

LIAN BENZ

+1 (212) 226-2263 | lianbenz2@gmail.com

Education

Avenues The World School - New York, 11th – 12th Grade

4.0 GPA

VIS International School (Taipei, Taiwan), 10th Grade

The Packer Collegiate Institute, 9th Grade

Research

Author – *Ghost Daughters and Bar Girls: Negotiating Marginal Womanhood in Taiwan* (11th – 12th grade)

- Researched how Buddhist nuns and sex workers disrupt traditional womanhood and reveal conditional legitimacy based on national and familial interests in Taiwan
- Published in [The Schola](#) (Volume 9, Issue 3) in September 2025; asked to write for the [Author Spotlights](#) section

Mastery Learning System

***Universal Basic Income, Argumentative Paper* (11th grade)**

- Unpacked the history of poverty and inequality in the US, while highlighting the role of systemic racism
- Interviewed Eduardo Suplicy (founder of the Workers Party of Brazil & an early supporter of UBI)

***Invasive Species and Viruses, Website and Video Game* (11th grade)**

- Made a website to educate students on the impact of invasive species and viruses
- Wrote in-depth scientific explanations and examined historical impacts; created a system dynamics model to represent the impact of invasive mussels
- Coded a single-player narrative video game about how invasive species interact with their environment

***Dr. Chien Shiung Wu: Science and Identity, Lesson* (11th grade)**

- Developed and taught a 70-minute lesson to two groups of 8th graders at Avenues, titled *Science and Identity: Who Gets Remembered and Why?*
- Incorporated Dr. Wu's life story and scientific work as a way to teach about identity and atoms

Data Science Projects

***Housing Proposal* (11th grade)**

- Wrote a 43-page Moving to Opportunity housing proposal for Harlem, NY
- Used R Studio and [The Opportunity Atlas](#) to identify “target area” and “opportunity bargain” census tracts throughout Manhattan
- Developed a cost-benefit analysis covering income taxes, unemployment insurance, incarceration costs, and teen pregnancies

***The Demographics Behind SAT Performance, Research Paper* (11th grade)**

- Wrote a 27-page paper examining how demographic variables (such as household income, family structure, and race) correlate with SAT scores in NYC public schools
- Coded bivariate and multivariate regressions in R Studio
- Created 17 visualizations (e.g., violin & density plots) in R Studio and presented detailed, clear analyses

Extracurriculars

Director – *Crammed: Inside Taiwan's School System* (11th grade – 12th grade)

- Spent 3 weeks in Taipei filming interviews and observational footage about Taiwan's school system
- Conducted 16 interviews with students, parents, educators, and school administrators
- Edited 25 hours of footage into a 30-minute documentary; added English subtitles to interview clips in Mandarin
- Emphasized cram school culture (historical roots & impact on students)

Campaign Intern – *Brad Hoylman-Sigal for Manhattan Borough President* (11th grade)

- Canvassed and discussed Brad's plans with locals
- Worked primarily in Chinatown, speaking Mandarin and employing technical vocabulary

Vice President, Interview Team Lead, Editor – *VIS Scope Newsletter* (10th grade)

- Curated, organized, and edited submissions for monthly publications
- Interviewed social activists Belvie Rooks, Gini Reticker, and George Pillsbury
- Wrote monthly analytical & opinion pieces (e.g., *Reality of Modern Day Activism: Effects of Social Media*)

External Classes

Black Lives Matter Less: How Structural Racism Affects Health - *Brown Pre-College (Summer 2024)*

Writing About Youth Culture - *The School of The New York Times (Summer 2024)*

Stereotypes and Attitudes: The Science of First Impressions - *Harvard Pre-College (Summer 2025)*

Critical Social Theory - *Humanities Center Class (Avenues, G11, Semester 1)*

What is a Woman?: Excerpts on Gender Theory - *Humanities Center Class (Avenues, G11, Semester 1)*

Utopian Horizons: *Another Now* - *Humanities Center Class (Avenues, G11, Semester 2)*

A Vision of Love: Literary and Sociological Analysis of BL Culture in Asia - *Humanities Center Class (Avenues, G12, Semester 1)*

Skills

Mandarin (bilingual proficiency), German (elementary proficiency), data analysis and statistical programming (competent in R and RStudio)