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English 1110.01, MWF 10:20AM-11:15AM

Instructor: Cathy Ryan

Assignment: Common sense

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Common sense of China's education

As a common sense in China's education system, passing the college entrance exam is the only measure of success of a student's life. Gaokao, the Chinese college entrance exam, has become the most important goal of all the Chinese families with children. Many years ago, the college entrance exam was the only way for young Chinese young people who forced to live in the countryside because of the policy to go back to the big cities since 1978. Or they will stay in the countryside all their lives. As far as nowadays, most Chinese talented people in all industries come from the first generation of university students who passed the exam during those special years. Therefore, now parents try to let their children realize the importance of the college entrance exam when their children start to receive education. At the same ages, children are still in kindergarten in other countries. Students compete for the exam since they take exams for the best school in their ages and the final target of all Chinese students, maybe all Chinese teenagers, is to pass the college entrance exam and go to a good university. All the country focus on this exam annually. News reporters begin to follow all the processes of this exam 4 months before the test. Experts express their point of view on television every June after the exam. Tutoring organizations for this exam earn many benefits every year. However, is the college entrance exam the only way of success for all the Chinese teenagers and their families?

批注 [1]: Meina Zhou: I love how he told us the reason why Chinese people have the common sense that college entrance exam is the only way for people to be successful

If they failed the exam, will their future become full of darkness nowadays? I do not think so. This paper will talk about my opinion towards the common sense of China's education, the college entrance exam.

As the development of China's economy and the change of ideas in some areas, Chinese young people now have more options to achieve the lives they want. Firstly, I think Chinese families' economic conditions have become much better than before. Parents are willing to send their children to study abroad. For example, when I was in the last year of my senior high school, the students with the highest scores and the worst scores decided to study abroad at the same time. Good students thought they could achieve better education opportunities out of China because China's college education level is still not high in the world. But the worst students had realized that they are unable to pass the exam so they chose to pay much more money to enter other normal universities with easy entrance standards. They avoid participating in the college entrance exam, but they also achieved the education experiences they want.

批注 [2]: Meina Zhou: why do you give this example? to support what??

批注 [3]: Pollyanna C: This idea is kind of weird. Students who go aboard have to multiple exams too. Besides, why can you obtain a result that education aboard is easy? It seems that your support language is another kind of "common sense".

Secondly, in my opinion, young people in China have more personal opinions than before. In the past, they followed the way that their parents, friends, older people of their generation did. However, they have begun to find that lives others described are not the real lives they want. They are unwilling to enter an ordinary university and then become a normal office worker like their parents want them to be. Maybe they hate sitting in classrooms and doing endless homework as well as exams. They have their interests, and they believe they should spend their best time of their life on the things they love. Young author called *Hanhan* has one million readers. Young e-sports player called *Uzi* won the world champion twice. Young singer Jay Chou

becomes well known all around the world. A famous Chinese writer, Eileen Chang, said that becoming famous must take advantage of early. It is better to do the things they like rather than waste their time on the college entrance exam during their most valuable young ages.

批注 [4]: Pollyanna C: I like these vivid examples to support your idea.

批注 [5]: Meina Zhou:love it too!!

Thirdly, some poor students in China refuse to participate in the college entrance exam but choose to work earlier instead. Nowadays, the tuition fee of universities has increased rapidly. It is not easy for students from poor areas or not wealthy families to afford the tuition fee. Some families borrow money from others with high interests to pay for the fee but it finally causes the financial crisis. In addition, the end of their university graduation is not going to work and feeding their families. They own neither any human resource or social experiences. Except the reasons above, the huge pressure of expensive housing price in big China cities and high cost of living in big cities will push them back to their hometown. After that they will find that their friends who did not join the college entrance exam has worked for more than 5 years with abundant work experience. Some of their friends have become rich bosses who drive luxurious cars and enjoy their wealthy life. In my point of view, going to work earlier is not a bad choice for this kind of young people above to support their family's economic condition. They do not need to fight with others in big cities who have rich background and better foundation. They will also be able to learn some useful life skills and knowledge during their work time.

批注 [6]: Yijia Wu:Lastly

批注 [7]: Yijia Wu:Rearrange

Above all, just like a saying goes, all roads lead to Roma. It is useless for Chinese parents and students to see the college entrance exam as the measure of success. To

my way of thinking, doing the jobs they love is the real success of young people's lives.

Ruiqi Cao: The author talks about a new ideal which significantly challenge the common sense of GaoKao in China. He illustrates that student in China gradually decide to make a diverse choice about their future. They don't believe that the the GaoKao is their only way they can choose. There are multiple choices for them to decide. A nice viewpoint! However, I think the author fail to support his idea with a clear logic in second paragraph. It seems like he falls into some other kind of common sense about the aboard test and education.

Meina Zhou:

The author talked about the common sense we have in China, how we consider the role of "Gaokao". Many people think it is the only way for people to be successful in their life. Then he gave the different opinion that Gaokao is not the only way for people. Nowadays, people can study overseas to look for a better education. Also people can work early and earn work experience instead of going to a college. In his conclusion, he summarized his topic that there are many ways for people to achieve their goals, and taking college entrance examinations is not the only way.

However, my suggestion is that the first and second paragraphs are too long, try to divide them into several parts!! And some examples are confusing, they cannot strongly support the topic, maybe he needs to choose a better one. And the summary is a little bit abstract, try to revise it,too.

Shiyue Jiang: The author uses "first, second, third" to make the passage in the sequence. On the one hand, it clearly shows his main opinions, on the other hand, the essay lacks the transitions between paragraphs. I think chinese students are familiar

with this common sense that college entrance examination plays an important role in their life. Some of the examples given in the essay are very strong and persuasive. The conclusion is great and i think the beginning could be better if the author can shorten it down and explain college entrance exam in another paragraph.

Yijia Wu: He organizes his passage well, like a normal essay, which is good to read. However, there are few points that he needs to change in order to make the logic of this essay clearer. In paragraph three, he needs to change the idea a little bit, and make his argument stronger.