

九十一學年度國立成功大學外文研究所碩士班

英文作文試題

First read the following excerpt written by an American about her experiences teaching English composition skills to university-level Chinese learners.

“Rhetoric, in writing, is shaped by culture. Examining the rhetorical practices of a culture other than our own can provide us with a clearer understanding of the culture we study and can make us more aware of our own.

North American rhetorical values emphasize originality and individuality. North Americans encourage self-expression and stylistic innovation. They subscribe to Aristotle’s dictum, “State your case and prove it,” and they expect to see inductive or deductive reasoning. They call this a “logical” argument.... They believe that original writing involves a chaotic discovery process but requires that finished texts be cohesive, coherent, and explicitly unified. They expect rhetoric to help them achieve control and to be a force for change.... Here I taught composition to fifty senior English majors for a semester. Only in retrospect and after study and discussion did I begin to understand the linguistic and rhetorical agendas that were influencing my students’ writing in English. Had I known then what I have come to know now, I am sure that my classroom teaching might well have been more effective.”

As a Chinese learner of English, you probably have come across similar experience yourself when learning how to write in English. Now write an essay to compare the rhetorical and stylistic differences between writing in English and in Chinese. You may also state the difficulties that you have encountered while learning how to write in English due to cultural differences.