Speaking Task 2

All of us freshmen have a special course called “science & society seminar”. And today I’m going to talk about what I have learnt in this seminar. In this course, students will be divided into groups of 4 and choose a topic and do some research on it under the teacher’s guidance. And the teacher will give some lectures on some hot topics or topics that are related with our major. Our group decided to study on the psychological status of university students. The reason why we are interested in it is that due to the Covid-19 and lockdowns, psychological problems seem to be more common among students. For example, some students crawl on the playground for no reason. We designed a questionnaire and handed it out on the internet. Finally, we collected about 200 questionnaires and found out that nowadays university students are under huge pressure, mainly academic pressure. We also found that quite a few students lack confidence, which corresponds to what we had expected. According to the results of the survey, we gave some advice to students about how to manage themselves. The work hasn’t been done because we are arranged to write a paper on our work during the next semester. But I have felt a lot on what this seminar has taught me. It makes me focus on the society and combine some social phenomenon with what we have learnt. Before we came to USTC we are not good at this stuff because we put most of our energy on theoretical learning. This isn’t good because eventually we will handle the problems in the society and if we only focus on the theoretical things we will be far away from the society. I guess this is why the science & society seminar is a compulsory course for freshmen. It teaches us to solve real-world problems, rather than problems on paper. And this makes us useful people for the society. I hope I can learn more in this seminar.