

Horrors You Face While Writing Your CV

MAYABEE ARANNYA

The epitome of inadequacy is felt, in my opinion, when you begin to write the document that describes who you are and what you are capable of in order to convince people that you are worthy of earning money from them.

Have I done enough?

The first thing you feel is a pang of impending doom when you realise you need to write about your achievements but last time you checked, having caught a rare Pokémon on Pokémon Go is not quite the kind of achievement your employers are looking for. You end up rummaging through old certificates, trying to find times when you weren't so unproductive, and sigh in relief when you find that one time you volunteered for a non-profit organisation. (Even if you did it just to spend time with your S.O. but they don't need to know that.)

To include or not to include

When you've finally compiled all the things you've done that you think are mentionable, it's time to cross out almost half of them. The more you look at your CV, the more your achievements seem trivial. You think of asking for help from experienced people, but then never get around to doing it since you know you'll be embarrassed if they say none of it is good enough. After a few unsuccessful internet searches, you decide to wing it and include all the crossed out things too because, hey, quantity over quality.

Peer pressure

It's now time for the judgemental overachieving peer to walk in and smirk at your CV, knowing that they can easily give you a run for your money. You suddenly feel the pressure to be as good as or even better than the peer but fail miserably since it is impossible how much they have accomplished in the same few years as you. You feel incompetent, and it starts to reflect on your CV. However, you soon stumble upon encouraging peers in the same



bowl as you that you forget about the arrogant peer.

Why you always lyin'?

Soon, the encouraging peers update their CVs to be unimaginably impressive while you're still stuck with your average one, leaving you confused as to how they've done years worth of work in a week. You confront them and all they do is laugh it off, making you question your own morals and whether to do the same as them.

Identity crisis

You do decide to tweak the truth and become one of the alpha peers but you can't help but worry about the consequences you might have to face if you're found out. Even if you aren't, you'll have to live with the lies you've

told all your life. How in the world were you going to break it down to your co-workers that you were only the secretary of your high school community service club and not the president? Your conscience gets the best of you and you decide to revert back to your old CV, and a sense of accomplishment finally sets in, knowing that all you've written are things you've actually done and it doesn't matter what other people write in their CVs anyway.

Mayabee Arannya is a confused soul still searching for a purpose. Give her advice on life at [facebook.com/mayabee.arannya](https://www.facebook.com/mayabee.arannya)

The Nonsensical Things We Believe and Do

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As one of the relatively underdeveloped nations of the world, it's safe to say we Bangladeshis don't get to enjoy a lot of first world privileges. I mean, how do you get into Pokémon Go if it finally hits the streets when it's not cool anymore, right? Forget the mainstream, how long did we dream of whopping down some Burger King right in our backyards? And how long did it take for the overpriced cheeseburgers to disenchant our taste buds?

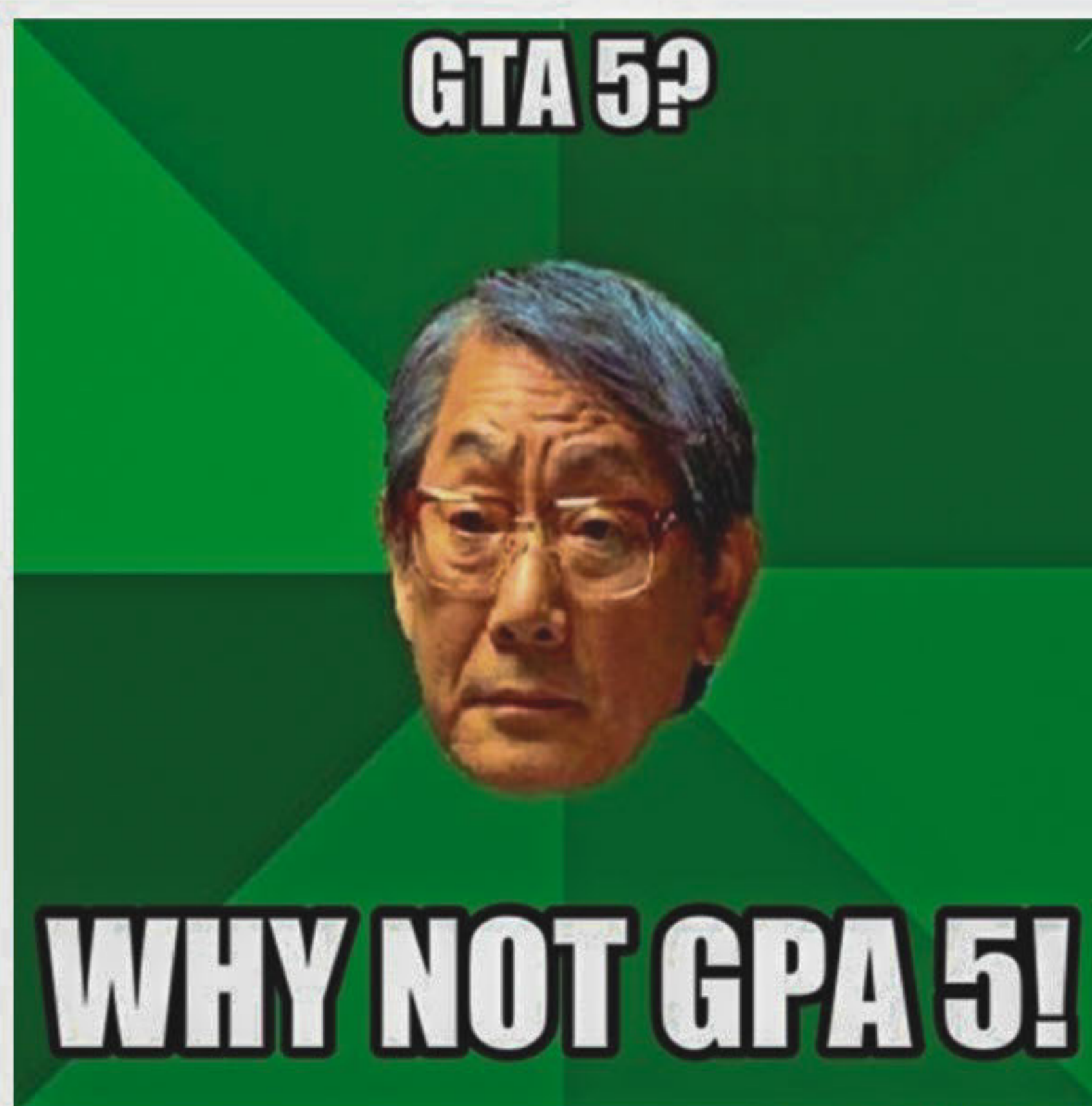
Being in Bangladesh has its own little joys and victories, some even illegal. Pirated downloads, acceptable racism on a societal level (*kalo, fossha, shemla, ujjol shemla*, we got it all), corruption, heck, you can even get unlicensed drivers' licenses for the right price, apparently. In the chaos and pandemonium that ensues in the system and culture we live in, we find ourselves acting (or not) in a whole bunch of strange things. Here's a list:

1. Being honest at weddings: When your parents drag you to Mr. X's son's cousin's wedding and you're walking into an extravagantly decorated hall full of faces you don't know, it's obvious why you're there in the first place; the call of the *Kacchir Aloo*. Deep inside your heart you want to find an empty spot, eat your fill, and pull a *Noakhaila* and leave. Fake smiling and taking photos for random Aunties sure do work up an appetite.

2. Fret the dawaat etiquette: Dawaats have their own set of unspoken rules, rules which vary when one hosts and one attends. When you're "technically" hosting (we know you're probably hiding in your room cursing the "intruders" to the pits of hell), it's essential you starve yourself till every guest has a plate of food, at which point you can have at the rest. You must also awkwardly

make small talk in the elevator when your mother makes you escort said guest to their cars. When attending you must spend at least 20 minutes on the doorway after announcing your intent to leave.

3. GPA-5 or die: One fatal flaw in the current system



(fatal because people have actually died because of this) is the overbearing importance of the GPA-5, a grade so widespread and increasingly common that people tend to think not achieving the grade in SSC and HSC exams means their lives are devoid of meaning. While grades

are important, they're not everything, and a system that properly merits students and nurtures their own talents is severely lacking. It's a vulture culture, and unknowingly getting taped into a TV Show aimed to discredit your apparent GPA 5 is just the tip of the dung-heap.

4. The you-know-what talk: The S word is equivalent to Voldemort with the amount of tension it creates in a Bangladeshi household, yet it's the word/activity most frequently thrown around whenever you're watching a show on your laptop and your parent happens to walk in. We actively hide our relationships and affairs from our parents when we're under marrying age because it's "so wrong", but then suddenly "soooo right" when society deems we're too old to stay at home single. The result? A lot of unhappy relationships, wrong decisions, and a society that labels dissatisfaction as "compromise".

With 2017 fast approaching, who's to say what the future may hold? Let's hope our culture progresses in a healthy manner and settles into a more open one where people are free to do as they please, unbound by meaningless expectations. Not one where "progress" is actually several steps back, where statements like "don't mix with non-straight A students" turn into "don't mix with non-straight students", and where openness means more open negativity. The future is what we make it, and let's try to make 2017 a step in the right direction, at least personally.

Happy New Year everyone!

Mustafid Raiyan Khan is an excellent procrastinator and has mastered the art of doing nothing and regretting his nothingness even further. Help his endeavors at <https://www.facebook.com/mustaaachio>