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OPERATION OF THE NEW YORK

CASESTUDIES STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES



SOLAIA SUHERMAN

Writer of Vignette

AGE 16

Solaia Suherman is a talented writer who began her journey with AscendNow at a young age. Through the Publishing/Writing Development Programme, Solaia discovered her passion for publishing and decided to create an anthology of poetry.

Solaia's love for writing is evident through her personal blog and her dedication to improving her craft. She first joined AscendNow through a summer programme and continued to work with the team to enhance her writing skills and academic performance.

Starting with a collection of her own writing, Solaia helped by the coaches at AscendNow to create a collection of poetry that focused on specific themes and evoked strong emotional responses from readers. Her book features over 70 poems and is a testament to Solaia's dedication, empathy, and exceptional writing abilities. "Had a summer programme with AscendNow has been an incredible journey for me. Through the Publishing/Writing Development Programme, I discovered my passion for publishing and was able to create an anthology of poetry that I am truly proud of."

- Solaia Suherman



24 FPS Salaia Suberman

to bask under motion picture, the light of dreams, crawling for another beam of sun on a winter afternoon, on an oak floor. the images move before her: twenty-four frames a second cut to black—still, twenty-four. though the screen is still, the projector still rolls how a hummingbird stands still, yet beats its wings twenty-four times, a second.

suppose it brings the lady back to her life before she graced the silver scr

24 FPS Solaia Suberm

the lady (then, but a girl) lies still, on the overnight spread of grass, watching the shimmering, hovering thing drink out of sage, bee balm, bleeding hearts.

then, like her, the bird's still: humming, she blinks.

twenty-four beats a second, her heart beat to her own face.

CONTEXT

Solaia Suherman worked closely with the coaches at AscendNow to develop her skills as a writer and publisher. Starting with a collection of her own writing, Solaia focused on specific themes and worked with the team to edit and refine her work.



Poem Analysis and Vocabulary



Creating Independent Notes

RESULTS

Through the Publishing/Writing Development Programme, Solaia Suherman achieved impressive results. She was able to publish an anthology of poetry that showcases her exceptional writing abilities. Her book features over 70 poems that evoke strong emotional responses from readers, a testament to her dedication and empathy.



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Solaia Suherman is a talented and passionate writer who has achieved remarkable success through the Publishing/Writing Development Programme with AscendNow. Solaia has achieved impressive results and demonstrated the power of hard work, empathy, and commitment in achieving one's goals as a writer and publisher.





KAITLIN HADIDJAJA

Founder of Makan Impact

AGE 16

Kaitlin is ambitious and highly motivated who joined AscendNow during her 11th summer. From the very beginning, she demonstrated an exceptional level of initiative and interest in building her profile. Kaitlin worked relentlessly to develop her passion project, fully engaging in the business canvas to gain a deep understanding of the market.

Initially, Kaitlin's idea was not well-defined, but her desire to help others, especially those in need, was always at the forefront of her mind. Eventually, she came up with an incredible and impactful concept: Makan Impact, a non-profit organization focused on addressing food insecurity.

Kaitlin's journey involved extensive research, evaluation, data analysis, and careful consideration of various concerns. With the guidance of her mentor, Kaitlin worked tirelessly to develop the business model, revenue streams, marketing strategies, and overall business strategy. Was accepted into:

UCLA UC Uni

UCLA University

"Thanks to Ascendnow, I was able to transform my passion project into a successful non-profit business. The program provided me with the resources, guidance, and support I needed. The mentors were knowledgeable and supportive."

- Kaitlin Hadidjaja



Click here for Kaitlin's Bullpen Competition



PROCESS

From the beginning, she exhibited a tremendous amount of initiative and interest, dedicating herself to building a solid foundation for her business. Her journey involved extensive research, evaluation, and data analysis, as well as careful consideration of various concerns.



Market Research



Data Analysis



Business Concept

RESULTS

Kaitlin's hard work and dedication paid off as Makan Impact has been successful in addressing food insecurity and making a positive impact in the community. The organization has gained recognition and support from various stakeholders, including donors, volunteers, and partners.



CONCLUSION

Kaitlin's journey with her passion project and non-profit business is a testament to the power of hard work, dedication, and a willingness to learn and adapt. Kaitlin's process involved extensive research, evaluation, and data analysis, as well as careful consideration of various concerns. With the guidance of her mentor, she was able to identify the real need and a feasible approach to addressing it.



CHANCE WINARNO

Pre DP Program



Chance joined AscendNow in 2021 for a Pre DP program. He has always shown great potential as a good performer in all his subjects, and his class performance has been excellent. With a predicted score of 45 for the DP, Chance is a topperforming student. Before moving to college counseling, Chance took a course in Biology from us. He has shown a lot of promise and commitment in his efforts, which is evident from his excellent academic record.

Chance was keen on pursuing a medical course from a university in Japan right from the start. AscendNow helped him identify potential colleges and majors that aligned with his interests and aspirations.

Apart from his academic achievements, Chance is also a talented writer. He wrote an article about World Health Day, emphasizing the importance of emotional health and the need to fight social stigma.

Was accepted into:



Tokyo University

"AscendNow has been instrumental in helping me elevate my academic grades and achieve my goals. The Pre DP program provided me with a strong foundation, and the college counseling services helped me identify potential colleges and majors that aligned with my interests. I cannot thank them enough for their role in shaping my academic journey."

- Chance Winarno



PROCESS

Chance's study process at AscendNow began with his enrollment in the Biology course, which provided him with a strong foundation in the subject. With his academic record and passion for medicine, Chance was keen on pursuing a medical course in Japan. AscendNow's college counseling services helped him identify potential colleges and majors that aligned with his interests, and we worked closely with him to ensure his academic scores were up to par.



College Applications Guidance



DP Biology Course Guidance



DP English Course Guidance

RESULTS

Through his hard work and dedication, Chance was able to achieve remarkable results in his academic journey. His exceptional academic record and passion for medicine led him to pursue a medical course at Tokyo University, one of the top universities in Japan. Chance's commitment to his studies and his unwavering determination to achieve his goals paid off, as he secured admission to the prestigious university.



CONCLUSION

Chance's academic journey is a testament to his hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to achieving his goals. With the support and guidance of AscendNow, Chance was able to elevate his academic grades and secure admission to Tokyo University, one of the top universities in Japan, for his medical course. His success is a shining example of the exceptional students that AscendNow attracts and the quality of education and support that it provides.



A. THALIA LEMBONG

IBDP Program

AGE 16

Thalia Lembong is a highly motivated individual who joined AscendNow in October 2022. From the beginning, Thalia displayed a strong interest in the program and worked hard to build her profile. Despite time constraints and the importance of academics, Thalia developed a strong strategy and received constant follow-up and valuable suggestions that helped her achieve her goals.

Thalia's academic scores were not initially strong, scoring a 30 in her IBDP. However, with the help of AscendNow, Thalia was able to leverage her skills and abilities to apply to her dream universities. Through executing a video essay passion project, a technical portfolio, and unparalleled college essays, Thalia was accepted into De Montfort, Emerson, London Metropolitan, and Sussex.

Overall, Thalia's hard work and dedication to her goals have allowed her to achieve great success with the help of AscendNow. Was accepted into:



London Metropolitan

"I cannot express my gratitude enough for the guidance and support that AscendNow provided me throughout my college application journey. With their help, I was able to leverage my skills and abilities to apply to my dream university."

- Thalia Lembong



PROCESS

Thalia's study process involved taking initiative, working hard, and focusing on academics while preparing for college applications. Despite starting with low scores, she leveraged her skills and abilities to create a strong application, including video essays, a technical portfolio, and exceptional college essays. It was a long process, but ultimately worth it to achieve her dream.



College Applications Guidance



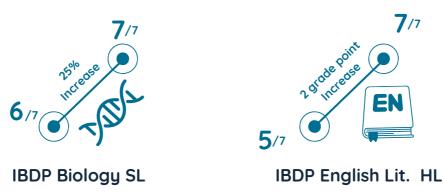
Video Essays



DP English Course Guidance

RESULTS

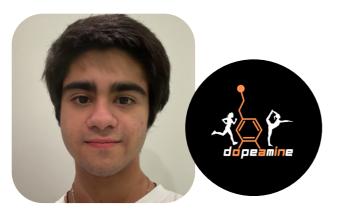
Thalia's hard work and dedication paid off as she received acceptance letters from several universities, including De Montfort, Emerson, London Metropolitan, and Sussex. This is a great accomplishment and a testament to her academic achievements and strong application materials. She should be proud of her success and excited for the opportunities that lie ahead at these prestigious universities.



CONCLUSION

Thalia is an outstanding student who has demonstrated a strong work ethic, initiative, and dedication to her academic pursuits. Despite facing challenges, she persevered and worked hard to build up her academic profile and create a compelling application for her dream universities. Her acceptance into De Montfort, Emerson, London Metropolitan, and Sussex is a testament to her academic achievements and the quality of her application materials. Thalia's success is well-deserved, and she should be proud of her accomplishments.

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SHIV POHOOMULL

Social Activist & Blog Writer



Shiv is a driven and socially conscious individual who is passionate about making a positive impact in the world. He joined AscendNow to improve his academic performance and was recommended to join their program for college selection, college essays, and college admission. Through this program, Shiv was able to gain valuable insights and guidance that helped him secure admission to a top college.

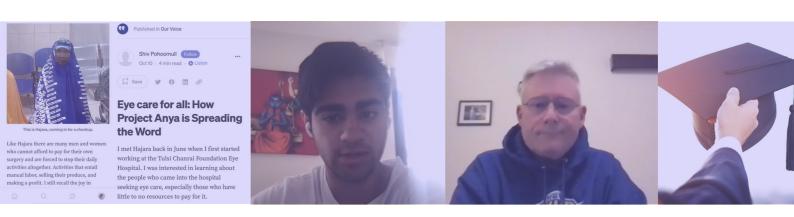
In addition to his academic pursuits, He founded DopamINe, a sports-focused social networking app with a charitable twist. One of the social issues that Shiv is particularly passionate about is curable blindness. He has launched an initiative called Project Anya in Nigeria to raise awareness about this issue and to promote the work of the Tulsi Chanrai Foundation Eye Hospital, which provides free surgeries to those in need. He has also written an article about his project on the Our Voice platform. Was accepted into:



Babson

"Ascend Now has been an invaluable resource in helping *me improve my* academic performance and stay focused on my dream college. Their programs for college selection, college essays, and college admission provided me with the guidance and support I needed to navigate the complex college application process."

- Shiv Pohoomull



PROCESS

Shiv was struggling with his IBDP Econ, Biology, and English courses with our expert guidance and personalized support, Shiv was able to boost his grades. We also provided assistance with college selection, college essays, and college admission.



Intensive practice (Econ, **Biology and English)**



College Programs

RESULTS

Despite facing significant challenges in his studies, Shiv has taken on the challenge of IBDP courses in Economics, Biology, and English with a fierce determination to succeed. Through his relentless efforts, Shiv has made tremendous progress in these courses, achieving a remarkable improvement from a grade 5 to an impressive 6/7.



IBDP HL Economics

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Shiv's academic journey has been one filled with challenges and obstacles, but he has demonstrated remarkable perseverance and determination. Through his hard work and dedication, Shiv has achieved an incredible transformation in his academic performance, going from a grade 5 to an impressive 6/7 in IBDP Economics, Biology, and English courses. Shiv's commitment to self-improvement is truly inspiring, and he serves as an example of what can be accomplished through hard work and perseverance.

Article: Shiv's Article





MEI KURIHARA

Founder of Kinakomilklatte



Meet Mei, a hardworking girl from Japan who wanted to improve her English skills. Mei is a student who is currently following the Japan National Curriculum. Mei made the decision to join AscendNow. Mei had always struggled with English, finding it difficult to speak and understand the language.

At AscendNow, Mei was greeted by an experienced coach who understood her struggles and was committed to helping her succeed. They worked with Mei one-on-one, identifying her strengths and weaknesses and tailoring a study plan.

In just one month of preparation with AscendNow, Mei's IELTS score improved from a 6 to a 7 in total. Mei was thrilled with her progress and felt more confident than ever before in her ability to communicate in English. She has created a website where she shares healthy vegan recipes. Additionally, Mei hosts a podcast where she discusses different aspects.

"I can't thank AscendNow enough for the exceptional support they provided me with in improving my IELTS score. The team of skilled and experienced coaches went above and beyond to identify my weaknesses and tailor their approach to meet my individual needs. They provided me with invaluable feedback and guidance throughout the entire process."

-Mei



PROCESS

Mei is studying English specifically for the IELTS exam. She is focusing on the different sections of the exam, including listening, reading, writing, and speaking. She is familiarizing herself with the format and structure of the exam and the types of questions that may appear.



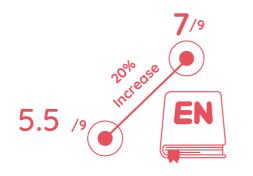
Hardworking mindset



Intensive practice (listening, reading, writing and speaking)

RESULTS

After a month of dedicated study and practice, Mei has made significant progress in her IELTS exam score. Her score has increased from 6 to 7, indicating a notable improvement in her English language skills. Mei's hard work in studying the format and structure of the exam, building her vocabulary and grammar skills, practicing listening and speaking skills, reading extensively, and writing IELTS-style essays and answers has paid off.



IELTS SCORE

CONCLUSION

Mei has demonstrated significant improvement in her English language skills in just two months of studying for the IELTS exam. She has worked hard to familiarize herself with the format and structure of the exam, build her vocabulary and grammar skills, practice listening and speaking skills, read extensively, and write IELTS-style essays and answers. Mei's dedication and effort have paid off, as evidenced by her notable increase in score from 6 to 7.

Website: kinakomilklatte.com

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ANNIKA RACHMAT Co-Founder of Food Flip

AGE 16

Food wastage is a massive problem around the world, especially in Indonesia. Supermarkets are forced to throw away food that is a day or two away from the given expiry date, although they are perfect for consumption.

Food Flip is a social project that maximizes the use of decent food leftovers, by distributing them to those in need. This is a venture started by both Annika and her brother, Aditya Rachmat. Over the course of two years, they have built strong partnerships with retailers and focused on constant growth.

Annika is a serial social entrepreneur. She started a thrift store on Instagram called ThriftedGalore which re-sold over 400 pieces of clothing and won the Ascend Now Women's Entrepreneurship Competition with her idea of CircleShare, an app that helps students cope with their mental health issues. Was accepted into:



Northwestern

"I think about the things I have and how lucky I am to have them. That makes me want to help other people who aren't as fortunate as me. This is the mindset I go with when I try to build a social enterprise."

- Annika Mada Rachmat





INTERVENTION

Annika has worked on multiple projects with her Ascend Now coach. From thinking of the app design and user experience of her app CircleShare, to building a new website for Food Flip. The following areas are ones where she was able to receive guidance from her Ascend Now coach.



Website Building



Social Media Campaigns



Time Management



Ideation & Research

RESULTS

Food Flip has been able to partner with various retailers in Indonesia and donate decent, edible food to over 38 different orphanages. For now, they donate bread and fruit. They are growing at a rapid pace by bringing on more volunteers and partners. Here are their achievement.



CONCLUSION

Annika has now stopped working on her Instagram thrift store and shifted her full attention to both Food Flip and CircleShare. She is looking to expand FoodFlip to include other donations, with the first one being 9500 Vitamin C tablets. She will eventually move into other products as well. CircleShare is currently in the MVP stage and is a long-term goal for Annika.

Website: lifeflip.org

Instagram: @FoodFlipIndonesia





PATRICK W. LIONG Founder of Operation Drip

AGE 16

Patrick William Liong has always wanted to help people. But he had a difficult time deciding how. He didn't want to create a non-profit organization that was driven by only one cause. This was the idea behind Operation Drip.

Just like drops of water can form an ocean, Operation Drip is a non-profit comprising of multiple projects aimed to help people in different ways. From education to sustainability, Operation Drip plans to involve the community and impact the world in different aspects.

To start off with, they are looking at education, sustainability, and a pay-it-forward program. The ethos behind Operation Drip is to bring the community closer together by providing an avenue for people to help. Was accepted into:



Boston College

"I know a lot of people in Indonesia are suffering from various issues. So I didn't feel comfortable focusing on one topic, because my mind kept changing. Through Operation Drip, I can try to help everyone in some way."

- Patrick William Liong





INTERVENTION

When Patrick came to Ascend Now, he was a very passionate social entrepreneur but needed some help with streamlining his ideas. He also needed support in terms of planning and execution. He worked on multiple projects with his Ascend Now coach and has received guidance in certain areas.



Operation Pennywise Financial Literacy Education for the underprivileged



Operation Green Tree planting initiative to offset carbon footprint



Operation Pay-it-forward Collecting and spreading donations to other NGOs

RESULTS

Operation Drip is growing at a rapid pace - both in terms of impact as well as team size. Patrick has been able to encourage other students who want to create an impact to join him and work together on creating solutions for the wider public. Here are there results.

10,240+ USD

Donated

126 Trees Planted

170 Students



FIRST SCHOOL PROJECT

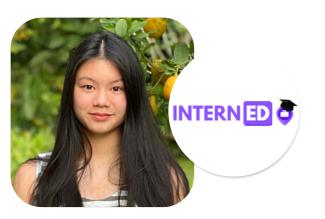


Operation Pennywise has secured its first school project. William will be teaching over 80 students of Sekolah Misi Bagi Bangsa (SMBB) located in Batam, Indonesia.

CONCLUSION

Patrick is looking to make this a scalable model. Upon completion of the educational program at SMBB, William will look to package the curriculum, videos, and other materials and get multiple organizations on board. Operation Drip will be running its first fundraiser to get second-hand devices for students of these organizations.

Website: operationdrip.org



PORTIA HARTONO Founder and CEO of InternEd

AGE 15

In most cases, internships for high school students don't exist. For the lucky few that do manage to land an internship in high school, only a few learn from the experience and it serves as a tick on the resume. That's because there aren't programs designed for high-school students.

Portia, age 15, drew inspiration from her own problem to build a business that provides virtual internships to students based in Indonesia. By combining a virtual, project-based internship with an educational training program, she could drastically reduce the cost and effort for companies and provide students with "real" world knowledge and experience.

She pitched this idea in the Ascend Now Women's Bullpen and won second place. But that wasn't enough. She focused on validating her idea and then executing it, bringing InternEd to life. Was accepted into:



Boston College

"Students want to learn and add value to the company they are interning at. The goal of InternEd is to build a model where all stakeholders in the process benefit."

- Portia Hartono



RESEARCH

Portia's Ascend Now coach told her to validate her idea by conducting primary research. Portia surveyed over 100 students who had tried to but never landed an internship before as well as 50 students who had done at least one internship in high school. These were the results.



Actively looked for virtual internships in 2020



Felt they didn't add any value to during their internship



Wanted to try a shorter virtual internship

RESULTS

Portia and her Ascend Now coach have created internships in marketing, product testing, market research, and closed deals for internships with 12 brands. They have built a website and look to improve the SEO score, work on brand awareness, and launch their first pilot in December. Here are some of the brands in the pipeline.



CONCLUSION

This is an example of how students can build businesses as long as there is a personal connection to the problem they are trying to solve. InternEd will be launching its first pilot batch of internships with 8 companies in December 2021.

Website: intern-ed.com





RAYDEN IGNACIO YAP

Founder of Filtro

AGE 13

An example of how a social entrepreneur who couldn't sit still while his community suffered through the Pandemic. Rayden, who decided to help people that lost their jobs and people who couldn't afford basic sanitary products started the company Filtro.

Filtro provides employment by getting people to design handpainted masks. They then donate all of the profits towards buying sanitation kits that include toothpaste, soap, and a bottle of hand sanitizer to anyone that can't afford it.

Started as an intervention to the pandemic, Filtro strives to be a company that can echo the mindset of individuals who want to give back to society. Rayden won second place in the Ascend Now Bullpen and is using the seed fund to fuel new business lines for Filtro. "The one thing I learned from my experience is that there is no growth in comfort and no comfort in growth. To get out there and make an impact, you have to put in the hours and step out of your comfort zone."

- Rayden Ignacio Yap



RESEARCH

Rayden came in with multiple ideas on how to raise donations. But he needed a little guidance on how to hone in on one method. His Ascend Now coach asked him to research the Indonesian market with respect to what is happening during COVID. Upon doing his research, he found:



Jakarta had an imminent mask shortage



Unemployment was at a decade high - up 37.61% YoY



There was demand for local and sustainable products

RESULTS

After he decided to pursue handpainted masks as his product of choice, Rayden worked with his Ascend Now coach on partnerships, sourcing, and his pitch for the Ascend Now Bullpen. Over the past year, Filtro has achieved some amazing feats. They are now expanding from masks to other products. Here are some of their achievements.

15,000+ USD

12-month revenue

2000+ Masks Sold 2000+ Kits donated

Non-profit partners

NON-PROFIT PARTNERS









CONCLUSION

Rayden is a living example of the impact someone can have irrespective of age. With a strong work ethic and a drive to create change, he is now focused on self-improvement. He is learning graphic design to create better products and generate more revenue.

Website: linktr.ee/filtrofacemask





Ascend_{Now}



ALICIA NGUYEN

Founder of Fitness for Goodness



Alicia is an athlete and is a point guard for the SAS Eagles in Singapore. Over the course of the pandemic, she realized that many people around her lacked the motivation to work out and experienced negative side effects on their health.

What started out as a friendly challenge between her and her brother to see who can run more miles, became a non-profit venture that Alicia would go on to lead. It's simple, the company hosts fitness challenges and campaigns that help hold people accountable and uses the proceeds to help other non-profits.

This goes beyond just running. Alicia has organized basketball challenges, push-up contests, and triathlon contests. It is selfpaced, and people can do as much or as little as they want. She often enjoys checking in on participants and updating them on the progress of others in the challenge. "I just wanted to stay fit and try to help as many people through the pandemic as I could. My brother and family were extremely supportive. Meeting the targets of all four campaigns just means people need a slight push. Fitness For Goodness is that push."

- Alicia Nguyen





INTERVENTION

When Alicia came to Ascend Now, she had already tested the idea. She needed help to create a better website and more of an online presence to increase participation and donations. Working with her Ascend Now coach helped her understand her website needed the following:



More prominent CTA buttons in the landing page



Better display of campaign performance and a gallery



A better interface for data collection and analysis

RESULTS

Fitness For Goodness has donated money to various organizations such as HOME (Humanitarian Organization for Migrant Economics), The Courage Fund (Set up by the Community Chest of SG), and the Ambulance Wish Foundation, Singapore. These are the results of the work Fitness For Goodness has done so far:



CONCLUSION

Alicia has since gone back to school, but her passion for social change runs strong. Upon the launch of her new website, she is now coming up with innovative new fitness campaigns using the data collected from past campaigns.

Website: www.fitnessforgoodness.com



MOONE NANG Founder of Moone's Cuisine

AGE 11

Moone's Cuisine is Moone Nang's dream business. When Moone was younger, she was diagnosed with a heart problem and the doctor said she needed to eat healthily in order to recover. Since eating healthily was all she could do, Moone's family found multiple ways to making it enjoyable.

This sparked Moone's passion for cooking. Her vision is to build a company that can supply high quality, healthy food to all the people in Singapore and then expand to the rest of the world. Moone is a great story-teller and can articulate her thoughts well. She has previously won two Ascend Now Bullpen events!

At the end of 2021, Moone launched her first product; Holiday High Tea Trees. They were an incredible success, selling out in just one day! She plans on doing many more event-based campaigns and growing her customer base to people who love healthy eating. I always wanted to start a restaurant but as I grew older, I knew it wasn't that easy. At first, I wanted to create a Christmas edition menu to sell but after I met my current business partner we decided to do a "Moone's Cuisine Holiday High Tea Tree".

-Moone Nang



CONTEXT

When Moone initially joined Ascend Now, she had an idea but needed help articulating the steps that went into executing and presenting her business plan. That's where we helped her.



Seed capital to start her pilot campaign



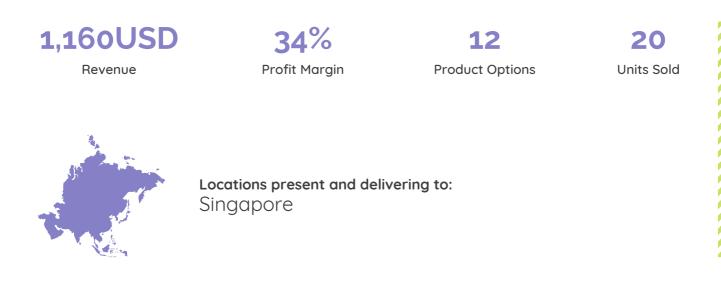
Market Research & Planning



Pitch deck creation & Presentation

RESULTS

Moone made 20 boxes of her Christmas Holiday High Tea Tree and sold each one for 58.50 USD inclusive of delivery and taxes. She sold 20 units in just the first day, completely finishing her stock.



CONCLUSION

She used the seed money she won from the Ascend Now Bullpen to buy equipment, ingredients and packaging for her pilot campaign. She plans on doing special treats for various other festivals such as Easter and Chinese New Year. Moone wants to eventually rent an industrial kitchen to scale her business. Follow her Instagram page to order some yummy food!

Website: Coming Soon

Instagram: <u>@MoonesCuisine</u>



SOFIA & LUCIANA FRANCO

Co-Founders of HandOverChic

AGE 13 & 12

Fashion made for teens, by teens. That is the inspiration behind HandOverChic. Sofia and Luciana Franco came to Singapore from Miami at the start of the pandemic. Both girls play soccer for Singapore American School, but due to the pandemic, were confined to staying indoors.

Having extra time on their hands, and strong opinions on what teen fashion constitutes, they decided to build their own brand. They started out the good old-fashioned way; buy white tshirts, dye and dry them and then pack and deliver the product.

Over 6 months, their business grew over 50% month-onmonth. They improved their social media presence, got influencers on board, and even had the opportunity to pitch their business to the head of marketing for LVMH. This is their journey through business and entrepreneurship. "We are two teenagers who moved to Singapore from Miami, Florida. Upon coming to Singapore, we wanted to match our curiosity to learn about business with our need to express ourselves through fashion. That was the birth of HandOverChic." - Sofia & Luciana



Franco

Click here for Sofia's & Luciana's testimony





INTERVENTION

When Sofia and Luciana joined Ascend Now, they needed help with marketing and growth. They had just started their business but wanted more structure. The three key areas we focused on were:



Brand awareness and social media presence



Budgeting, monitoring and consumer analytics



Creating and managing new campaigns

RESULTS

Sofia and Luciana were able to grow the business to great heights. They brought on 4 influencers with a combined following of over 2.5 million people. After their sales had doubled during their Christmas campaign, they worked on a pitch deck with their Ascend Now coach. This pitch was to the head of marketing for LVMH. Here were their numbers at the time.

12,000 SGD

8-month revenue



36 Product Options 9000+

Online Store Sessions



Locations present and delivering to: Singapore, Cambodia, Malaysia, Hong Kong & Indonesia

CONCLUSION

When we asked Sofia and Luciana what they learned from this experience, they said persistence is key. To get the four influencers, they cold messaged over eighty. Another learning was the importance of quality given that over 25% of their sales had been through word-of-mouth. They are currently rebuilding their website and adding new products to their catalog.

Website: handoverchic.com

Instagram: **@HandOverChic**





YUHA MASUDA DIA SAIKAMALA

Founders of Connect Helpers

AGE 16

When Dia and Yuha learned about the difficult reality many domestic helpers face as migrant workers, they were determined to help in any way possible. They began by interviewing a group of previous domestic helpers, now asylum seekers, to learn about where they came from, their motives, challenges and how they overcame them.

After spending time getting to know them, Dia and Yuha wanted to provide them with educational workshops that could further encourage a sense of community. Activities such as jewelry making, cooking, or practicing English. Though this was not possible due to the pandemic crisis, Dia and Yuha have been able to donate over 15k HKD in food, blankets, and basic necessities.

Connect Helpers, is a student-led initiative that aims to create a welcoming community by empowering domestic helpers and asylum seekers through educational workshops, activities, and support. Their vision is to have a community where migrant minorities can thrive. "I wanted to spread awareness by educating our local and global community about the hardship faced by asylum seekers/migrant workers, and take action toward solving this issue."

- Yuha

"I believe that every migrant worker deserves to be treated with the same kindness and respect we project onto our family members and friends."

- Dia





INTERVENTION

Dia and Yuha worked closely with their Ascend Now coach to develop their organization. From identifying the main area of impact and mission, they were able to grow their idea by building their own website, social media campaigns, articles, book plan, and workshop outlines.



Website Building



Social Media Campaigns



Article Writing

Ideation & Research

RESULTS

Connect Helpers has been able to run two major donation drives. The first was during Christmas '21 donating toys, clothes, and blankets. For the second they donated food and basic supplies for mothers and their children. They have also published two articles, "Creating a Community to Thrive" on Thrive Global and "The Plight of Pregnant Domestic Workers" on Hong Kong Living.



CONCLUSION

Website: connecthelpers.wixsite.com/organization

Instagram: @Connect Helpers



RYU TAMPI Founder of Crepanfles

AGE 10

Ryu has always had a love for food, especially breakfast food. When he was only 6 years old, his mom would make delicious crepes and he loved them so much that he asked her to teach him how to make them. Once she did, he realized he really enjoyed the process, and decided to create a business out of this newfound passion.

Crepanfles is a home-based business that sells crepes, waffles, and pancakes, all made by a 10-year-old. The signature dish, Crepanfle consists of 1 pancake, 1 waffle, and 1 crepe with a choice of toppings. Customers can mix and match ingredients and toppings as they wish! And the best part, these personalized dishes will always be cooked in a clean environment as they are homemade.

Ryu won the Ascend Now Kid Inventor Bullpen in April 23rd, 2022.

"Working on my business has been so much fun, I love working on my passion while being able to make a profit!"

- Ryu Tampi



Click here for Ryu's Bullpen Competition



CONTEXT

Ryu joined Ascend Now not particularly sure what he wanted to create. Together with his Ascend Now coach they were able to come up with Crepanfles and grow his business from the ground up, gaining real customers within a few weeks.



Creating a revenue model



Market Research & Planning



Pitch deck creation & Presentation

RESULTS

Ryu created 9 different dishes for his customers including sweet and savory selections. Some of his toppings include whipped cream, honey, sprinkles, and Nutella, mixed with nuts, ice creams, or syrups. The possibilities are endless! Ryu also created a website for online orders.



CONCLUSION

With the seed money he won at the Kid Inventor Bullpen '22, Ryu will invest in a marketing strategy that will expand his business even further. Part of his investment will go into hiring staff that will help facilitate operations while ensuring the best quality delivery, products and ingredients.

Website: ryuichitampi.wixsite.com/crepanfles



BERNARD HERLAMBANG

Writing Extraordiaire

AGE 11

Bernard arrived at Ascend Now with great verbal communication skills in English, but lacked writing ability. Bernard often wrote in run on sentences and used a confusing sentence structure and grammar.

Through dedicated hours in writing, rewriting and editing, Bernard was able to improve his communication skills and identify mistakes. Some of these skills included identifying pronouns, nouns, adjectives, and correct tenses. He also learned about different types of genres and texts.

In the end, Bernard produced 12 articles which included news, picture description, recipe writing, retelling a story and creative writing. Some examples are, "If I were a celebrity," "Trip to the Moon," and "Passions of my Life."

Bernard did a fantastic presentation showcasing his work and describing his journey from amateur to journeyman, on his way to becoming an even better writer. "When I first started my English lessons my sentences were broken and my punctuation was not very good, but now when that happens I know exactly what to do and I can write better sentences. I really enjoyed writing about stars, especially the article "Star Book."

- Bernard



Click here for Bernard's Passion Project





CONTEXT

Bernard first arrived struggling to write well structured sentences and used past and present tenses alternatively in the same text. Together with his Ascend Now coach Bernard began a process of writing articles by hand, retelling a story, and identified errors in punctuation, capitalization, coherence, tenses, and vocabulary.



Rewriting texts



Identifying mistakes



Diverse genres

RESULTS

Bernard is now able to identify mistakes in sentence structure, punctuation and grammar. His sentences are now coherent and follow a logical tense. Bernard presented his work in front of 4 teachers where he reflected on what he did well, how he improved and what he wishes to improve on later.



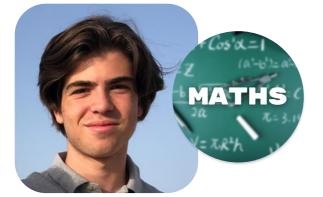
CONCLUSION

Bernard wrote an anthology of articles titled Bernard's Articles, showcasing his improvement over the span of 19 lessons. Bernard would like to keep exploring the different types of texts and improve in his hand written text, especially when writing capital I's.

Work: Bernard's Articles



Video: Bernard's Presentation



ALEX DEN HARTOG

Mathematics

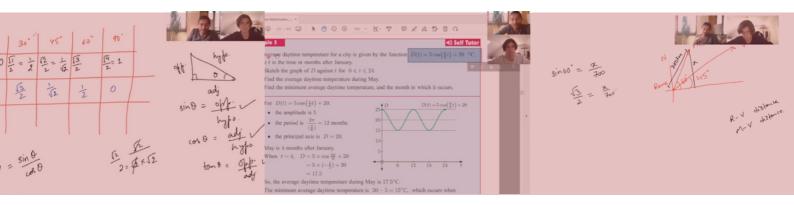
AGE 17

Alex arrived at Ascend Now with low results in his maths exams. As an IBDP student, Alex understood mathematical concepts but struggled to apply them. As he began to work on his math literacy, throughout the program his confidence improved significantly. In fact, his grade went from a 2 to a 6 in just a couple of months.

Working on strategies and techniques to pass from knowledge to understanding, Alex used acronyms to remember concepts, solved real-life situations, and met with his Ascend Now coach once a week to practice exercises.

Alex was able to learn how to strategize his learning process and better use his abilities to enhance his understanding. "Working with my Ascend Now coach has really helped me build study strategies to improve my learning experience. It has been incredibly beneficial in my academics and I have definitely improved a lot."

- Alex





CONTEXT

Together with his Ascend Now coach, Alex has been able to work on his math skills by practicing exercises on a weekly basis, learning new techniques, identifying mistakes and bridging the gap between knowledge and application; not only improving his results but learning lifelong skills.



Practice exercises



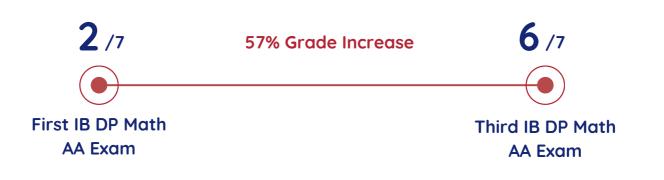
Acronyms for Memory



Identifying mistakes

RESULTS

Alex was able to improve his grade from a 2 to a 6 in just a couple of months!



CONCLUSION

Alex will continue working with his Ascend Now coach to improve his math skills. As he continues to learn new strategies and techniques, Alex will become more accurate and agile in his calculations. Alex already feels more confident to learn new concepts and apply them to real-life situations.



MIKA ARIEF Head Graphic Designer at Student Voices

AGE 15

Mika was never a fan of writing or literature. In fact, he had a hard time trying to analyze any piece of created work, including art. As he developed an ability to express himself through different writing techniques, writing became a way to transfer his inner thoughts onto paper.

Mika has written many articles published on the Ascend Now LinkedIn account ranging in topics related to the digital divide, technology in education, and action against bullying.

Currently, Mika is part of the Ascend Now Student Voices magazine, an entirely student-led magazine with a dedication at heart to expand and spotlight the works of students on a global scale. Mika is Head Graphic Designer, creating graphics for articles, layouts, social media, and branding. "I started by rewriting past work. As I went along I realized I improved a lot. My parents were surprised, especially by my ability to use varied vocabulary and write about the nuances of an argument."

- Mika Arief



Mika arrived at Ascend Now with a weak writing structure and written comprehensiveness. He understood concepts but struggled to translate them into writing. Together with his Ascend Now coach, Mika first worked on rewriting past texts, then he worked on writing narrative and descriptive texts, book reviews, and responding to prompts such as videos.



Analyzing Texts



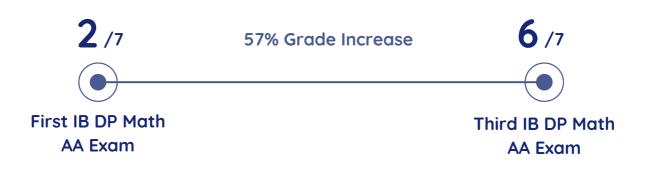
Narrative Writing



Video Prompts

RESULTS

Mika is able to articulate his thoughts well and has come up with a nuanced way of writing. In school, Mika has improved significantly, going from a grade ... to a grade



CONCLUSION

Through this writing journey, Mika has become experienced at analyzing an article, identifying key points, and translating them into graphic art. Inspired by pop art, his work will be featured in the upcoming Student Voices publication where he will also participate as a writer!





Taft Boarding School

"My Ascend Now coaches have not only helped me develop the technical aspects of my app, but organize my time, conduct user research, create a feasible plan and promote the launch of my app!"

- Alex Werner



Click here for Alex's Passion Project



ALEX WERNER

Founder of Math Zap



Alex arrived at Ascend Now with the desire to solve an issue she faced in 6th grade. Alex learned that her school had an advanced placement program for students who excelled in mathematics. She desperately wanted to join the advanced class but struggled to find the right resources that would help her succeed in the placement test.

With a little help from her teacher, Alex was able to find the necessary resources and join her Math 7+ class! However, she was distraught as she thought about the students who might not have the same opportunities.

Over the course of a few months, and together with her Ascend Now coach, Alex built MathZAP - an app that helps students with learning difficult math concepts.

The app is designed to be fun, colorful, and attractive to younger students who usually see math as a boring or difficult subject. Alex has written an article on Thrive Global describing her app which will be launching soon!



Alex arrived at Ascend Now only knowing she wanted to create some sort of platform for students where they could practice their math skills and answer any specific questions through a community tab. Her Ascend Now coaches helped her with defining the product, learning how to code, and developing her project management skills.



Market Research



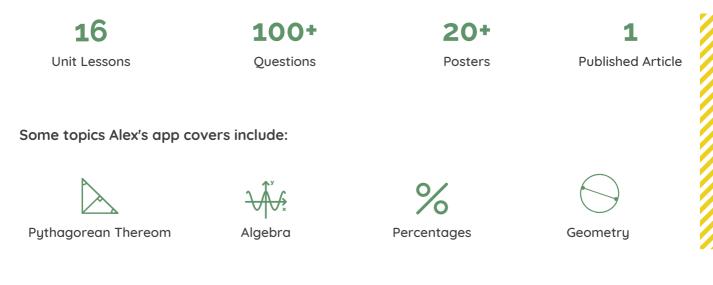
Coding



Project Management

RESULTS

Alex was able to create a working prototype for her app, through dedicated months of research, designing the lesson modules, creating posters and graphics for each lesson, and testing her product with friends and family. Alex worked with different Ascend Now educators who specialize in Mathematics, Coding, App Development and Entrepreneurship.



CONCLUSION

Alex will be launching her app in just a few months and testing it with users. She hopes this app can reach students all over the world and help them understand concepts in a fun and engaging way.

Read to learn more: MathZAP: Bridging The Academic Support Gap For Middle Schoolers



STEFANIA S. Founder of Act for Impact

AGE 16

Stefania started her entrepreneurial journey with a dream of helping the planet.

This is how she founded Act for Impact, an environmental organisation that wishes to create a conscious society by taking baby steps through innovative and sustainable activities. Stefania charges a small fee for materials and participation, some of the activities include: Plogging, Grab a Bike, Eco-Tainment (Movie + Creative Awareness), Zero waste cooking challenge, Visiting Semakau Island, Second Hand Sale and Climate Conversations.

Through her user research and testing stages, Stefania quickly realized people were atracted to activites that brought their family and friends together. Stefania hopes to bring her business to the next level by providing her service to companies in their Social Responsibility departments.

Stefania participated in the One Earth Bullpen 2022 winning Audience Favorite!

"Helping the environment is my passion. I truly believe that little by little we can make a big difference. Through my organization I want others to feel inspired to participate and realize that taking action is actually fun"

- Stefania Sigismondi



Click here for Stefania's Bullpen Competition



Stefania arrived at Ascend Now with a dream of helping the environment through conscious business making. Her Ascend Now coach helped her create a business that both made an impact and a small profit to continue expanding her initiative. Stefania learned about market research, social media outreach, and creating a sustainable business model.



Market Research and Analysis



Social Media and Promotion



Learning to succeed in the Circular Economy

RESULTS

Stefania has run many events, which include: Plogging, Grab a Bike, Eco-Tainment (Movie + Creative Awareness), Zero waste cooking challenge, Visiting Semakau Island, Second Hand Sale and Climate Conversations. Through her social media platform, Stefania has been able to promote her events as well as get people to join her!



CONCLUSION

AGES 13 AND UP

Stefania is looking to expand her business to the corporate world and provide companies with opportunities to help the environment. She would be doing this with a 6-month or per-event payment. Check out her Instagram to get the latest scoop!

Instagram: <u>@actforimpact.sg</u>





RAJAN BILAN COOPER

Music Producer



Rajan created his own album which comprises 6 songs. His EP focuses on calm tunes using electronic synthesizers and instrumentals. This was his first time being exposed to software in music and he picked it up quite quickly!

Rajan's passion for music goes beyond music production as he has written a research paper related to music analysis and the rise of new trends through global influences. Rajan is a multitalented student whose work ethic and dedication are evident in his amazing music and innovative sound.

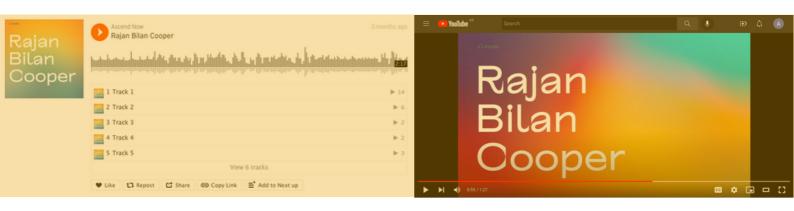
Today, he continues to pursue his passion for music while staying true to both his culture and style preferences. You can listen to his tracks on SoundCloud. Give our future DJ some love!





"From a young age, I've had a huge passion for music, From drumming on a table as a young boy to now producing from home. Mixing instruments from my Indian heritage to suit different genres such as trap or pop."

- Rajan Bilan Cooper



Rajan wanted to understand why certain music styles become mainstream while others don't. Together with his Ascend Now coach Rajan worked on writing an article that explored Cuban and Indian styles as well as analyzing the elements that make a song mainstream.



Extensive research into the music industry, studies and trends



Improved writing composition and analysis



Music experimentation and production

RESULTS

Rajan produced a written piece breaking down the Cuban melody of Danzón compared and contrasted with Indian classical music. Through this analysis, Rajan learned explored what made these two styles so vastly different yet similar despite the physical distance between these two countries. Rajan also produced a track, inspired by these two music genres.



CONCLUSION

Rajan developed a detailed article that helped him explore music genres he was not previously familiar with. This inspired him to produce his own music and further enrich his melodies with new discoveries. Rajan hopes to compose more music and continue with his music career!

SoundCloud: Rajan Bilan Cooper





Babson College

"I was thrilled to start working on my own business and applying all the new knowledge I had achieved through IBDP Economics and my entrepreneurship course."

- Dhiya



Click here for Dhiya's Passion Journey





DHIYA BHARWANI

IBDP Economics and Founder of Upgraidd



Dhiya has always had an interest in helping people. When she started working with her Ascend Now coach she realized she had very little understanding about how businesses work and what it truly entailed. As she gained entrepreneurship knowledge, she began to develop an interest for helping small businesses advance their sales and online presence.

Though Dhiya was studying a lot, she lacked a general understanding of microeconomics, struggling to formulate answers for IAs and IB Examinations.

Working with her Ascend Now coaches, Dhiya improved her abilities in IBDP Economics and was able to found her own business Upgraidd. Her Ascend Now coach helped her clarify challenging concepts and encouraged Dhiya to find a personal interest in Economics.

Dhiya improved her grade from a 5 to a 7; while learning new techniques in identifying keywords, concepts, and definitions.

Dhiya was looking to improve her conceptual explanation skills in Economics and build a business as a project on the side. She was looking to build her college profile while helping small businesses in the process. Scoring well in Economics was also important for her college applications. She worked on how to formulate her answers, and clarified her doubts in Microeconomics and other topics that she didn't understand in school. On the Entrepreneurship front, she figured out a way to help businesses through technology, working on their social media and websites to help them reach a wider customer base.





Entrepreneurship project that helps small businesses

Concepts in Economics: Microeconomics

Worked on building a college profile by improving grades and working on personal projects

RESULTS

Dhiya was successfully able to create an impressive college profile by improving upon subjects in which she was falling behind and building a business that aligned perfectly with the major she wanted to apply for in college. She needed to look competent in specific areas for her college application and she was able to achieve that challenging feat with a lot of hard work and diligence, under the guidance of her Ascend Now coaches.



CONCLUSION

Dhiya, with the help of her Ascend Now Coaches, was able to successfully improve her grades and build an impressive college profile. A point to note is that she provided the small businesses with all her services for free. She plans to continue helping businesses and keep her business alive. To learn more, click the link below.



Ascend



THYLANE CIGRANG

IBDP English, Biology and Geography EE



Though Thylane had a good understanding of assignments and what was expected of her in school, she had a hard time achieving her desired results.

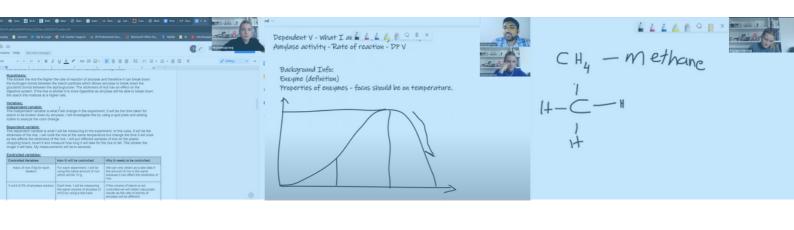
Coming from a native French background, Thylane struggled with IBDP English in the 11th grade as the advanced understanding of language and vocabulary was overwhelming for her. In IBDP Biology, though she understood the concepts, her IAs and exam answers lacked precision.

Together with her Ascend Now coaches, she was able to improve her grades by adopting relevant study strategies, practicing papers, and developing her analytical and interpretation skills.

Thylane was able to improve her paper grades from a 4 to a 6 through rigorous practice and instruction. Her Geography EE even received appraisal from her teachers in school.

"I am so glad I could trust my Ascend Now coaches to help me improve my grades and introduce me to strategies necessary for being a better IBDP student."

- Thylane



Thylane was a good student, but wanted to do better. Through rigorous practice, poem analysis, applying vocabulary, breaking down biological processes, often drawing molecular structures, and making independent notes, Thylane slowly but surely got outstanding results.



Poem Analysis and Vocabulary



Breaking Down Biological Processes



Creating Independent Notes

RESULTS

Thylane was outstanding in her improved grades and performance. So much so that she was able to increase her IBDP English and IBDP Biology grades by 50%. Additionally, her Geography Extended Essay was one of the best essays of her class. Though at first she was not very keen in listening to feedback and acting upon it, she began to understand expectations and decided to trust her Ascend Now coaches.



CONCLUSION

Thylane slowly began to trust her educators and appreciate their wisdom as they eventually helped her succeed in the IBDP. She was able to successfully improve all areas of the IB program while developing analytical, interpretation and synthesis skills.

Ascend_{Now}



JANELLE TAN IGCSE Economics

AGE 15

Though Janelle had a good understanding of most of her subjects, she struggled with putting her knowledge into words by using the right jargon to explain concepts.

One of the most challenging subjects for her was Economics, with its vast array of concepts, terms and theories. Her grades were taking a dive and with them, her interest in the subject.

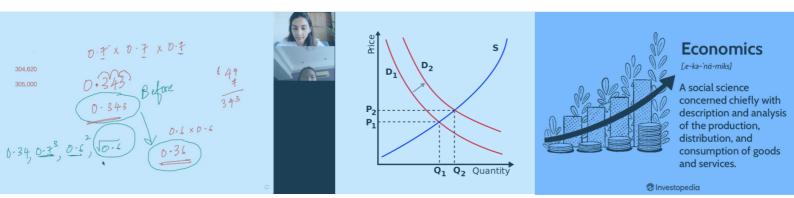
Her Ascend Now coach implemented new teaching methods, incorporating more case studies and moving away from traditional lecture-style teaching. Instead, Janelle was engaged in more interactive and discussion-based learning, igniting her interest in the subject and ultimately helping her regain her motivation to study.

Her grade improved from a C to a B+ and she went from having little interest in Economics to having a new found passion for the subject. "Ascend Now helped me improve my grades in Economics and Math in a short time. My coach broke down complex concepts into easy language and guided me to the right conceptual language. Highly recommended."

- Janelle



Click here for 1880 testimonial video



PROCESS

Janelle's coach designed interactive sessions for her to make learning economics concepts fun. One session at a time, Janelle started having a deeper understanding of the subject through the case studies discussed in class. She found herself recognizing and applying the concepts she learned not just school tests but in her day to day life.





Breaking down Economics concepts



Constant testing to check concept understanding

RESULTS

Janelle had exhibited her inherent intelligence since the very first session with her Ascend Now coach. All we had to do was nudge her in the right direction by teaching her the right tips and tricks to conceptually understand and explain what she had learned. After a few weeks of hard work, she was able to improve her IGCSE Economics grade from a C to a B+. Additionally, she learned new and effective ways to write her responses in school tests in general. Though at first it was challenging to get through to her, she began to understand her potential to score and decided to work in harmony with her coach to achieve their common goals.

C 1 Full Grade Increase (4 months with AN) B+ Before Janelle joined AN IGCSE Economics Paper After working with AN IGCSE Economics Paper

CONCLUSION

Janelle found her way past the challenges she was facing in school in Economics with the help of her educators, eventually establishing a solid grasp of the subject. She was able to successfully improve in all areas of the IGCSE Grade 10 Economics, while developing the conceptual, jargon-related and critical thinking skills the subject demanded.

Ascend



MAIA LOPIN IGCSE Mathematics

AGE 16

Maia was used to acing all her subjects in school, so scoring a B- in Math one day came as a shock to her. She understood that her old methods of practicing math wouldn't work anymore and something needed to change.

Math was not a subject she disliked, just one that she needed to become friends with again. This required some professional guidance to help revamp her study methods.

Her Ascend Now coach helped her re-learn concepts such that they could be better applied to the higher-level questions of the IGSCE Grade 10 math. These new tips and tricks started to help her instantly and she showed an instant improvement in her speed and results in tests.

These newfound methodologies helped her improve her grade from a B- to an A, and she couldn't have been happier. Being able to recapture her winning streak, along with better analytical and critical thinking skills, was all she needed at this stage.

"Not being able to score in Math was bothering me ever since Grade 10 started. I knew I needed to change up my methods, but I didn't know how. Ascend Now came to the rescue and helped me bring my grades back up by showing me the right way to approach those tricky Math questions. So grateful!."

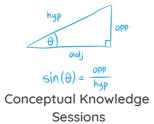
- Maia





INTERVENTION

Maia is a hard working and dedicated student. She was only struggling with expanding her thinking ability as Higher level IGCSE Math required her to think more analytically and critically in order to solve questions. Together with her Ascend Now coach, she learned how to solve one math problem through multiple approaches and how to find the one that fits best in a given context. They worked on math problems from different textbooks which helped her look at the same topic from different perspectives.





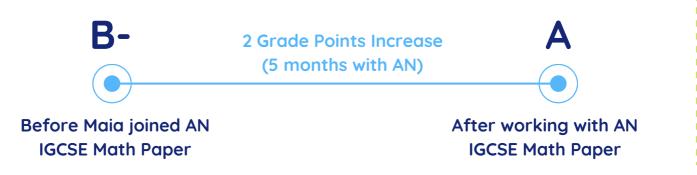
New Approach to solving Questions



Learning to choose the best approach

RESULTS

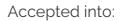
Maia found her confidence in math with her Ascend Now coach's guidance and varied approach toward math practice. She not only improved her grades from a B- to an A, but also learned the right way to approach questions in IGCSE - the fact that there is no ONE RIGHT WAY to solve a question; there are multiple methods and the best one depends on the context. Needless to say, she worked diligently and consistently to achieve her scores she wanted.



CONCLUSION

Maia learned that updating her study and practice strategies from time to time can provide transformational results. She had always been a good, dedicated, hard-working student, but needed to revise her methods of working to adapt to the changing and advancing levels of the curriculum. With the help of her educators, she honed her analytical and critical thinking skills, and was able to get back on her feet and recapture her winning streak!

Ascend





NYU Tisch School of Arts Class of 2027

"If it were not for Ascend Now and all the help and guidance they provided, I wouldn't be preparing to live my dream at NYU Tisch today."

-Shriya



Click here for Shriya's testimony



SHRIYA PHADKE

Theatre, Biology, Psychology, English EE

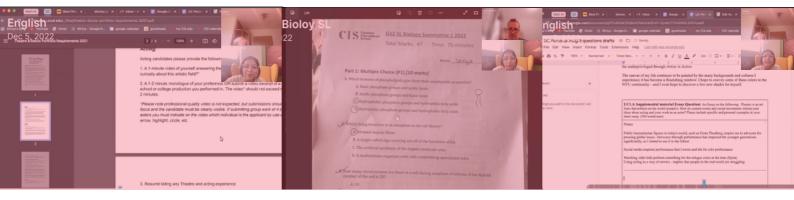
AGE 17

When Shriya's family moved to Singapore from Indonesia in the middle of 11th grade, it put her in a difficult position academically. She struggled to find a bridge between what she'd learned in her previous school and the new curriculum in Singapore. Juggling and coping with challenges in multiple subjects was getting tougher by the day.

She reached out to Ascend Now to seek help for academics as well as college applications, which were just round the corner. After testing her levels in various subjects, it was decided she needed guidance in Biology, Psychology, English EE and Theatre most urgently.

Her goal from the start was to get admission into an Art or Music School and that's how she shortlisted all her choices. Her academic educators helped her improve her scores significantly from 5 to 7 in Theatre, 4 to 5 in Biology, 5 to 6 in Psychology and from a C to an A in English EE.

With precious little time, Shriya also managed to complete all her submissions in a timely manner, and got an early decision admission to her dream school, NYU Tisch.



PROCESS

Shriya's coaches personalized her course by identifying weak points in each subject. They implemented effective learning techniques in Biology, improved understanding of concepts and jargon in Psychology, provided practice in Theatre, and taught her how to write coherently in English. Additionally, they assisted her in the college application process, adapting difficult concepts to her learning style and level of knowledge.



College Applications Guidance



Academic Help for IBDP Courses



Creative Help and Guidance

RESULTS

After months of working hard on her academics and applications, Shriya's efforts finally paid off. She received the exciting news of her Early Decision offer from the NYU Tisch School of Arts. All the work she put into finding her way out of the chaos of moving cities and schools in the middle of 11th grade, led her to succeeding in securing her dream college in the first try.



CONCLUSION

Shriya carved her path to success by reaching out to Ascend Now for guidance on academics, college applications, and art and music advice. She saw a significant improvement in her academic performance and a clear win on the college front. She is now set to start her NYU journey in 2023 and is leaving behind an inspiring anecdote of a student who turned the tables on her challenges, emerging a winner.