



THE YOUNG OPINION

THE VOICE OF YOUR FUTURE

DEC 2020 • 2020 WRAP UP

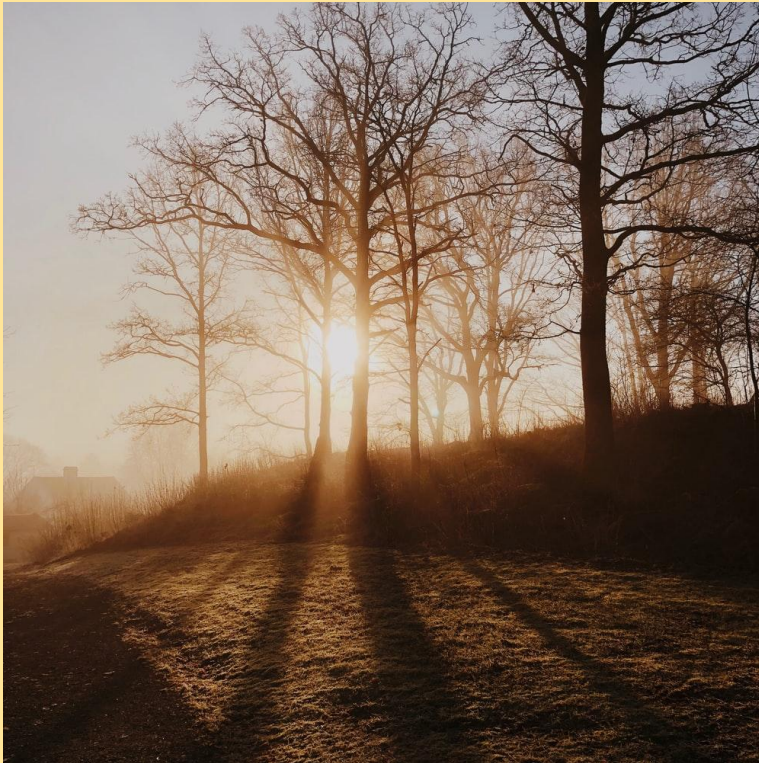
Police in
2020 - Jay
Patel

Joy of 2020 -
Sreenita Nair

Covid-19 Variant -
Noureen Ahmad

Founder's Message: Aarav Modi

Finally the dreaded year of 2020 has ended. With an eventful year, all we can hope for is some light in the dark. We all have to follow the procedures that has been given to us, we have to listen to the people that have done the research and then we have to do more. We have to spread our obedience to these procedures so that we can go back to some sort of normalcy. Our year as The Young Opinion has been quite fun for us as this was the year where we could come together as a team and start this project. I am so happy and proud of us that we actually came to the end of the end of the year. This has actually made us better friends and we have better trust in each other. We all have improved our writing skills and we want to do better. We obviously couldn't attend to our blogs as much as well as our articles due to our other priorities but this year we will finish off with a bang! Please stay safe and from The Young Opinion team, HAPPY NEW YEAR! (Please see last slide for all the wonderful people that helped us this year, you guys deserve major props!)



About Us

As “The Young Opinion”, we are a group of young individuals who strive to express our unique perspectives to the world through this creative medium. We make it our priority to educate and empower young audiences and encourage them to display their talents and thoughts through opportunities presented by our magazine. Our team consists of youths with talents in a variety of facets ranging from journalism, photography to even various types of art. We take pride in being the next generation and try our very best to use the skills we have to spread awareness on topics, we as youth feel need to be addressed. As a group, we collectively feel, that no matter how long it takes and no matter how small each step, we will try to the best of our abilities, to make sure our voices are heard.

Covid 19 Variant

By Noureen Ahmad

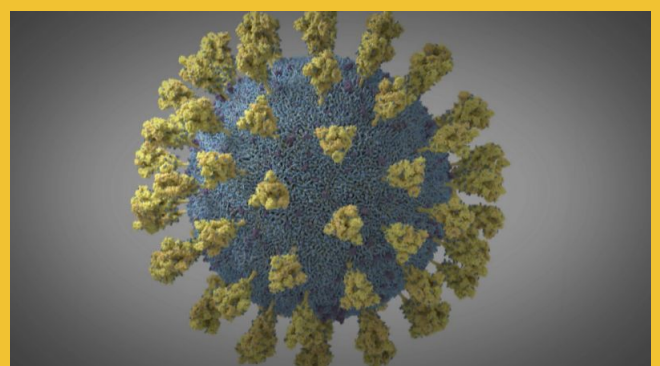
In December 2019, officials in Wuhan City, China reported the first human cases of COVID-19. SARS-CoV-2, the virus that triggers COVID-19 spreads by respiratory droplets and aerosols from an infected person to others around them; it is produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, shouts, or speaks. The size of the droplets ranges from large droplets that fall rapidly to the ground (within seconds or minutes) near the infected individual to smaller droplets, often referred to as aerosols, which in some circumstances remain in the air. Within weeks this virus slowly spread worldwide causing a global pandemic. In March 2020 Canada went into lockdown to help control the spread of this deadly virus. To protect ourselves and our loved ones we were told to take many safety precautions like wearing a mask when we go outside, keeping our hands clean by washing them frequently, applying hand sanitizer before and after coming in contact with someone or something, social distancing, wearing gloves and most importantly staying home and self-isolating. This virus is greatly impacting the economy by the loss of jobs, businesses and money. Approximately 1.77 million people have died from Covid-19 as of December 2020. Covid-19 is mentally affecting a lot of people because of many reasons for example; losing your loved ones because of the virus, not being able to see your friends/family, losing your job, not being able to pay rent/bills on time, etc. Numerous families worldwide are financially struggling due to this virus. In Canada, kids have an option to go school for 2 hours in the morning for 2/3 times a week and do their other class in the afternoon or they could go fully online and other variations of this schedule. The Canadian government is helping a lot of families get through this tough time and is doing its best to keep Covid-19 under control.

The variant, called B.1.1.7 was first reported in



the UK in December 2020. This quickly spread and now a handful of countries have confirmed cases of the new variant, including Australia, Denmark, Italy, Iceland, South Africa, the U.S, Canada and the Netherlands. In the U.K and the U.S, health experts say the strain appears to infect more easily than others, but there is no proof that it is more deadly. However, it is more transmissible. Some experts believe that the new strain might have a higher chance of affecting children. As we know the vaccine for Covid-19 was released, it is a coincidence the new strain of Covid was found a couple of days after people started taking the vaccine. Let's say you design a vaccine to combat a virus, now that vaccine will work on that virus, however, that virus can become immune to the vaccine and create a new form of the virus; hence the new variant. I believe that this new strain is a by-product of the vaccine. To back my explanation up The Guardian wrote an article about ["How a new Covid strain may have spread virus in the south of England"](#) this article stated "The same deletion was spotted when samples of the virus were collected from a Cambridge patient with a weakened immune system. The patient was treated with convalescent plasma – blood plasma containing antibodies from a recovered patient. The virus acquired the mutation during that treatment and may have become more resistant to the antibodies. The patient ultimately died of the infection."

On the bright side, people will now spend more time with their loved ones while they are at home social



Covid 19 Variant - Contd

distancing. This is good for people who usually do not get to spend time with their families because of work, school, and the daily stress of life. To protect the most vulnerable, stay home when you can, wash your hands as frequently as possible and wear your mask. Stay safe and have a wonderful New Year!

For more information on how the vaccine works please visit:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/health/sinovac-covid-19-vaccine.html>

For more information on Covid-19 please visit:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-covid-19#:~:text=symptoms>



“Pretentious”

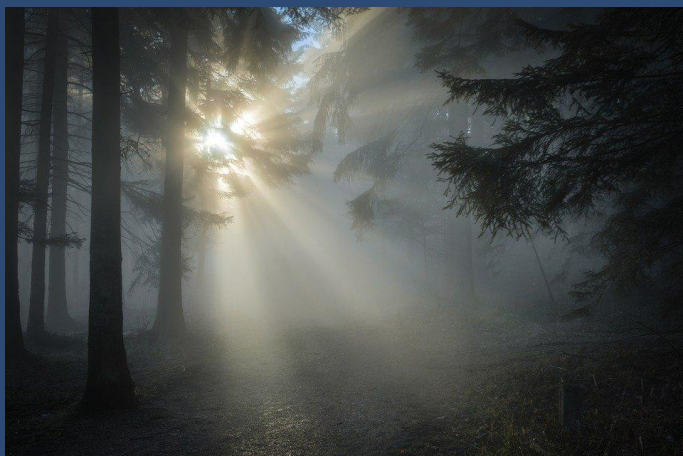
By: Niranjana Nambiar [] Instagram: @thebrightcanvas._

JOY OF 2020

By Sreenita Nair

As we all lived and survived through the year 2020 we know that countless events took place that made history and shattered records. To list a few, this eccentric year was when the Australian bushfires occurred, Prince Harry and Megan Markle quit the royal family (yes shockingly that IS a real thing!), the deadly coronavirus emerged in Wuhan China and spread internationally, icons and legends such as Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Chadwick Boseman, Alex Trebek, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and unfortunately many more sadly passed away, Donald Trump faced an impeachment trial, and Parasite swept the Oscars and won the most awards. These events do not even begin to capture even half the insane year that 2020 was. But to bring some light to a predominantly dark year, let us talk about some heartwarming acts that have transpired this year.

To begin our list Amazon Boss Jeff Bezos pledged \$10 billion to help fight climate change on February 17, 2020. This massive donation went to the creation of the Bezos Earth Fund. Bezos stated that "This global initiative will fund scientists, activists, NGOs — any effort that offers a real possibility to help preserve and protect the natural world," and "I want to work alongside others both to amplify known ways and

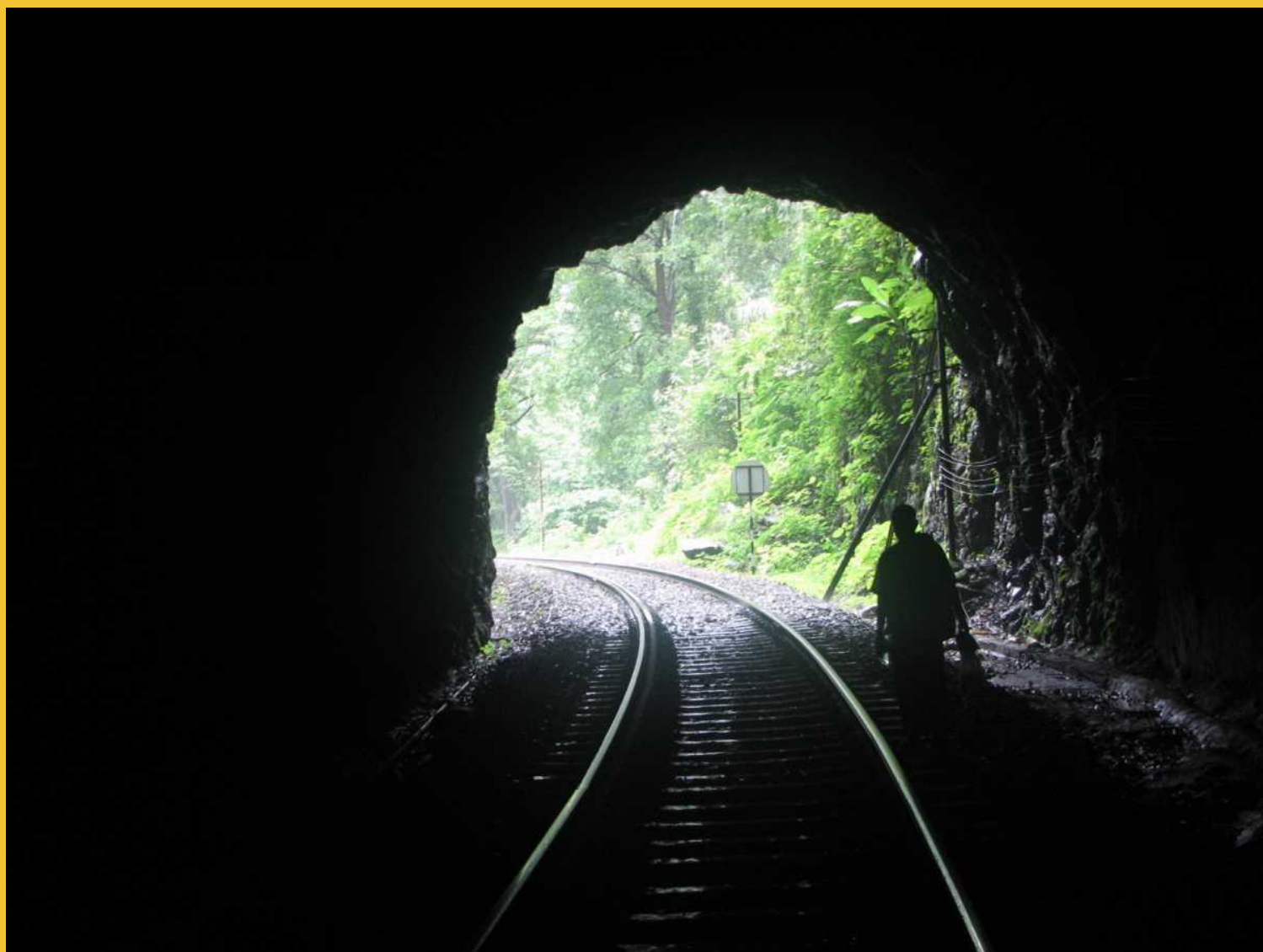


to explore new ways of fighting the devastating impact of climate change on this planet." in an Instagram post. The up-and-coming Bezos earth Fund is his largest humanitarian effort to date. Looking at the history books we know that this is not the billionaire's first effort to take action against climate change. During September last year, Amazon's CEO faced pressure from his employees and announced the Climate Pledge; disclosing that Amazon would be a net-zero carbon business by 2040, 10 years ahead of the Paris Agreement. "Earth is the one thing we all have in common—let's protect it, together," Bezos wrote. "It's going to take collective action from big companies, small companies, nations, states, global organizations and individuals." Let us follow Jeff Bezos' path and work together to help our planet thrive and grow for the better!

Subsequently, due to the global pandemic, individuals worldwide were forced to hunker down in the safety of their homes and wait out the virus. Ironically this deadly pandemic was the best way to cut down on carbon emissions, exponentially reducing pollution as well as allowing us to save many animals. Climate change-causing output CO₂ fell by a smashing record of 7 percent. It may not sound like a lot, but to the children of today and our future generations, it means everything. Albeit these emissions are very likely to rebound and continue to grow in 2021 if we don't act on it. Fortunately, China, Japan, and South Korea have committed themselves to reach net-zero emissions by mid-century. The EU and the UK are battling for the most considerable emission reduction by 2030. Corporations are also following in suit; Apple pledging to go net-zero by 2030 and Walmart by 2040. Additionally, as traffic worldwide ceased to a grinding stop, so did pollution. Furthermore, the pandemic's probable beginnings in a "wet" food market in Wuhan forced us to stop and think about the treatment of animal species that goes far beyond their point of origin. China's Wildlife Protection Law now applies at sea for the first time, reducing its vast fishing fleet's massive footprint.

While there are plenty of more amazing things that have happened during 2020, the final one that I will be talking about is the new Covid-19 vaccine. The vaccine was recently released and has already been administered to people with a high-risk. Research institutes, bioengineers and many others around the world immediately began to work on developing a vaccine as soon as Chinese scientists sequenced its genetic code and shared it with the world. This vaccine is thought to save millions of lives even once Covid-19 becomes a distant memory.

The covid-19 pandemic killed 1.8 million people, thousands and thousands were thrown out of a job, millions sank back into poverty, the global economy fell by an estimated 4 percent, natural disasters occurred, our idols passed away, and many of us sank to our all-time lowest. But 2020 was also the year for self-growth and astounding breakthroughs. These were major leaps for humanity and an all-around step forward for our quality of life. As a result, the future is much brighter than you think and I hope by bringing light to even a fraction of the heartening things that took place this year will help change your opinion on 2020. As Stanley Kubrick once said, "However vast the darkness, we must supply our light." So continue to be positive and wish for the best, have a wonderful New Year!



Police in 2020

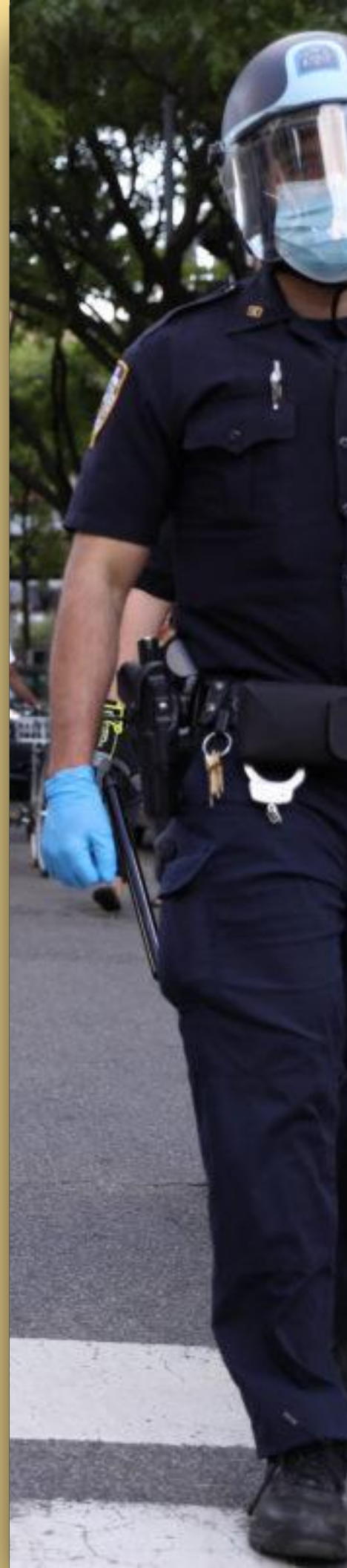
By Jay Patel

There have been many events that have unfolded during 2020, one of the most significant being the public condemnation of the Police in North America. There are two main reasons as to why the police are being shunned, their use of excessive force, as well as lack of responsibility for their actions.

Many people who have done absolutely nothing wrong have died at the hands of the police. Although then again, many police are being undeservedly hated. Even though some police officers deserve the hate, many of them are just doing their jobs. Over the past decade, many innocent people have died at the hands of certain police officers, with minimal repercussions in place. In most cases, police officers will get away with no charges, facing no consequences for their actions unless whatever they did became viral. It took extensive riots and a lot of media attention for those who killed George Floyd to face criminal charges for his death, even though it was recorded. This goes to show just how protected police officers are from prosecution because of their titles.

Of those that have been wronged by the police, many have been African American, a series of incidents led to the popularity of the BLM (Black Lives Matter) movement in mid 2020. Along with the BLM movement, there's also been the Defund The Police movement. There's more to de-fund the police than to just "defund the police". Defunding the police doesn't literally mean to defund them, but to instead reinvest funds originally used by certain areas of the police into things such as conflict de-escalation. Conflict de-escalation can result in significantly fewer innocent deaths by the police. The opinions on police are mixed with some saying that they should be completely abolished, others saying they should be defunded, and few saying that they are fine as is. I'll be honest, I don't understand the point of the police being abolished. If they do get abolished it will be complete chaos, much worse than it currently is.

In Canada, it takes a little less than a year to become a police officer, with most of that time spent learning what to do if a conflict escalates to a certain degree, instead of learning how to de-escalate the situation, as well as almost no time spent learning how to deal with someone who has a mental illness. Many innocent police shootings reflect that sort of training. Many of those who have gotten shot by the police are those dealing with different kinds of mental illnesses. This can be improved by increasing the time recruits are spent training in the academy, and also diversifying the curriculum. Many would disagree with what I have to say, and instead say that police should spend more time learning combat oriented things, and while I do agree that the police knowing things related to combat is essential, in most situations police really don't need excessive force, and their training should reflect that.



Police in 2020 - Contd

Overall, although police in 2020 have been through a lot of controversies, it's not the police, but the police academy that is to blame. Police are taught conflict escalation, instead of de-escalation, it is also very difficult for them to get criminally charged when they have done something wrong. Although the police have done many questionable things in the past decade, many are good people and are just trying to do their jobs, while others have not been trained to the extent that they should have been.



Credits

The Young Opinion Team Members:

- Aarav Modi
- Jay Patel
- Anshul Modi
- Dhruv Dave
- Dhyaan Patel
- Riya Patel
- Noureen Ahmad
- Roshni Sen
- Sreenita Nair
- Siya Patel
- Varuni Ramessar
- Earagan Nimalan

Magazine Volume 5: 2020 Wrap Up Article Writers:

- Jay Patel : Police in 2020
- Sreenita Nair: Joy in 2020
- Noureen Ahmad: COVID-19 Variant

“Pretentious” Art Piece:

- Niranjana Nambiar

Front Cover Designers:

- Dhruv Dave
- Aarav Modi
- Earagan Nimalan

Magazine Template Designers:

- Aarav Modi
- Dhyaan Patel
- Dhruv Dave
- Riya Patel

The Young Opinion Head:

- Aarav Modi

The Young Opinion Co-Head:

- Earagan Nimalan

Chief Editor:

- Siya Patel

Chief of Blogs:

- Sreenita Nair

Head Artist/Chief Designer:

- Riya Patel

Media Platform Handlers:

- Aarav Modi
- Dhruv Dave
- Dhyaan Patel
- Jay Patel
- Earagan Nimalan

Blog Writers of 2020:

- Aarav Modi
- Sreenita Nair
- Jay Patel
- Hereem Aziz
- Noureen Ahmad
- Vincent Yao
- Vidhi Kothawala
- Earagan Nimalan
- Varuni Ramessar
- Imogen Coady
- Riya Patel
- Siya Patel
- Svasti Sutaria
- Lauren O
- Eshal Khan
- Janvi Patel
- Roshni Sen
- Anshul Modi

Story Authors of The Young Opinion:

- Jay Patel : Magic Chronicles
- Varuni Ramessar : The Mysterious Money Pit of Oak Island

Graphic Designers/Social Media Post Designers:

- Aarav Modi
- Earagan Nimalan
- Dhruv Dave
- Dhyaan Patel
- Ahmed Siddiqui
- Janvi Patel
- Noureen Ahmad
- Riya Patel

Website Article Writers:

- Mehar Saini
- Sreenita Nair
- Roshni Sen
- Aarav Modi
- Earagan Nimalan
- Siya Patel

Credits Contd

The Young Opinion Photographers of 2020:

- Anshul Modi
- Brooklyn Hughes
- Sreenita Nair
- Noureen Ahmad
- Aarav Modi
- Meenakshi Pillai
- Earagan Nimalan
- Saahil Modi

The Young Opinion Art Artists of 2020:

- Ada Selcuk
- Roshni Sen
- Riya Patel
- Ashley Shaw
- Taran Chakal
- Prayag Patel
- Aditya Ranjan

Magazine Volume 4: AUG 2020 Writers:

- Jay Patel
- Varuni Ramessar
- Roshni Sen
- Tripti Neb

Magazine Volume 3: JULY 2020 Writers:

- Earagan Nimalan
- Aarav Modi
- Anshul Modi

Magazine Volume 2: MAY 2020 Writers:

- Siya Patel
- Aarav Modi
- Earagan Nimalan

Magazine Volume 1: APRIL/MAY 2020 Writers:

- Roshni Sen
- Jay Patel
- Sreenita Nair
- Siya Patel
- Anshul Modi

Dr. Evil Comic Series (Book One & Book Two) Authors:

- Saahil
- Aadi

Contact Us

Email: youngopinion089@gmail.com

Instagram Account: [@the.young.opinion](https://www.instagram.com/the.young.opinion)

Website: www.theyoungopinion.org

The Young Opinion
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