

104 學年度第 1 學期高中部英文作文比賽

請勿拆開

1. 愛爾蘭詩人 W. B. Yeats 曾經說過 "Education is not the filling of a pail (bucket), but the lighting of a fire." 身處風起雲湧的教育浪潮，身為現代學生的你也多能針對教育政策或理念侃侃而談，請以

"What I Talk About When I Talk About Education" 為題，針對 W. B. Yeats 的名言抒發己見，寫一篇英文作文，字數不得少於 500 字。

2. 比賽時間：13:10~14:50，共 100 分鐘。

3. 不得使用任何形式的字典與電子載具，其餘依本校考試規定辦理。

What I Talk About When I Talk About Education

Ever since I was a kid, I did not really like school and I did not spend much time on studying. For me, school was only a place to hang out with my friends. I only did homework and studied for tests because I did not want to get yelled at by my parents. I grew up with that ungrateful attitude and I knew it was wrong, but I did not know what can help me, or should I say I did not care. It all changed last summer, when I met a group of South African kids with smiles so bright that let me see the light in education again.

An English cram school in my neighborhood had this new summer program last year that caught my eyes. They said they were going to take some high school students to South Africa to teach the locals English. I just graduated junior high school, and as one of the lab rats under the problematic twelve-year educational system, I was exhausted and annoyed by everything in my life. I wanted to escape, to see new things, to experience excited stuff without the pressure of grades and tests. As a result, I signed up for the program and took three flights to this small place in South Africa called KwaZulu-Natal.

Our main job was to play with the kids and help them learn some basic English like the alphabets, numbers and colors. The classroom wasn't big enough, the chalks were difficult to use, and the kids were so difficult to quiet down. It was impossible to take the typical English class we got in Taiwan to South Africa, so we ditched everything we planned. We started playing with them, used the colors on the toys or playground to help them learn colors; we started dancing with them, used the movements and templates to

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help them learn numbers; we started chatting with them, they probably did not really understand, but they learned how to use words and manners to get what they want, not just yelling and hitting others. The classes they had were simple, but they all had some great progress. With the help of local teachers and volunteers like us, they got this safe and happy place for them to learn not only English, but everything in life. It is even a way to change their future.

You are probably wondering what is special about that, Taiwanese students learn all subjects and everything we need to know in our lives too, right? Yes, Taiwanese students are lucky enough to get really good education, the South African kids don't have that. But, Taiwanese students are always unsatisfied with everything, on the other hand, the South African students appreciate what they have, and stay positive all the time. Their attitude helps them enjoy learning and helps them learn better. That is what changes my attitude toward school and what I think we lack of in our education. Some teachers always think they are right, their way of teaching is good for every student. If you don't do well in their classes, it is your problem, not the teachers'. On the other hand, some students really do not respect the teachers. They think the teachers are annoying, classes are boring, but they do not try to solve these problems they have with the teachers, they just do nothing and keep being grumpy, keep complaining. Education should not be like this.

Maybe there are something wrong with our education system, but until we find a way to fix this problem, the only thing we can do is stay positive, be respectful, work hard, and the most important thing is, appreciate what we have. This goes for both the teachers and the students. We have to keep this great attitude in order to improve ourselves and our education.

After the trip to South Africa, I made a great decision.

Since it was the start of a new life, high school was

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going to start soon, I wanted to change, wanted to study harder for tests, wanted to be more focus in class, wanted to see the passion of learning and teaching that I once saw in a small town in South Africa. I still do not like studying, but I think I am improving, and with more inspiration in life, others can improve too.

One day we can have an education that we are proud of, I believe this with all my heart. This is what changes my attitude toward education, what I see in our education, what I expected in the future about our education, and what I talk about when I talk about education.

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