Kun Yang

Instructor: Bob Caldwell

ENG 111-17

Due: June 5, 2014

Essay 1: final draft

Experience of making friends in a foreign country

I was born as an only child and raised in a populated city Guangzhou, China. My family moved to United State of America in 2009; I was 14. Being an only child gave me an advantage that I could get all of the attentions from my parents. However, it was quite boring to be the only child in my family, because I didn’t get to have any siblings or any same age pals to share my interests. Despite the fact that I am the only child in my family; I was a popular student in my old Chinese middle school. I ended up in America before I knew it; my life was at a reseting point; not having any friends nor knowing the official language.

I attended to a public middle school as soon as I got to America. I remembered the first day when I was in school. I thought everyone looked at me as a freaky kid from a foreign country that didn’t understand the American culture. At the time, I thought I was being discriminated, because I couldn’t understand what other students were telling me, and their actions were different from where I came from. They were more careless, and more open minded; I felt happy and awkward at the same time when I tried to participate in the new learned culture.

A couple weeks had passed since the day I moved to America from China. As I’m flashing back to my memories, those were one of the most difficult moments, because the language barrier had stopped me from communicating with another human being; it made me feel depressed and lonely; it was like trying to drive in the dark without any sources of lights. By realizing the situation, I have changed my attitude even more. My daily bases always started with me greeting a stranger; this action granted me the confidence from day to day, but I couldn’t speak perfect American toned English yet, my friends who I knew at the time would always make fun of my accent, even the people who were outside of my friend zone have made fun of my unperfected English. I made another decision that I started to practice my English, until I can reach the point that I can hold a conversation without asking other to repeat their sentences.

I remembered when I first got into middle school I needed to take a program that was designed for student who use English as their second language, it was called English as a Second Language (ESl). This was where I improved my English the most, because I had a teacher Mrs. Thomson whose duty was to help the foreign student to stand on their own feet language wise. We were always invited to the McDonald’s study session, where we get to solve the unanswered question from any classes that we took. I remembered I have made a horrible score on my first math test; however my teach walked me through the test step by step, she taught me the names and meanings of the symbols in math, for example addition, subtraction, division, and multiplication, etc. “you can improve your English and Math during the session, one stone two birds” My mom stated. Couple months later, my English had reached to a level that I could understand the other person without stopping the conversation, so I could catch up my thoughts, and this had made me acceptable in most of my classes.

In the end, I have successfully adapted my situation as a foreign student who originally came from China to the American culture, and yet I have became better than I used to be. It will always cheer me that problems can be solved step by step, as long as the person is willing to make the moves to change his or her life.