

Hello everyone! It's me again, Kelly, from Exploring College. Is there anything specific you want to see in our next edition of the newsletter? Are you interested in writing a column? Feel free to email me at exploringcollege@vassar.edu with any comments, suggestions or questions! In the meantime, enjoy our latest edition!

Poetry Competition!

We have exciting news! In honor of National Poetry Month, Exploring College will be hosting a poetry competition.

To process thoughts and feelings during these uncertain times, we want to encourage you to try writing it out. With this in mind, submissions for our competition should be inspired by life during COVID-19.

The top 5 finalists will all have their poems featured in a newsletter and receive a \$20 Amazon gift card. The winner will also receive an extra surprise on top of all that! We will be accepting entries from April 13th through May 1st. Got questions? Read on for more information!

“What do I have to write?”

The beautiful thing about poetry is that there is no “right” way to write it! For our competition, we ask that your poem be inspired by your experience through COVID-19, but beyond that it's totally up to you! You can also write it in any format or style you want, there are no rules! If you would like to submit spoken word poetry, you are welcome to send us a recording along with your poem. See below for more information on how to submit your poem!

“Who can enter?”

Any high school student in Dutchess County is welcome to enter.

“How do I submit my entry?”

You can submit your entry in a few different ways. Depending on what's easiest for you, you can submit your poetry by sending it to exploringcollege@vassar.edu either in the body of the email or as an attached document. If you handwrite your poem, you can also send a photo of your poem via email. If none of these options work well for you, call 845-437-7308 and we will find another option!

“What should my entry include?”

Your entry should include your name, your email address, your class year, your school, and a transcript of your poem. If you would like to send in a spoken word poem, you should also include a recording of you reading it out loud.

“Who will judge the competition?”

The staff members of the Vassar College Urban Education Initiative will judge the competition. This includes our executive director, our faculty director and the program managers of our three programs (Exploring College, VAST and VELLOP).

“When will I know if I won?”

We will review all entries and come to a decision by May 8th. You will receive an email from us regarding the results!

“What happens after I win?”

We will contact you via email to find the best method to deliver your prize. We will publish your poem in one of the May newsletters! If you are the first place winner, we will also have a column featuring you!

What's Happening with AP tests?

Last week we focused on the changes that have happened with SATs and ACTs, but what about AP tests? This week's newsletter will tell you what we know so far!

With COVID-19, students will be unable to take AP tests in person. College Board put out a survey asking AP test-takers if they wanted an opportunity to test this year and the majority said yes. In response, College Board has developed secure, online AP tests for each course that will take place throughout May. Each subject's exam is scheduled to occur at the same time across the world. In the event that you are unable to attend the original exam date, there are make-up tests available for each subject in early June. The full schedule is available on College Board's website at this link:

<https://apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/educators/taking-the-exams/ap-exam-schedule#makeup>

This testing format will require certain at-home resources, including stable internet connection and a device to test on. Acceptable devices include a computer, tablet or smartphone. If you need one of these (or know someone else who does!), you can fill out a form by April 24th and

College Board will help you acquire what you need. Here is the form:

<https://collegeboard.tfaforms.net/74>

To make sure that students are prepared to use the testing technology, College Board will post video demonstrations and FAQs to help students familiarize themselves ahead of the test date.

College Board also recognizes that schools across the world closed at different times in response to COVID-19.

Following these closures, schools have adjusted in various ways and chosen a variety of methods to continue providing course material. Due to these differences and inconsistencies, the AP exams will only cover topics/skills that most teachers had covered by early March. The test will also be open book/open exam.

If you're feeling a bit rusty on your knowledge or you just want more study materials, here are some places to check:

YouTube videos from College Board for each course:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/advancedplacement>

Tips for Open Book/Open Notes Exams:

<https://apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/students/open-book-tips>



Mentor Spotlight!

Featuring: Melisa

For our second spotlight, we're featuring one of our mentors, Melisa! Melisa is a first-year at Vassar from Long Island. She studies Latin American and Latinx Studies. While at home, she's been playing a lot of Animal Crossing (see image to the left!) and discovering new YouTube channels. She loves peaches and she has been eating a lot of them recently. A final fun fact about her is that she volunteers at a cat shelter and says that all the cats are great!

Wellness Tips

I think many of us are struggling to stay motivated and finish assignments. That's ok! Without normal socialization or the ability to leave the house, it's really hard to separate the day and take breaks that feel meaningful. Here are a few suggestions to do when you just can't seem to focus. Hopefully it will help you get your mind off things and feel rejuvenated to give your work another try!



Learn a dance:

I know a lot of you are fans of Kpop, so our mentors, Asho and Melisa, have shared a few of their favorite dances to learn. Just search for a dance tutorial on YouTube!

Boys With Luv by BTS

Fancy by Twice

Gotta Go by Chungha

Psycho by Red Velvet

Crossword:

We had a crossword two weeks ago, so if you liked it, here's another!

Art Prompts:

We've been including writing prompts in all our newsletters, but maybe you're getting tired of writing or you don't find it relaxing. Instead of writing, use the prompt to create art! This can be drawing, painting, collage, digital art, whatever you have around your house!

Suggestions!

Music:

Album: Future Nostalgia (Dua Lipa)

Artist: Lake Street Dive

TV Shows/Movies:

The Circle (Netflix)

Kingdom (Netflix)

Writing prompts

1. Creative

Using the image above, write a poem, a story, a personal memory etc. What story does this image inspire? Tell it!

2. Personal:

Especially now, it's important to think positively. Write a list of things you are looking forward to! Elaborate wherever you want to.

3. Opinion:

What do young people not receive enough recognition for? What should they be given more credit for?

SOCIAL MEDIA

by Frank Longo | © 2011, The New York Times



The Learning Network

Teaching & Learning With The New York Times

ACROSS

- 1 Message up to 140 characters long that's read by "followers"
- 6 People R.S.V.P. to it on their computers
- 11 What a karaoke singer sings into, for short
- 14 Long stories of heroic exploits
- 15 Actors memorize these
- 16 Show folks to their seats in a theater, informally
- 17 Web hosting service for viewing and sharing pictures
- 19 "Glee" co-star _____ Michele
- 20 Coke, Mountain Dew or Dr Pepper
- 21 Last section of an Italian sonnet
- 23 Tampa Bay N.F.L. team, for short
- 27 Cruel Roman emperor
- 29 Quarterback Tebow and actor Curry
- 30 "I couldn't care less" attitude
- 32 Ease off: 2 wds.
- 35 Lose one's sanity: 2 wds.
- 36 Bit of Web televising that might be presented on YouTube: 2 wds.
- 40 Dollar bill
- 41 Working hard
- 43 Pie _____ mode: 2 wds.
- 44 Simulation game that's popular on Facebook

- 46 Deep gulf
- 48 Church passageway between pews
- 49 In dreamland
- 50 Spanish term of endearment that means "daddy"
- 52 Like endangered species
- 55 Catering hall dispensers
- 56 "Angels We Have Heard _____" (Christmas carol): 2 wds.
- 59 Hog fat used in cooking
- 61 _____-cone (cold treat)
- 62 Virtual community where users may keep online diaries
- 68 Element in bronze
- 69 Turn _____ new leaf: 2 wds.
- 70 Cancel, as a mission
- 71 Look at
- 72 Sends messages on a 25-Down, for example
- 73 Buddy _____ (rosters of instant-messaging friends)

DOWN

- 1 Sixth of a fluid oz.
- 2 Sound of a crying baby
- 3 Bigheaded person's problem
- 4 Scarf down
- 5 General _____ chicken (Chinese menu item)
- 6 Manage to avoid
- 7 _____ of Christ (title for the pope)
- 8 Fluid filling a pen

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- 9 Casual shirts
- 10 Opposite of west, in Spanish
- 11 Massively _____ online game (virtual activity such as World of Warcraft)
- 12 "_____ to recall ...": 2 wds.
- 13 Has a real-time conversation via AOL, Facebook, etc.
- 18 Like a gaunt person
- 22 Returned part of a theater ticket
- 23 All that and a _____ chips: 2 wds.
- 24 "Once _____ time ...": 2 wds.
- 25 Device on which you can talk and take pictures: 2 wds.
- 26 Railroad depot: Abbr.
- 28 Song from the 1950s, say
- 31 Producers of sharp viewing images, for short
- 33 Suffix with velvet or Hallow
- 34 Old Roman robes
- 36 More foul
- 37 Sick
- 38 Showbiz twin Mary-Kate or Ashley
- 39 Catches a quick breath
- 42 Auto garage liquid
- 45 1,003, in Roman numerals
- 47 _____-ray Disc
- 49 Prefix with dynamic
- 50 Messages in online forums and newsgroups
- 51 Musical title girl who sang "Tomorrow" and "Dumb Dog"
- 53 Give a heads-up to
- 54 Old kings of India
- 57 Suffix that means "speaking in a language"
- 58 Bees' hangout
- 60 Having two components
- 63 Irk
- 64 Baseball hitting stat.
- 65 Negative responses
- 66 Output of Renoir or Monet
- 67 They rank below capt.