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Sweltering & Abusive Conditions, but still Going to Work Everyday

by: Isra



Imagine this: you attend work every day, working long hours. Upon entering the building, you inhale fiber dust and toxic fumes. These sweltering hot places are where hundreds of workers make the clothes you wear. These underpaid workers in China, Bangladesh, Vietnam, and so many more countries are going through these conditions every day of their lives.

How much do workers work?

Companies can exploit workers by making them work unreasonable workloads and perform many impossible tasks. Many workers work after hours, nights, weekends, and even holidays.

How are employees obtaining more pay?

Many underpaid workers all around the world are going on strikes and a large number of people who don't face those issues are also protesting. According to the article "Largest Protest by Low Wage Workers in US History," on April 15, tens of thousands of people joined together in what the Guardian called the "largest protest by low wage workers in US history." From the tens of thousands of people rallying in New York City to garment workers in Bangladesh, protesters across the world sent a crystal-clear message: It's time for a wage increase, fair pay, and union rights. These underpaid workers are not being paid a fair wage for all the hard work they do every day and the conditions they endure.

What is happening in these factories?

The workers, especially the workers in China working for Apple, are getting beaten and arrested in response to their protests for better working conditions and wages. They had to stay in the factories during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic and only got paid $500 a year.

How does the company benefit from the underpaid workers?

In the article Apple Profits Soar workers are suffering. "According to a 2008 study published by MIT's Sloan School of Business, which looked at the value chain of iPod, the assembly time required for one device was 10 minutes, or six iPods per hour. Which means, if comparable, the cost of labor per iPhone assembled is roughly 27 cents." The workers only get paid $4.80 an hour while consumers pay 1,000 dollars for 1 iPhone.

So, the next time you go to the store, scroll on your phone, or put on your shoes, remember that there are people all around the world, working all day and night to get these products to you, with too little reward for themselves.

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Get to know the Mayor

by: Alice, Ally & Josie

Most people know our mayor. But do you really know him? Do you know his favorite movie and color? Does he even like his job? Once you read this interview, you will be surprised. You will learn much more about the mayor, and that's a promise.

Brian Pugh, our mayor, was born in Croton-on-Hudson, New York. He is married to Emmiljana Ulaj who was just elected to the Westchester County Board of Legislators. Brian became a trustee for the first time in 2014. Three years later, in 2017, he was elected the Mayor of Croton. Now let's get started answering some questions.

Q: What do you do as mayor?

A: "We have almost weekly meetings with the board of trustees. We have a regular meeting where we vote on resolutions and what's called a work session where we talk about projects but typically don't vote. We also have community events where we recognize eagle scouts or other people who have contributed to the community significantly."

Q: What's the best/worst part of being mayor?

1A: "I like making a real and positive difference."
2A: "There are no worst parts."

Q: Do you have a job other than mayor?

A: "Yes, I do, I work for the state senate. Being mayor is a part time job."

Q: Did you like PVC when you went there?

A: "Yes, I liked P.V.C, it was smaller then. It was before they made the renovations."

Q: How long do you spend working weekly?

A: "I work for seven to twelve hours every week or 1 to 2.5 hours every day."

Q: How do you raise money for projects?

A: "The money will usually come out of the fund balance, kind of the village's bank account, or the village can borrow money by issuing what's called a bond. Most of your parents have a mortgage that's a loan that lasts a very long time, typically thirty years. So, for very big projects the village will seek a loan."

Fun Facts about Mayor Brian

- Mayor Brian's favorite color is purple
- The mayor's favorite food is pasta e fagioli
- He wanted to be an aeronautical engineer as a kid
- His favorite movie is "Sorry To Bother You"

Q: What are the struggles of being mayor?

A: "Interacting with other levels of government. Many problems require working with other agencies. In the village, we have roads that are the villages and some that are state roads. For example, take Maple Avenue which is across from P.V.C. It is a state road, so any issues have to be coordinated with the State Department of Transportation. Anything involving another level of government is inherently more complicated and therefore it is more challenging to make progress on a problem where we are not the sole authority."

Q: What are your goals for Croton?

A: "To sustain the progress we have already made. We are the number one clean energy community in New York State. That is recognition of our electric vehicle charging stations and three solar energy arrays. There's a fourth one under construction at the train station parking lot that we hope will be open by April of 2024.

Q: What is the biggest problem our village faces right now?

A: "We recently had the police advisory committees meeting and people said their number one concern at least in terms of public safety is traffic management. I think that provides a widely held concern. The good news is that it's been 28 years without a pedestrian fatality."

Q: What is early voting?

A: "In 2019 we changed the law to allow people to vote early. Previously, you could only vote on election day, which is one Tuesday of the year. If you were away, busy, or sick, you may not be able to vote. This is why they changed the law so you can vote early if you were busy on election day."

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Anonymously Asking a Teacher a Question

"What was it like teaching students during the pandemic who were virtual, hybrid, and in person?"

by: Aidan

"It was extremely challenging for the teachers and the students. It was the first time many of us relied completely on technology, and technology is not always reliable. Many of the students I worked with at the time didn't have access to a computer or wifi. Also, I like being in the classroom with my students, so it was hard to make connections through a screen."

Mrs. Bartley, 7th & 8th Grade English Teacher

"Teaching the Home and Career Skills curriculum was extremely challenging during the pandemic. The HACS curriculum is comprised of tangible lessons. The pandemic challenged me to develop new teaching strategies, new lessons, and expand my computer skills. Despite everything that the pandemic challenged us with, the students were flexible, positive, and determined to make it a worthwhile learning experience."

Ms. Fontana - 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Home and Career Skills Teacher

"Like just about everything else during the pandemic, teaching was a challenge - for several reasons. First of all, many students felt anxious about the Covid virus and the fact that they had to be isolated at home from time to time. Many students were missing their friends a great deal since they had a lot less physical contact with them. So when we finally went hybrid, these same young people really appreciated seeing others in person. Secondly, it's always difficult when not everyone is learning in the same room. Not just because the teacher can't interact with them individually, but also due to the fact that internet connections didn't always work the same way for everyone. Lastly, the pandemic was a very big change that everyone had to deal with. Since most people do not really like changes that much, this made learning even more difficult."

Mr. Bowden, 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher

"It was challenging to teach students in person and online during the pandemic. Teaching in a hybrid manner meant engaging students in front of you as well as those who were at home. Since many language activities involve interpersonal skills (speaking with a partner, asking and answering questions), I had to try to balance teaching the skills and offering students time to practice them in a spontaneous manner. On the positive side, I did improve my technology skills, and was able to teach without using pencil and paper (many games were adapted to play online)."

Mme. Barnes, 6th,7th & 8th Grade French Teacher

Student Submission



Half Moon Bay

Submitted by: Kaya



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Wait till 8th to Get a Phone?

by: Alice, Ally

Should you wait until 8th grade to get a phone? “Wait till 8th” is a popular saying among parents. When should you get a smartphone? Pre-teens probably say “as soon as possible.” But let’s not stop our argument there.

Some experts think to wait till 8th.

The Child's Mind Institute thinks that it’s best to wait until 8th grade to get a phone, but it also depends on how responsible the child is. You can test this by getting a flip phone. These are less expensive and easier to replace. If you end up not being able to take care of it for a year, then it might be best to not get a phone yet. However, if you do take care of it, then you may be able to get a phone. If you lose things regularly, are unable to adhere to screen time limits, and do ambitious things, then it may be that you are not ready for a smartphone. Another indicator that you are ready is that you are not someone who is prone to saying mean things or saying things you will regret later on platforms like social media or messaging systems. Your level of sensitivity may determine if you are ready for a smartphone. People who use smartphones to access social media often encounter stories and videos that are disturbing. There are many dangers if this device is used incorrectly.

Phone Addiction

You know those funny things we see in books and movies where someone is texting someone next to them? This doesn’t usually happen in reality; however, it is common for kids to get addicted to their phones regardless of their age. This can affect their health. “Too much screen time leads to obesity, chronic neck and back problems, depression anxiety, and lower test scores,” says Valley Wide Health. They think you should have two hours of screen time every day - no more. Also, some people can't afford phones so they go into debt in order to have one. There are lots of ways to contact parents or friends aside from phones such as a watch-based device. Different types of watches include gizmos, gabs, apples, and cosmos. Phones can cause bad stuff to happen, but there are some benefits to having access to a smartphone.

Some things may require phones.

Phones take good photos that can be edited and used for yearbooks or photo contests. Also, most schools, including ours, post the list of supplies to buy for school online. Phones are good at typing and have touch screens. If you were ever in danger, you could contact police and other first responders much faster compared to other gadgets. Smartphones have Wi-Fi in more spots than smartwatches or flip phones, so you will be more likely to be able to call anyone.



Phones can have a positive impact.

If you miss the bus, all you have to do is call your parents on your phone. On phones, you can also block many things, like games, google, or access to the internet so your parents feel you’re being safe. If you're curious about a topic, you can google it and meet your heart's desire with answers. You can learn a lot from the internet, an endless online database.

Phones can be used for punishments and rewards.

Phones can be used as punishments. Your parents can take them away if they want to. Instead of grounding you or taking away something else. They can also be rewards, for doing a lot of chores, or something your parents think makes you deserve a phone. They can also be presents for birthdays, or holidays you celebrate. In conclusion, phones can be good if you aren't addicted and use them properly. But if you don’t, it might be best to wait till eighth!

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Improving Memory

by: Lily

What exactly is your memory? - Overview, Types

Memory is a process of recalling past information and being able to use it later in life. Whenever you remember something, groups of nerve cells, called neurons, recollect and store the information in your brain. Remembering something is when you reactivate a specific group of neurons and review past information.

Short-term memory is the ability to recollect tiny amounts of knowledge from a recent past. On the other hand, long-term memory is the ability to recollect information or memories from a distant past. As you learn more and your brain develops faster, most people become better at remembering things. The peak of activity in which your brain learns to remember more things is from ages 10-30. Most people's memories decline from ages 50-60.

How to Improve Memory

1.) *Get some sleep!* According to many studies, there is a clear connection between memory and sleep. Being sleep deprived has been linked to detrimental memory. One study researched the effects of sleep on 40 different kids from the ages of 10-14.

The first group of kids trained for the test got a night of sleep, and then took the test the following morning. The second group trained for the same tests on the same day, without resting. Scientists found that the people who slept before completing the tests performed 20% better on their tests than the second group who did not get the chance to rest.

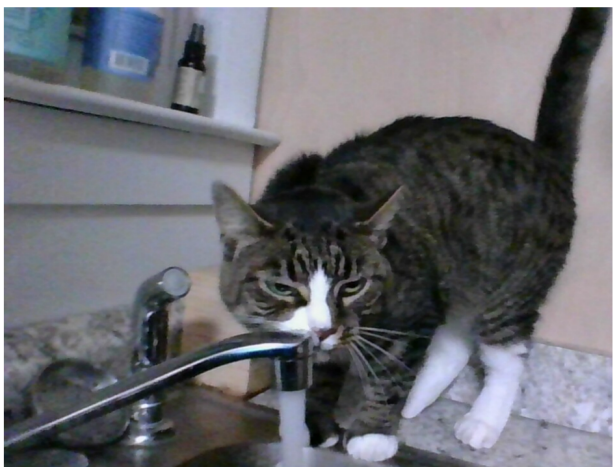
2.) *Writing* information down instead of typing it makes a really big difference and helps you remember information better. Rereading your written notes can trigger memories and let you review past information.

3.) *Exercise*. Kids that exercise often are proven to have a better memory, performance in school, and can stay focused more easily. Exercise stimulates the growth of neurons in the brain and helps them survive to remember information. Studies have shown that people who exercise are also less likely to get dementia compared to people who are not as physically active.

Why do Cats Drink out of a Faucet?

by: Francis

You're just washing the dishes and accidentally leave the faucet on. You return only to find your cat is drinking out of it! Why do they do this? There are multiple reasons behind this strange behavior. Drinking out of a faucet makes them feel safe. When they are drinking out of a bowl, they are turning their back on everything and that might make them paranoid or scared. However, if they drink out of a faucet, they have a much better view of the world around them and they feel safer. Furthermore, faucet water tastes cleaner. Faucet water is often colder and fresher than water that has been sitting in a dish on the floor all day. We can surmise that cats taste the difference, just like us. Lastly, they don't like the bowl itself. They prefer metal over ceramic, and the bowl moves its whiskers in a way they don't like. If that's the case, you should get a wider or a more elevated bowl. I hope this article provided you with insight.



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The Oddities of Everyday Life

Tired, Bored, Who Knows?

by: Grace

Have you ever wondered why we yawn? This is the first of a series of articles investigating the oddities of everyday life. So, let us uncover the everyday secret that nature has created in all of us–the urge to yawn.

You may wonder, "Is yawning contagious?" Well, now you have your answer! Yes, yawning is contagious. Looking at, hearing or even thinking about yawning can make you yawn. Scientists don't know for sure why it is, but they do have a few theories. These are two of many theories that attempt to explain why yawning seems to be contagious.

Studies have shown that the most common reason why we yawn is because of boredom and drowsiness. Boredom triggers our sleep system, making us drowsy. According to the Library of Congress, yawning can raise your alertness and wake you up if you're bored. Yawning can also change your brain temperature if it's hot to cool down your brain. Scientists have also discovered sociological and evolutionary theories for why we yawn. These theories state that yawning could be a signal to sleep or a ritual for when we wake up. It also might be a way to transfer the feeling of drowsiness to a group.

The first hypothesis of contagious yawning is the Non-Conscious Mimicry theory, or the Chameleon effect. The Chameleon effect is when you copy someone without realizing- it's a very subtle change that we barely notice. Most people copy each other's postures. For example, if you're sitting to the other side from someone who has their legs crossed, you might cross your own without realizing it.

The second thesis of contagious yawning is the Fixed Action Pattern theory. It's like a reflex- if you yawn, I yawn. To get a better understanding, try to picture it like dominos - one yawn triggers the next, and then the next, and so on.

So, next time you yawn, think about what caused it. Did you yawn because you were drowsy? Or did someone else who yawned trigger yours? Stay tuned for the next article on Tiger Prints!

Art Gallery

Everything will be alright...

No. It will not.



Mask

by: Emma

Drowning in an aching dream,
demons haunt and torture me
The pain is so extreme,
so I wear a mask to cover my screams.

I could pretend forcefully,
that I'm the happiest I could be
Though I'm surrounded by the world,
Loneliness consumes me.

I'm a prisoner behind a mask
Ever waiting for my soul to be freed,
Sadness holds me captive and discards the key.
Stabbing and beating me until I bleed.

My cries are silent, my scars unseen
The thoughts that eat away at me
are ignored, for the mask hid all my grief

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Editorial

The rise of Chat GPT is a notable discussion point for schools, colleges, and professional settings. As with many things that put people ahead of others, the use of Chat GPT is commonly not allowed in schools. However, our knowledge and constant improvements have allowed Chat GPT to improve and surpass humans in the creation of text-based material. But is it really okay for us to use it?

According to the University of Central Arkansas, "Pulling from a large dataset of text, Chat GPT uses this dataset to learn about language, grammar, and the structure and meaning of words and sentences." Because of this learning, Chat GPT's algorithm can take the questions students and others input and formulate answers using unique strategies.



As with most new technologies, Chat GPT is constantly being improved. Developments include having the ability to write in a student's voice. This means writing in a less formal tone, or with bits of unclear writing. It certainly adds some appeal- because it's harder to detect "cheating" if a piece of writing appears to be generated by a student. But is it really okay?

Dakuo Wang, an associate professor at Northeastern University, thinks that people should use Chat GPT. He claims that people should start to understand the system's rights and wrongs to feel more comfortable with the rise of Artificial Intelligence. In addition, he claims that Chat GPT won't take over jobs- instead, he thinks that people who use Chat GPT and other artificial intelligence systems will become more productive, thus taking jobs from those who are less productive.

Outside of Chat GPT being able to write things out for you, it can also have conversations. People believe that talking to a robot can be helpful. Like having a therapist, the systems can listen to everything you say- you can type without interruption, having the freedom to lay out your thoughts. And in most cases, Chat GPT can formulate a comforting response. But is Chat GPT reliable enough? Should we start to rely on this technology and allow it to be part of our lives?

The blog *Quillbot* points out that over-reliance on Chat GPT could lead to a major issue. When we count on systems and bots for everything we do, we start to struggle on writing and figuring things out for ourselves. If students use it constantly, what's going to happen when they have to take a test, or write a paper, on their own? There's a reason for school- and few think that that is learning how to rely on robots.

In addition, the concern with relying on bots goes behind the simple point of needing to create things by ourselves. Chat GPT might give you a good start, a good draft, but many of these AI powered tools, including Chat GPT, lack creativity in most situations. Unlike humans, they're not as skilled at creating unique and new ideas, trying new things, or giving pieces a spin. Drew Spencer, an Executive Experience Design Director, said, "[Chat GPT]...has no hair on the back of its neck to stand up when the energy changes in the room. It's never felt that rush of adrenaline when it smashes one out of the park." So what could you call the pieces Chat GPT spits out? A start? Yes. But a final product? It's just not going to be as high quality.

Overall, there are plenty of risks to Chat GPT. Using it where it's not allowed (especially in colleges) can get you into major trouble, like getting suspended, expelled, or labeled as a cheat. In multiple ways, relying on it can diminish human's uniqueness and creativeness that makes our world and existence special. But in some ways, it's useful. It helps us get things done faster. Even if you just use it as a draft, it can assist you in being more productive. It can even have discussions with you. Maybe having a reliable "bot friend" isn't such a bad idea?

So what do you think? Should Chat GPT be used? Where? To what extent? We hope you enjoy this edition of Tiger Prints and all the unique articles we offer. And don't worry- we haven't used any Chat GPT on any of these! Let us know your thoughts by sending us an email.

Best,
Avery

All Tiger Prints articles have been edited by Avery & Emma
Newspaper design and template by Emma.