

September 2016

"Envirothon China is pleased to announce that after our regional contest a team from the High School Affiliated to Shanxi Normal University has been selected to represent the China region in the 2016 Envirothon North America Final Competition. "

Testimonial – Wan Jinyang

During our trip to the final competition in Envirothon, not only did I gain valuable academic knowledge in environmental subject, I also felt the amity between local people and Chinese members and differences in learning culture.

Initially, I thought language gap could be a big issue; actually, it did make me feel frustrated at first when I couldn't catch up local people's talking and then had no idea of what to reply. But people always repeated their words patiently and listened to us carefully, which alleviated my pressure and anxiety. On the training day, everyone was separated from his or her team members and required to studied with people from different places. At the time when I felt nervous being alone, a girl from New York asked me whether I could understand the classes and comforted me that she was willing to explain obscure terms to me if I felt lost; some other friends also said they understood my situation and told me to relax my nerve. I saw the unfamiliarity created by language disappeared suddenly and then I started to join their conversations and tried to present my views. I used to be the guy that often cared too much about others' views toward me, and was afraid to leave foreigners bad impression of China if I acted inappropriately, but their leniency untied my fetter and made my life in foreign land be like home. At last, though our academic score was quite poor, at the time when we got the prize rewarding our long travelling to Canada, everyone gave us a standing ovation with smile. I really appreciated their encouragement and warm heart to us foreign people and perceived the sense of belonging in the harmony among people in different color.

Also, during our study trip, I have switched my attitude toward American' learning habits and started to absorb sparks in their study methodology, adjusting my Chinese learning style. In the test, we were assigned to the field and did the experiments by ourselves, making analysis on our own. Different from traditional Chinese test which contains exclusively paper questions, Envirothon examination provided us the chance to experience and participate in the real process of exploring knowledge; we must rely on our own thoughts but not others' conclusion, enhancing our abilities to think critically and involve in study actively. More importantly, I learnt to study efficiently within short time. Before I came to the competition, I used to studying for a long period of time sitting on the chair without having a break, as I equalized "long time" to "hard working". But the view totally inverted after we took the same preparation time like other American or Canadian students did; participants were only allowed to study in particular time period, and we must hand in the references for study when the period ended. Thus, it was significant to optimize the planned time and delegate the tasks as effectively as possible. Reminiscing our classes, I found it would be beneficial to adopt their style: by cutting time into pieces, I can strive hard within the checkered time do, and use the saved time to explore my field of interests.

To sum up, it was a great honor to be the member of Chinese team and joined the final competition; the trip has afforded me priceless experience that broadened my outlook toward the world and left me a great memory.

~ Wan Jinyang

In the spirit of "no boundaries in education", Reachable Education is bridging international secondary school contests and activities with Chinese students. To help students better leverage the resources and achieve more competitive performance, we are also responsible for the local training and regional selection for these platforms. <http://www.reachable-edu.com/>