

Xiwen Li

From 2010 to 2012, I have studied at Minzu University as a M.A of Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages. In the second year of my graduate study in China, I gained some experience of teaching American middle school students. In the summer of 2011, I taught Chinese for Class C (advanced) in Chinese Summer Camp in Beijing. Since the students are all teenagers in middle school or high school, I improved the activities and teaching content to make my teaching fit for the students by increasing student-centered activities targeted at new sentence patterns while alternately playing some games aiming at certain sentences or characters. As a result, both the person in charge and that teacher were satisfied.

In 2014, I started a M.A. in Education at Seton Hall University, as a M.A of Asian Studies in teaching track. I made my mind to become a Chinese teacher in America, so I try to do assistant teaching and internship in different middle schools. Through my experience teaching American middle school students, I have learned the method of practicing in student-centered activities rather than narrating the grammar. I also have learned that if students construct their own learning experiences they will also become more confident in their abilities.

In June 2014, I have participated in STARTALK Chinese Teacher Academy ran by University of Virginia. It was three very intensive weeks, but the best three weeks of professional development! I have learned so much from Dr. Tseng, especially how to use the communicative instructional strategies in the class and use 100% target language to teach. Also, I realized my shortages and practiced to be a more confident and effective teacher!