

Department of English

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Andy Wang

### Reflection on English Talent Cup

It's the second time I attend this English Talent Cup. Comparing with the experience of last year, I was no longer junior helped by two senior students, but more of a proactive role that led the team, trying to pass on my debating experience. I could feel my progress in the past year during the competition in terms of public speaking and debating, which made this event a rewarding experience for me. I learned that when you try to learn something, it is important to stick with it for a certain period to continue bettering yourself.

I was greatly impressed by the extraordinary public speaking and debating skills of a lot of students from China. Many of them were fluent in this language, clear in



their logic, or had strong personal charisma when they speak. I was truly an eye-opening experience for me. It pushes me to keep on practicing my English speaking skills. I should never be satisfied by my ability because here are always a lot exceptional competitors out there. Stay hungry, stay foolish!

The only thing that is a bit pity is that the hosting school mixed up all the participants into different debate teams. All of the us weren't informed of it throughout our preparation in this semester. Because of us winning the competition last year, Michael, our leading teacher, seemed quite ambitious about helping us to win again this year. Although we didn't get to debate as a team during the competition eventually, I still valued the time we spent preparing and giving feedback to each other throughout this semester. I believed we all feel a step forward in terms of bettering our English speaking skills because of the hard work we put in.

Due to the intense cross-strait relations at this period, we had less teams from Taiwan participating in English Talent Cup than last year. The upside was that the

Taiwanese students could have tighter bonds. We spent a lot of time together preparing for the competition, hanging out and getting acquainted. Also, I want to express my gratitude to our NCCU team, from the teacher Michael who are always enthusiastic about teaching debate, to my old friend Ken who is always the strongest opponent and teammate in debate, to Jeremiah who has shown his passion and diligence in learning debate throughout the semester.

This English Talent Cup could mark as my last debate event in my college life. Looking back at the two years of leaning debate, I couldn't believe how this experience improve my public speaking abilities, opening up new windows of perspective when I look at different issues, and made me get to know many amazing people who share the same passion towards debate. Although I am not sure when I will I debate again in the future, the past two years of debating is definitely going to be a precious memory in my college life.



Department of English

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張恩揚

### Reflection on English Talent Cup

Since this is my first time going to China, I was a little bit worried at first due to the many rumors I have heard in Taiwan. I am glad that I didn't let the rumors hinder me from going to this trip. This trip to China has become an unforgettable experience.

Many things happened during this trip to China. The friends I made, the competition, the good food and hotel, the memorable tourist spot of Zhujiajiao, the hot pot, and etc. are all memorable memories. If I had not taken the courage to join the competition (of which beforehand I had no knowledge of debating), I would not have experienced all these. This is why I am glad that I did join the English talent cup.

This trip has also broadened my horizons and gave me valuable insights as well. I for the first time see how Shanghai really was like. In my opinion, it was very much like Taipei, being a modernized city. The only difference perhaps was the numerous banks I saw. This makes me sometimes forget that I am far away from home, and has made me think of how the world, through modernization, feels the same everywhere with tall buildings and all. The tourist spot of Zhujiajiao was a nice twist of events, since it made me feel as if I travelled back in time to ancient China. It feels really refreshing to step away from cement forests once in a while.

Although the buildings gave me some insights, what really broadened my horizons and gave me valuable insights was the people there. This trip gave me a more concrete view on how the people in China were. The people there were very nice and talented. They were able to speak very fluent English, some also with a good foreign accent. They are also very competitive, being able to write fast and speak clearly. However, their competitiveness seems to be easily overlooked. I almost didn't notice how good they were until their achievements were announced or their skills are shown. Furthermore, their attitudes toward the future was also something new to me. In the finals of the speech contest, the contestants showed a desire to make the world better, and confidence in the future. Their eyes burned with passion. It was really an eye opener to see for the first time what ambitious young people, who are aiming for the good of the people, looked like. Their speeches seem to inspire others to make the world a better place.

Aside from the people there, I also had valuable memories with the people who

went with me. I want to express my gratitude to them, for the training and for their companionship. The trip was more memorable and more fun with all of them. I especially want to thank Ken and Andy, my seniors. They trained me, who is ignorant of debate, from scratch. The only regret I have about this event is that we were unable to win a trophy together as a team.



Lastly, I came to appreciate my home more through this event. Although the trip was enjoyable, when the electronic gates at Songshan airport said “Welcome Home”, I was filled with the upmost feeling of relief, that I am finally home.

活動名稱:2019 海峽兩岸英才盃演講與辯論交流比賽

主辦單位:上海復旦大學

活動時間:11月22日至11月26日,共計5日

活動地點:上海復旦大學

參與人數:4人

參與成員:陳世賢...

## 參加海峽兩岸英才盃演講辯論比賽之心得報告

英文系四年級 陳世賢

### I. Interaction with the Organizer

#### A. Reception Arrangement of Shanghai Fudan University

Departing from Taipei Songshan Airport on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, we took our two-hour flight to our destination, Shanghai. Immediately after landing, we were warmly welcomed by volunteer Krystal from Fudan University. On the way to the university via the transportation provided by the school, we talked with the volunteer about the competition and the process of it. We found out then that the way the contest works this year is completely different from previous years. The ten teams that participated will be broken up and our teammate will be randomly selected!



#### B. Interaction with Contestants and volunteers

During the few days of the competition, Fudan University's arrangements for the event were not as intense as previous years, it gives students sufficient time to prepare. After the speech contest on Saturday morning, we have our lunch in the cafeteria of Fudan University; the organizer gave each of the participants 40 dollars RMB coupons per meal, which was more than enough to cover for our food selection. Throughout the two days, we have many opportunities to get to know the Fudan volunteers, and we have a deeper understanding of the life of the students there, such as what



is the curriculum arrangement of Fudan's English Department, as well as what it is like to live as a student in China. These are all completely different from our lives at Chengchi University.

### **C. Feedbacks from Judges and Speakers of Fudan University**

In addition to the outcome of the competition, we also pay attention to the opinions of the many different lecturers or experts Fudan University invited to act as judges for the contest, these feedbacks have greatly improved our speaking and debating skills; the suggestions also made me rethink my debate model as well as the structure of my speeches.

## **II. Schedules**

### **A. Arrangement and Schedules for the Talent Cup Contest**

The trip in Shanghai is mainly divided into two parts, the two-day speech and debate contest in Fudan University, and a day of cultural experience in Shanghai. On the first day of the Talent Cup, we had a preliminary round for the speech contest and two debate rounds. On the evening of the same day, Fudan University arranged an inter-university culture exchange night to encourage interactions and understanding of students between different schools through performances and interesting games. The next morning, the third debate round was held, and the contestants who entered the speech final were announced as well as the teams that break into the debate final. Sunday afternoon is the most exciting part of the Talent Cup, the finals! Because the team members of the debate team did not know each other before, the finals were a little less competitive and the overall atmosphere more relaxed and fun.

### **B. Visiting Kid Castle and ZhuJiaJiao**

After the competition, we visited the headquarters Kid Castle, one of the major sponsors of the Talent Cup. Kid Castle is an English educational business started in Taiwan. After the introduction by the vice president of the Shanghai branch, we had a deeper understanding of the development and trend of the supplementary language education business in Shanghai. After that, everyone went to Zhujiajiao, a famous ancient town in Shanghai, where we saw many traditional Shanghai buildings and tasted Shanghai's unique delicacies. It was a very

impressive experience! Finally, the alumni from the respective schools in Taiwan dined with us that evening. Listening to the seniors sharing their experiences and life in Shanghai broadened our horizons!



### III. Feedbacks

#### A. Talent Cup Format Feedback

The Talent Cup this year is not what I originally thought. For the past few years, different schools debate with one another with the goal of winning the final victory. This year, to be honest, after hearing that the organizers were going to split us apart, I couldn't believe this is how Fudan wanted the competition to be. If they really split us into different teams, how am I supposed to work with complete strangers in a contest that requires utmost teamwork? But at the day of the match, I found out that though my teammates have different

experiences in debates, they all have the courage and willingness to express their opinions and communicate with each other. After two debates, we have narrowed the awkwardness between us and really started to work as a team. In the end, though breaking up and redistributing the team greatly reduced the competitive nature of this competition, it fulfilled the crucial purpose of the Talent Cup and promoted exchanges and communications between students on both sides of the strait.



#### B. Speech Contest Feedback

In addition to the debate contest, another highlight of the Talent Cup was the speech competition. I was fortunate to be chosen as one of the contestants, and the only Taiwanese student, to enter the final with the second highest score from the preliminary round. In the final round, I saw methods and ways of different students to prepare for their impromptu

speeches. I also found that the focuses students from Shanghai put on their speeches were different from those of Taiwanese students. Rather than integrating their own experience into the storytelling, Shanghai students express their arguments in a passionate way, with the usage of large numbers of quotes from the past scholars. This different portrayal of the art of speech really opened my eyes on how speaking in public can be approached through different aspects.



#### C. Culture Experience Feedback

During the five-day exchange, what impressed me the most was the visit to Zhujiajiao. Because I have a passion and interest in Chinese historic sites, after knowing that the Cultural Experience Day will include a trip to an old town of Shanghai. I am very excited. The experience of the day did not disappoint me. Walking along the street of the hundred-year old Zhujiajiao, I have a different understanding of the city, Shanghai. Instead of tall, modern buildings, when I think of the city now, I also remember the traditional houses in the older part of Shanghai. In addition, I also tried the renowned Shanghai traditional delicacy, Begonia cakes, which is very different from the snacks back in Taiwan! In conclusion, the trip to Shanghai, other than the improvement of my speech and debate skill, I also have a deeper understanding of Shanghai's students, their life and culture. This is truly a fulfilling experience!

