Comparison Essay

Compare and contrast

International school vs dutch school

Essay structure:

Intro

4-5 paragraphs

1 – explaining dutch schooling

2 – explaining

Conclusion

Although also having some similarities, there are significant differences between the schooling I received back in China and here in The Netherlands. When I first arrived here in The Netherlands, I just expected the Dutch schooling system to be similar to the one I received back in China. However, I was mistaken with that idea, and it would take a long time for me to finally comprehend what the Dutch schooling system was like.

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Obviously, some of you readers may not know too much about the Dutch schooling system. According to this system you are divided into different categories of levels, depending on your score from the final exam. At the end of the primary school period, you are required to take a final exam to determine your level. It is a complex system with many different directions one can go. An advantage of the system is that a student can always work their way up. Normally in the Unites States of America, students are all placed together in one class until graduation. However, in The Netherlands students are divided into different categories, primarily based on what the student’s scores are and their capability. In The Netherlands there are different school levels, such as MBO (Vocational Education), HBO (Higher Vocational Education) and University. MBO is a college wherein the student will learn more hands-on skills, rather than theoretical knowledge. HBO comes right after MBO, where a student can enter through either completing HAVO (Secondary School) or with a diploma from MBO 4 (Vocational Education Level 4). HBO puts more emphasis on theory and requires the students to work more individually. This illustrates the complexity of the Dutch schooling system.

Now that you have had a brief summarization over the differences, I will be telling you a little bit about my own experiences. When I first arrived in the Netherlands, I had culture shock when I saw how different everything was. There were a lot of things I’ve had to adjust but the hardest part was accepting that I had to start all over. The reason I had to start over was due to the fact I couldn’t finish my last year of high school. Due to that I had to go to ISK which is a language school to help people learn the native language. When I first arrived at the school, I had a hard time adapting to the new language and the differences in how things were arranged. I spent around 1 year at that school and then I was able to go on to MBO 1.

I had a much harder time adjusting to MBO 1 than I did with ISK. There were a lot of differences I hadn’t gotten used to. For example, the language. I do admit I had quite a hard time accepting the fact that I had to learn in an entirely different language I wasn’t used to speaking. It took me quite a long time to finally feel comfortable with speaking Dutch. Mainly due to the different ways they pronounce certain words beginning with the level R and G. However, I’ve managed to get quite far since I first came here. I’ve had a lot of adjustments to make but I managed to pull it off. I don’t regret starting all over again, but it allowed me to grow more as a person. It allowed me to expand my views and to tackle a language I’ve always wanted to be able to speak since I was a child.