

108-1 Global Vision Corner - Reflection Paper

Rachel

To start the paper with, I would like to write a little feedback about this micro-course. This is my first time to join Global Vision Corner, I had no idea how the class is going on. Lectures? Discussions? Any class activity? Actually, I was wondering that this course can provide more chance for me to listen to American English also in speaking, as I already knew you would be the teacher of this course. Probably I could say this is one of the reasons why I join this class. It doesn't mean that I prefer a foreign teacher rather than a local teacher in Taiwan. The fact is that, in my point of view, the accent from native speaker, for sure, is better for me to practice. But I think the teaching style and the mindset in some aspects are difference between foreigner and local. After I read the topics in the syllabus, I am quite interested in some of them, for example about traveling, adulting, working/studying abroad and maintaining interpersonal relationships. As I am a foreigner, I would like to know more about how Taiwanese student's idea on these topics. Also, I think we have not much chance to discuss all these topics in anyone class of the major courses. I would like to share a bit of my experience and feelings about studying abroad. For me, studying in Taiwan is harder than what I expect before I came here. Study in the college is one of my dream when I was young but I couldn't do that for some family

issues. Anyways, during the past ten years, the hard time was over. I made my own decision to study abroad in Taiwan before I turn 30. I am those kind of person who has a very good relationship with family, especially my mum, so it's always sad to leave them. Luckily, I had the experience of leaving my home for 2 years when I was in Australia, so I can deal with it better than before. Another reason is that, Taiwan is much closer to Hong Kong, it is easier and cheaper to buy flight tickets to return home if I get serious homesick. Even though, I am a quite independent person, I can handle myself well, I still feel very hard to get used to my college life in Tainan especially the first semester. I remembered that the first mid-term exam, I was really really nervous because I already graduated from high school for almost ten years, I didn't take any exams for ten years! I have no idea how to prepare for it and worrying about my results. I spent most of the time in the library, just took a short lunch break during the mid-term week. No friends, no entertainment, only stay with my books for two weeks. All the pressure for study is raised by myself not from others. My family and my friends fully support me to come here to do what I really want to do, I don't want to let them down and disappointing them. I want to show them how I take my decision seriously and not just come for "travelling". I am not decided to be the top one, but I promise them and myself, try my best to that. Fortunately, I meet a group of nice friends from my class and they give me lots of encouragement and supports.

They always help me translating some words I couldn't understand, like Taiwanese and Mandarin too. Although I can speak mandarin fluently, there are too much word combinations pronounced in the same sound in mandarin. I sometimes got misunderstanding from what the professor said and make them laugh. They also share different culture or what I called "teenage language" with me. They know that I have age difference with them but they are still very patient to explain everything to me. They treat me like an "elder sister" and seems I have many younger brothers and sisters. They make my college life become more cheerful and easier.