

# Emily Liu

## *Artist of the Year Application 2023-24*

Nearly three summers ago, just a couple of days away from my freshman year, I decided that I was to become a student journalist. I was on one of the last stops of a school tour, where laying flat in a teal rolling cart was my first issue of the Panorama, our student newsmagazine. (The 2021 Senior Issue, to be exact) I had scarcely felt it before, but gazing upon the Studio-Ghibli-inspired cover adorned with soft flowers and climbing ivy, inspiration struck. The illustrations leapt out at me, and although art had been a hobby I thought I left behind in middle school, for the first time in a while, I felt emboldened to create.

Growing up, my first real interest in art was with Guó Huà, the Chinese art of watercolor brush painting. I painted landscapes, butterflies, cats — you name it, but while I was proud to express my cultural identity in such a manner, I am ashamed to say that for many years, my work sat gathering dust in my closet. Over time, my passion had dissipated, but when I joined my school's newsmagazine, I found a new purpose for my art.

Now years later, and as a junior in high school, I create art for our magazine every month. Whether it be drawing small illustrations for other pages or creating central art pieces for my own infographics, I became attached at the hip, or so they say, to my iPad and Apple Pencil.

My time on Panorama has taught me all the ways in which art can express identity and convey meaning, both of which influences my perspective as a journalist. On Panorama, I choose to employ my talent to enhance the unique identities and perspectives of writers on my staff and the people they cover. Whether it be through selecting the best brush texture, to considering even the slightest differences in shade, I work diligently to convey each message in an authentic manner.

Over the past two years, I saw my work grow from meaningful to me alone, to being important to and representative of many people in my community. I could have never imagined that in a few short years, my art would grow from an audience of just my family to my entire school, community, and even the nation. Working on the newsmagazine has importantly taught me the value of my own work and allowed me to develop foundational teamwork and leadership skills.

I am proudest of the fact that so many people around me trust me to tell their stories through my art. Watching each of them describe their creative visions challenges me to push past the limits of my own expression and inspires me to become a better artist. Next year, I have the privilege of leading our staff as Design Editor-in-Chief and am excited to continue helping others tell their stories through a visual medium. Although I still have room for growth, I am confident that if I keep practicing, perhaps someday soon, someone, like me years ago, will too stop, take a look, and feel inspired by my art.

# Caffeine Comparison

Panorama debates which popular caffeinated beverage, coffee or tea, is superior

## Classic Coffee

EMILY LIU  
opinions editor



**PICTURE THIS:** The early morning sun lazily peeks over the horizon as you reach for a mug, ready to pour yourself a cup of piping-hot, velvety-smooth goodness—coffee. Of course. No other drink could, dare I say, brew itself into American culture like coffee has, making it the unparalleled beverage of choice over tea.

For coffee and tea enthusiasts alike, the primary allure of both drinks stems from that sweet, sweet rush of caffeine. When you consider efficiency and potency, coffee bests the competition at 97 mg of caffeine per cup compared to tea's modest 47 mg. Plus, its wide availability makes it a more convenient energy source than stronger teas which are sold less and at greater costs.

Beyond its practical effects, coffee also boasts an unrivaled flavor profile. While both coffee and tea are inherently bitter, coffee's taste can be adjusted with delightful additions such as chocolate or caramel, which are just plain distasteful in tea. With a plethora of options from brewing techniques to flavoring syrups, you can easily suit coffee to your unique taste.

Lastly, there's coffee and communication; a classic pairing. In our modern world of bustling cafes and Starbucks, coffee serves as a true conversation starter. It's no surprise that coffee dates and meet-ups at coffee shops have become popular recently. The beverage just exudes an aura of acceptance and understanding that enables diverse connections and has formed many of our most meaningful relationships.

To many, coffee is more than simply a tasty drink; it's culturally significant and a staple of our daily routines. Whether it's lending an invigorating burst of energy or igniting conversations, coffee's dynamic role in our lives solidifies its position as the ultimate beverage over tea.

## Tasteful Tea

NITYA NARA  
opinions staff



**IT'S TIME** for society to grow up and admit tea is better than coffee. Tea and coffee may have certain components in common, but the ability to create the perfect taste and aroma to your exact liking is what puts tea on top.

Let's begin by taking a look at the widely varied world of tea tastes. Even the most reluctant tea drinkers would be amazed by tea's range of flavors, which range from the subtlest white tea to the boldest black tea—the options are limitless. In contrast, coffee can occasionally hide its actual flavor under heavy roasts. Tea inspires you to slow down and enjoy every moment, whereas coffee hurries you through each cup.

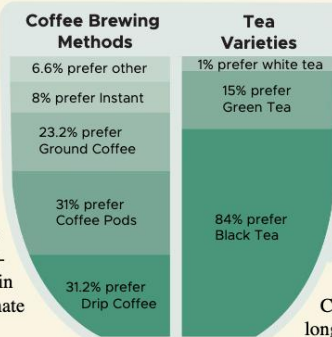
As most of us are aware, sugar, which is often added to both coffee and tea, is an addictive substance. According to research from the University of Illinois, coffee drinkers are known to add 41.5 calories of sugar per day to the coffee they drink while tea drinkers only add 36.7 calories to their tea. Although sugar is often added to both coffee and tea, coffee does not solve many of our health problems. Beyond the ethereal experience, tea undoubtedly has many significant health advantages. Green tea,

which is known for its high antioxidant content, strengthens our immune systems and protects against a wide range of chronic illnesses.

"But coffee gives you a higher caffeine spike," some would counter. Well, let me give you a little introduction to matcha, a green tea powder with a punch. In addition to providing long-lasting energy, matcha offers a smoother ride, preventing the well-known coffee jitters that make us nervous.

The evidence speaks for itself. Tea's tranquil experience, health benefits and vast variety of tastes make it the clear winner. Coffee has dominated the spotlight for too long, but now it's time for tea to take over. ☕

### THE US' FAVORITE



Since this piece was a pro-con on tea and coffee, I wanted to make my art interpretations of both look as delectable as possible with only a single color. I achieved this affect by creating a water-color like effect using brushes on Procreate which gave a very traditional and textured look to the art. I also wanted to establish the perspective of both the coffee cup and tea bag laying on a table with the beans and leaves spilled all around.



# Rewarding Roots

Students should learn Latin Roots in English class to enrich their vocabularies

MAYA MATHEW

opinions staff



## THE ORIGIN OF LATIN

Latin was invented in

700 BC



Latin became a "dead" language in

600-750 AD



Latin roots are still used in various languages

today



SCAN FOR a list of Latin roots



**A**T THE BEGINNING OF high school, Ladue students were presented with the opportunity to choose Latin as the primary language they wanted to learn for the next four years. Some students chose Latin because they were fascinated by the language, while others desired to expand their vocabulary to boost their performances on standardized tests. However, since many students were interested in learning other languages besides Latin, they were forced to choose between Latin and another language that they were interested in studying. Eventually, some students decided not to take Latin so they could learn another language that fascinated them. In reality, it isn't necessary for students to learn the entire language of Latin to obtain its benefits when they can study Latin roots. Therefore, English classes should include Latin roots in their curriculum.

Latin roots are Latin words that are used in many words from various languages, including English. One Latin root can be found in numerous words. For example, the root "mal-" means bad in Latin. The knowledge of this root could aid in the understanding of other words, such as "malfunction" or "malnutrition." Incorporating Latin roots into our English curriculum would improve students' vocabulary skills without requiring them to study Latin as their main language in high school, which is much more efficient. The skill of deciphering unfamiliar words by utilizing Latin roots would be incredibly useful for students as they take standardized tests like the SAT or ACT. This would allow students to gain most of the academic benefits of studying Latin without forcing them to learn Latin entirely as a language.

Some would argue that solely teaching about Latin roots would maintain a Eurocentric bias in language education. While this is a valid point, Latin has had the largest influence on the English lan-

guage as compared to all other languages; according to Stacker, 60% of English words consist of Latin roots. Despite the fact that the English language has been majorly influenced by Greek, French, German and numerous other languages, including those that do not originate from Europe, focusing on roots from more than one language would be time-consuming and confusing for students. I believe that centering lessons around root words from Latin would be the strongest and most practical approach.

As we progress through high school towards our prospective career paths, no matter what type of success you would like to achieve, having strong reading and writing skills is critical. Whether it be writing your college essays or preparing for job interviews, having an extensive vocabulary is a necessity. Integrating Latin roots into our English curriculum would allow students to expand their vocabulary in an efficient manner. 📖



## Common Root Words

Latin roots frequently utilized in the English language



aqu | water



1. aqua
2. aquatic
3. aqueous
4. aquamarine



dict | speak



1. diction
2. dictionary
3. dictation
4. predict



audi | hear



1. audio
2. auditorium
3. audible
4. audience

Sources: Britannica, Stacker

For this page, I created the art for the tree and the tree roots in the 7th column. Since the story was on Latin roots, I chose to play off of the visual idea of "roots" and take a metaphorical rather than literal interpretation. I was also inspired by the subject matter to draw knots on the roots and wrinkles on the tree to represent the age of the Latin language.

# Brick by Brick

A look at the beloved childhood toy, the LEGO brick and the company behind it

ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY LIU, MIMI ZHOU & OLIVIA CHEN

## Building History

A timeline of LEGO



It would take 15,080,330 LEGO pieces to recreate the LEGO Movie

## LEGO Anatomy

The first minifigure was created 1978



**4 billion**  
LEGO minifigures have been made in total

**1:25**  
Is the estimated scale of a minifigure

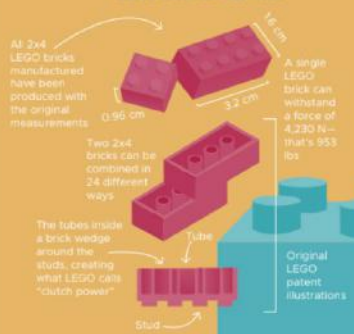
4 cm  
It's as tall as four LEGO Bricks

LEGO minifigures were originally yellow-skinned to express racial neutrality. The first LEGO minifigure to have a natural skin tone was Lando Calrissian, a Black Star Wars character, in 2003

**86%**  
of minifigures are male

## Behind the Brick

The LEGO Group patented the LEGO brick Jan. 28, 1958



## Gift Guide

The ultimate guide to buying LEGO sets

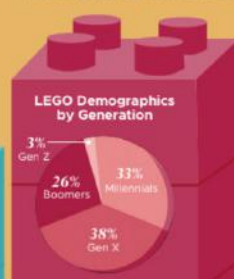


Sources: Brickset, Business Insider, CNBC, MarketWatch, Statista, The LEGO Group

## Stacking Statistics

Facts and figures on LEGO bricks and consumers

Every year, children spend a total of **5 billion** hours playing with LEGO



## Building Memories

Students and faculty share their memories with LEGO

**Madeline Fong (9)**  
"When I was little, I built a lot of LEGO Friends when my parents were too busy to play with me. LEGOs are very nostalgic for me."

**Aditya Jain (12)**  
"In second grade, for Junior P.U., I modeled a tsunami out of LEGOs. It was a lot of fun, and it made me like engineering."

**Michael Farrell (Teacher)**  
"I love building LEGOs with my son, Vince, because it builds a closer relationship between us. I want him to know that I like spending time with him."

For this piece, I created the art for all the LEGO bricks and LEGO figurines, including the two on top "building" the infographic and the headshots under "Building Memories." When creating art for this infographic, my greatest challenge was retaining the dimensions of each LEGO brick while changing the perspective in a variety of ways and adding accurate shadows. I am most proud of the "Behind the Brick" mod on this piece since it is an accurate to scale model of the original LEGO patent represented in a 3D style.





## Step-by-Step

A five step guide to investment for teenagers



## Assessing Investments

Investments from least to **greatest** risk



## Playing the Market

Information on investment strategies and trends

### U.S. Stock Index Performance



## Investment Interest

Opinions on investment across different generations

### Attitudes of Non-Investors

Why non-investors don't invest and their view on investing



### Saving vs. Investing

How time influences saving and investing



### Stock Slang

Terms originating from the stock market

**BUBBLE:** A situation in which the prices of stocks or other assets greatly exceed their intrinsic value, often followed by a sharp decline in prices.

**BULLISH:** Used to describe a positive outlook on a particular stock or the market as a whole.

**BEARISH:** Opposite of Bullish.

**WHALE:** A term used to describe institutional investors or wealthy individuals who hold large positions in a particular stock or market.

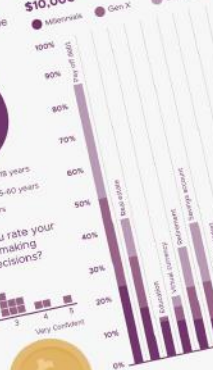
## Attitudes of Investors

Surveying Students

What age should people start investing?



### How US Investors would allocate \$10,000



I created each illustration on this infographic with the intent of making it appear as if the infographic were laid on top of a table with the large dollar bills, coins, and the pen. For this piece, I wanted to stick to a very minimalistic, sleek art style to reflect the type of subject matter, and focused on using shadows to add dimension.

# Coastal Crisis

A look at plastic pollution and human impacts on marine environments

ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY LIU

## Did you know...

Plastic found in the ocean could cover our Earth, with a radius of 3925 miles, 400 times.



## Going Deeper

Plastic at different depths of the ocean

**0 m**  
269,000 tons of plastic float on the surface. That's about two particles per cubic meter.

**300 m**  
At the highest concentration in the ocean, there are 12 plastic particles per cubic meter.

**1,000 m**  
Despite pressures at over 110 times than at sea level, there are 2 plastic particles per cubic meter.

**10,924 m**  
Crustaceans tested in the Mariana Trench have been shown to have ingested plastic.

## Marine Misery

How marine animals are physically harmed by plastic pollution



**4**  
**Toxic Contamination**

**56%** of the planet's whale, dolphin and porpoise species have consumed plastic.

## Mapping Pollution

Annual estimate of plastic emissions worldwide



**KEY**  
 10% +  
 1 - 10%  
 0.1 - 1%  
 0.01 - 0.1%  
 0 - 0.01%  
 No data

**1 in 20** adults will become sick after a single exposure to contaminated water



## From Sea to Table

The impacts of ocean pollution on human health

**55%** of fish species commonly consumed by humans have been found with microplastics



## Looking Forward

Ways to reverse ocean pollution

- 1.** Support legislation to curb plastic production and waste
- 2.** Participate in a beach or river cleanup
- 3.** Reduce plastic usage and recycle properly

Sources: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Our World in Data, Pew Research Center, UNESCO, Washington Post.



## Bottling it Up

The impact of plastic waterbottles on the ocean

Americans buy nearly 15 billion gallons of bottled water per year. Only 23% are recycled.



A single bottle can last 450 years in the marine environment.

## Counting Plastic

Most common items found in ocean clean-ups and their decomposition times



When I received the color palette for this infographic, I knew I wanted to play around with utilizing “atypical” colors to represent a subject by drawing marine life in warm-toned colors. I wanted to utilize my art as not only a way to draw the eye of the reader but also as a means to inform them by creating visual depictions of how marine life is actually affected by plastic for the central mod. For this piece, I am most proud of the detail of my art, as I haven’t had the opportunity to make such a large central art piece before.