

## Tiantian Wang's Cover Page

As a native Chinese-speaker, I have always been enjoying teaching Chinese, both the Chinese language and the Chinese culture. Even though I was an English major student in college in China, I have been passionate about teaching Chinese since I started my Chinese teaching career.

Since I came to United States in 2009, I have tutored a number of English-speaking students Chinese who were at beginning or advanced level. In 2010, I started to teach a Chinese class in Philadelphia as a part-time teacher. It was that teaching experience that made me to realize how passionate I could be when I taught Chinese. During my teaching experience in Philadelphia, I adapted the curriculum, created many supplementary language materials and tried to make my class as interesting and student-centered as possible.

With determination to pursue my passion in Chinese language teaching, I started my teaching career at Harvard-Westlake school, a private school in California. Currently, I teach five classes in middle school. My goal is to make my students motivated to learn the language as well as the culture. I tried to apply different strategies I have learned in my Chinese class but gradually I realized that things were not as easy as I thought. For English native speakers, learning Chinese requires them to learn both the pronunciation and the Chinese characters. They also expect to learn more about the exotic Chinese culture, which are the key reason that motivates them to choose this language.

Teaching teenagers Chinese requires even more tactics. There are always a lot for me to teach and for them to learn. How to achieve the goal successfully and effectively? I sometimes get very confused about what strategies I can apply to my class. Even though I spent a lot of effort to make my class interesting and my students' learning effective, I am aware of my urgent need to have more professional development and learn from more experienced language teaching experts so that I can enhance my teaching skills and make my teaching more effective.

I learned from my college about the prestigious Startalk Program in UVA. I expect to learn from all the Chinese teacher participants and the professors more effective teaching strategies to create a communicative and student-centered classroom. I aspire to improve my pedagogical skills through this program. As a novice teacher, I feel really lucky that I can have the opportunity to participate in the program, to get involved in this group, learn from Dr. Tseng and others, observe other teacher's teaching, teach in class and get feedback, share with each other, get inspirations and improve my teaching.