

Self-reflection # 1 June 22

I feel thrilled and challenged to participate in this 2018 VUA STARTALK program. First and foremost, I deem this is a vigorous team in that the instructor Professor Tseng is renowned nationwide in America and I have been imparted a lot of instrumental knowledge and in that my associates are both diligent and intelligent.

Within an intense time, I went through two recorded videos delivered by Professor Tseng and two teaching sample demos by two master teachers as well as other assigned materials today. To be honest, I am quite familiar with the Backward Design teaching approach with three steps (Identifying the desired goals, Conducting formative and summative assessment, and experiencing all the designed activities and tasks), but I am not required to present Can-do statements to my administrators and the department chair in my daily instruction. It is really conducive to refresh and enhance these rules.

It has been set deeply in my mind that my classroom is always arranged in student-centered format and I use target language as much as over 95%. My classroom feels like an immersed niche because many posters are reachable and useful.

I guess it will take me much time and effort to be equipped with the use of Nearpod and Zoom. The demos by Mrs. Lin and Mrs. Cai provide me with a hunch of how to teach online, how to control the pace of procedures, how to address the real situations of the students' learning and how to conduct all different kinds of assessments. It is beneficial to master Nearpod and Zoom.

In order to succeed in performing the online teaching tasks, it is prerequisite to get to know my two students as much as possible in terms of their proficiency level, personality, learning styles and needs. Moreover, it is vital to collaborate with the whole team and my partner. Anyway, I am blessed to have such a chance to hone my strategies and skills. I will cherish it and contribute to this program.

Reflection-reflection #2 July 1

What a productive and fulfilling week 2!

Firstly, I have got to know my prospective students Claire Beber 罗可蕾 and Marie Meeks 赵婷 in terms of their home address, birthday, their high schools, the years of learning Chinese, their cell phone and home number, the names of their parents or guardians, their interests and hobbies, their personality and family members. But I failed to open Maie's video shared on Google Drive until I got her permission. Her information will absolutely facilitate my teaching online.

Secondly, I attended two online lessons regarding technology. Professor Gao instructed us in a conscientious and meticulous way that I know mostly how to manipulate and apply Nearpod and Zoom. I know some critical steps such as Recording on Zoom, Switch to students view when it comes to interaction with students, and all the interaction activities on Nearpod.

Thirdly, it is vital to prepare Nearpod, Zoom and the Powerpoint for the upcoming teaching online. I have finished most of the Powerpoint slides for my future five days' teaching online based on Professor Gao's directions that the Power points should be legible, concise, and not fancy. I will definitely enrich and polish them in that teachable moments are unexpected, exciting and valuable. I will definitely improve and revise my Powerpoint slides while I teach online.

Last but not the least, during the next days, it will take me a lot of time to contemplate, design, and conduct the activities and tasks in that I have printed all the Study Guide for my five-day teaching objectives, content, culture and evaluation. My partner Mrs. Zhang Xiaojin is genuinely supportive and cooperative and we communicate with each other frequently about the questions and procedures. I look forward to being on site to learn and perform teaching online.

Reflection-reflection #3 July 3

Congratulations to myself on accomplishing all the tasks and activities today.

It began with the Quotations of Life which acted like Chicken Soup for life and this activity refilled my day with aspiration and enthusiasm. My participation in this STARTALK program is really a journey fully charged with strenuous exercise and effort. But I am apt to have a growth mindset to embrace the changes and challenges.

All though the six principles for effective teaching and learning were enhanced again, I would like to emphasize the second one that facilitates a learner-centered classroom in that this second principle can't be stressed enough. Especially after I watched four demo mini-videos by my peers. I found it is not persistent for us practitioners to cling to this principle. It happens so often that the teachers conduct in a teacher-centered way instead of in a learner-centered way. I will watch the video a second time tonight. Some teachers are really skilled in the manipulation of Nearpod and Zoom. Their lesson planning and activities provide me with a lot to ponder and learn. For example, Miss Wenjing Huang taught the vocabulary and the sentence structure seamlessly. She used a lot of target language with meaningful and comprehensible input. Her professional practice embodies Van Pattern's theories- More input, the better and More interaction, the better. As a result, the learners were able to output the target language efficiently. I will polish my Powerpoint by integrating hers since we are in the same group of even days.

With the help of the two teacher assistants, I have got familiar with the student Canvas. My four perspective students will preview study guide, conversation recording, Quizlet and Playposit. After their learning online, they will have to finish oral and written review. I will keep all of their personal information in mind so that my instruction will be closely related to their real life. I will try to communicate more with my four prospective students on Discussion Board and Facebook Group so that I can track their progress.

I still feel worried about my technology because the cursor of my computer malfunctions. But I hope it will be alleviated after my consultation with the Professor Gao. Go, Shujun Xiang.

Reflection-reflection #4 July 4

Our mini-teaching demos have been reviewed and critiqued by other peers from yesterday. This process is really beneficial and feasible. Just like an ancient Chinese poem goes: One can never discern the true face of the Mountain Lu, if one can only look out from within these hills. My peers judged my mini-teaching videos based on the observation checklists. I know for sure how to analyze a class based on the check-lists and the principles such as accomplishing end goals, the learner-centered classroom, frequent quality comprehensible input and pushed output and so on.

With the feedback and suggestions I received from my peers and coordinators regarding my mini-teaching demo, I will perform better in the delivery of the PPTs presentation once a time in a concise and meaningful way. The three types of the questions will be created and delivered in a spiraling way in my upcoming teaching online.

Personally, I think my teaching steps and transitions are natural and smooth. But more activities and culturally appropriate aspects should be integrated. As for the feedback to be presented to students, the six ways of the error corrections can be used in a dialectic way. The age, emotion and affect should be taken into account. Our practice of these skills under the direction of Professor Tseng worked so well. We also watched a couple of a few video clips by Professor Tseng that we discerned the nuances and intricacies of input flood and pushed output. We learn from the lessons and we improve with our own experience.

Thank goodness, my Zoom ID finally came into being with the help of the purchase by Yujia Sun and Yoyo Yu. My former one was Not professional but free version. I can't image what would be like if this situation were not found by Professor Gao last night. Professor Gao is always available.

I still feel thrilled to have communicated with the two on-site visitors in that all the attendees spoke highly of 2018 Vua STARTALK program as well as its team. Hooray!

I will practice Zoom and Nearpod more from tonight after the Independence celebration dinner!

Reflection-reflection #5 July 8

On the morning of July 5th, a professor lectured on the topic of Teaching Chinese Online . I can't agree with her enough and that's why I am on the campus of the University of Virginia to pursuit the practice of online Chinese teaching. She did offer us a lot of free resources online. Whoever can vision the future trend can be controllable and marketable in the career market.

July 6 began with the philosophy of Happiness. Among the 6 ways to be happy, I would like to talk a little bit more about the relationship of people. If one can get along well with oneself and the people around him, one can get along well with the world one inhabits. Thanks to Professor Tseng, she really cares about our mental and inner world. The research shows that additional

mindfulness for teacher can reduce anxiety and insomnia. Peace is every step. I keep the following tactics in mind: Decreased time emergency; Increased warmth in interactions with students; Improved emotional awareness and regulation; and Increased responsiveness to students. Sleeping medication changed my sleep habit. I slept much better with the music of Sleeping meditation. Learning how to express emotions is also critical for Chinese teachers to transit, fit and succeed in American education system.

July 7 was a Rehearsal Day. Professor Tseng pointed it out that more communicative questions should be prompted instead of the meaningful ones, or else how can the objectives be met within an hour? Xiaojin Zhang, Xiaojing Zhang, Wenjing Huang and Peng Yu helped me a lot with the hands-on manipulation related to Zoom and Nearpod. I feel much more confident and comfortable in applying Nearpod and Zoom. Both my partner and I succeeded in building a learning community with a trusting environment and supportive feedback via opening ceremony practicum. In the evening, Mr. Wu showed us four ladies around the campus of Uva. We explored the rotunda, the library, the admission office, tennis court, and the Darden School of Business at Uva. This campus tour dispelled our exhaustion of a whole day's work and discussion.

July 8 made my dream realized. Three of us visited the Monticello where Thomas Jefferson built his house and he was buried. We participated in 3 guided tour: The house tour, the gardening tour and the slavery tour. I wrote Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness with a quill pen. Thomas Jefferson is my spiritual idol in that I visited his Memorial in Washington DC and I tutored some student about the Declaration of Independence as well as American Constitution. What shaped America a great nation is that founding fathers created the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution that work together.

What makes a person great is his talents, his horizon, his dedication and his contribution!

Reflection-reflection #6 July 12

It feels exhausting to prepare for the Powerpoint and the application of Nearpod and the Zoom.

Generally speaking, it takes four times back and forth to polish my Powerpoint and rehearse the Nearpod and Zoom as well as the content and activities. This process is really time-consuming and toilsome. For example, we will peruse every line to exam whether it is age and culturally appropriate. Which video clip will be edited? How to make a smart choice among the dozen powerpoint slides? I even burned midnight oil to recite my lines for the next day's presentation. But it turns out to be rewarding and proficient.

What worked so well for my today's online teaching is the management of time length and the delivery of the authentic materials. What needs to be improved is that my computer Mac Pro needs to be replaced or updated in that it either got frozen or came up with a lot of other issues. The three interfaces Powerpoint, Zoom and Nearpod failed to transit on the screen a couple of times today. I will practice more application of the technology manipulation. It is really feasible

to get two computers at hand in case any unpredictable situations happen so that I can stay connected with my online students.

The teaching content today is both plentiful and complicated and it consists of the three parts including visiting Beijing No.4 Middle School with its facilities, the class schedule, and the comparison between a Chinese school and an American School. For the first session, I tried and succeeded in accomplishing all the steps.

Since Professor Tseng and Master Teacher Cai advised me to prompt more quality questions, I am always aware of this reminder and intentionally deliver communicative questions, especially, in the second session. Nicola produced a lot of meaningful output.

In the evening, Mrs. Jia helped me to edit my 60-minute video. We both went through in a selective way. But it failed to be uploaded at the Collab since the file itself is too large.

Professor Gao will upload it to Google Drive and place the link in the E-portfolio for me tomorrow morning. Good luck tomorrow.