

THE NEW STAR

independent student newspaper

ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 30, 2024

Happy Fall Break!



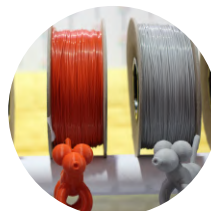
**X/W GRADE
STRATEGY**

PAGE 2



**FROM
WASTE TO
FILAMENT**

PAGE 3



**HOLLY
WEBB'S
VISIT TO TSI**

PAGE 5



X OR W GRADE STRATEGY AND ITS PROS/CONS IMPACT ON STUDENTS' ACADEMIC LIVES.

The American University of Central Asia (AUCA) offers students various assessment systems for their knowledge and skills. However, special attention is paid to the X and W grades, since not all university students are aware of the existence of such grades. The W grade indicates that the student does not want to continue the course for his own reasons and thus refuses the course. Upon receiving this grade, the student's average score does not change. The X grade is set by the professors themselves. They give this grade to students if they have not attended classes and have not fulfilled all the requirements of the course. Both grades have different effects on the future of students. W is more loyal than X score.

By interviewing students and professors about this assessment system. They unanimously believe that the W grade has a positive effect on the GPA than the X, which is bad for the student's entire future. One of the professors even said that this "X grade is like a cross on the whole future of students." These assessment systems have both pros and cons. The W score has more advantages. Firstly, this assessment has no effect on the student's transcript. This is very useful for students who strive to maintain a high GPA and plan to receive a red diploma. Secondly, this assessment helps students who have difficulties and problems completing the course, so as not to fail the course, they choose this grade. Undoubtedly, it is not desirable to have these estimates in the transcript, but according to the survey, it is better to have a W grade than an X. Therefore, the X score has mostly a negative impact. This assessment affects the student's future. Students applying for an exchange program or applying for a job face a number of difficulties because educational programs and many employers, looking at this assessment, understand that the student was irresponsible during his studies and did nothing. Thus, the student loses the opportunity to study abroad and get a well-paid job. In other words, this assessment will show the candidate only from a negative and uncertain side. If we compare the negative impact of these grades, then according to the new AUCA policy, both of these grades do not allow students to receive a dean's list and a presidential one. Although a student could have an excellent GPA, he will not be able to receive a diploma for special merits, as it would be without these two grades.

The X and W grading system grades have both pros and cons. When the W grade has a more positive impact, does not change the GPA, and helps to cope with difficulties in the course, then the X grade at all has only a negative impact on the student's life and plans. Therefore, before students choose between these grades, they need to weigh everything well and understand whether they want to have such grades in the transcript. They should think about how these assessments will affect their future. Students should consider whether they should take this step or whether it is better to complete the course with different grades.

Kamilla Ismailova
JMC-123



TURNING PLASTIC WASTE INTO USEFUL FILAMENT: MY EXPERIENCE WITH RECYCLING

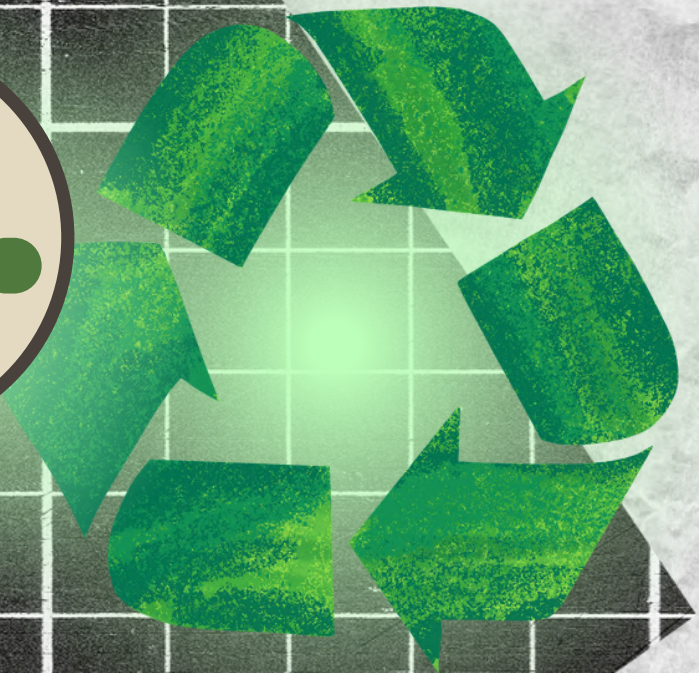
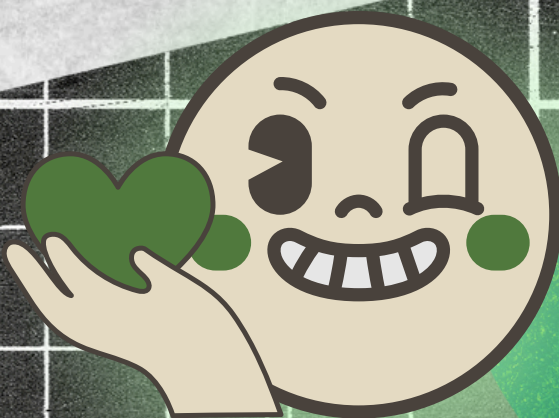
It all started when I shared an idea with my teacher about how to collect plastic bottles and use them to create filament for a 3D printer. The teacher found the idea interesting and suggested that I try to implement it in practice. This is how my journey to recycling plastic waste began, and I saw this as an opportunity to contribute to solving the problem of pollution.

My goal is to show that recycling plastic bottles can be easier than it seems. First, plastic bottles are cleaned, cut into strips, and turned into filament using an extruder. This filament will then be used for 3D printing, which allows you to get useful products from recycled plastic.

What I especially like about this process is its practical accessibility. People can see with their own eyes how ordinary plastic waste is transformed into material for new things. This helps to understand that recycling is not something but a completely doable process. My workshops give people the opportunity to try it themselves and see it in action.

I hope that in the future the project will be able to interest more people and draw attention to the problem of recycling. Even if it is a small step, it shows that recycling is a real way to reduce waste, accessible to everyone.

Isakov Amir Timur
ESCS-124



ON FOUNDING AND LEADING CLUBS

4

AUCA students can found and lead clubs, and we took interviews from some of the club leaders to get to know about their difficulties and experiences.

The clubs can be started around the topics that are interesting to oneself: as one of the co-founders of Girls Community Club Aidana says, *"We wanted to do trainings and meetings with influential women because we ourselves were interested in visiting [them], and eventually we decided to open a girls' community club."* Other people start clubs to help fellow students with problems they encounter, like Akmaral, who founded a Yoga Club while being an NGA student last year. *"I wanted to start that club because I knew that yoga exercises and meditation help people to reduce their stress and anxiety and improve concentration and focus. And because of the midterms, final exams, and quizzes, AUCA students got a lot of stress, anxiety, and pressure."*

Founding the club with friends is easier. In Farizat's experience, as Girls Community Club is co-founded and led by 4 friends, *"It creates a sense of shared responsibility. When you have friends involved, it's easier to distribute tasks and support one another in managing the club activities."* For example, for their first meeting, each of the co-leaders had a task, whether it was inviting speakers, booking a room, or filming and posting on Instagram. Before starting a club, they discussed how they could gather an audience and ensure that the speakers' performances would not be boring: *"We thought through all the problems carefully."*

The first semester is a good time to open a club, as it can be presented in the club fair. Tursunai, a co-founder of the Girls Community Club, recalls the day of the fair: *"We first wrote and printed our program, presented it to the girls, talked about what we are going to do in our club, what our goal is, and what kind of activities we do, and after that we took a jar with little affirmations and little compliments to each girl, and every girl could write her own affirmation or wish to another girl. And also, we made a kind of vision board. We took a paper and put there affirmations and beautiful pictures related to the girls' community."* However, even if the club fair is missed, there are still ways to announce and promote the club: Akmaral, for example, posted the announcement of her Yoga Club at the NGA AUCA page on Instagram. Club activities take time; in Tursunai's experience, it takes two or two and a half hours each week; for Akmaral, Yoga Club was taking about four or five hours per week.

Akmaral says that all the resources needed for her club were provided by AUCA, including 30 or 35 yoga mats and the specific room for doing yoga and for gathering together with club participants.

Another option is to take on leadership over the existing club, as Akmaral did *"This year I don't have my yoga club. I decided to become the leader of the Outdoor Club, to spend my time in a beneficial way and to make some contribution for the AUCA community. Moreover, I really like mountains; I like hiking."* This club was founded by Nathaniel Matala, a professor in ICP department. Akmaral says this about their organization: *"Before organizing the trips, Nathaniel Matala and I meet and discuss our plans."*

Nuraiym, a co-founder of the AUCA Girls Community Club, sends her thanks to the club members and AUCA community. *"I want to remind you that the strength of our work applies in the connections we build and in the fact that we inspire each other. And also for those who do not participate in any club, I encourage you to explore the incredible opportunities offered by the communities of our university. Clubs are not just about activities; it's about building meaningful relationships, developing skills, finding a space where your voice matters, and contributing to something that can enrich both your university and personal life."*

"A piece of advice for aspiring club creators. I advise you to start a club around something you really care about. If you are passionate, others will join you. And make sure that you have a good team because managing a club takes time and effort and you will need support. And also some warning: don't underestimate how much work it takes. It can feel like a lot at first, but staying organized and not giving up will help you. And also be ready to adapt your plans because things won't always go as expected."

Anastasiia Mun
JMC

THE SILENCE OF MOMENTS

Close your eyes, take a deep breath, open your eyes, and keep going.

The stressed-out stranger was waiting for his food at the fast joint. He was overwhelmed and consumed by thoughts:

*"Everything is hard and meaningless",
"There's not much to do but I feel burdened",
"I don't feel fulfillment; I feel nothing",
"Why am I doing this!?"*

The stranger gazed out the window.

A little boy was trying to catch a piece of fluff. As the fluff drifted out of reach, the boy climbed a few steps up the stairs. And...

At that moment, time appeared to stand still for the stranger; it was as if that moment held all the significance for him... He jumped. Wings sprouted from the child's back. He caught the fluff and soared away with it.

Yet the wings existed only in the stranger's mind, a vivid image sparked by the boy's momentary hesitation before his jump. In that instant, the child's effortless joy freed the stranger from the weight of his own sadness and complaints.

Nailia Niazova
SOC-122



HOLLY WEBB VISITED TSI AUCA!

A few weeks ago, at the invitation of the TSI AUCA Innovation College, the famous writer, whose books are read by children all over the world, Holly Webb, came to Kyrgyzstan!

Holly Webb wasn't able to give attention to the college students, but she also held a session where children could get signatures from their favorite author. In addition, the winners of the competition from Holly Webb herself were also announced at the session. Children had to draw the best picture based on the writer's book. The best pictures were awarded prizes.

The arrival of Holly Webb, at the invitation of TSI AUCA College, brought a lot of joy to the children, and they were able to meet and communicate with the person who writes their favorite books.

Esenbekova Saikal
TSI AUCA



JAN SCHWOCHOW'S VISIT TO TSI!

Recently, Jan Schwochow, an experienced German designer and infographic artist, was invited to Bishkek to conduct several seminars for TSI Intonation College teachers and students. Students and teachers who wished to improve their information presentation skills with the help of infographics learned a lot from Schwochow, who is a well-known authority in the field of visual journalism. Schwochow presented those graphic techniques and ways of creating infographics that are unique to him and that he has honed over many years of working with the world's leading media and major projects, and also focused on how to best present complex information in a simple and attractive way. Jan emphasized how important infographics are in information storytelling, which goes beyond simple pictures and helps to reveal the context of the topic, which is especially useful in our modern information-saturated society. The purpose of these seminars was to share experiences and ideas, to reinforce them with constructive criticism and suggestions, rather than just giving lectures. The seminars were held in an interactive format where participants could ask questions, discuss ideas, and receive valuable feedback. This creativity has motivated students and teachers to continue to apply new innovative ways of presenting ideas and concepts in a simple and interesting way. While in Kyrgyzstan, Jan Schwochow not only conducted master classes for students and teachers of AUCA but also got acquainted with the culture and nature of the country. Immersed in the local culture, Jan enjoyed tasting traditional Kyrgyz dishes, especially horse meat delicacies. During his visit to Kyrgyzstan, Jan Schwochow talked about his journey on social media. Many who have heard about Bishkek from Schwochow are inspired by his story and expressed a desire to personally see the beauty of nature and feel the atmosphere of the country.

Esenbekova Saikal
TSI AUCA



Позиция авторов статей не всегда совпадает с позицией ред. коллегии в целом.

ISSUE PREPARED BY:

Editor-in-Chief:
Rafat Niloufar

Supervisor:
Iminov Shahrudin

Co-Editor:
Bolot Darika

Design & Layout:
Bolot Darika