



12. 大華國小 英語暑期營英語教師
13. 廈門理工學院主辦 CSFLF 海峽兩岸外語文化節英語文競賽
14. 考取國家普考外語領隊證照 & 考取國家普考外語導遊證照

## 學習經驗分享內容

主 題

You'll Never Know if You Don't Try

As we came to this world of mortals as a “nought,” we started to explore who we are and what our surroundings mean to us, but without trying unexperienced new things, we will not be able to look into and define ourselves. Though we are not born with talents in every area, we do learn through every single experience, whether successful or unsuccessful, and thus become stronger and stronger. This is what I always keep in mind as a reminder of all those amazing things I have been through. I mean, to try at every moment, undoubtedly, is the key element to the door. Just like Rene Descartes' famous quote “you just keep pushing. You just keep pushing. I made every mistake that could be made. But I just keep pushing.”

It was in the first summer after I transferred to Ming Chuan University did I participate in the first volunteer program, the AID (Assisting Individuals with Disadvantages) summer camp held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2012. Since the China Youth Corps, the organizer, has been cooperating with the department of Applied English of MCU, whose students were highly praised, me and my classmates could luckily skip the entering interview process. Before the camp started, staying at the Chientan Youth Activity Center for several days, we had to work on advanced preparation. During the first week we had to assist the recruited outstanding Taiwanese American, Taiwanese Canadian, and Taiwanese European to take relative courses for the following two-week teachings in remote elementary schools in rural Taiwan. After that for the fourth week of the whole program we were going to lead them to the tour around Taiwan divided as central group and southern group

In the beginning, it was actually a tough task with overflowing work, repetitive practices, and insufficient rest time. Sometimes I questioned myself why am I here? It was due to my attempt to alter the old lifestyle and reexamine my world view of which the foremost thought and aim was to put myself into unknown circumstances and unfamiliar fields. After thinking this over carefully, I realized that I should start again from zero with a new attitude so my mind could as a result be opened and my thought redirected.

Throughout that month, besides all the professional knowledge that I had to be equipped for introducing Taiwan and its specific scenic spots, maintaining class regulations, and hosting various ceremonies, what I truly learned the most was “attitude.” Not only the way I dealing with things but also the manner I facing, treating others were disclosed to myself, afterwards reexamined and changed. It was all about showing respect to my own position and appropriate handling of diverse personalities and difficult situations just as “you will be mutually treated as you teach the world how to treat you.”

Of course, my accomplished set goals were also ones that momentarily meant to me. I still remember the times that my partner and I preparing the welcome ceremony, moderating it in front of a thousand and five hundred people when the government officials came. So nervous and scared before going on the stage since we would probably be finished if one little detail went

wrong. But we made it! The mission was complete while we led the volunteers to sing the team cheer. It was that fear and that unease in side of my body that I conquered.

It was such a precious and unforgettable experience recalling the memory now. The close relationship established between me and the group of volunteers I was responsible for. Seeing them selfless caring, contributing themselves to the rural students in need and helping, working with each other, I thought of some questions. They came here as volunteers as I did so what were their motives to do so? From the chat at break time we reached an answer that we came here as volunteers for pursuing experiences, changes of mindset, and for contributions to society,

Last night of the camp, we counselors and our leader gathered in all to express the gratefulness and feelings to each other as to end this activity. There were helplessness and joyfulness. There were disappointment and tears of touch. It was at this special moment that I realized how intimate we had become and how hard we had been working altogether. Those encouraging “jiayou” we said to one another at the most tiring, needed moment are as strong as invulnerable walls that held us together and kept us going.

After then, this experience strengthened my faith and clarified my motives to further participate in more and more internships, voluntaries, and competitions. I believe that keep trying and learning new things can always bring us to another level of our mind and vision. Like what Jeff Bezons’ quote “I knew that if I failed I wouldn’t regret that, but I knew the one thing I might regret is not trying.”