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LNG 1701: Elementary Chinese Language and Culture-1

10 Dec 2017

Please Vote for Me (2007) - Movie Review

This film is a documentary that followed a group of children in Chinese class 1 in grade 3. This classroom was holding its first democratic election for class monitor, a very important position to students who want to influence and lead their class. Usually the class monitor is decided by the teacher, but they changed the system to a democracy. There were three candidates, and they had to prove their worthiness to the class in order to get elected, and become the new class monitor.

The expectations placed on students, especially students so young, at the schools in China is very strange to me. The children are under lots of stress, especially at a young age, to perform very well, better than everyone else. I was also surprised by how much effort parents put into their children, especially those children who were running for class monitor. The parents were telling them to sabotage their opponents, and showing them the best ways to win the election in order to become the class monitor. I also thought it was very interesting at the beginning of the documentary to hear the children singing about communism. Communism was famously hated in the United States in the 20th century. Although it does not hold the same stigma it once did, it is different to see that it is a normal way of life for many people. It is engraved in the culture, the children are singing about it.