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My experience abroad provided a great opportunity to expand my horizon and to gain insights into the field of education. The interactions I had with students of diverse cultural background also allowed me to learn about my cultural identity and to appreciate differences.

I went to England when I was 15 years old. I was enrolled in English traditional boarding school. Starting from the first day in school, I faced language barrier as the biggest and the most intimidating problem to overcome. Just like most foreign students, I could not understand English at all and barely spoke very basic words. There were a number of other international students from Hong Kong and Taiwan in ESL class I attended. My ESL teacher, named Mr. Philip, was very active and energetic. His image as a teacher can be described as “Involver” – trying to actively involve students in class activities. In order to catch our attention and to enhance student engagement while improving oral and written English skills, he used various kinds of materials, outdoor activities, and hands-on activities. The class was by itself very interesting; yet it took considerable time for me to adapt to his class environment. Korean students, including myself, are often exposed to traditional teaching method because contemporary education system in Korea is much influenced by traditional Confucian concepts; it is very rigid and closed. At first, I blamed Mr. Phillip for picking on me to say what I have done during the daytime in English in front of many other students. To make it worse, I was the only female student in class. I cried so many times because I was too shy to stand up in front of the public and was not familiar with American custom with open setting. But now I can recall that memory with smile because through that experience I am now able to have conversation with people of various ethnicity and nationality.

In order to learn language, you have to first understand their culture. I perceived people of different cultures and traditions may vary, and came to truly respect those differences. Since then, it became comfortable to make new contacts, and sometime, I felt more intimate with people from other nations. In addition to ability to fluently speak and think English, I built relationships which are deeply enriching and I still maintain the network from the past experience. Moreover, I gained confidence to speak out and express my own opinion in front of other students. At that time in Korea it was considered as very odd thing to talk with students of different gender and females were not allowed to talk about their feelings freely. However, study abroad helps to develop long term and worldwide perspective and intercultural development because you can study with international students.

In college, I studied interior design as my major and had a teacher named Bob, a Chinese old man in his 60s. I recall that his teaching method fall in a combination of explainer and en

abler: he always gives us explanations of fundamental principles about the subject and directions for the assigned classwork. Then he guides us to create a theme or a project. Unfortunately, I sometimes fell a sleep during his class when he try to explain us about the project with very boring tones of voices and stiff body gestures. However, whenever I needed help in putting my thought into design projects, he always encouraged me to make my own decisions. He always assured us that we are on the right track and created comfortable class environment, by saying "feel free to ask." Even though he was old, his method of teaching was young enough to stimulate imagination and creativity. Being Asian, He was also able to share feelings toward cultural identities. His positive attitude with pride instilled strong cultural identity in my mind and I learned to judge others on the content of their character an achievement rather than the color of their skin. The experience with him played a vital role in developing my ability to think out of the box and to embrace others.

My past experience from studying abroad will guide me to develop as a mixture of involver and enabler teacher and help students to learn not only english language but also other cultures. Teachers from my schooldays taught me practical knowledge of teaching skills and I believe that they have also been influenced by their own teachers and the way of teaching they were exposed to. I will try to find what is true for me, and adapt between the three categories of teaching depending on the type of class. The best option is to mix those styles. And I could be a super modern teacher proficiently using computer presentation and new teaching method and also can be a traditional teacher using games and riddles so that student can feel familiar to. Most importantly, I want to be a respected and influential teacher.