



3rd COVID Writing Competition

For Secondary School Students

"Impact"

What has been the impact of the pandemic over the last three years? What has it meant for individuals and communities in Hong Kong? So much has happened over the past three years. The pandemic has wrought profound changes on everyone and at all levels of society. What has changed? What has stayed the same? How many of these changes are permanent? How many changes will be forgotten once the virus loses its hold over humanity?

These are some of the questions underpinning this year's COVID writing competition. Perhaps you have other questions, other issues on the theme of impact. On our questions or on yours, we would welcome your submission.

We invite secondary school students to address these topics in one of two types of essays: a personal reflection or a piece of oral history.

Personal Reflection

Or

Oral History

A First-person Narrative

Based on your own experiences of the pandemic, address the question:

How Did COVID Impact Your Life?

Be an Investigator

Go and talk with your family, friends and people in your community:

What Was the Wider Social Impact of the Pandemic?

See our website
for more ideas/
questions/prompts

There are two submission categories for each topic: junior (for students in Years 1-3 of secondary school) and senior (for students in Years 4 and above). Submissions will also be located in streams: either an open stream for non-DSE curriculum students or a DSE stream for students who are or will be taking the DSE.

Prizes

Winners in each category/Stream

First : HK\$1,000 in book coupons

Second : HK\$500 in book coupons

(All entering students will be issued with a participation certificate.
The winning entries should be announced in late April.)

For more information, please go to

<https://research.class.cityu.edu.hk/event-list/3rd-covid-writing-competition/>

Closing Date
Friday

10 February 2023, 5pm

For more information on the
topics and how to submit



Enquiries

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College of Liberal Arts
and Social Sciences

香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

3rd COVID Writing Competition “Impact”

Instructions for Submission

All Categories

There are two submission categories for each topic: **junior** (for students in Years 1-3 of secondary school) and **senior** (for students in Years 4 and above). Submissions will also be located in streams: either an **open stream** for non-DSE curriculum students or a **DSE stream** for students who are or will be taking the DSE.

Junior category essays should be 1,000 words, +/- 10%; senior category essays should be 1300 words, +/- 10%. Both formatted in Times New Roman, 12-point font, and submitted as PDF documents. **Essays not meeting these criteria will not be considered.** Remember to put your name, school, Year, category, and stream on a title page! We cannot give you a prize if we do not know who you are!! Please use your full name as the file name.

The closing date is Tuesday 31 January 2023 at 3pm. Please fill in the google form (<https://forms.gle/Cr7W4syR3shud6QW8>) and submit your writing.

Starting Ideas

(1) Personal Reflection

A first-person narrative:

This is based on your own experiences of the pandemic: How did COVID impact your life over the last three years? What was your life like before the pandemic? What is your life like now? In what ways has COVID had a lasting impact on who you are? In what ways do you think that your pre-COVID life will return once the pandemic recedes? Where do you go from here? These are some questions to get you started but you should feel free to go beyond them if there is something else related to the theme of impact that you want to discuss/reflect upon.

Or

(2) Oral History

Be an investigator:

Go out and talk with your family, friends, people in your local community (teachers, people in your neighbourhood, clubs and societies) and write an oral history of the social impact of the pandemic over the last three years. How do you do this? Come up with some questions to ask people on the topic of “impact”. Some questions that you might like to think about to get you started could include: How much of an impact has the pandemic had on their lives? How has their life changed since the start of the pandemic? How do they think Hong Kong has changed since the pandemic started? Are these good changes or bad changes or just changes? Do they think the changes will be permanent or will things shift back once the pandemic ends? Ask people your questions and write down the answers, look through their answers to identify common themes or topics and write about how these themes relate to recovering from the pandemic. Again, please do not feel bound by these questions. This is your work. If you think other issues are more interesting within the context of “impact”, then feel free to develop them.

Judging

A panel of judges will review the submissions. Judges will be drawn from Professors at City University as well as leading members of the community. Feedback may only be provided on shortlisted pieces. The decision of the judging panel will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

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