 2009, that's not the case. Nevada is the only state where prostitution is legal in the United States. From the study, people who were diagnosed with AIDS in Nevada were 13%. Compared with other states, Nevada still had a high rate in spite of**

legalized prostitution. In other words, whether illegal or legal, sex workers still have opportunities to suffer from the infectious diseases such as AIDS and Syphilis, and spread it to others.

All in all, from the statements above, it showed that the legalization of prostitution is not an ideal way to improve the current situation. Although we want to protect people who are prostitutes, legalization is not the best solution. After all, the thing we should do is to protect them from the life of prostitution rather than to strengthen the system itself. It's just like Catherine Deneuve¹ said, "Prostitution happens to you because of troubles you had. In reality no woman would choose to do that."

Is Authoritarian Parenting Suitable for Children? 楊晶婷 101421005

Do you want to live in an authoritarian parenting family or in a free-style family? In Taiwan, there are still a large number of parents who think that the authoritarian parenting is the best way to educate their kids. A proper parenting way is important to your children. Authoritarian parents are often very strict and have high expectations for their child's behavior and sometimes use punishment when their children do not do what is expected. Although some people do agree with authoritarian parenting, there are three aspects that authoritarian parenting is not suitable for children.

First, proponents argue that authoritarian parenting could make children have high scores and a great academic performance in school. However, in contrast, authoritarian parenting will hinder children's academic achievement because they do not acquire positive feedback from their parents. In a 1999 study published in *Developmental Psychology*, researchers Melissa Kamins and Carol Dweck found that children might not perform well on academic problem-solving tasks if they have authoritarian parents who shame them for not performing well. There is a connection between authoritarian parenting and low grades. A child dealing with emotional struggles from their parents may not feel motivated to do well in school.

Second, proponents believe that the strength from authoritarian parents can make children behave well and stimulate great mental development. However, it might be a surface well-behaved behavior and it will constrain children's thought and feelings for a

¹ Catherine Deneuve, a French actress who is dedicated to the right of democracy for women

long time and finally lead to externalizing behavior problems such as disruptive and aggressive behavior. Studies reveal that kids exposed to authoritarian parenting show less advanced moral reasoning and self-regulation. Children who are limited to behave well, their heart and emotion will be constrained and lead to bad influence. For example, there was a case in Pingtung in January 2011 when a man killed his family on impulse. His relative said that he was very well behaved since he was little, but his father treated him very strictly. The man accumulated too much long-term pressure, and finally he killed his family.

Last, proponents think that all the decisions authoritarian parents make can be absolutely correct for their children to become good; however, it would make children have no chance and choice to do and decide what they want and may lead to children's disfavor toward their parents and conflict between parent and child and therefore make the parent-child relationship worse. For instance, my cousin had run away from her home because she did not want her father to decide which college she should go to and her father always made decisions which he thought were for her own good. My cousin hates her father very much. What you consider good, is not suitable for children. Authoritarian parenting makes children rebel against parents and makes the parent-child relationship worse.

In conclusion, authoritarian parenting will hinder children's academic achievement, lead to externalizing behavior problems and make the parent-child relationship worse. It is no doubt that the Authoritarian parenting is not a suitable style to educate children.

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Reflection on *Life in a Violin Case* 任珂 ZM1032043

"Life in a Violin Case" is an essay written by Alexander Bloch. In this short essay, the writer tells us his experience of maintaining a balance between money and interest, which was a turning point of his life. From this experience, he figured it out that money is a wonderful thing, but it is possible to pay too high a price for it.

Having a strong interest in music, the writer dreamed of taking it as a profession. However, due to his grandfather's life experience, his parents who were sympathetic and shared with him the same interest, even though, were totally against that. From their point of view, taking music as a profession would contribute to a miserable life with uncertain financial rewards. As a result, the writer entered college instead of a conservatory of music after graduation but kept practicing violin in his spare time.

Unfortunately, on account of several financial reserves of his family, he had to drop out of school and launched upon a business career. However, he bore it in mind that business was not for him: he went into business just to help his family out of their dilemma. His ambition was to work hard and accumulate enough money to quit, and then go to Europe to study music.

After a period of time, his efforts paid off and his family became more solvent. So, he resigned from his position, feeling like a man released from jail, and sailed for Europe for further study.

In the essay, the writer uses plain but refined words to narrate his story. Although short and easy to understand, the essay is so thought-provoking that it gives me much food for thought. Personally, I admire the writer as well as his decision to give up a promising decision and pursue his dream.

In our lifetime, when in pursuit of dreams, especially when hunting for an occupation, we may encounter some appetizers and setbacks. Confronted with such situations, we have to make choices: money or interest, ease or struggle? Some may give up dreams and do what we do not like but offers us a fat salary in return, but some do not. Some may surrender and choose a comfortable life, but some do not. To me, those who persistently strive for what they are interested in are worthy of being praised.

I appreciate a girl who graduated from our college last July. She dreamed of working in Shanghai. Unlike those who are afraid of the high living cost as well as heavy workload in Shanghai, she hunted for a job there after graduation. Though she lives a busy life and does not have a high income at present, I believe she is happy and satisfied, because she is doing what she likes. She set a good example for me.

Under the influence of my family, I was endowed with an instinct of language and have developed an interest in it by reading a wide range of books. I dream of devoting myself to language studying and continue to glorify the family's legacy. To be prepared, I have shaped myself to be a passionate language learner, an enthusiastic reader, and a social activist. Also, instead of being a book-worm, I have dedicated most of my time to developing various interests in different academic areas.

I should work hard to further improve myself before pursuing my dream. My career objective is to become a linguist, to contribute to the development of linguistics in Chinese universities and colleges, and then to help many other Chinese children learning English to be ready for their bright future. This essay refreshes me, supplies me a way out, and helps me succeed in my beloved career dream.

Why Teenagers Fail to Concentrate 黃冠中 CX101109

Why can't adolescents concentrate on anything? This is a big issue which has been discussed by more and more people these years, because being distracted has negative impacts on people's lives. It leads to poor performance, poor efficiency, and difficulty in face-to-face communication. There are many reasons why teenagers can't easily concentrate, and in the following paragraphs I want to discuss the three main points: smart phones, love, and sleep.

For the first point, I want to talk about the influence of smart phones. In recent years, smart phones have swept over the world and now the number of smart phone owners is on the rise. According to an article in the BUSINESS INSIDER website; "by the end of 2013, global smartphone penetration will have exploded from 5% of the global population in 2009, to 22%. That's an increase of nearly 1.3 billion smartphones in four years." (John Heggestuen) The smart phones connected with the Internet offer various kinds of entertainment, such as Facebook or other attractive applications. Adolescents sitting in the classroom may check their smart phones for Facebook information and instant messages; once they get used to it, it is hard to change. I don't think an adult can entirely resist the temptation of smart phones either. According to an article in the internet RETAILER website; "On average, consumers spend 3.3 hours each day using their smartphones, according to new data from the digital marketing firm ExactTarget." (Amy Dusto). Therefore, when teenagers are studying or doing homework assignments, it is likely that they can't help but slide the smart phones and stare at the screens.

Another idea I would like to mention is about love. Love is one of the biggest distractions for adolescents. When they are falling in love with others or they merely have a crush on someone, it is tough for them to focus on what they are doing without knowing what their lovers are doing. For instance, when the adolescents are in class, they may not focus on what the teacher is teaching, but worry if his or her soul mate is having fun with another person. That is to say, teen love causes plenty of jealousy and worries. In addition,

they tend to contact their mates anytime; they text message all the time and keep gazing at the smart phones so that they will not miss any messages. Young lovers have difficulty controlling their feelings, and they are not mature enough to deal with this kind of situation. "In fact, Barbara Greenberg, Ph.D., states that young teens who start dating are more likely to drop out of school than teens who date at later ages," says Rose Welton. In many cases, teenagers give up their school work for love, and they think it is worthwhile in the moment; however, everybody knows that they will regret this when they grow up and become more realistic.

Finally, I would to discuss sleep. High school is a stressful time for many teenagers because they spend too much time preparing for their examination and schoolwork. As a result, adolescents are deprived of time to sleep, as they stay up late studying very often. According to an article in the About.com website; "Many studies have shown that students are not getting enough sleep, and sleep deprivation has serious physical, emotional, and cognitive effects." (Grace Fleming). Thus, it is impossible to concentrate based on such a weak body situation. It is important that teenagers sleep at least eight hours per night. Only when they change their incorrect habits of sleep can they improve their energy.

To sum up, poor focus takes place on teenagers because of the overuse of smart phones, the love relationship with others, and the fatigue from sleep deprivation. Few teenagers can avoid these kinds of circumstances, and they can be easily influenced by each of one; consequently, that is why almost all of them face the difficulty of concentrating on things.

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English Department

Editor:

David Gordon 金大衛老師
Kimberly Heeren 金貝利老師

Designer:

蔡依軒

Writer:

陳怡秀 謝瑜芳 李佳穎
莊昕凌 楊晶婷 黃冠中
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