

CET Taiwan, Fall 2022 | Anonymous

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Who are the intended audience(s) of your Perspective Piece? "Black students, students of color, plus size, black women"

Reflections in Taiwan

I came to Taiwan to learn mandarin. With this inspiration, I already knew there would be some challenges. Those were:

- a) learning a new language and
- b) living in a new country where the culture and racial makeup was entirely different.

From an academic stand-point, I have made a lot of progress from where I began. For example, before I came to Taiwan, I knew pretty much no Mandarin at all, aside from hello and how to say my name. Currently, there is still a lot I do not know but I am now able to type and speak in Chinese, something I had no previous knowledge of, even if it may only be simple sentences. That's not saying it was all easy: there were many quizzes and tests where I did not do so well, but I have the knowledge I came here looking for, which I count as a plus.

In regards to my personal progress, I think I proved to myself that I can be independent. For instance, most of my life I have lived a sheltered life, so coming here, where I have to take the bus to and from school every day, hang out with my friends, and find time for homework all on my own, in addition to, to arriving to Taiwan on my own: taking plane to plane to plane, saving my summer pay. It all just proves to me that, as much as I think I can do things on my own, I now know I can do anything I set my mind to. There are always hiccups in the way, especially when I am a large black woman in an Asian country. Between the stares, glares, and questioning looks at the clothing store, there will always be daily challenges. But I'm certain that this experience is and was one that I will always value.