In this day and age, the issue of young people’s independence has drawn widespread attention. The debate over whether young people today are much more independent than young people living in the past has been ongoing for some time. Some people believe that it is true that young people today are better able to make their own decisions than those living in the past, while others are against it. As far as I am concerned, I assert that the answer to this issue should be based on a case-by-case analysis.

Admittedly, in some cases, by no means can we ignore the fact that young people in the present time are indeed more independent. This is especially true for those who were raised in urban areas with easy access to rapidly advancing technology. Urban youth can depend on more technology to accomplish their goals instead of relying on their parents like previous generations. Cell phones make it easy to get around cities. In addition, it is a universally acknowledged truth that urban youth have radically changed their mindset. They now tend to be much more active and open, as a result of which these young people have a strong belief in themselves. They have the confidence enough to make their own decisions and to depend less on their parents. The story of Jack Ma, co-founder of the biggest on-line business company in China, best illustrates this point. He has learnt and accepted the latest ideas about business and puts ideas into practice because living in big cities gave him exposure to the world and he could develop effective communication skills making him into the success he is today.

Despite the fact that young people in urban areas are better able to make their own decisions than before, it is irrational for us to take it for granted that the statement applies to all cases. This is especially apparent when it comes to the young living in rural regions. Changes come much slower to rural regions, resulting in similar culture and economy from generation to generation. The rural youth follow similar paths as their parents, staying close to their family, working in the family business and depending on their parents for other things. This point is demonstrated with the example of my cousin, who lives in Qinghe, a remote area in northwest of China. His father is a carpenter and he learned the same skill. Recently, he has opened his own house building business through the help from his father.

Based on the aforementioned analyses, we can come to the conclusion that the statement is biased. One step further, for young people in developed cities, the valid part of this statement should never be underestimated. On the other hand, with the example of the young living in rural areas, it would be reasonable for us to maintain that this statement is over-generalized.