

SHANTOU BEAT



ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER
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Learn From Both Yourself And Others

Hermione&Wendy

It is undeniable that the world consists of diversity. Every country has its own geographic and linguistic characteristics. For example, the four treasures of Chinese study -pen, ink, paper, and inkstone- are well known worldwide. At the same time, other countries are famous for their perfume, watches, and so on. In addition, each person shapes themselves with different fashion styles based on diverse conceptions and even occupations. Diversities emerge at different phases in the lives of people who try to change themselves and learn from others.

Admittedly, everything stays peaceful because of unity, an indispensable component of interactions between people or countries. However, it is noteworthy



Vinco



Hermione&Vinco&Wendy

that diversity has fueled all the things to move forward. The opportunities and energy that diversity brings cannot be underrated anymore.

As William Shakespeare put it, some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them. It is beyond doubt that Vinco has made a breakthrough on the stage, but she can still put aside the accolades she has received, reflect on what she has done, and be determined to work harder in the future.

Having done an incredible job, Vinco shared three keys to mastering English: interest - the source of motivation; practice - the essential way to command language skills; and materials - English channels, websites, and language environment. In life, we can always count on being born great or having greatness thrust upon us. However, keep in mind that the opportunity to achieve greatness is within our grasp. If you want to be somebody, you must devote yourselves to overcoming all difficulties.

From the story of Vinco, we know that despite our failures and mistakes, the “average” people can achieve greatness, regardless of whether the world recognizes it or only a few people do.

Moreover, one thing that stands out about Vinco is that

she loves making friends, especially with people who have the quality of independence, have their way of thinking, and can evaluate things from a more objective standpoint. Spotting advantages when making friends is a process of learning from diversity.

In short, even “The Avengers,” who live in such a complicated world, or several worlds, can reinforce themselves again and again by learning from completely different people; it would be splendid for us to absorb something from diversity.



Hermione&Vinco&Wendy

‘It’s an Amazing Encounter, isn’t it?’

By Pluto&Lulu

“Unity in diversity” has become a growing trend in the globalized world that fosters cooperation among different countries. An epitome of this theme can be seen in the economic partnership among China, Japan, Australia, Korea, New Zealand, Indonesia, Singapore, and other Southeast Asian countries, which shows that different cultures can be united in an international organization to bring numerous benefits such as GDP increase and the rise of international status. To further explore this theme, we interviewed one of the excellent speakers from the speech contest – Bee.

From a cultural perspective, “unity in diversity” means that while different people, cultures, or countries may have something distinctive in certain respects, there always exists a certain space where they can be unified. As Bee points out, diversity matters a lot to us because it allows us to express, challenge, and upskill ourselves. ‘Also, contestants with different cultural backgrounds gather on the stage of the English festival with a common pursuit: to express their distinctive voices. ‘This is an amazing encounter, isn’t it?’ Unity has its power, which brings those who love English and public speaking together.

More importantly, this theme promotes communications and provides more possibilities to the world. Bee, in her speech, mentioned the voiceless war against COVID-19 to illustrate how different talents and resources from nations can be unified to unleash great power. In the beginning, we fell into a panic about the virus contagion. However, countries worked together to fight against the epidemic. For example, China offers TCM treatment options. Meanwhile, Israel, France, and other countries developed effective vaccines by using their advanced medical technology. In this battle, different countries strive to curb the spread, establishing a community of human destiny. On a personal level, communicating with people from different countries and cultures can bring you a new vision. Bee has traveled to a lot of different places. When she was in Bali, Indonesia, a young merchant impressed her when he chatted with Chinese visitors passionately. Bee saw it as a terrific way to spread Chinese culture to foreign people, among many others.



Lulu & Pluto&Bee



Lulu & Pluto&Bee

We are supposed to strive for unity while showing respect for differences. This way, more advances and achievements can be made with our joint efforts.

Dig Deeper, Stay

By Young & Iris

“Dig deeper, stay sharp,” Amber said. This is the punchline of her speech and principle of making friends.

Speaking both Mandarin and two Chinese dialects, Amber is a person of diversity who has grown up in a broken family. So, she feels different from others and finds it difficult to make friends. Yet, she is still outgoing and fond of communicating with people from various cultural backgrounds. Hence, she gradually finds her principle of making friends — “Dig deeper, stay sharp.” “Sometimes you cannot observe the very new ones among people. Because finding common ground is a difficult job, sometimes you must observe on the side what thoughts people have and what characteristics they have. It is essential to observe people constantly and have deep insights into their personalities despite the possibly misleading impressions from their appearances,” Amber explained in more detail. In her opinion, this principle could help us find unity in diversity and make friends.

Finding unity in diversity is important between friends. Above all, we must reflect to find common ground between ourselves and others. Like Amber, if she kept thinking about diversity, it would be difficult for her to make friends with others. That is why she dug deeper and stayed sharp to find unity in people with different interests (e.g., English, speech, etc.). By doing so, Amber made many friends, especially those she met in the English speech contests. They gave her a lot of advice, making her more confident and excellent. As a result, she gave such a wonderful speech tonight and became



Amber

the champion of the 2021 STU English Speech Contest.

Actually, “Dig deeper, stay sharp” is a principle in our life. Typically, our school carries out targeted activities for students with different backgrounds to keep up with the times and be open to new challenges. Students learn and enjoy their experiences at STU, finding their own unity in a diverse environment.

For everyone, “Dig deeper, stay sharp” should be an attitude towards life, which could help us be better people and keep pace with the times.

A Brave Solitary

By Cyanide & Eric



Audrey

Anyone willing to try and put in the effort won't be a loser because they dare to face difficulties. I think Audrey, a girl from Hanshan Normal University, is such a brave person. For her, the speech contest in STU was an away game, so she had to overcome many adverse factors. However, she still had a very good performance. The example she chose was a story about her grandpa talking about a game he had just watched. It's close to our daily lives, so it could resonate with the audience.

What's more, Audrey also gave us some suggestions on improving oral English. "I improve my oral English by speaking to myself in English. I love talking to myself in English," -she said. "For example, when I was upset, and I couldn't find the right person to talk to, I would choose to speak to myself. Besides, I have a habit of recording videos while I practice, so I can check my posture and pronunciation for later correction. However, I think the key to success is to be confident and speak loudly".

Audrey was very modest when she talked about her performance on the stage. She said, "I think it's

a kind of a pity because I haven't performed my best. In some way, for instance, in the impromptu speech, I was familiar with this topic but failed to deliver an impressive speech." She also thought that she felt nervous on the stage, so this might be why she couldn't answer Judge Eric's question very well. "The question asked by Mr. Eric was out of my expectation, so my answer may have been irrelevant, and in the end, I didn't receive an ideal placement." In the end, Audrey still stood out from the semifinal and delivered a speech on the final stage, and this was a testament to her strength. Overall, Audrey is a qualified speaker.

Coming to STU to participate in a speech contest was Audrey's first time visiting our campus; we asked Audrey: "what unforgettable impression does STU give you?" Audrey replied, "It might be the relationship between teachers and students. For example, after the opening ceremony last night, Professor Mao accompanied my teacher and me to the hotel. I felt he was friendly and didn't let me feel distanced". Besides, she enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere here.

I think Audrey's experience in STU can boost her public speaking skills to have a more remarkable performance on the stage in the future.

brave



Antia&Penny&Ross

“When spotlights sprinkle on my face, only one thought occurs to me—— it is time to get out of the comfort zone,” Ross recalled. As the first speaker, he confidently picked up the microphone, vividly portraying the image of “unity in diversity” in his eyes to the audience. Diversity has been ubiquitous in our lives, varying from the small pieces of every different face to the institutions and cultures of the whole country. At the same time, we all have been accustomed to the charm of diversity; only a few people ask what unity in diversity looks like. So, it is no surprise that the speech’s theme was a small challenge for all contestants. “When I knew the theme, I was nervous because it was familiar but unfamiliar to me,” Ross said, frowning. The charm of unity in diversity will inadvertently

The charm of Unity in diversity

By Antia&Penny

highlight your life. “When you have enough preparation, the fear of being on stage disappears soon, and everything goes well,” he added.

As for the theme, Unity in Diversity, Ross cleverly started with the characteristics of Chaoshan food, which is well known in his hometown. Then he compared unity in diversity to a dish—— the world was like a dish with various ingredients, in which different cultures and communities represented different ingredients. When we mentioned his hometown -Chaoshan- beaming with joy, he commented, “Even though I have been studying in Guangzhou and have been exposed to many different cultures, when I come back to my hometown, everything here seems familiar to me, and I find a sense of belongingness here. So, I would like to say that it is also the charm of Unity in Diversity.”

At Shantou University, Ross felt the intense English learning atmosphere and our fellow students’ enthusiasm for study. About the performance and the result, Ross did express a little regret, admitting that it was not his best

performance, but it made him realize that he still needs to learn and improve. If there is another opportunity, Ross said he is looking forward to returning to Shantou again and competing with outstanding participants from all over the world.

Despite the contest being perfectly concluded, not everything is over yet, as the story between Ross and STU is just beginning!



Antia&Penny&Ross

Thinking collision: unity in diversity

By Jean&Scofield



Jean&Scofield

With three successful nights in a row, the 18th Intercollegiate English Festival, hosted by the English Language Center of the College of Liberal Arts, Shantou University, finally came to an end. There is no doubt that the speech competition greatly inspired the audience and sparked a fantastic collision of thoughts. This contest had outstanding performances by student participants not only from Shantou University, but also from other universities in Guangdong, such as Shenzhen University, South China Normal University, and Hanshan Normal University. However, what is the view, one may ask, of the judges of the contest? Eric, one of the speech contest judges, has agreed to share his thoughts on the matter:

Enjoyment: At the beginning of our interview, Eric expressed his pleasure to hear what everyone had shared. He agreed with one of the contestants that this was a good time to talk about the need for unity in diversity around the world, which in turn posed a challenge regarding speech skills and insights into the theme of unity in diversity. After all, the audience's recognition of the contestants represented unity in diversity. Who would not love the expression of such an intense collision of thoughts?

Surprise: Eric was surprised to see some contestants taking a bold step toward the themes and the issues involved. He admired the contestants' courage to open up uneasy problems in front of the crowd and refresh them with gushes of fantastic ideas and solutions. Moreover, in the impromptu speech session, the excellent performance by seven contestants won a tempest of applause from the audience and judges, including Eric. In Eric's words, the key to a successful speech, though easier said than done, often lies in the speakers' poise and agility, especially when facing sharp questions from the judges. And this is where the charm of the speech contest emerges!

Expectation: In Eric's opinion, the English Festival, as a major event by the English department, offered a unique opportunity for language practice, public speaking training, and brainstorming. It also gives the students from different universities a precious occasion where mutual learning flourishes with friendships being forged. Eric was also looking forward to welcoming more domestic and overseas participants for a more significant and harmonic convergence of local and globalized thoughts. His idea of unity in diversity, echoed by most students, shortens the distance between Shantou University and the world.



SHANTOU BEAT

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