

College Personal Statement

The first day I went to primary school, I was taught to believe in and follow what adults said to be a good child in the traditional sense. I followed that standard for several years in primary school. However, under my mother's influence, I gradually formed the habit to judge the comments made by teachers, celebrities, and media critically. Without doing this, my thoughts and choices would be utterly different, or I would even echo what others say.

When I was a little girl, I believed in everything adults and newspaper said. Back in 2008, Liu Xiang was considered as a hero of China, because he was the first Chinese male track and field Olympic gold medal winner, and the first Chinese sportsman who had broken a track and field world record. He was expected to continue his legend in Beijing Olympic Games. However, He ultimately ended up withdrawing from the competition. A magazine revealed that the reason why Liu withdrew was that he had compromised his practice for doing commercial activities, even at the expense of recovering from an injury. Almost everyone believed this story, including me and my classmates.

When I talked about this event with my mother, she asked me to find an argument to defend Liu. To persuade my mother that the story I heard was true, I did the research. To my surprise, when I search "Liu Xiang" online, I found that he won several international track and field gold medals, which was not consistent with the story that his daily practice and running speed were influenced a lot by the frequent commercial activities. However, I still believed that story.

My mother then asked me what kind of injury did Liu have. I had no idea what the medical terms on the newspapers mean so I had to look them up. To my surprise, the situation Liu's injury was very severe, and it would have been impossible for him to compete. I realized that, although the story from the magazine seemed logical and persuasive on the surface, no one should criticize Liu without understanding his whole career. I was confused. For the first time in my life, the common opinion of my teachers and some newspapers was overturned. At this time, my mother encouraged me to think about the logic and justification behind others and media's comments before believing them.

Several years later, I was considering to pursue my college degree in the United States. When I searching information on Internet or asking advice from my relatives, they either depicted the United States as an unparalleled place to feel the beauty of daily life, or a horrible place with series of shooting rampages. To find a more reliable view, I read news from several different countries about the United States and asked the experience of some international students studying in different regions of U.S. By summarizing this information, I made my decision to study in the international department in my school and go to U.S. for college.

The talent of critical thinking is not just a tool for making rational decisions, but also a significant part of my thoughts and life style. When either reading the comments about an irrelevant event or facing a life-changing decision, I use critical thinking to decide what I say and what I do all the time. Understanding the importance of developing empathy between people with different background and myself, I am really looking forward to go to an university which embraces various cultures from all over the world.

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