Personal Reflection

The course offers an engaging introduction to the Greek and Roman mythology. As the TA, I attend the classes throughout the semester and guide the students while they have group discussions about questions Professor Chien raises. Students are often too shy to express their opinions, especially when we encourage them to speak in English. With a bit of encouragement, however, most of them are willing to talk about their own ideas on stage. I regard this process important because it is their opportunity not only to reflect upon what they've learned in class but also to help them overcome their stage frights. When the students are willing to speak out their opinions, their ideas often amaze me. Even if some of the students are not willing to speak publicly, Professor Chien provides them with another chance to voice their ideas – through the assignments (personal reflections). Since I am also responsible for grading and commenting on their assignments, I get the chance to read everyone's reflection on the course so far. Surprisingly, the course has prompted them to think about their everyday lives. For example, they compare the Western deities to the Chinese or Taiwanese ones; they draw on and discuss the Taiwanese tales they have heard when they're little. That's why, other than the interesting stories introduced in class, the students' responses are what I find fruitful as a TA.