

## 2018 UVa STARTALK Self-reflection #1

By Ying Ma

July 1st, 2018

The second week of online training likes a brain-storm for me and give me a deeper understanding of the online teaching. By trying to use Zoom and nearpod system and reading the academic papers wrote by Prof. Tseng, I gradually realized how to build an active online learning classroom with students and how to evaluate teachers' performance.

I am very thankful for Gao Laoshi's patient teaching and make some examples for us about how to use Zoom and nearpod. Through these online practice, I found some practical problems of using the system, which reminded me that I need to pay more attention to previous preparation of online teaching.

Moreover, the self-assessment form really opened my mind about how to make use of different and diverse tools to improve the diversity and learning effect of students. These tools gave me some fantastic and creative perspectives to encourage the output of students and enhance their understanding of Chinses characters and culture.

Finally, Gao Laoshi also used some great examples to show us how to make high-quality PPTs. The content of PowerPoints should be concise, easy-understanding and related. Teacher need to focus their content on language learning instead of decorations. Further, by contrasting different forms of interaction, I got to know each kind of interactive form has their strength and short-comings. In this regard, teachers need to make use of the strengths of forms to design their class activities.

## 2018 UVa STARTALK Self-reflection #2

By Ying Ma

July 4, 2018

In the morning, we discussed the teaching demo of two groups teachers. After listening the analysis of other teachers, I learnt many practical and efficient ways to design lesson plans.

These excellent examples enable me to understand that how to use the teaching theories practically and realistically. In addition, I could also learn different teaching styles and useful methods to guide students.

Take some good examples. Good introduction and warm up could encourage students to speak some words or sentences, which creates a positive learning environment for class. By watching several short teaching videos, I realized that there are many diverse and effective methods to push students speak long sentences, even when they teach new words. Most importantly, Feng Laoshi use scientific data analysis gave us a clear view about the relationship between teachers' questions and students' answers. It inspired me that high-quality questions induce high-quality answers and this is the main point needed to pay more attention on.

In the afternoon, Prof. Tseng use Cai Laoshi's teaching video let me understand how to do error correction appropriately. By using recast and clarification, Cai Laoshi set good examples for us to know how to lead students correctly and efficiently. After that, Gao Laoshi took many practical examples to teach us about how to resolve technical problems and introduced many useful websites. These are valuable resources that could help me accumulate and collect teaching materials.

2018 UVa STARTALK Self-reflection #3

By Ying Ma

July 8, 2018

Firstly, the process of lesson planning was very beneficial for me. With the leading of Cai Laoshi, the content of lesson planning was focus on three main can-do-statements. Each teacher could provide their suggestions and advices for the teaching methods and materials. Through the thoroughly discussion, I learnt many useful teaching conceptions and theories, especially highly effective guiding methods.

Cai Laoshi always told us every question should be natural and reasonable. Teacher needs to prepare different questions according to each student' learning condition. To be honest, I used to prepare only one lesson plan and did not change my guiding questions accordingly.

This kind of teaching model could not inspire students' learning motivation. On the country, now I learnt from other experienced teachers about how to do differentiation teaching to a large extent.

Moreover, I also learnt that how to mix the new words with text content instead of teaching new words individually. In this way, students could feel more comfortable and the questions from teachers become more easy understanding. The pinpoint of teaching language is communication and motivate students to speak as much as they can. Therefore, it is crucial for teachers to ask meaningful and communicative questions.

#### 2018 UVa STARTALK Self-reflection #4

By Ying Ma

July 10, 2018

It is an excited and nervous day for me to start my first day of online teaching. With the guidance of Cai Laoshi, I added many important content and delete some redundant words on my power points. She is a very patient and devoted teacher. With the helping of her, my teaching style and questions have been improved to a large extent.

At the beginning of section one, I tried to review some new words and sentence structures by asking communicative questions. The feedbacks were good and gave me much confidence to continue. After the introduction of today's lesson, I felt that my students had a good preparation for new words. Therefore, after asking some simple questions, I started to ask communicative questions. Obviously, students were more interested in their own home's conditions. They were willing to share their house's structure and make personal comments on their houses.

When I finished the new content teaching, I spent about twenty minutes to do students' collaboration on Nearpod. It is a challenge for both me and students. I required them to answer questions and type out their answers simultaneously. One of my students felt a little struggled but another one could type and speak whole sentences perfectly. Under this circumstance, I tried to slow down the pace of my speaking and repeated my questions for

several times. When they finished the whole conversation, they could read what they type out and have some communicative conversation concerning the topic we learnt at that day.

One of my biggest concern of online teaching is how to guide students to have an excellent collaboration when their language levels are different. Teacher should maximize the time of students' speaking, therefore, it is essential for me to learn how to encourage and guide students to improve their language output.

#### 2018 UVa STARTALK Self-reflection #5

By Ying Ma

July 12, 2018

Today is my second day of online teaching. Compared with the first time, I was more familiar with my students' language level and their personalities. In order to encourage each student to speak more Chinese in class, I designed different kinds of questions when I prepared lesson plan with Cai Laoshi. Miss Cai instructed me how to guide students more smoothly and naturally. With the helping of our team, the content of my power points became more logically and easy understanding.

At the beginning of class, the students from section one seems did not have a good preparation for today's lesson for they cannot recognize new words and not familiar with the lesson content. In this case, I quickly adjusted my questions and tried to explain some difficult words in simple Chinese. Thanks to the diversity of our teaching content, students felt much more relax after they did stretch exercise. Therefore, I seized this opportunity and encouraged them to have a high-quality pushed-output. Obviously, they were very pleased to share their interests and their school schedule to one another. In this regard, I learnt that good communicative questions could inspire students to give high-quality output.

In addition, through watching my teaching video, I realized that the structure of teacher's question is very essential for the quality of students' answers. Before asking each question, I need to consider carefully about how to organize my words and adjust the difficulty according to every students' language level. Because students will mimic teacher's

question and add their own answers into the sentence structure, thus, it is crucial for me to polish and reconsider my question carefully before asking students.

## 2018 UVa STARTALK Self-reflection #6

By Ying Ma

July 15, 2018

This is my third day of teaching online. This time was more smoothly and I had a better interaction with students. Firstly, with a sense of teamwork, our team's power points were logically and clearly. Everyone in the team contributed their thoughts and opinions concerning the teaching materials. In addition, Cai Laoshi gave us a clear guidance about how to ask meaningful and communicative questions. These questions were very useful and efficient. The feedbacks from students had been improved to a large extent. These were the strong evidences showed that our teaching methods were efficient.

On the first section, apparently, my two students had a good preparation for today's lesson. They had a quick reaction and clear answer for each of my questions. Moreover, what surprised me was that they already could organize their language to express their personal opinions. During the process of teaching, I found that they were willing to speak more sentence when they came across some interested topics. Their positive and quick reactions gave me much confidence to improve the quality of questions. It also reminds me that teacher needs to change their questions according to each answer from students instead of just asking some routine questions.

The second class likes a big party for the students both wanted to speak as many sentences as they can. On the one hand, they could recognize every new word and have a logically answer for questions. For example, they know add reasons for every question when they make a choice. On the other hand, my students had a strong willingness to have a real conversation. When I asked them to order dishes, it seems they already arrived Beijing and want to order something they like to eat. Through today's teaching, I realized that teacher need to give students enough space to be creative and express themselves when students' language level has been improved. When they could speak a long sentence or a whole

paragraph, both teacher and students gain much more confidence on themselves. This kind of corporation is the most cherish and essential point during language teaching.