

# **CAT 4 RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

**Group 4-82**

## **Engprove Your English**

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## **ABSTRACT**

Engrove Your English is an English resource package for Upper Secondary Hwa Chong students to supplement their existing English resources to help them in their essay writing by equipping them with the relevant skills and knowledge to aid them in their essay writing and consolidate their English Language learning. It contains a website/portal that has a collection of detailed notes on each Secondary 3 and 4 topic covered in the Hwa Chong English syllabus which include case studies, examples and quotes. It also contains possible essay questions, compiled with the help of English teachers which are dissected using brainstorming techniques recommended and taught by English teachers and contains points and stands for every essay question, to allow students to see how arguments for the question are pieced together. Secondary 3 and 4 students are required to tackle argumentative and discursive essay writing as part of their English syllabus. For the Secondary 3s, this is a relatively new format of assessment, previously not used in Primary school and Secondary 1, and as such we have decided to put together a package that can help them in their essay writing. Our project focuses on exactly what Hwa Chong students need, with material vetted by Hwa Chong English teachers. It addresses the needs of students and covers what online resources do not, and takes away the hassle and uncertainty of finding material online that may not be suitable for the Hwa Chong curriculum.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

Rationale, objectives, target audience and proposed resources are clearly stated

Adequate elaboration is provided

### **1.1 Rationale**

After conducting a survey among Upper Secondary students, it was found that a large majority of the students felt English resources for revision were hard to find online,

because they lacked the quality, and contradictingly, the scope but also focus that the Hwa Chong syllabus demanded. A literature review also showed that English resources online were hard to access, as there were little to no relevant results online, with the select few useful pages and sites being locked behind a paywall, making it inaccessible to most students.

## **1.2 Objectives**

The objectives of Engprove Your English are to

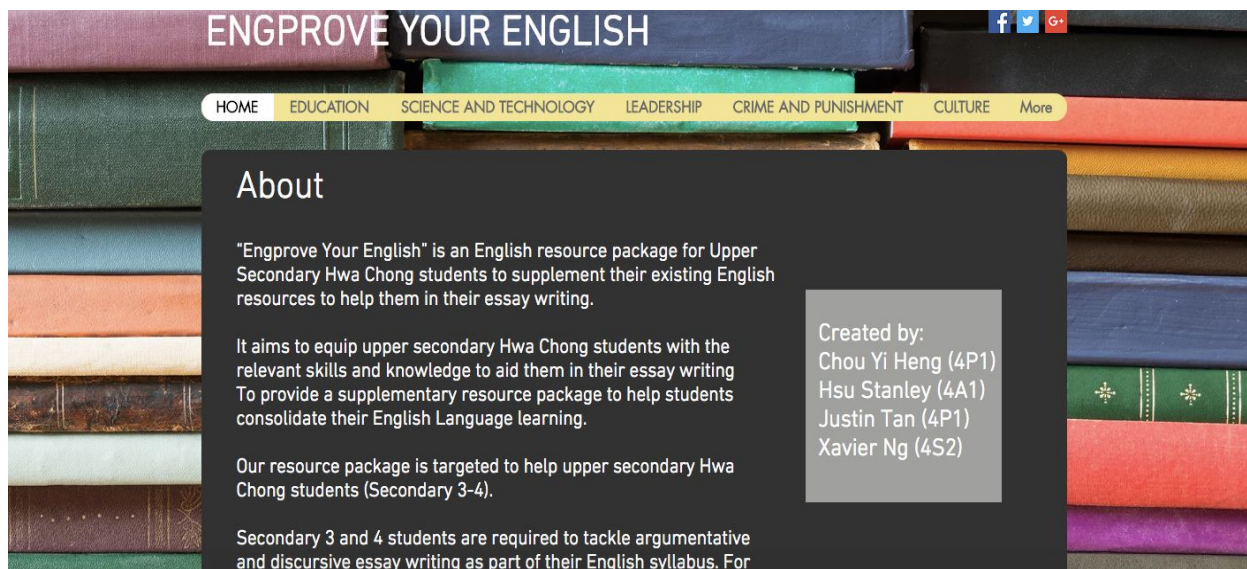
- Equip upper secondary Hwa Chong students with the relevant skills and knowledge to aid them in their essay writing
- Provide a supplementary resource package to help students consolidate their English Language learning

## **1.3 Target Audience**

The target audience was Upper Secondary Hwa Chong students.

## **1.4 Resources**

Our package contains a website/portal that has a collection of notes, case studies, examples quotes and possible questions for each Secondary 3 and 4 English topic.



## 2 REVIEW

Many websites were too wide in scope, namely the H1 resource websites, making it extremely hard to sieve out the relevant information that the students needed.

Furthermore, the websites that were actually well-scoped and relevant to our specific themes were blocked with paywalls, making students unable to access the best resources without fishing out some cash. An example of such a website would be Bartleby, which gives students access textbook solutions written by subject matter experts, many with fancy degrees, but at a price of \$2.99 for the first month. Other similar websites required users to sign up for membership, which gave them free trials which only lasted for a few weeks, requiring students to pay to continue accessing the resources vital for their tests. The quality and relevance of the content is also not assured, as our schools syllabus is highly-specific and demands essays with examples that align with the highly specific themes, making points, quotes and examples that many other schools accept irrelevant. Hence, it is risky for HCI students to rely on such resources that are not vetted or approved by the school.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Needs Analysis**

- 56 (90.4%) agree that it is not easy to access English resources online as online resources are too wide in scope/not specific enough for their syllabus.
- 54 (87.1%) find the current resources available online too difficult to make use of as they are not comprehensive enough.
- 49 (79.1%) There are not enough relevant resources online relating to the topics the English syllabus covers in school.
- 57 (92%) feel they have trouble finding examples or strong case studies for their English essays or Application Questions.
- 53 (85.4%) feel there is insufficient material provided by some teachers to help them prepare for their English exams
- 58 (93.6%) would want the resources they need to revise for English to be in one easily accessible place rather than to compile material themselves

In other words, Upper Secondary students polled generally agreed and felt that the current English resources, both found online and provided by Hwa Chong's English Department, were:

1. Too general, sometimes irrelevant and even out of scope,
2. All over the place, making revision tedious and time-consuming, which is not ideal for students who on average take 8-9 subjects,
3. And the material collated by an average student is insufficient for test preparations, compromising their performance in tests.

Hence, our project aims to resolve such concerns our peers have, by designing a user-friendly website which:

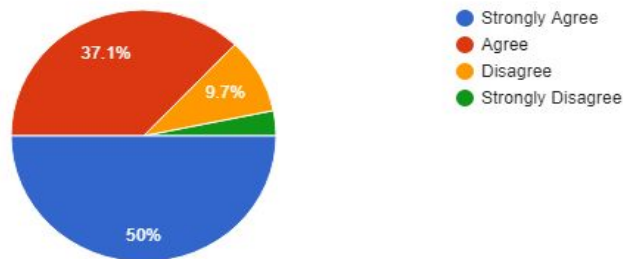
1. Features useful content and knowledge relevant to students,

2. Covers multiple facets of an issue and provides contrasting arguments,
3. Substantial examples and case studies,
4. All found in 1 site, making revision more convenient!

### 3.2 Survey Results

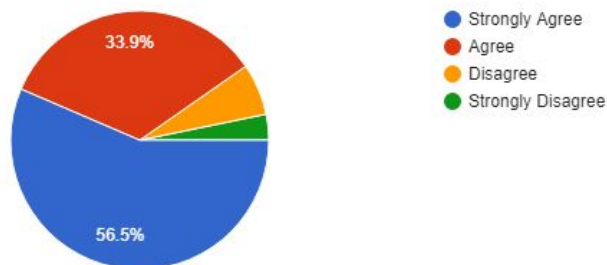
I find it difficult to obtain relevant resources when I want to do revision for English language (Essay, AQ etc.)

62 responses



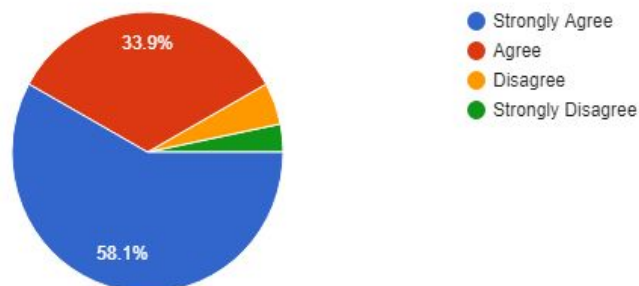
It is not easy for me to access English resources online as online resources are too wide in scope/not specific enough for my syllabus.

62 responses



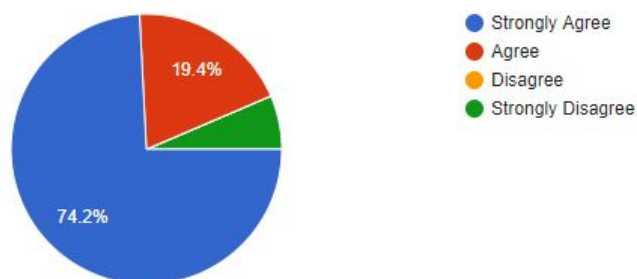
I have trouble finding examples or strong case studies for my English essays or Application Questions.

62 responses



I would prefer to have the resources that I need to revise for English to be in one easily accessible place rather than to have to compile material that may be unreliable or irrelevant by myself.

62 responses



### 3.3 Development of Resources

The current notes and resources that most English teachers provided were reviewed, and feedback regarding the current resources was provided by upper secondary HCI students. The feedback was taken into account and resources were scoured online, with the relevant information used in our package, to provide a supplement for the upper secondary students to use. After consultations with an English teacher, the resources

were rearranged into more structured formats that guaranteed the efficient learning of students.

### **3.4 Pilot Test**

A pilot test was administered to 26 upper secondary Hwa Chong students. The students were given time to try out using the portal and provide feedback. We also consulted an English teacher to evaluate the online platform, and recommendations from the two groups of people were incorporated into the fine-tuning of the product. The feedback was generally positive, with most students stating the package was useful as a supplementary/complementary resource to help them in essay writing. They also felt the resource package was easy to use, comprehensive, and covered each topic well. A majority of the students also noted they would use the resource package in the future.

## **4 OUTCOME & DISCUSSION**

We produced a website, with 6 tabs, each covering a different module, namely:

1. Education
2. Science and Technology
3. Leadership
4. Crime and Punishment
5. Culture
6. Media and Consumerism

And under each tab features case studies, statistics, elaborations, arguments and analyses of commonly tested questions students may face in their tests.

However, as the Internet holds far too many scientific journals and netizens offer far too diverse and contrasting perspectives, it is very much impossible for us to cover all of them, and in a way, limit the perspectives of the students who refer to our website for their revision. Ultimately, students cannot rely solely on our website and should take the initiative to research more on the topic outside of what we have already provided on our



website.

Future groups can perhaps include debate motions, which often discuss sensitive and/or taboo topics, formulating arguments for potential odd questions. Students can better prepare themselves for tests with newfound knowledge of aspects of a topic not frequently discussed, introducing a fresh, new perspective for markers to read.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

Engrove Your English has been a demanding but exciting project to take up, as it required us to compile and create a high quality resource, specifically targeted to tackle the demanding Hwa Chong Upper Secondary English syllabus. Over the many hours of research, brainstorming and writing, our group has learned many useful skills, such as research techniques, writing skills, compilation skills, website design and creation, critical thinking skills and most importantly teamwork and effective communication. Coming together to create such a content heavy package required all of the team members to be on the same frequency, and each part of the package asked for the full attention and effort of each member to produce. Time management skills and teamwork was vital, from finding time to meet and discuss with our mentor and groupmates to covering for other group mates when they had other commitments. In the end, determination to create a high quality product and perseverance allowed us to pull through and complete the project.

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