



柔佛州永平中学

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2021 ENGLISH ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST 【GROUP A】

1ST PRIZE:

YEO JAI YI

SENIOR MIDDLE TWO CHENG

Topic: Describe a problem you once had while you were travelling. Explain what you did to solve the problem and what you have learnt from the experience.

Personally speaking, I do not really encounter much issues when travelling overseas, so I had not expected to face one. Technically, it was my fault, for I had completely forgotten the existence of a language barrier as I was so used to people being able to speak English fluently and forgot that there were people who do not. And just like that, I faced the worst problem one can ever encounter while travelling overseas — a language barrier.

My family and I had travelled to Normandy, France, for a well-deserved holiday, but we had completely forgotten that it was France that we were going to, not a country that uses English as a main language for communication. We were so excited to go there that we had forgotten to bring a French-English dictionary to help us with the translation which would have helped us greatly. On our second day there, after a whole afternoon's worth of touring and sight-seeing, we decided to visit a relatively small restaurant for dinner. We were seated quickly and the place was quaint yet cosy so everything was perfect. However, the moment the waitress spoke, it all went downhill. She was speaking to us in French, and we realised that the entire menu was also in French. This meant we could not order as one, we did not understand the language and two, we could not speak it either. Nervously looking up at the patiently waiting waitress, I gave her an awkward smile while my parents pursed their lips, not knowing what to do.

Picking up on our hesitance, she must have assumed that we did not speak the local language for she started attempting to introduce the delicacies in English. However, she was, unfortunately, not very fluent in English and had to settle for using gestures and broken sentences of English mixed with French to



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communicate with us. The poor lady seemed to be struggling and we felt bad for putting her in that situation. After watching her trying her best but still not understanding much, I remembered that I had a phone and decided to use Google Translate instead. Although its translations were quite accurate at best, it was still good as a last resort. Picking up our phones, my parents started translating the menu and “Googled” all the ingredients and dishes while I handed the waitress my phone and gestured for her to type what she wanted into the translator so that we could communicate using this method. We were finally able to order after a long, agonising period of time spent translating and we thanked the waitress for being patient and nice. That night, dinner was eaten in peaceful silence as the three of us enjoyed the food which soothed our growling stomach.

The rest of the trip was spent sight-seeing and relaxing. Although we faced some difficulties, I was not annoyed or mad. Instead, I was happy that I learnt something valuable from this trip. The experience I had in that restaurant taught me that I should have learned some basic phrases in the language of the country I wanted to go to, especially if it was a foreign one where English is not a main language. If I could not learn the phrases, then I could just buy a book that provides sentences and words in both English and the said language. I am very glad that I was taught such an unforgettable lesson from one of the best trips of my life and frankly speaking, I hope I can continue gaining more priceless experiences and learn more lessons in future.

(601 words)



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2ND PRIZE:

EK CHERNG SIK

SENIOR MIDDLE THREE YI

Topic: Reasons why young people should learn how to cook

In this day and age, a balanced diet has been part and parcel of our daily lives. However, majority of the people usually choose to have a meal in the restaurant outside. This phenomenon has become more common recently. Therefore, it has been widely discussed by people all around the world on some well-known social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and so on. As a result, it has turned out to be an issue of concern continually. In my point of view, young people ought to learn how to cook. Let us look at the points below.

First and foremost, most of the parents need to focus on their work every day except public holidays or weekdays. Thus, they are so busy that they have no time to cook for their children personally. Consequently, they tend to eat in restaurants with their children. Nonetheless, the restaurant food is generally unhealthy. As a long-term effect, this habit will lead to a variety of negative impact particularly on our health. That is why young people should learn how to cook.

Furthermore, it is commonly known that cooking is an essential life skill for young people. We should learn how to cook because we should not always eat out. Knowing how to cook, we are able to be independent as we do not have to rely on our parents. This is also to prepare for the future after we graduate from high school. We are able to cook by ourselves when we go to college. We can also prepare a healthy meal for our family, meanwhile our health can be improved. Hence, it is vital for us to learn how to cook since it is beneficial to ourselves and our beloved family.

On the other hand, it can cut down our daily expenses effectively by cooking ourselves. In other words, we can save money when we prepare meals by ourselves. Cooking by ourselves lets us spend less money than eating out in a restaurant. Moreover, it is healthier for us. In addition, we can cultivate our interest of cooking. In this way, we are capable of developing our career to be a chef in the future. Therefore, I think that it is totally helpful in our daily lives.

All in all, young people have to learn how to cook due to the points mentioned above. In my opinion, it is a wise decision for young people to learn cooking skills in order to prepare meals by themselves.

(415 words)



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3RD PRIZE:

KOH WEI XIANG

SENIOR MIDDLE TWO YI

Topic: Reasons why young people should learn how to cook

Nowadays, as the demand of fast food restaurants and delivery services is highly increasing, many young people will choose to stay at home and wait for the delivery food which they order online or just go to a fast food restaurant to have their meals. However, it is still important for them to learn how to cook and there are many reasons to show that why young people should learn how to cook.

First of all, due to the busy daily routine of young people's parents, they usually do not have sufficient time to prepare their food for their children. Some of the parents will just give the money to their children and let them buy what they want to eat. In this way, most of the young people tend to eat the unhealthy food. If the young people can learn how to cook, they may cook for themselves and even cook for their parents who are always busy with their work to reduce their parents' burden.

Moreover, learning how to cook is an essential life skill. Undoubtedly, this skill is necessary for young people because they should be independent when they live alone. For example, when they are studying in a university or leaving home to work, they should learn how to cook because their parents cannot be with them anytime. Therefore, this is not only important for now, but also prepare for the future.

On top of that, home-cooked food is cheaper than eating out. This is because most of the restaurants will charge a high tax of the service charge to obtain more income for their restaurants. On the other hand, cooking by themselves can save their money to avoid spending the unnecessary expense and they can use the money to buy the ingredients so as to cook for a healthy and delicious meal for themselves.

In addition, for the young people who are interested in becoming chefs, learning how to cook becomes more important for their future. The competition in the career of chef is very fierce, and thus the young people may try to practise cooking for their families. When they are familiar with this skill before they formally learn to cook in a university, this will help them to have a good experience to study well.

Overall speaking, learning how to cook will be a wise decision for the young people because mastering the cooking skill may bring them a lot of advantages when they need to prepare meals for themselves and other people.

(419 words)



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CONSOLATION:

YEO YU LE

SENIOR MIDDLE TWO YI

Topic: Reasons why young people should learn how to cook

Nowadays, a lot of parents are so busy with their work till they do not have sufficient time to prepare meals for their children. Therefore, they tend to buy unhealthy food such as fast food, cup noodles, canned food which need not to be cooked or just need to heat them for a while before consuming. Hence, young people should learn how to cook.

Cooking is an essential life skill. Thus, if young people want to be independent, they must learn how to cook because eating is the basic need of humans. It is also important to eat healthily. On top of that, they should learn cooking skills to prepare for the future.

Undeniably, cooking by ourselves can save money. It is because we do not need to pay for the rental and electricity bills in food stalls or restaurants that lead to the price of food they sell increasing. Therefore, we will get cheaper meals when we cook by ourselves. It is a good news for young adults because most of them only get low wages, so cooking by themselves can help them save money for other purposes. In addition, they do not have to eat out in restaurants and this can keep them healthy. With healthy bodies, they can study or work more efficiently.

Besides, in the process of cooking, young people may come up with an interest in cooking. Thus, those who are interested in cooking can choose a career related to cooking like being a chef. In this way, our food will be multicultural because fresh ideas are always produced by young people.

All in all, it is a wise decision for young people to learn the skills of cooking. Hence, they are able to prepare meals by themselves and it can help them to reduce their dependence on their parents who are busy with their work.

(311 words)



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CONSOLATION:

POH ZI QIAN

SENIOR MIDDLE THREE YI

Topic: Reasons why young people should learn how to cook

Nowadays, young generations do not know how to cook by themselves. This is because food delivery service is more convenient now compared to the situation in the old days. Parents are also busy at work so they tend to eat fast food and other unhealthy food. Therefore, young people should learn how to cook. This is very important as it can change their lives.

First of all, cooking is an essential life skill in our lives. When we have learnt how to cook, we will become independent. This is pretty good for our future because when we leave home to work or further our studies alone, we will not be panicked and anxious. Hence, we should learn how to cook to prepare for the future from now.

Young people can save money if they prepare food by themselves. It is certainly cheaper than eating out at restaurant. We can decide and adjust the seasonings of the food that we cook. We can put less sugar, salt and oil when cooking. Through these changes, we will become healthier and stronger.

In addition, we can cultivate our interest in cooking. Cooking can become a person's career. A chef who can cook many types of food is great. So, if young people have the interest to become a chef, they can learn how to cook from now. When they go to college to learn how to cook, they already equip themselves with basic cooking skills.

In a nutshell, learning to cook is a wise decision. It can change our lifestyle to become healthier and it helps us save money. It can also improve family relationships when cooking together. Therefore, young people should first learn how to cook among the many life skills. Let us prepare our own meals from now!

(297 words)