

范文 15 篇

1. Do you agree or disagree with the statement: University students should be required to take basic science classes even if they are not part of the field of the study.

University curriculum determines what kind of education students receive and what kind of educational philosophy the university maintains. Some educators advocate incorporating basic science into compulsory courses no matter what fields students major in. I don't think it's a very smart move.

First off, making basic science mandatory does not cater to post-university goals. The common expectation of people who go to universities is to gain a competitive edge in job hunting. They spend four years studying not just to get a diploma, but to acquire skills and expertise they can put into use in their future careers. Take a liberal arts student for instance. If he/she aspires to become a mayor or senator after graduation, why does he/she have to memorize chemical formulas and draw distinctions between invertebrates and amphibians? He/She could have made better use of the time by joining student government or debate team. Instead, for the dubious benefits of learning science, he/she has to set aside plans that could actually aid his/her future career. Sure no one would deny subjects like physics and biology could give students an overall awareness of how the world works. But the fact is without such people can still manage fine in their daily work. So this policy falls short of practical value.

Besides, students with no interest in science would lack the proper motivation to learn it well. University is a place where students get to pursue their own interests. For those scientifically-minded students, it would be a breeze to take science classes. But for the rest, this mandatory policy simply means poor attendance and high failure rates. People always say interest is the best teacher. So students who are bored with science wouldn't appreciate the good intentions of college authorities. For them it's high school all over again. Most high school graduates are already tired of trying to be versatile learners; so when they go to college and choose a major, they expect to devote all their time and energy to what really appeals to them. Instead, they end up learning something they are not passionate about and complaining how hard it is to keep up. The learning process should be enjoyable, not the other way around.

Finally, offering basic science to all the students would be a huge drain on schools' human and financial resources. Just imagine how many more science teachers would be needed to instruct such a sheer number of students. The university would have to hire more professors and teaching assistants, which means a rise in school expenditure. Also, the department of human resources would be under huge pressure since they have to find well-qualified teachers on such short notice. Besides, more lecture halls have to be scheduled in advance to accommodate the additional classes. However, universities are all now trying to cut back on spendings to save money; this policy would give rise to a series of monetary problems which is the last thing schools want to see.

To sum up, it is not recommendable for universities to require all the students to take science

classes for the absence of practical use, personal interest and economic benefits.

参考译文

大学课程决定着学生受到什么样的教育以及学校主张的是什么样的教学理念。一些教育家提倡管学生什么专业都必修基础科学课。我觉得这不是明智的做法。

首先,把基础科学课变成必修课不能迎合毕业后的目标。人们上大学的普遍预期是为了能在求职中获得竞争优势。他们花四年时间学习不单单是为了获得证书,还要获得他们能在未来工作中使用的技能和专业知识。拿文科生为例,如果他想要毕业后成为市长或者参议员,为什么非要他记住化学公式或者区分无脊椎动物和爬行动物呢?他本来可以把这个时间充分用在参加学生会或者辩论队上。然而现在,他却要为了学科学那一点好处,放弃本可以有助于他未来职业的计划。当然,没有人会否认物理和生物这样的科目能让学生对世界有更全面的认识。但事实上没有这些知识,人们在日常工作中还是可以过得很好。所以这个政策缺乏实用价值。

除此之外,对科学没兴趣的学生会缺乏学习的动力。大学是学生追求自己兴趣的地方。对于那些对科学感兴趣的学生,上科学课跟玩一样,但是对于其他人,这项强制政策就意味着很多人会逃课,还有些人会考试挂科。人们总是说兴趣是最好的老师,所以对科学感到厌倦的学生是不会体谅校方的苦心的。对他们来说,这就像被打回高中了一样。要在各个方面都出色成为多面手,这让高中生们倍感疲惫,所以当能去上大学能选专业的时候,他们期待把自己的时间和精力都贡献给他们真正感兴趣的东西。与之相反的是,他们却要学他们不感兴趣的东西而且会抱怨要跟上真难。学习过程本来应该是充满乐趣的,而不是相反。

最后,给所有学生提供基础科学课程对学校的人力、财力都是一大笔消耗。想象一下,需要多少科学老师来教这么多的学生。大学会不得不聘请更多的教授和助教,这就意味着学校的支出增加。而且,人力部门会倍感压力,因为他们要在这么短的时间找那么多合格的教师。而且,安排更多的教室来容纳这些多出来的班级。但是,大学现在都在尝试削减开支,这个政策会导致很多经济问题这是学校最不愿意看到的总结一下,并不推荐学校强制所有学生都上科学课,因为这不具备实用性好处,缺乏个人兴趣,也没有经济好处。

2. Some people think starting school day early is a good approach to support learning while others think starting school day later is better. What is your opinion?

范文

If you are a night owl, and that works for you, that's great. But when it comes to school children, I think starting school day early is a better idea.

First, early risers are more positive and productive. As Benjamin Franklin once put it, early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise. Children should be told rising early and greeting a wonderful new day is simply a better lifestyle to keep. When I was little, I used to start my day by jumping out of bed, rushing off school and skip breakfast. As you can imagine, I started my day looking rumpled and barely awake, grumpy and behind everybody else. But morning, as I heard, is supposed to be the most productive time of day. Upon this realization, I shifted to early bird mode. By getting to school one hour earlier, I had a head start on the day, doing some reading or working on a new project. Besides, I got to actually have time for breakfast which I've been told is the most important meal of the day.

Second, school arrangements should also take parents into account. When school routines are more in sync with the 9-5 work system, parents can drive kids to school on their way to office. However, if children stay late in the morning, what are parents supposed to deal with their schedule? They will probably end up hiring a babysitter to fill in the gap. Moreover, school starting at 10 in the morning means school would not be out until 6 in the evening. By the time parents have picked up kids from school, finished dinner and sent kids to bed, it would have been late into night. But parents still have to get up early for work the next day. It turns into a vicious circle. So starting school late seems to show understanding for children who cannot get enough sleep, but the fact is, this can cause inconvenience and problems to parents.

Finally, rising early is also a great way to instill important values in school children. Youth is the prime time for cultivating character. Since it takes great effort to get out of bed on freezing winter morning and start learning early in the day, children will come to understand the importance of diligence and persistence. By sticking to early rising habit, children can develop a tough personality that goes a long way. They will stand a better chance of rising above obstacles and challenges later in life.

To sum up, starting school early is an arrangement that can benefit both children and their parents.

如果你是夜猫子型的人而且觉得熬夜适合你,那也不错。但说到在上学的小孩时,我觉得早点去上学会更好。

首先,早起的人更积极而且更高效。正如本杰明·富兰克林所说,早睡早起让人健康、富有、睿智。要从小教导孩子早起迎接新的一天是一种更好的生活习惯。我小的时候,从床上跳起来,急匆匆去学校,早饭也不吃,一天就开始了。正如你能想象,我看起来凌乱不堪好像没睡醒一样,脾气暴躁而且比别人迟缓落后一些。但别人告诉我早上应该是一天里最高效的时候。意识到这一点以后,我就转换到了早起的模式。通过提前一小时到学校,我就能一早领先,读一些书或者开始一个新项目。除此之外,我还有时间吃早饭了,都说早饭是一天里最重要的一餐呢。

其次,学校安排也应该考虑一下父母。当学校常规活动与朝九晚五同步的时候,父母可以上班路上顺便送孩子上学。但是,如果孩子早上晚去的话,父母该怎么安排时间呢?他们很可能还要雇个看孩子的人来填补空缺。还有,10点上学就意味着6点才放学。等到父母接了孩子放学,吃好了晚饭把孩子送上床,都已经深夜了。但他们第二天还要早起办公,这就会导致恶性循环。所以晚点上学看似是照顾到睡眠不足的小孩,其实会给家长带来不便和困扰。

最后,早起是培养孩子品格的好办法。青少年时期是性格养成的重要时期。要费很大的劲才能在寒冬从温暖被窝里爬起来早早开始一天的工作,所以孩子就会意识到勤奋和坚持的重要性。通过坚持早起这个习惯,孩子就能培养让他们受益很久的坚韧品格。他们以后就更容易克服困难和挑战。

总的说来,早点上学是一个能有益于父母和孩子的好安排。

3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Getting advice from friends who are older than you is more valuable than getting from friends who are the same age.

Since any individual, whether young or old, will encounter various problems and troubles throughout the whole life, it is certainly necessary to consult others for suggestions and solutions. As far as I am concerned, it is a wise move to listen to the older people's suggestions, because rich experience and profound knowledge accumulated by older people will offer us a proper guidance in many ways, especially in the aspects of receiving education and hunting for a job.

First of all, consider the educational issue. Obviously, students are constantly faced with various upcoming problems and puzzles in the course of furthering their study. As for high school students, the would-be undergraduates, how to successfully apply for an ideal university and choose a promising major usually matters a lot. In order to unravel the above puzzles, they had better consult those people of older age who will give advice such as passing TOEFL with top score and participating various extracurricular activities. In fact, the above experience is exclusive to those who have undergone the whole process of applying for university. Also, as newcomers entering college or universities, the freshmen are usually confronted with various troubles while embarking on the brand-new campus life. To be specific, some students from disadvantaged families may be concerned about how to gain scholarship from school. The sophomores and junior students are likely to provide practical instructions instead of their classmates.

Furthermore, the same logic can apply to job-hunting. After leaving schools, graduates will enter the highly competitive job market. Due to the lack of knowledge of the real working environment, they are in great need of instructions and suggestions from senior employees. To be specific, senior employees can hold an interview training, in which students will be informed of how to dress up, how to write a resume and how to respond to the questions from interviewers. Also, the skills of communicating efficiently with the employers and the ability to get along well with co-workers will be imparted to potential employees. On the contrary, people at the same age with us are also still feel confused about how to seek an ideal job, thus reducing the value of the suggestion given by them.

In conclusion, the advice from the elder is of greater value than that from the peers, especially when we meet problems in education and career.

因为任何一个人，无论是年轻的还是年老的，在一生中都会遇到各种各样的问题和麻烦，当然有必要向他人寻求建议和解决办法。在我看来，听老年人的建议是明智的，因为老年人积累的丰富的经验和渊博的知识会在许多方面给我们提供适当的指导，尤其是在接受教育和找工作方面。

首先，考虑一下教育问题。显然，学生在进一步学习的过程中不断面临着各种即将到来的问题和困惑。对于高中生，即将成为大学生的人来说，如何成功地申请一所理想的大学，选择一个有前途的专业通常是很重要的。为了解开以上的谜题，他们最好咨询那些年长的人，他们会给出建议，比如高分通过托福，参加各种课外活动。事实上，上述经历只适用于那些经历了整个申请大学过程的人。此外，作为刚进入大学的新生，在开始全新的校园生活时，新生通常会面临各种各样的麻烦。具体来说，一些来自贫困家庭的学生可能会担心如何从学校获得奖学金。二年级和大三的学生可能会代替他们的同学提供实践指导。

此外，同样的逻辑也适用于求职。毕业后，毕业生将进入竞争激烈的就业市场。由于缺乏对真实工作环境的了解，他们非常需要来自高层员工的指导和建议。具体来说，高级员工可以进行面试培训，培训学生如何着装，如何写简历，如何回答面试官的问题。此外，与雇主有效沟通的技巧和与同事相处的能力将传授给未来的员工。相反，与我们同龄的人也仍然对如何寻找一份理想的工作感到困惑，从而降低了他们建议的价值。

总之，长辈的建议比同龄人的建议更有价值，尤其是当我们在教育和职业中遇到问题的时候。

4. Which one of the following do you think is the most important thing that parents should teach their children?

- Being helpful to others
- Being honest
- Being well organized

It is widely acknowledged that valuable qualities should be inculcated in children as early as possible, since younger children tend to be molded more easily by the outside world than older ones. Among the three possible values — being helpful, being honest and being well-organized—I reckon honesty the most important trait that children should develop from a young age.

Honesty is without a doubt the basic principle that every individual should live by all along one's life. Fostering this quality in young children would yield the most benefits not only for themselves but also for the community. For one thing, being honest is one of the most important considerations in any relationships, in the promotion of employees, and in the election of leaders, etc. It is not an overstatement that honesty is a prerequisite of a promising future, and there is every reason to share with young children. For another thing, dishonesty can erode any organization. For example, a person who discloses the company's confidential information to a competitor might be the one who lied about the unfinished homework to teachers at a young age. With no warning or punishment, children might deem it not big deal to lie and have little awareness of how severe it is. One can be less helpful or not organized, but being dishonest would be disastrous. Therefore, it is imperative to educate children to be honest; the earlier, the better.

On the other hand, it is not that realistic to expect children between five and ten years old to be a big help or do things in a well-organized way. Children at this age are usually not physically or mentally mature to comprehend complex issues or figure out feasible solutions. The fact is that these abilities can only be obtained through real life experience, rather than through instructions from the elders. Furthermore, I doubt, to some extent, whether being well-organized is of benefit to children because the children's nature of curiosity and freethinking may be restricted. Indeed, children should not be deprived of their own way to see the world or do things, be it ridiculous or not, since this is how imagination and creativity flourish.

In conclusion, regarding the most favorable qualities that children should develop, I believe honesty should be given top priority. The reason is that honesty lays the foundation of the prosperity of both individuals and society, while the other two qualities (being helpful and well-organized) are likely either to be unrealistic or to restrict children's development.

人们普遍认为，宝贵的品质应该尽早灌输给孩子，因为年幼的孩子比大一些的孩子更容易被外界塑造。在三个可能的价值观中，乐于助人，诚实和组织良好，我认为诚实是孩子应该从小培养的最重要的品质。

诚实无疑是每个人一生都应遵循的基本原则。在幼儿身上培养这种品质不仅会给他们自己，也会给整个社会带来最大的好处。一方面，诚实是任何关系中最重要考虑因素之一，在员工的晋升，在领导选举等。毫不夸张地说，诚实是一个有前途的未来的先决条件，而且有充分的理由与年幼的孩子分享。另一方面，不诚实会腐蚀任何组织。例如，向竞争对手透露公司机密信息的人，很有可能就是向老师谎称作业未完成的人。在没有警告和惩罚的情况下，孩子们可能会认为说谎没什么大不了的，并且很少意识到它有多严重。一个人可能不那么乐于助人或没有条理，但不诚实将是灾难性的。因此，教育孩子诚实是势在必行的；越早越好。

另一方面，期望 5 到 10 岁的孩子帮大忙或做事井井有条是不现实的。这个年龄的孩子通常身体上或精神上都不成熟，无法理解复杂的问题或找出可行的解决方案。事实上，这些能力只能通过真实的生活经验获得，而不是通过长辈的教导。此外，我怀疑，在某种程度上，良好的组织是否对孩子有益，因为孩子的好奇心和自由思考的天性可能会受到限制。的确，孩子们不应该被剥夺他们自己看待世界或做事情的方式，无论荒谬与否，因为这是想象力和创造力蓬勃发展的方式。

总之，关于孩子们应该培养的最有利的品质，我认为诚实应该被放在首位。原因是，诚实奠定了个人和社会繁荣的基础，而其他两个品质（乐于助人和井井有条）可能要么是不现实的，要么限制孩子的发展。

5. If school has limited funding, which of the following three should school spend money on?

- 1) sports;
- 2) arts;
- 3) volunteering.

School is a place where students prepare themselves for adult lives both intellectually and emotionally. Of course, sports, arts and volunteering all deserve financial support from the school authority. But when the funding is limited and only one of them can be funded, I'd definitely go for sports.

First of all, this policy can bring numerous benefits to students. Everybody knows working out is good for both body and mind. During schooldays students are used to a sedentary lifestyle, which has been linked with an increased risk of obesity and depression. But what if they are now encouraged to attend extracurricular activities like hockey, soccer, gymnastics, swimming, karate and so on? Besides being more energetic and athletic, they can also experience the joy of cooperation and competition. Plus sports activities provide a temporary escape, enabling children to take their mind off studies for a while and then go back to schoolwork refreshed. According to a recent survey, kids who exercise 30 minutes a day five times a week enjoy better overall brain health, reduced stress, increased creativity and clearer thinking.

And the school itself is another beneficiary. It is because athletics is a great way to draw attention to a school. When schools get attention, they also get funding. This can be a big deal for schools since private donors determine how much can be invested in scholarships, facilities, and paying top professors. Therefore, the more weight a school puts on its sports programs, the more potential athletic stars it will produce, and the more potential donors it will attract. Besides, notable alumni also lend their names to a school. Knowing that Michael Jordan went to Laney High School will encourage many other aspiring basketball players to apply there. This school will get to choose the most promising ones, thus continuing the legacy of its fame.

Sure, arts and volunteering do benefit students in their own way. Arts can promote students' appreciation for beauty and volunteer jobs help children show more tolerance and empathy to people around. But the fact is, arts makes little sense unless it is comprehended based on a certain level of passion and interest. High schoolers who are normally drawn to pop culture wouldn't necessarily gain much from ancient paintings and sculptures. As for volunteering, community service has already covered such activities, which means schools can divert funds to more needed projects. So if the authority has to tighten its grip on funding the campus activities, arts and volunteering can be crossed off the priority list.

To sum up, I'm not saying arts and volunteering are less important, but with limited school funds, sports can be a more effective way to put that money into good use.

学校是让学生在智力和情感两方面为成人生活做准备的地方。体育、艺术还有志愿者活动都得校方的经济援助,不过当资金有限只能在一个领域投资的时候,我会选择体育。

首先,这个政策能给学生带来许多好处。大家都知道健身有益身心。上课期间学生都习惯了久坐,这增加了肥胖和抑郁的概率。但是如果他们能被鼓励参加曲棍球、橄榄球、体操、游泳跆拳道等课外活动又会怎样呢?除了变得更加有活力、更加强壮,他们还可以体验合作和竞争的快乐。另外,运动提供了一种放松方式,能让孩子们暂时抛却学习然后再精力充沛地回到学习中去根据一项最新调查,一周运动五次每次锻炼半小时的孩子,头脑更健康,压力更小,更有创造力,而思维也更清晰。

学校是另一个受益方。这是因为体育是一个学校吸引关注的绝佳办法。当学校获得了关注,它们也就能得到资金赞助。这对学校来说很重要,因为私人赞助商决定着学校能在奖学金、设备还有雇用名师上投入多少。所以,学校越重视体育项目,就越有可能培养出潜在的体育明星,也就越有可能吸引到赞助商。另外,知名的校友也会给学校带来光环。知道乔丹毕业于 Laney 高中,更多有追求的篮球运动员会报考这个学校。学校就能选出最具潜力的苗子,从而保持学校名誉。

当然,艺术和志愿者活动也能以各自的方式来帮助学生成长。艺术能提高学生的审美水平,志愿者活动能使孩子对他人更有包容心和同情心。但是事实上,只有在基于兴趣的前提下艺术鉴赏才有可能发挥作用,热衷流行文化的高中生未必会从古代绘画和雕塑中学到什么。志愿者活动包括在社区服务里了,这就意味着学校可以把资金投入 to 更有需要的项目之中。所以如果校方必须要削减学校活动的资金,可以放弃艺术和志愿者活动。

总结一下,我不是说艺术和志愿者活动不重要,但是如果学校资金有限,把钱投到体育上是更有效、更合理的方式。

6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Universities should spend more money improving facilities, such as libraries, computer labs, than hiring famous teachers.

Nowadays, universities have become so popular that they must adapt to the increase in student enrollment rates, so most of them hire more professors to lecture the increasing number of students. The question of whether this measure is more effective than improving campus facilities has drawn wide attention. As far as I am concerned, focusing more on university facilities is more important.

First, first-rate facilities will serve as a catalyst for students' interests in studies. Advanced facilities will allow students to learn knowledge more vividly and makes it easier for students to understand and memorize. No doubt students' passion for studies can be fueled. For example, for engineering students, it is usually the case that the professor will bring students to the laboratory to demonstrate how the theories in books are transformed into real circuit schematics. Likewise, professors in filming could use different software, such as Final Cut, iMovie or so on, to direct students on how to combine several static pictures into one moving video. Thanks to these teaching facilities, there is a higher chance that students would feel bedazzled by the realistic demonstrations of experiments or be lured to act themselves. On the other hand, just because famous professors are leading experts in academics does not necessarily ensure their opinions can be fully delivered to students. Therefore, teachers only play minor roles for students' overall learning.

Additionally, improvements to facilities will enrich students' living conditions on campus and their whole college experience. Facilities like gymnasiums, libraries or even food courts are complementary to academic life. By going to gymnasiums after classes, students can go play basketball, squash, weightlifting, and even rock climbing. Such activities are not only healthy, but it will drag them out from the heavy burdens of study. By going to libraries, not only will students be able to find reference books for their classes, but, more importantly, they could browse books outside their majors according to individual interests, such as popular recreational books, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sherlock Holmes*. By going to the food court during classes, students are also offered various healthy and gourmet food, especially, spaghetti, sushi and fried rice, providing students with a diverse and exciting lifestyle.

To sum up, due to the reasons I listed above, I regard that upgrading university facilities deserves more attention than hiring famous professors.

现如今，大学已经很普及以至于大学要去适应不断增长的入学率，所以很多大学会招聘更多教授来教越来越多的学生。有关这个方法是否比提高校园设备有效的问题引起了人们广泛的关注。就我而言，专注大学设备更重要。

首先，一流的设备是学生学习兴趣的催化剂。先进的设备帮助学生更生动地学习知识并且使他们更容易理解和记忆。毫无疑问，这将激发学生的学习热情。举个例子，对于学工程的学生来说，总有这样一种情况，教授会带他的学生们去实验室，展示书本中的理论如何转化为实际的电路图。同样，教授摄影的老师会用不同的软件，比如 Final Cut、iMovie 等，目的是为了指导学生如何把几张静止的图片与移动的录像结合在一起。多亏了这些教学设备，学生很可能会受真实的实验展示或软件震撼，或者更乐意自己尝试一下。相反的是，因为名师只是学术专家，并不意味着他们能把自己的观点充分传达给学生。所以，老师在学生的整个学习过程中扮演了一个很微不足道的角色。

此外，设备提升能丰富学生的校园生活条件和他们整体的大学经历。体育馆、图书馆或者食堂这些设施都是对学术生活的补充。放学后去体育馆，学生可以去打篮球、壁球、举重，甚至攀岩。此类活动不仅是健康的，而且会将他们从学习的沉重负担中解脱出来。去图书馆，学生不仅可以找到与课程有关的参考书，而且，更重要的是，他们可以根据他们个人的兴趣浏览本专业以外的书籍，比如广受欢迎的休闲读物《傲慢与偏见》和《福尔摩斯》。课间去美食街，学生也可享受各种健康美食，尤其是意大利面、寿司和炒饭，这都给学生提供了一个多样化的和令人兴奋的生活方式。

总之，根据我上面列出的原因，我认为升级大学设施比聘用著名的教授更值得关注。

7. It is better to take a secure job with a low pay than to take a job with a high pay but little security.

The debate over whether a low-paying but secure job is better than a high-paying yet less secure job is a fierce one. It is tempting to think that a low paying job with great security means an easy and comfortable life while a high-paying job without security leaves one exposed to the risk of unemployment, thereby creating a high level of stress. However, I hold the opposite view. I believe that a high paying but insecure job is beneficial for personal development.

Challenging jobs contribute to people's growth. High paying jobs are crucial in every company, requiring people to deal with all sorts of demanding tasks. Besides the work itself, high expectations from the supervisors, along with intense competition among colleagues, strain people's nerves. They always face the prospect that if they do not continue to perform at a high level, they will get laid off. But pressure, despite its obvious drawbacks, also motivates people to work harder and achieve more. In fact, for most people, it is only when placed under pressure that they are motivated enough to make the most of their time in order to acquire more knowledge and sharpen skills, thereby bringing out the best in themselves. In contrast, people who have chosen low-paying and secure jobs lead easier and comfortable lives, largely free of pressure and stress, or the need to make changes. The flipside is that the lack of pressure and the sense of security, which dampens their motivation and effectively barricades people from continued development.

Taking high paying but insecure jobs helps people build a strong will. When holding a high-paying but insecure job, people will inevitably be encountered with significant setbacks. No matter how many sleepless nights go into perfecting the project at hand, the end result may still fail to live up to the expectation of their supervisors. Or, even after donating a large amount of time and energy on a project or presentation, people may still lose a million-dollar contract for simply failing to appeal to one of their clients. But every dark cloud has a silver lining. Adversity and failure are critical in the process of achieving something great. People learn from mistakes, realizing that crying and complaining serve no useful purpose in addressing the problem. So, they are more likely to continue on their journey with a renewed vigor and strong minds.

In summary, I acknowledge that people who take low-paying but secure jobs can enjoy easy and comfortable lives. But in the long run, working a job with high pay but lower security is the best way for people to improve themselves and develop a resilient personality.

关于是否一份低工资但稳定的工作比一份高工资但不太稳定的工作更好的争论非常激烈。人们很容易认为安稳的低收入工作意味着一种简单而舒适的生活，而没有稳定性的高薪工作会让一个人容易失业，因此带来更大的压力。然而，我持有相反的观点。我相信一份高薪但不稳定的工作有利于个人发展。

挑战性的工作有助于人们的成长。高工资的工作在每个公司都是至关重要的，要求人们处理各种各样高要求的任务。除了工作本身，上级的高期望以及同事之间的激烈竞争都让人紧张。高工资的人总是面临一个状况：如果他们不继续高质量地完成工作，他们将被解雇。但是，尽管压力是很明显的缺点，同时也激励人们更努力地工作，获得更多的成就。事实上，对大多数人来说，只有在压力下，才能有足够的动力，更好地利用他们的时间，获取更多的知识和提高技能，从而激发出最好的自己。与之相反，那些选择低收入和稳定工作的人过着更舒适的生活，没有任何压力也没有做出改变的需要。这种生活的另一面就是缺乏压力和十足的安全感，这会浇灭他们的动力，阻碍他们的持续发展。

高薪但不稳定的工作有助于人们磨炼坚强的意志。当拥有高薪但不稳定的工作时，人们不可避免地会遇到重大挫折。不管有多少个用于完善手头项目的失眠之夜，最终的结果可能仍然无法满足上司的期望。或者，即使花费了大量的时间和精力在一个项目或展示上，人们也会由于没有满足他们的客户而失去一张价值百万美元的合同。但是风雨过后总有彩虹。逆境和失败在取得伟大成就的过程中是至关重要的。人们从错误中吸取教训，认识到哭泣和抱怨对解决问题毫无用处。因此，他们才更可能充满活力并且更坚定地继续他们的旅程。

总之，我承认做低工资但稳定工作的人可以享受舒适安逸的生活。但从长远来看，工资高但不稳定的工作是人们进步和培养坚韧个性的最佳途径。

8. Some companies decide not to permit employees to reply the e-mail or message associated with the work in the holiday or on the weekend. Some people think that this policy will improve the satisfaction of the employees. While others argue that banning the reply to the e-mail or text associated with the work will decrease the satisfaction of employees. What do you think?

It is widely acknowledged that employees are essential to a company's success. Given this, some companies are seeking to improve the satisfaction of employees by not requiring them to reply the work-related e-mails or messages in the holiday or on the weekend. While some worry this may decrease the satisfaction of employees, I maintain that this policy will enhance their sense of satisfaction, for a couple of reasons.

To begin with, not requiring employees to reply the work-related e-mails or messages in the holiday or on the weekend, to a large extent, reduces their work stresses. Holidays and weekends are supposed to be the time when employees can get a short break from fast-paced work routines. If they are permitted to ignore work-related emails and messages on these occasions, they do not have to think about the reports they need to write, the customers they need to contact, and sales target they must work hard to achieve. In this case, their pressure level will be much lower. By contrast, if they are required to read and reply work-related e-mails or messages, they will be preoccupied with the information of e-mails or messages, thinking about what new changes have happened in work and what measures they should take. Under this circumstance, they can hardly get away from the hustle and bustle of their work, and their pressure from work cannot be lowered even in the holiday or on the weekend. Take my elder sister Penny as an example. She is an accountant working in a multi-national company. She told me that all employees were required to read and reply the work-related e-mails or messages in the holiday or on the weekend. Last Saturday, when she woke up, she received a message from her superior, telling her to turn in the salary data of this month. Then, Penny spent almost half a day to complete the task. She said that emails or messages in the holiday or on the weekend are most annoying, depriving her of the chance to take a break from work.

In addition, not requiring employees to reply the work-related e-mails or messages in the holiday or on the weekend greatly improve their sense of happiness. The underlying reason is that they can fully enjoy their time with their family and friends. Imagine the situation where you wake up in the morning on Saturday. Without worrying about work, you can spend the whole day in a peaceful manner: you have a nice breakfast with your family, prepare some snacks and then drive to a beautiful national park to have a picnic with friends, and go to the cinema to watch a fascinating movie in the evening. During the whole day, you do not need to check your e-mails or messages repeatedly; you do not need to worry about missing any important e-mails or messages and thus letting your superior down. Instead, your company specify that you are allowed not to reply the work-related e-mails or messages in the holiday or on the weekend, all you have to do at weekends or in holidays is to enjoy your leisure time and have fun with your friends and family. What a wonderful policy!

To sum up, not requiring employees to reply the work-related e-mails or messages in the holiday or on the weekend makes them more satisfied with their work and their employers, since they will not be overwhelmed by work pressure in the holiday or on the weekends and they can have quality time with their family and friends.

企业的成功离不开员工。有鉴于此，一些公司正试图通过不要求员工在假期或周末回复与工作相关的电子邮件或信息来提高员工的满意度。虽然有些人担心这可能会降低员工的满意度，但我认为这一政策将增强他们的满意度，原因有几个。

首先，不要求员工在假期或周末回复与工作相关的电子邮件或信息，在很大程度上减少了他们的工作压力。假期和周末应该是员工从快节奏的日常工作中获得短暂休息的时间。如果允许他们在这些场合忽略与工作相关的电子邮件和信息，他们就不必考虑他们需要写的报告，他们需要联系的客户，以及他们必须努力实现的销售目标。在这种情况下，它们的压力水平会低得多。相反，如果他们被要求阅读和回复与工作相关的电子邮件或消息，他们会被电子邮件或消息的信息占据，思考在工作中发生了什么新的变化，他们应该采取什么措施。在这种情况下，他们很难摆脱工作的忙碌，即使在假期或周末，他们的工作压力也无法降低。以我姐姐佩妮为例。她是一家跨国公司的会计。她告诉我，所有员工都被要求在假期或周末阅读和回复与工作相关的电子邮件或信息。上周六，当她醒来时，她收到了来自上级的一条信息，告诉她上交本月的工资数据。然后，Penny 花了几乎半天的时间来完成这项任务。她说，假期或周末的电子邮件或信息最烦人，剥夺了她在工作中休息的机会。

此外，不要求员工在假期或周末回复与工作相关的电子邮件或信息，大大提高了他们的幸福感。潜在的原因是他们可以充分享受他们的时间与家人和朋友。想象一下你周六早上醒来的情形。不用担心工作，你可以花整天以和平方式：你有一个好的早餐和你的家人，准备一些零食，然后开车去一个美丽的国家公园和朋友去野餐，和去看电影在晚上看一部有趣的电影。在一天中，你不需要反复查看电子邮件或信息；你不需要担心错过任何重要的电子邮件或信息，从而让你的上司失望。相反，你的公司明确规定，你不允许在假期或周末回复与工作相关的电子邮件或信息，你在周末或假期必须做的是享受你的空闲时间，与你的朋友和家人玩得开心。多好的政策啊！

总之，不需要员工回复相关的电子邮件或消息在假期或周末让他们更满意他们的工作和他们的雇主，因为他们不会被工作压力在假期或周末的时候，他们可以有质量的时间与他们的家人和朋友。

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Playing sports teaches people lessons about life.

Some people think that playing sports is a waste of time with little relevance to real life. They believe that sport at best, is good for keeping fit and healthy, and even these benefits can be reaped through other and more enjoyable activities. However, sports enthusiasts point to the well documented mental, physical and social benefits of sports, not to mention the personal skills that people develop through participation in sporting activities. I agree with this view and believe sports can teach people many lessons applicable to life in general.

The most obvious quality that sports can teach is the value of teamwork. It can teach individuals to cooperate with their team members, even those they do not personally like. When I was younger I played lacrosse and soccer, and quickly learned that a team either works together or it fails. We played exceptionally, if we supported each other and complemented each other's skills. However when personal ambition and egos were carried onto the pitch, the team's performance took a nosedive. Even world class football players such as Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo cannot win a match, without the support of the other players. In sports, as is the case with life, great things can be achieved when a group of individuals work together in harmony, setting aside their personal differences to achieve a common objective.

Sports can also teach people how to overcome failure and remain positive in the face of adversity. I remember the first loss I experienced as a soccer player. My team had won the first three games of the season, and with 10 minutes of the fourth match remaining, the team was two goals ahead. Unfortunately, then the unthinkable happened—over the next five minutes, our opponents recovered and scored three goals, condemning us to a loss, which led to low team morale. The coach gave the team a talk, and reminded us that failure is a part of growth and we needed to learn from mistakes and emerge stronger than before. After reviewing the tapes and revising our strategy, we came back to play a successful season and, by a score of 3-0, beat the team that had defeated us. Sports taught me to pick myself up and keep going, when things look bleak.

Finally, sports can teach "sportsmanship." There will always be competition in life. Some view competitors as enemies, whereas others use this as justification to do anything it takes to win. Playing sports has taught me a better way. It has taught me to respect and admire competitors and win on the basis of my talent without cheating. I remember one lacrosse game against a tough opponent. During the game, we fouled the opponents who were lagging behind us. Despite this, they decided not to call the foul. Moved by this gesture of sportsmanship, we took the team out for a meal after the match.

I believe that sports can teach people a lot about life. It teaches the value of teamwork, the correct way to deal with failure, and how to behave with integrity, which are invaluable attributes.

有些人认为运动浪费时间，与现实生活关系不大。他们认为运动最多也只是对保持健康有好处，甚至这些好处可以通过其他更有乐趣的活动获得。然而，体育爱好者指出运动有一些有据可查的身心及社会益处，更不用说人们通过参与体育活动发展的人际技能。我同意这种观点，并认为总体而言运动可以教人们许多能应用于生活的道理。

体育能传授的最显然的品质是团队合作的价值。它可以教会人们与他们的团队成员合作，即便是那些他们私下不喜欢的人。我小时候玩曲棍球和足球，并迅速了解到一个团队如果不齐心协力就会失败。如果我们互相支持、互补彼此技能，就会打得漂亮。然而当把个人野心和自我带入球场时，球队的表现就急转直下。没有其他队员的帮助，甚至世界一流的足球运动员梅西和C罗也不能赢得比赛。体育运动与生活一样，当一群人在和谐中齐心协力，撇开个人差异来实现一个共同的目标时，那伟大的事情就能达成。

运动还可以教人们如何克服失败并在面对逆境时保持积极。我记得作为一个足球运动员经历的第一次失败。我的球队赢得了这个赛季的前三场比赛，第四场比赛最后10分钟，球队领先两球。很不幸，然后意想不到的事情发生了——在接下来的5分钟，我们的对手逆转，进了三个球，注定了我们失败，导致我们团队士气低下。教练给队员们训话，提醒我们失败是成长的一部分而且我们需要从错误中学习并比以前更加强大。回放录像带并调整我们的策略之后，我们重返，在这个赛季大获成功，以3比0击败曾打败我们的队伍。运动教会了我在形势惨淡时，重拾自我继续前行。

最后，运动可以教会体育精神。生活总有竞争。一些人视竞争对手为敌人，而其他人用这个作为理由不择手段来获取成功。体育运动教会了我一个更好的方法。它教会我尊重竞争对手，并基于天分而非作弊获得最终胜利。我记得一场曲棍球比赛，对手非常强劲。在比赛中，我们对落后的对手犯了规。尽管如此，他们决定不叫犯规。被此举感动后，我们请这个团队赛后吃饭。

我相信运动可以教人们很多生活的道理。它教导团队合作的价值，处理失败的正确方式和如何正直的表现，这些都是无价的品质。

10. High school requires their students (aged 16-17) to choose an activity to attend in the summer holiday. Which of the following do you think is more beneficial?

1. Taking part in the university-level course (for example, the course related to the major field they want to study in);

2. Visiting museums and historic places with teachers and other students and then write a paper about it.

Why do students perform so differently in universities? The question has baffled many parents and educators, as they witness some young adults scoring straight 'A's while others struggling to graduate. Surprisingly, the answer might not lie in students' college life, but their high school period, especially how they spend their vacations. From my perspective, it is more beneficial for high school students to attend university-level courses, instead of joining school trips and writing papers.

First, advancement courses would allow students to choose their majors more wisely. Although universities provide a great variety of programs for freshmen to choose, few teenagers, especially in high schools, have any ideas what these major fields are about, nor do they know their own potential. Without prior knowledge, a student might just opt for a major which had a good job prospect or was recommended by his parents, and later found it a completely different story as he thought and just wanted to quit. However, with the advancement lessons available, competent high school students could try their interested courses. By listening to lectures on calculus or completing assignments for semiconductor theory for example, they are able to exercise their strengths and spot their weaknesses, so as to have a clearer picture of what they can do in college. On the contrary, field trips or case studies organized by high schools mostly require students to utilize existing knowledge, which is not helpful if they want to find out whether their intended majors are really suitable for them.

Second, attending university-level courses in advance facilitates students to maintain good study habits. Most teenagers, at an age when self-discipline usually does not exist, spend their 3-month long summer vacation on parties, travelling or video games. In this case, any museum visit or city tour organized by school could be turned into another leisure moment while nobody will finish the report or paper seriously. Obviously, a student who tends to continue his life this way in college is unlikely to succeed academically. Fortunately, what a holiday advancement course can do is to regulate a student's schedule, keeping him doing minimal exercises and perhaps simple researches, while ensuring enough rest. For instance, a math advancement course will take up 1 hour every two days so that students could periodically practice equations in linear algebra. As a result, they will keep their study momentum as the new semester comes, and adapt to college life quickly.

In a nutshell, taking part in university-level courses would grant high school students more benefits when their future study is taken into account.

为什么学生在大学里表现如此不同?这个问题让许多家长和教育工作者感到困惑,因为他们看到一些年轻人在毕业时成绩一直都是“A”,而另一些人却在苦苦挣扎。令人惊讶的是,答案可能不在于学生的大学生活,而在于他们的高中时期,尤其是他们如何度过假期。在我看来,高中生参加大学水平的课程比参加学校旅行和写论文更有好处。

首先,进修课程可以让学生更明智地选择专业。虽然大学提供了各种各样的项目供新生选择,但很少有青少年,特别是在高中,知道这些专业领域是什么,也不知道自己的潜力。在没有事先了解的情况下,一个学生可能只是选择了一个就业前景好的专业,或者是父母推荐的专业,后来发现这与他所想的完全不同,于是想要退学。然而,有了进修课程,有能力的高中生可以尝试他们感兴趣的课程。例如,通过听微积分讲座或完成半导体理论作业,他们能够发挥自己的长处,发现自己的弱点,从而更清楚地了解自己在大学里能做什么。相反,高中组织的实地考察或案例研究大多要求学生利用已有的知识,这对于学生想要了解自己想要学习的专业是否真的适合自己是没有帮助的。

其次,提前参加大学水平的课程有利于学生保持良好的学习习惯。在这个自律还不存在的年龄,大多数青少年会把三个月的暑假花在聚会、旅行或电子游戏上。在这种情况下,任何由学校组织的博物馆参观或城市游览都可能变成另一个休闲时刻,没有人会认真完成报告或论文。显然,一个在大学里继续以这种方式生活的学生不大可能在学业上取得成功。幸运的是,假期进步课程能做的就是调整学生的时间表,让他们在保证足够休息的同时,做最少的练习,也许还能做简单的研究。例如,一门数学进修班每两天要花1个小时,这样学生就可以定期练习线性代数中的方程式。因此,在新学期到来之际,他们将保持学习势头,并迅速适应大学生活。

简而言之,考虑到他们未来的学习,参加大学水平的课程会给高中生带来更多的益处。

11. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

It is often not good for people to move to a new town or country, because you may lose old friends.

Many people think that moving to a new city or a country means that they will lose contact with old friends and they fear loneliness away from their familiar surroundings. But I view it differently. As far as I am concerned, relocation to another place does not necessarily lead to the loss of old friends for the reasons discussed below, and the benefits of moving away outweigh the potential disadvantages.

First, moving away from friends does not necessarily mean loss of friends. The advances in transportation and communication have eliminated the geographic barriers between people and shrunk the world into a small global village. You can speak to, and see friends, no matter where they live in the world with the help of such applications as Facebook, Skype or WeChat. In an era when the internet has become universally accessible and aircrafts travel at fast speeds in the skies, distance is no longer a barrier between people. Further, true friendships are those that can survive distances and as the saying goes, absence makes the heart grow fonder. A case in point is the relationship with my best friend Richard, who moved from our hometown to New York in search of better job opportunities. We keep in contact with each other primarily through WeChat and converse with each other on a daily basis. Ironically we communicate more with each other now that Richard is in America, than we did when he was in my hometown. In fact, the long distance has brought us even closer than before.

Second, moving away is exciting and offers many opportunities. There can be no denying that moving to a new place, especially a new country with an alien culture and language can be stressful, as it takes us a while to get into swings of things. But once you settle in, the long-term benefits will outweigh the teething problems. Even though it is a cliché, relocating to another place broadens your horizons. You can read books about romantic cities like Paris, or see the pictures of the iconic Eiffel Tower but you can only really learn about a place once you have lived there. Living in Paris will allow you to truly understand why it is often dubbed one of the most romantic cities in the world.

Also, moving away from friends and the comfort of our homes makes you more independent. When you live at home and a problem crops up, you can lean on your parents and friends for support, but when you are alone in a new place there is no such support structure. Living alone helps you to be resourceful and solve problems, which are two very important characteristics. Take for example, my cousin Meimei, who studied her undergraduate degree at a university in the United States of America. This experience gives her a better understanding of western culture, values, customs and religions, which are totally different to those in China. Even more importantly, this overseas experience has equipped Meimei with the confidence to lead an independent life and solve problems without support.

Therefore in my opinion, moving away to another city or country will not lead to loss of friendships, especially in this age of information. In fact, it will bring new opportunities which may never be available at home.

参考译文

许多人认为，搬到一个新的城市或一个国家意味着他们会失去与老朋友的联系，并且他们害怕远离熟悉的环境所带来的孤独。但我不认同这一点。就我而言，由于下面讨论的原因，搬迁到另一个地方并不一定导致失去老朋友，搬家的益处远大于潜在的缺点。

首先，离开朋友不一定意味着失去朋友。交通工具和通信的进步消除了人们之间的地理障碍，把世界缩小成为地球村。不管他们在哪里生活，借助于一些应用，如 Facebook、Skype 或微信，你都可以跟朋友聊天并且看见朋友。在一个互联网已经全面普及和飞机在天空中高速旅行的时代，距离不再是人与人之间的障碍。此外，真正的友谊不受距离的影响。俗话说，距离产生美。一个很好的例子是与我最好的朋友 Richard 的关系，他从我们的家乡搬到纽约寻找更好的工作机会。我们主要通过微信与彼此保持联系，并且每天都会聊天。有讽刺意味的是，Richard 到了美国后，我们的沟通比当他在家乡时更频繁。事实上，距离让我们彼此更加亲密了。

其次，搬家是令人兴奋的，并提供了许多机会。不可否认，搬到一个新的地方，尤其是一个有陌生的文化和语言的国家会带来很大的压力，因为我们需要一段时间才能适应。但是一旦你安定下来，长期的收益将大于初期的问题。尽管这是老生常谈，但是搬迁到另一个地方确实可以拓宽你的视野。你可以阅读关于像巴黎这样的浪漫城市的书籍，或者可以看到其标志性建筑埃菲尔铁塔的照片，但你只有住在那里时，才能真正了解一个地方。生活在巴黎将让你真正了解为什么它通常被称为世界上最浪漫的城市之一。

此外，远离朋友和家庭的舒适会让你更独立。当你住在家时，一个问题突然出现，你可以依靠你的父母和朋友的支持，但当你独自住在一个新的地方时，就没有这样的支持。独自生活让你足智多谋，更有能力解决问题，这是两个非常重要的特点。以我的表妹梅梅为例，她在美国的一所大学学习。这段经历让她更好地了解西方的文化、价值观、风俗习惯和宗教信仰，这些与中国完全不同。更重要的是，海外经历使梅梅有了独立的生活和独立解决问题的信心。

因此，在我看来，离开到另一个城市或国家不会导致失去友谊，尤其是在这个信息时代。事实上，它将带来在家永远都不可得的新机会。

12. It is more important for the government to spend money on improving internet access than on public transportation.

I disagree with the statement that it is more important for the government to spend money improving internet access than on public transportation. As someone who must take public transportation to school every day, I think improving public transportation would have greater benefits for people in general.

Improving public transportation will make commuters' lives much easier.

For many people, especially those living and working in larger cities, public transportation provides the only means of getting to and from school or work. Therefore, perfect public transit

matters a lot for them, as it would reduce their time spent on the road and would make their study or work more productive. Because I have to use old, poorly maintained bus lines, my commute takes an hour and a half each way, which means that I waste three hours of each day on travel alone. In those three hours, I'm forced to stand on a crowded bus with no space to even pull out a book and read it. In this sense, improving public transportation would give me more time to study and sleep, and other people more flexibility for work and relaxation.

Better public transportation also helps to reduce air pollution. Many studies have shown a strong correlation between air quality and the number of vehicles in a city, and we know for a fact that only when public transportation is of a very high quality and well-integrated can the number of cars on the road be reduced. Some cities are renowned for its air quality problems. If they had a more extensive public transportation system that could handle higher volumes of people, the government would find it easier to tackle the number of cars allowed in the city and bring an end to the smog that has haunted those cities for many years. New York and Tokyo have excellent bus and subway networks that almost everyone uses, and air pollution in those cities is almost non-existent.

In conclusion, public transportation is simply a more fundamental need than the internet. Improving it will raise the quality of life for far more people.

我不同意这个说法，即政府花钱改善互联网而非公共交通更为重要。作为一个必须每天乘公共交通工具上学的人，我认为改善公共交通将对大众有更大的益处。

改善公共交通将使通勤者的生活更轻松。对于许多人，特别是那些在大城市生活和工作的，公共交通是往返学校和公司的唯一方式。因此，完善的公共交通对他们来说是非常重要的，因为它会减少在路上的时间并使他们的学习或工作更有成效。因为我必须使用旧的维护不佳的公交线路，我单程通勤需要一个半小时，这意味着我每天仅在路上就要浪费三个小时。在这三个小时里，我被迫站在拥挤的公共汽车上，甚至没有空间掏出一本书来读。从这个意义上说，改善公共交通能给我更多的时间来学习和睡觉，给其他人的工作和休闲提供更多灵活性。

更好的公共交通也有助于减少空气污染。许多研究表明，空气质量和城市车辆的数量之间有很强的相关性，我们知道一个事实，只有当公共交通非常高效且完善时，路上的汽车数量才能减少。比如，有些城市以其空气质量问题而闻名。如果它们有一个更广泛的能容纳更多人的公共交通系统，政府将更容易发现控制城市的车辆数量的办法，并结束多年雾霾的困扰。纽约和东京都有几乎每个人都在使用的完善的公交和地铁网络，在这些城市里空气污染几乎是不存在的。

总之，公共交通就是一个比互联网更基本的需求。改善它将提高更多人的生活品质。

13. Do you agree or disagree with the statement: Students are more interested in politics today than they were in the past.

Students today are more interested in politics than students were in the past. The methods of presenting politics to the general audience have changed. Now that it is more entertaining and easier to watch the progress of local and international events, students have a greater desire to follow political issues.

In the past, political issues were considered serious topics that needed to be treated with dignity and respect. That attitude has changed in recent years, so that now political events such as debates are colorful spectacles designed to engage and entertain. Politicians are often viewed as amusing and mocked by actors and the media. As a result, students enjoy seeing what antics the politicians are up to. This new attitude is a far cry from the dry, solemn tone of yesteryear.

Not only are political proceedings considered more entertaining, but they are also easier to access now than they were in the past. It is easy to look up issues on the internet or smart phones, so students can read about political events at any time. They do not have to buy a newspaper or dedicate a certain time to watching news on the television. Instead, they can read on the bus or while waiting to meet a friend. In fact, social media also rapidly spreads news about political events, allowing the news to reach millions more students than it would have in the past.

At the same time that technology makes news about politics more accessible, it encourages more awareness of events so that students do not feel left behind. Students want to follow issues so that they can converse in witty ways with their friends. They do not want to appear “out of the loop,” so they read up on what is happening. They take time to scan headlines and watch videos so that they are able to discuss such things with their peers.

Today, politics are presented as diverting and entertaining. New technology makes it easier for students to access news. In turn, students have more of a desire to learn about the news so they can keep up with their friends. As a result, students today follow politics much more than they did in the past.

现在的学生比过去的学生对政治更感兴趣。向普通观众呈现政治的方法发生了变化。现在，学生们更容易观看当地和国际事件的进展，也更愿意关注政治问题。

在过去，政治问题被认为是严肃的话题，需要以尊严和尊重对待。近年来，这种态度已经发生了改变，因此，现在的政治活动，如辩论，是为参与和娱乐而设计的多彩景观。政客们常常被演员和媒体视为可笑和嘲笑的对象。因此，学生们喜欢看政客们在做什么蠢事。这种新的态度与过去那种干巴巴、严肃的语气相去甚远。

政治活动不仅被认为更具娱乐性，而且比过去更容易观看。在互联网或智能手机上查找问题很容易，所以学生可以随时了解政治事件。他们不需要买报纸，也不需要花特定的时间在电视上看新闻。相反，他们可以在公交车上或等朋友的时候阅读。事实上，社交媒体也迅速传播有关政治事件的新闻，使新闻比过去多接触到数百万学生。

科技让政治新闻更容易获得的同时，也鼓励了人们对事件的更多关注，这样学生们就不会感到落伍了。学生们想要关注问题，这样他们就能以诙谐的方式与朋友交谈。他们不想显得“局外人”，所以他们会仔细研究正在发生的事情。他们花时间浏览头条新闻，观看视频，以便能够与同龄人讨论这些事情。

今天，政治被呈现为消遣和娱乐。新技术使学生更容易获得新闻。反过来，学生们更渴望了解新闻，这样他们就能跟上他们的朋友。结果，今天的学生比过去更关注政治。

14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is important to make sure that others know about your strengths and accomplishments; if you are not so, you will be never successful in life.

A wide range of factors contribute to one's success, among which one's strengths and accomplishments surely play a vital role. Some employees are eager to acquaint others with their strengths and accomplishments, for they believe it is the key to achievements. It is true that others' appreciation of a person's strengths and achievements may create more opportunities, but it does not necessarily lead to success.

First off, even if one's advantages and successes are not known by others, he/she could succeed by seizing the right opportunity. Generally speaking, once a person has made the right choice on career, his diligence will pay off exponentially. Many examples can support this claim. When Bill Gates dropped out of Harvard University to start up Microsoft, he was nobody, and no one expected his company would become the pioneer to provide software system for personal computers. However, Bill Gates made it for he saw the potential global market of the internet. Likewise, when Elon Musk quit his PHD in Stanford to establish Paypal, he was an inexperienced student without any achievements. Although his talents were not highly appreciated, he created Paypal that fundamentally changed the way people make financial transactions. Therefore, grasping the right opportunities is the genuine reason that determines their success.

In some cases, others' recognition and appreciation may be extra burden on one's performance, giving rise to the possibility of making mistakes. Especially those who has achieved insurmountable success, they would feel it as an unbearable responsibility to live up to people's high expectation. Liuxiang, the first Asian champion of hurdles in 2004 Athens Olympic games, was regarded as a national hero, receiving high reputation and countless rewards after the game. Unfortunately, Liuxiang hurt his right leg in 2006, thereby forbidden training by his doctor. However, with the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games on the corner, the whole nation were expecting him to win another world champion in this special occasion - the first Olympic Game in his home country. Shouldering the heavy expectation, he had no choice but to walk on the racing track, tried very hard on the first two hurdles, and fell on the ground. Suddenly, he became a renegade, a cheater, and intensely abused by people. The heavy mental pressure rendered him depressed, and finally put an end to his career. If he was not pushed so hard by people's expectation, he could have rested until his injury is cured, and reach higher the next time.

To conclude, it is not always beneficial to one's success that others know one's advantages and achievements, because one could succeed by seizing the right opportunity, and too much expectation from people could be detrimental.

一个人的成功有很多因素，其中一个人的优势和成就肯定起着至关重要的作用。有些员工渴望让别人了解自己的长处和成就，因为他们相信这是成就的关键。如果别人欣赏自己的长处和成就，可能会创造更多的机会，但这并不一定会带来成功。

首先，即使一个人的优势和成功不被别人知道，他/她也可以通过抓住正确的机会成功。一般来说，一个人一旦在事业上做出了正确的选择，他的勤奋就会得到指数级的回报。许多例子可以支持这一说法。当比尔·盖茨从哈佛大学辍学创办微软时，他是个无名小卒，没有人想到他的公司会成为提供个人电脑软件系统的先驱。然而，比尔·盖茨做到了，因为他看到了互联网潜在的全球市场。同样，当埃隆·马斯克(Elon Musk)放弃在斯坦福大学(Stanford)的博士学位创办Paypal时，他还是一个没有任何成就的经验不足的学生。虽然他的才能没有得到高度评价，但他创造了Paypal，从根本上改变了人们的金融交易方式。因此，把握好机遇才是决定他们成功的真正原因。

在某些情况下，其他人的认可和欣赏可能会给自己的表现带来额外的负担，从而导致犯错的可能性。特别是那些取得了不可逾越的成就的人，会觉得不辜负人民的期望是一种无法承受的责任。刘翔是2004年雅典奥运会首位亚洲跨栏冠军，被视为民族英雄，在赛后获得了很高的声誉和无数的奖励。不幸的是，刘翔在2006年伤了右腿，因此被他的医生禁止训练。然而，随着2008年北京奥运会的临近，整个国家都期待着他在这个特殊的场合——在他的祖国的第一次奥运会上赢得另一个世界冠军。背负着沉重的期望，他别无选择，只能走在跑道上，很努力地跨过前两个栏，却摔倒在地。突然间，他变成了一个叛徒，一个骗子，被人们严重虐待。沉重的精神压力使他抑郁，并最终结束了他的事业。如果没有人们的期待，他可以一直休息到伤口痊愈，并在下一次取得更高的成绩。

总而言之，别人知道自己的优点和成就并不总是对自己的成功有益的，因为一个人可以通过抓住正确的机会成功，而来自人们的太多期望可能是有害的。

15. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

The time that students have access to electronic devices that can be connected to the internet, like computers, phones and ipads, should be limited to one hour or less.

Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

As millennials, nowadays students are hooked on electronic gadgets, because they are exposed to tablets, smart phones and laptops since they were infants and toddlers. However, screen time, more than an hour, may cause irreversible damage to those young people's development.

In the first place, electronic devices that can be connected to the internet is detrimental to the young's physical health condition. Burying themselves in online games, like Honor of Kings, for more than an hour, the teenagers may end up with suffering higher risk of myopia and deformity of vertebra. Trapping in their bedroom and watching the TV series offered by the Netflix for a whole day, with cola and chips at hands, they will soon be plagued by obesity. However, if the electronic devices are utilized properly, like only being allowed to be used in an hour or less, students will switch to healthier ways to relax themselves. For example, they can stretch their body and improve their immune system by participating in ball activities. A compelling new study even finds that novice exercisers start to experience less desire for fattening foods, significantly preventing the obesity among adolescents.

Moreover, excessive use of the internet and social media makes children less competitive in their schoolwork, sometimes to the point of driving them to become underachievers. Thanks to high-speed broadband, social media and smart phones, video games are interactive, immersive and intricate. It is not uncommon for students to start a new round of games as soon as they step into home and find a comfortable position in the sofa. When they realize their unfinished homework, the hour hand has already pointed to ten or eleven. Without an effective review by doing homework, taking class will be a miserable and tedious process. As a result, those young internet addicts will totally lose their study interest. On the contrary, moderate use of those high-tech products is more beneficial to students' academic performance. They will be able to lay a solid foundation for their study with ample learning time. Also, a short break from tons of homework will give them a temporary respite during intense study.

To put it into a nutshell, have access to internet-accessing electronic devices is unfavorable to students' development, unless the time is limited to an hour.

作为千禧一代，如今的学生沉迷于电子产品，因为他们从小就接触平板电脑、智能手机和笔记本电脑。但是，超过 1 个小时的屏幕时间可能会对青少年的成长造成不可逆转的伤害。

首先，可以连接到互联网的电子设备对年轻人的身体健康有害。沉迷于像《王者荣耀》这样的网络游戏超过一个小时，这些青少年最终可能会患近视和脊椎畸形的风险更高。他们整天窝在卧室里，手里拿着可乐和薯片，看 Netflix 提供的电视剧，很快就会被肥胖所困扰。然而，如果正确使用电子设备，比如只允许在一个小时或更短的时间内使用，学生将转向更健康的方式来放松自己。例如，他们可以通过参加球类活动来伸展身体，提高免疫系统。一项引人注目的新研究甚至发现，锻炼新手对增肥食物的欲望开始降低，这显著地防止了青少年肥胖。

此外，过度使用互联网和社交媒体会降低孩子在学业上的竞争力，有时会导致他们成为差生。得益于高速宽带、社交媒体和智能手机，视频游戏具有互动性、沉浸性和复杂性。学生们一踏进家门，在沙发上找到一个舒适的位置，就开始新一轮的游戏，这是很常见的。当他们意识到他们的作业没有完成时，时针已经指向 10 或 11 了。没有通过做家庭作业进行有效的复习，上课将是一个痛苦和乏味的过程。结果，那些年轻的网瘾者将完全失去他们的学习兴趣。相反，适度使用这些高科技产品更有利于学生的学习成绩。有了充足的学习时间，他们就可以为自己的学习打下坚实的基础。此外，从成堆的作业中短暂休息可以让他们在紧张的学习中暂时休息一下。

简而言之，接触互联网的电子设备对学生的发展是不利的，除非时间限制在一个小时。