Dear Volunteers,

On behalf of the Peace Corps Lesotho staff and Volunteers, I’d like to welcome our newest group – the CHED 12s – and congratulate them on successful completion of PST! They all did a great job and are settling in well...even if it did take a few of them several days to actually reach their sites due to heavy snowfall and blocked roads.

Thanks again to all of you who completed the Volunteer survey this year! We were the second post in Africa to reach 100% and have received lots of kudos from Peace Corps HQ. More importantly, 100% gives us more than a sample size but rather the whole universe and makes the results that much more meaningful. We look forward to receiving the analysis in the next few months and will share it with you.

New PCVL Delia Helie (CHED10) and I are now bonded by an experience that we will likely not soon forget. In addition to her PCVL responsibilities, Delia is assigned to a PEPFAR-funded American NGO called Jhpiego, which is working with the government of Lesotho to roll out voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC) services. On August 4th, Delia and I accompanied a team from PEPFAR, including Ambassador Eric Goosby of the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator in Washington, to Scott Hospital in Morija. Scott is benefiting from many US government-supported interventions such as MCA-funded renovations and Jhpiego-organized VMMC training and service delivery. During the visit, Delia and yours truly were invited to observe actual circumcisions, with the patients’ consent, of course. All I can say is, guys, if you’ve had it done already, be thankful!! Rest assured that Delia will not be performing any circumcisions but rather will work with Jhpiego and Ministry of Health staff on monitoring and evaluation and capacity building in decidedly non-surgical matters. She will also keep Volunteers updated on the roll out so you can help mobilize men in your community to seek this service when it becomes available.

In addition to the CHED12s’ swearing in and watching the removal of foreskin, the highlights of my month were visits to CHED11s Lyndsey Chaillé, Lewis Simmons and Maggie Day and ED12s Maria Bruno and Caitlin Fisher. In their own ways, they are all contributing significantly to the three goals of Peace Corps and the CHED and ED projects. Maybe it becomes cliché after a while, but really, I can’t say enough good things about our Volunteers! I also had a chance to drop in on CHED12s Elizabeth Eastman, Christian Perry and James Kruger, who seem right at home already at their sites.

As you may know, September 3rd will mark 2 years since ED10 Volunteer Tom Maresco was killed in Maseru. It is a tragic and somber anniversary, which I am sure Tom’s friends and family will be marking in different ways. Here in Lesotho staff and three of the Volunteers who were serving at the time will lay flowers at the site where Tom died. Tom was a vivacious person who left a positive impression on all who met him. He is missed by many and certainly by those of us in Lesotho who knew him. Please keep Tom’s family in your thoughts.

Khotso,
Kathy
Editorial Staff
Managing Editor – Kathy Jacquart Dill, Country Director
Editor – Deepak Pullanikkatil, IT Specialist
Staff Contributors:
Administration – Jim McCormick, Director of Management and Operations
Program and Training:
Eric Goldman—Director of Programming and Training
Education – Clement Lephoto—Associate Peace Corps Director & Malitaba Hlabana—Programming & Training Specialist
Community Health & Economic Development - Selloane Pitikoe—Associate Peace Corps Director & Mamakhetha Moranye—Programming & Training Specialist
Training – Masechaba Mapena—Training Manager, Mamokola Matlanyane—Language, Cross Culture and Homestay Coordinator
Safety & Security – Nthoalo Masiphole
Medical—Dr. Victor Inegbedion
Distribution — Lebohang Ranooe
All other staff and PCVs who contribute

From the Editor
Articles must be received by the 4th Monday of the month to be included in the following month’s edition of the Khotso. When submitting articles, please provide the name of the person making the submission and a contact person for follow-up questions. The Newsletter will be emailed and a hardcopy made available in the office on or about the 1st of each month. Please make sure that your email address is on file with Peace Corps. Remember that it is your responsibility to read the Khotso Newsletter for updates from Peace Corps Lesotho.

The editorial staff would like feedback from PCVs regarding the content. It is our desire to provide you with information that is useful, helpful, and encouraging. We would appreciate receiving constructive feedback from you.

By submitting articles, you are providing Peace Corps Lesotho with the right to reprint your article in full or part in any publication.

Deepak Pullanikkatil, Editor
PCV & Staff Birthdays
Birthday greetings go out to the following Volunteers and staff!

September
Blatt, Amber – 5
Stein, Wendy – 7
Machai, Majimisi (HIV/AIDS Coordinator) – 14
Notsi, Itumeleng (Medical Assistant) – 21
Mosae, Jeannet (Executive Secretary) – 24
Ingebiedion, Victor (PCMO) – 27
Biron, Cassie – 29
McCormick, Jim (Director of Management Overseas) – 30

October
Koryto, Kevin – 3
France, Shanelle – 4
Mangan, Heather – 10
Cain, Jennifer – 16
Reynolds, Carlaine – 24

Peace Corps Lesotho Holidays (Office closed these days)
September
Labor Day – 3 (US Holiday)

October
Independence Day – 4 (LS Holiday)
Columbus Day – 8 (US Holiday)

Calendar of Events and Staff Travel
Aug. 13 – Sept. 4 Dr. Victor on leave
September 5-7 Nt. Clement & Nt. Nthoalo travelling to Quthing and Mohales Hoek on site identification
September 6-8 CHED11 mid-service conference
September 8-18 Kathy at CD Conference in Washington DC
September 17-21 ED13 PST TOT
October 12 ED13 PST begins

Duty Officer Schedule
September 3 – 9 GSO
September 10 – 16 DMO
September 17 – 23 CD
September 24 – 30 APCD ED
October 1 – 7 APCD CHED
October 8 – 14 Training Manager
October 15 – 21 HIV Coordinator
October 22 – 28 PTS ED
Oct. 29 – Nov. 4 PTS CHED
November 5 – 11 SSC
November 12 – 18 ITS
November 19 – 25 FA
Nov. 26 – Dec. 2 GSO

Staff members of the month — M’e Malitaba & Ntate Nthoalo
Congratulations to Education Programming and Training Specialist M’e Malitaba and Security Coordinator Ntate Nthoalo, who are recognized for their heroics and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty to safely deliver two CHED 12 Volunteers to their sites after the Volunteers were stranded for several days due to weather-related road closures. At the last minute M’e Malitaba and ntate Nthoalo agreed to change their itinerary and as a result had to brave the elements by sleeping in the vehicle when it got stuck in the mountains.

They ultimately ensured that both Volunteers arrived at their sites while also completing their original program.

ADMIN CORNER by Jim
Good to be home...!
Wow! Between my TDY in Cameroon and the recent DMO Conference in Pretoria, I feel like I have been “M.I.A.” from my duties here for quite some time. I am glad to be back and as always, very happy to hear that things ran well in my absence. When my girls arrive back in country in a week or so things will really start getting back to normal.

Bank accounts
We continue to have some “hiccups” with some of your Standard Bank deposits. Although we are a little in the dark on what is happening with their software migration that causes these problems I understand the inconvenience and uncertainty it has caused you and we will get it fixed. As Harry Truman famously said “the buck stops here,” so we will continue to aggressively pursue a resolution to these issues. In the meantime, try and stick to spending only what you see on your Living Allowance statements (and confirmed amount of TAP Funds) in order to avoid having money taken back (at some point) by the bank.

Withdrawal of readjustment allowance
Those PCVs who have expressed an interest in withdrawing money from their Readjustment Allowance to cover certain financial obligations (e.g., student loan payments, etc.) please remember that you must first complete an “Application to Allot or Withdraw Readjustment Allowance” form, sign it and return it to me for my signature. I will then scan it and send it to PC HQ to be processed. Two important things to remember... First, it will take PC HQ at least one month to get it set up so make sure when you enter the First Allotment Payment Due date that you take that into consideration. Second, it will not allow deductions to be deposited directly into a bank account in your name. It must go (either by check or electronic funds transfer) to the third party that you are obligated to. If you have any additional questions about the process (or need the application form), please contact me.

Anglican training center
During the last week of August, Kathy and I met with the new Head Administrator of the ATC. We continued to raise concerns about the process (or need the application form), please remember that you must first complete an “Application to Allot or Withdraw Readjustment Allowance” form, sign it and return it to me for my signature. I will then scan it and send it to PC HQ to be processed. Two important things to remember... First, it will take PC HQ at least one month to get it set up so make sure when you enter the First Allotment Payment Due date that you take that into consideration. Second, it will not allow deductions to be deposited directly into a bank account in your name. It must go (either by check or electronic funds transfer) to the third party that you are obligated to. If you have any additional questions about the process (or need the application form), please contact me.
Dear Volunteers,

As always, please stay safe...!

Rugby balls available
I still have several rugby balls to give away to any of you that would like to introduce the game to your communities. They are also quite durable to just “kick around” so please stop by my office the next time you are in town if you are interested. One caveat however, you will have to make use of my pump and fill them with air yourselves...! (My wife tells me I already have enough “hot air!”).

As always, please stay safe...!

DPT CORNER by Eric
Dear Volunteers,

I just wanted to personally introduce myself and say how pleased I am to be here as a part of Peace Corps Lesotho community. As you know, I am the Director of Programming and Training (DPT), and am working with the staff to provide you with support and resources that can assist you in your work and overall experience here in Lesotho. I previously was the DPT for Peace Corps in Malawi.

While, of course, your own personal resiliency, flexibility and independence are key to your success and satisfaction as Volunteers, I want you to know that we are here to help and support you in any way we can.

I am truly delighted to be here, and look forward to meeting each of you as soon as possible.

CHED CORNER by M’e Selloane & M’e Mamakhetha
Khotsong!

Nako ea Lehloa
Thank you to the wonderful CHED 11 couple ‘M’e Carol and Ntate Shane for adopting Ntate Bruce and ‘M’e Lin into your cozy rondavel when they were stranded following the recent snow fall in Qacha’s Nek! Ntate Nthoalo and ‘Me ‘Malitaba, your support to the Mokhotlong Volunteers (‘M’e Carlaine and Ausi Anri) is very much appreciated and acknowledged!

New frame-work review
Now that the PST is over, our next high priority activity is the finalization of the framework for our project. Some of you were nominated into our Project Advisory Committee but with the CHED 10 members who have COSed, we now have a bit of a gap. We might be knocking at some of your doors to recruit membership into the PAC, so be prepared.

CHED 11 Mid-Service Workshop
Who would have thought a year could be gone so fast! It seems like yesterday when you arrived in Lesotho! Your reconnect, in appreciation of the good work that you have done in the past year will be held in Molengoane Lodge in Nazareth on September 6-8. We wish to acknowledge your response in identifying the training needs, which have really made the job of coming up with the content for the workshop very easy. Thank you, guys. You are awesome!

Site visits and site identification
Plans are underway to visit the CHED 12 PCVs now that they have finally settled into their new homes! During these visits, we would like to talk to the hosting families, the counterparts and the supervisors. We will also be checking the house (burglar bars, CO2 detector, emergency contact and the escape windows). We will in addition to these, be looking at the potential organizations willing to host PCVs in the next group. If you do have any leads, please bring them forth.

Phase II assignments
This is a great time for the CHED 12 to go out there and meet and greet people while at the same time identifying potential opportunities and challenges ahead in their Peace Corps service! In the process, do not forget to send in your Phase II assignments! We love to read those stories! Remember that you must have completed your assignments by November 26 2012.

Gold Star activities
Thanks to all Volunteers for your hard work. Below are a few “Gold Star” activities we’ve pulled from the VRFs over the last few weeks. They help to illustrate the importance of persistence, patience, and creativity.

Amanda Lawrence: The Class 4 teacher approached her for assistance to start an AIDS club. They meet with 10 students every Wednesday to discuss HIV/AIDS. In their first session they just got to know each other and set the club rules. They have since started talking about the basics of HIV/AIDS, what it is, how it’s spread etc. They had an organization come and use one of their classrooms at Bethesda for a testing event, and the head guy came to visit their AIDS group. The kids played the Elephant and Lion game to show what AIDS was and they all remembered and understood!! More students have joined the club this year and they are starting to discuss the immune system and how HIV affects it. They use the youth whom they have trained to come and present to the club and talk about the myths regarding HIV/AIDS.

Tabatha Magobet: They established a support group which was led by her and the lay counselor that works very closely with patients in the ART department. While the lay counselor led the discussion Tab was the facilitator.

The support group first opened with a prayer from one of the participants. Participants then introduced themselves to help create a comfortable environment. This was followed by the lay counselor opening the discussion by explaining the purpose of the support group as follows: to come together and be one, empowerment of the community, learn more about diseases that Basotho face, and help Basotho to live a healthier and longer life. The group was then asked of the topics that they wanted to discuss in the meeting. This was followed by the setting of the rules. The opening topic was nutrition education with emphasis on healthy food choices, making a balanced meal, gardens, plowing tips, what vegetables to grow, importance of controlling stress levels, and the importance of exercise. This was then facilitated by asking the groups the challenges they have with obtaining healthy foods (i.e. fruits, vegetables etc), problems that occur with the individuals that have gardens, why don’t the ones without gardens have them, etc. The discussion was followed by the evaluation of the first meeting by the group where the members expressed that they had indeed enjoyed the meeting. The group also identified the date for the next meeting followed by a closing prayer.

PCV CORNER

PSN News
Submitted by Cassie Biron, CHED11, PSN Chair

Shoulders to lean on introduce themselves
Peer Support Network members are the extra ear when you are homesick. They are the warm “I understand” when all goes...
wrong in village. But exactly who are these crazy cats? Well, let us introduce ourselves:

Rusty de Lucia- 59707635
rustynyjd@yahoo.com
ED10
Leribe

Rusty de Lucia is an education resource volunteer in Tabola, Leribe. She holds a Master's degree in Theatre and English. Rusty works with teachers and students from three different primary schools in the area. This is her third year as an education volunteer. She loves living in and working in Lesotho.

Shane McFarland- 57138263/57033742
Shane.mcfarland1@gmail.com
CHED11
Qacha’s Nek

My name is Shane and I came to Peace Corps Lesotho with my wife Carol. We are serving in Qacha’s Nek District. Some of my passions include outdoor sports, snowboarding, guitar, and exercise in many forms including Martial Arts. I have a passion for health and healing and this was the focus of my studies in University and trade school. I plan on continuing my education in Physical Therapy and recovery from physical exercise following my service. As a member of the Peer Support Network team I am excited to meet all of you and support you through the unavoidable challenges of Peace Corps Service. May your hardships be few and far between.

Maggie Day- 57137414
maggie.day.ls@gmail.com
CHED11
Butha-Buthe

Maggie Day CHED11 is working in Ts‘ehlanyane with the Maliba Community Development Trust on community health, business and education programs. She is from the US Virgin Islands where she spent over 25 years in resort management, specializing in eco-tourism. She is married, has 4 children and her first grandchild was just born, a healthy little boy.

Anne Brewer- 57033759
anne.p.brewer@gmail.com
CHED11
Butha-Buthe

Anne is a CHED 11 living happily in the northern district of Butha-Buthe (the best district in Lesotho with the best PCVs, in case you weren’t aware...), enjoying village life along with the comforts of an office in the camptown. Her primary assignment is with MCA-Lesotho but she is also working with Ha Mopeli Primary School in her village on computer and life skills projects. She is originally from northern NJ but has lived in Brooklyn, Chicago (briefly) and most recently Washington D.C. She loves politics but is taking a much-needed break from it here in Lesotho. Her favorite color is purple and her favorite animals in Lesotho are cows and baby goats. She’s excited to be serving you as a PSN rep!

Cassie Biron (chair)- 57107776
Cassie.biron@gmail.com
CHED 11
Berea

Cassie is a CHED11 kickin’ it in TY. She works at a Primary school and a vocational school. She loves teaching life skills, but her drama club and debate team have her heart. When she is not working she spends time with her lovely girlfriend, whereabouts approved, and their two cats, Daisy and Beatrice (not a lesbian stereotype at all). She was raised by two military parents, has 4 adopted siblings, and thinks a quiet, look-the-same, well-behaved family is creepy. She studied sociology at a small liberal arts college in South Carolina then worked with people who had disabilities and special needs; ask her for a story, she has some good ones! Feel free to contact her anytime through Facebook, a sweet SMS, or on her crackberry! BBM: 2903A88A

Shanelle France- 59664404
sfubuntu8@gmail.com
ED12
Qacha’s Nek

Hey everyone! My name is Shanelle France, originally from Upstate New York (Woot Woot!) but currently a resident of Qacha’s Nek. I am an ED12 Volunteer and working as a Resource Teacher for the Lesotho College of Education. Just to spice things up and add a little flava, here are 10 things you may not know about me:

- I love the smell of books, bleach, smoke from matches and laundry.
- I play piano, guitar, saxophone, drums and love to sing.
- I secretly enjoy watching “16 and Pregnant”.
- I am the youngest of 3 (I have 2 older sisters)
- I got my first tattoo when I was 15 yrs old
- I won a barista foam art contest
- I inevitably laugh at anything related to bathroom humor
- My favorite number is 8
- I met Bill Clinton, Brad Pitt and Angelina Joli in New Orleans and gave Clinton a hug!
- I’m so happy to be a PSN Representative...call me, beep me if you wanna reach me! 59664404, BBM PIN 29390214, sfubuntu8@gmail.com

James Forte (co-chair)
jamesdexterforte@gmail.com
ED12
Thaba-Tseka

James is a volunteer working in TT (the REAL district) and loves his students. He loves to work out while listening to music. He has recently been introduced too all different kinds of music and is loving it! Any musical suggestions... send ‘em his way! He is currently the co-chair of PSN and is devoted to supporting his fellow PCVs in country. Something you might not know about James: when he was fifteen he ran into his house with his car on accident!

Heather Mangan
heathermmangan@gmail.com
ED12
Ha Matela Nazareth, Maseru

Here are 12 (for ED ‘12) facts about Heather Mangan: 1) She teaches secondary English and Life Skills at a small school on the edge of the Maluti Mountains. 2) She doesn’t speak great Sesotho but has a terrific Muppet voice. 3) She eats tomatoes like apples. 4) Her professional background is in journalism and she continues writing with a regular column about life in Lesotho for her hometown newspaper. 5) She cries at Hallmark commercials. 6) She served six months as a PCV in Niger before being evacuated due to security concerns relating to Al-Qaeda. 7) She believes nothing soothes the soul like the combination of good food and good company. 8) She is from South Dakota and

can give your five facts on why you should vacation there. 9) There is a piece of lead in her head from when she tripped on a pencil at the age of two (ask to see it, she'll show you the mark). 10) Her dancing abilities have greatly improved since coming to Lesotho. 11) She has a guilty pleasure for cheesy quotes. 12) She is elated to be a PSN member and looks forward to connecting with other PCVs and sending out some cheesy quotes.

PCV LIFE IN PHOTOS

CHED12 James Kruger and CHED PTS ‘me Mamakhetha.

CHED 11 Maggie Day and TAP Recipients.

ED12 Caitlin Fisher teaching Form A Maths.

Khotso

THE MISUNDERSTOOD LIVES OF CHINESE TRADERS IN AFRICA
LENA, August 13, 2012

China’s strong presence in Africa has come under the spotlight in recent years. Chinese firms are involved in all spheres of African economies, from infrastructure to mining and oil. However, far removed from these multi-million dollar deals is another ‘China in Africa’ – the thousands of Chinese shopkeepers that can be found from the backstreets of Luanda to the smallest farming towns in South Africa.

“The ‘Chinese shop’ is the opaque underbelly of China’s presence in Africa,” notes Terence McNamee, author of a ground-breaking new report by the Brenthurst Foundation. This fascinating study sheds light on the largely undocumented lives of Chinese traders in Africa. To produce the report, the Brenthurst Foundation conducted interviews with nearly 200 Chinese traders in South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Zambia and Angola. Here are some of the highlights.

Why Africa?
Almost all Chinese traders are in Africa because they couldn’t make it in China. It is easier for them to make money in Africa than in their homeland.

Many of the traders interviewed bemoaned the lack of opportunities and intense competition for jobs in China.

The reasons why so many traders were unable to carve out a living in China varies, depending on their profession, the economic situation in their home province or region, and personal circumstances.

But what pulled these traders to Africa, as opposed to other regions of the world? One of the reasons is the large market for
low cost Chinese goods on the continent. McNamee explains that “Africa represented a virgin market for household goods, apparel and other items that China could produce at very low cost”.

Africa draws the poorest and least educated Chinese migrants. “If they don’t make it in Africa, they have nowhere else to go,” notes the report.

“If they had a choice, they would be elsewhere, but only Africa possesses the minimal entry requirements and light regulations that enable Chinese migrants with limited capital and low levels of skills to compete.”

Very few would like to make Africa their home; most wish to return to China or resettle somewhere else than Africa. Of the Chinese traders living in Lesotho, not a single interviewee wanted to remain in the country.

**Fujian**

The majority of Chinese traders in Southern Africa come from just one province, Fujian, home to less than 3% of China’s total population. “Networks in Fujian have been exceptional in creating opportunities that facilitate greater migration from China to African countries – both legally and illegally,” states the report.

Diminishing opportunities in Fujian have pushed many of the rural and working class to emigrate. “Aside from the loss of jobs in the manufacturing sector, agrarian reforms in China created a vast surplus of workers no longer needed in the agriculture industry; and the commercialization of the fishing industry, coupled with the sharp rise in diesel prices, made it unprofitable for many of the province’s fishermen,” says the report.

Communities in Fujian also encourage emigration for economic reasons. Some of the economic dividends include the high amount of remittances Fujian receives.

The report found that the Fujianese people are highly competitive and territorial in nature. “Fujianese traders have been the source of considerable tensions, not least amongst the wider Chinese migrant community, who are widely critical of their approach to business, if not their character.”

**All work and very little play**

Chinese traders are successful in Africa due to their capacity for hardship and willingness to accept low profit margins. “Chinese traders have been known to sleep four or six to a room in extremely humble dwellings, or live in their shops to cut costs. Their hours will vary depending on the business, but generally the ethos is to work all day, 365 days of the year,” notes the report.

Many of the Chinese traders in Southern Africa are driven to make money to support their families back home. The single traders just want to make enough money to return to China and purchase a flat, without which they would not be able to find a wife and start a family. “We do everything for the next generation” is a mindset shared by many of those interviewed.

The Brenthurst Foundation’s survey paints a dreary picture of the place of Chinese traders within African societies. “Only in South Africa did traders express any sense of belonging or attachment to the country. Overwhelmingly, Chinese traders sealed themselves in cocoons, completely cut off from the local community. It is typical of the Chinese diaspora everywhere to restrict their social lives to people from their own regions and provinces.”

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**PM DECLARES CRISIS ON FOOD SECURITY**

**LENA, 10 August 2012**

The Prime Minister, Mr. Motsaahae Thabane has declared food crisis situation in Lesotho.

The Prime Minister’s speech follows a research on crop forecasting that was conducted by the Bureau of Statistics, which revealed that food production has decreased by 77 percent from that of last year adding that this comprises only 20 percent of the national food requirement.

Speaking with LENA, the Prime Minister called for concerted efforts amongst various sectors of the society that include development partners and the locals.

He reiterated that the government resolved to break the vicious circle of hunger and poverty in the country.

He noted that it is women, HIV infected, orphans and the children under the age of five years who suffer the most hence the need to protect these vulnerable parts of the society.

Mr. Thabane mentioned that the government has devised some strategies to address the national food security in future by amongst others implementing the national strategic development plan in which agriculture is one of the key strategies.

He also talked about improving agricultural productivity and food security through maximum use of arable land, subsidized inputs and promotion of drought resistant crops.

(The PM’s declaration followed an assessment by the Lesotho Vulnerability Assessment Committee (LVAC), which estimates that 725,500 people are going to be food insecure in 2012/2013. This is a significant increase from the 514,000 that was estimated in 2011. Lesotho is currently facing its second consecutive bad maize harvest due to flooding in 2011 and drought in 2012.)

**Connect the Dots Puzzle**

Submitted by Lyndsey Chaille, CHED11, DAR

In my community I work with people of all ages and educational backgrounds and I’m always looking for new activities related to HIV. We all know how games, puzzles, and visuals can be helpful when trying to keep people interested in learning about and discussing HIV. I have recently developed my own Connect the Dots puzzle and found it useful when introducing the topic of HIV, particularly at my local Primary School. You are welcome to make copies of this puzzle and share with your community, or make up your own. Also, this might be a good activity to include at a World AIDS Day event in December.

**Connect the Dots Instructions:**

Starting with dot number 1, connect the dots in numeric order all the way up to 86. In some places there are two dots with two different numbers. Continue to connect the dots, without lifting your pencil. Eventually a design will start to appear. What do you find? Optional: Make it a race to the endpoint. Color in the picture. Have individuals or groups create their own headings/titles and present to the whole class or group.