

一程美国，两项辩论，三十二天的时时刻刻，将王亦功同学的假期绘成了鲜亮的红色。从南京到上海，从上海到阿拉巴马，再从阿拉巴马到哈佛，最后回到祖国。虽然从地理上回到原点，却收获了诚挚的友谊、全新的文化体验与深刻难忘的回忆。让我们一起沿着他的记忆，来寻找这趟旅程的意义吧！

My Debate Trip in the US

我的美国辩论之旅

By 南京外国语学校 王亦功 Ryan Wang

When I knew I was able to go to America for the NFL Nationals and the debate camp, I was absolutely delighted. It was my first time in America, and I stayed for a total of 32 days. My trip made a lasting impression and lasting memories of some of the best moments in my life.

Nationals— More Than Just a Tournament

Alabama is one of America's "fly-over" states; it's a pretty rural area, and its largest city, Birmingham, where the tournament was held, has a population of only 300,000 people. It's so different from the America that we know about, the downtown area is just like the suburbs, and eateries are generally not very good. But it was here in Alabama that I met some of the best students from around the world, where I felt the hard work we put in finally paid off, and where I made some amazing new friends. It was simply much more than just a simple debate tournament.

The most impressive group that I met was the Korean students. They are mostly from international schools, and their ability to debate really shocked me. On the first night, team China and team Korea had 2 practice rounds. The Koreans argued for the pro side and dominated their arguments. Their language skills were unparalleled, which made them top notch debaters. One of them understood 8 languages, and spoke 6 of those fluently. They offered countless pieces of evidence in their arguments, and completely nailed the debate. They eventually became the first inspiration I had during the tournament.

The preliminary rounds started on the second day. The weird thing was that even though we watched an entire baseball game to adjust our jet lag, none of us could fall asleep on the first night. It was probably because we were all incredibly nervous. We were debating at Barium Middle School and Hoover High School, which were approximately an hour's drive from our hotel. I've never been to such a large tournament before, and this was my first time wearing a suit while debating, but it felt great.

My partner and I didn't break, but we learned a lot and developed a whole new perspective towards public forum debate. Americans do public forum in a completely different way, especially during rebuttal speeches. Chinese students usually just read a case against their opponents in their rebuttals, and if you don't have contradictory evidence, there's pretty much nothing you can say during the rebuttal. Americans, however, don't base their speech on evidence. To them, evidence is just something to support their points. So you might see an interesting scene in a debate round— a Chinese debater was reading off their computer screen while the American was just holding a sheet of paper with their flows and points speaking out loud. They developed the skill of negating points through logical flow, which is something I hope to develop in the future.

Another huge difference between Americans and us is the attitude towards this tournament. Chinese debaters sort of freaked out before and during the rounds, and we usually read our cards and cases. American

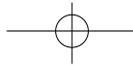
debaters, on the other hand, are much more nonchalant. They usually talk about the rounds they just had, or just some casual conversations. A girl even pulled out a sketch book from her bag and start coloring and drawing.

During my trip, I had lasting memories of many non-debate related things as well. First, the people in Alabama are extremely hospitable. Not many people walk on the street of Birmingham, but every single individual you see will greet to you, as if they see you as family. Second, the unforgettable experience of my visit to Thom's parents' home. My debate coach— Thom, is from Birmingham, where the tournament is held. That's where I had the best meal since I landed in Alabama. This visit gave me a deep view of the traditional American life. We had such a great time that we forgot about some injuries we got from rolling down grass slopes in their yard.

What I've learned from this tournament is invaluable. Of course I got a lot of debate experience— I learned how to point out opponents' weakness effectively, I improved the flow of my delivery, and I developed a better routine for rebuttal speeches. Beyond debate, it was the friendships, the natural beauty of Alabama and the culture that made the best memories. These were the things that made my trip much more than a simple debate tournament.

Harvard— It's just like a dream, yet so realistic

Harvard, the famous Ivy League college,



is a dream for most students around the world, and I am one of those people. This summer, in Harvard, I realized my dream at the Harvard debate camp.

This year's national qualifiers arrived one day earlier than most students. Because of the horrible food in Alabama, we left with an impression of Americans as "people who need breakfast", which was hilarious because on the first morning, the RA invited us to downtown Boston to have dim-sum. We had such a big breakfast, and just 2 hours later, we headed for lunch at Harvard Square. Everyone was full on the first day.

The challenges really began on the second day. During the camp days, our schedule was pretty much the same. 3 hours of lecture in the morning, a whole afternoon of lab activity, plus even more lab activities at night. I was absolutely exhausted after every single day of work. After roll call, I still worked with my partner and friends on collecting evidence. Camp life wasn't easy, but it was fulfilling and satisfying.

The most impressive thing during our debate camp was Jason's crossfire skill. Jason was one of the group leaders, and his story itself as a boy who failed in debate in the past but continues to fight really hard is an inspiration to all of us. His English wasn't perfect, but he was super aggressive in debate. He kept interrupting, politely, to ask opponents hard questions. His delivery is top notch, and when he speaks, you can really feel the sense of his "no one can beat me" attitude. His method of debate inspired me a lot. He taught us how to plan the crossfire, to use time effectively, to achieve goals in the allotted 3 minutes, giving us all some very new thoughts about the crossfire rounds.

My coach at the camp, Mr. Childree, helped me a lot as well. First, he helped me adapted to a much clearer and more effective way of flowing. He showed us his technique of flow during his first lecture. At first, I didn't quite get this bizarre way of flowing, I thought it was too messy. However, once I tried it, I found the extraordinary advantages of his way. The contrast and coherence between points



are shown clearly in the flow, and the flow was highly efficient to use. This new way of flowing helped me respond to opponents much better, and it actually made my final focus more logical and persuasive.

In addition, Mr. Childree let me realize the importance of a stable, cooperative, and specialized partnership. Different from the partnerships of last year's camp, this year our coaches tried to keep the original teams because of our debate history.

Partnership is one of the most important

things in debate, especially in public forum debate. "Partners are like a couple, the longer a couple lasts, the more and deeper their love becomes, but more conflict exists at the same time." said Mr. Childree. "And in partnerships, the longer you cooperate with your partner, the more tacit but also more challenging the partnership is going to get." During this debate camp, I took the partnership to a whole new level. I learned how to cooperate, to be specific, and to exchange information and help each other in a much more effective way.

The better partnership helped me achieve much more in debates.

Another interesting thing worth mentioning is that the debate community is a pretty small but robust and highly competitive community. There weren't many students at camp, but were some of the best students in our region. Coincidentally, I met some of my opponents at the Birmingham Nationals during camp, and my coach at school was also a coach at the US camp.

The essence of this debate camp is for self betterment. Exceeding yourself is the hardest thing to do in the world, and yet the coaches have ways to help you do that. There's not much praise or compliment, and the coaches will point out your weakness ruthlessly. I was really unsatisfied about this at first, but because I tried so hard to overcome the weakness, it worked really well. I have to thank my coaches for this

My time at Harvard means a lot to me. First, of course, I felt the joy and excitement of success (I became the best speaker and the Champion of the camp). Second, the dramatic improvement in my spoken English cannot be learned in any other way. Last but most importantly, I received new debate skills and achieved a higher level of debate ability. It is not an exaggeration to say that this debate camp has already changed me in a positive way, and will motivate me to study better, go further, and most importantly, become more mature in the future.

Epilogue

If I were to describe this trip in one word, I'd say it is "unique". It is unique because of the places I've been to, places where ordinary people can't reach; it is unique because of the events I've attended, events I will never forget; it is unique because of the people I've worked and lived with, with whom I've developed long lasting friendships with, people I can trust for life. And this trip is not limited to just uniqueness; I grew up a lot and started to think more logically. I will always remember the joyful, exciting moments of this milestone in my life.

在得知进入美国 NFL 全国总决赛的欢乐与兴奋中，我开始了我的第一次美国之旅。32 天的旅程聚集了各种各样绝佳的记忆，令我终生难忘。

全国总决赛——不仅仅是一场联赛

阿拉巴马是美国的“fly-over” states 之一，算是一片荒凉的地域。这个州最大的城市——伯明翰——正是联赛举办的地方，只有 30 万的人口。一切都与我们所熟知的美国有着天壤之别——市中心好似城乡结合部，吃食也是糟糕透顶。但是在阿拉巴马的这场联赛中，我见识了来自全球各地最好的学生们，感受到他们的努力，也结交了不少挚友。这不仅仅是一次辩论赛。

令人印象最深刻的是那群韩国学生，他们大多来自国际学校。他们的辩论能力深深的震撼了我。比赛前一天晚上，中韩各两组进行了场练习赛。韩国学生们个个都是辩论大师，在辩论中占据了充分的主动权。他们用流利的英语，娴熟的技巧诠释了绝妙的辩论。

淘汰赛在第二天开始了。前一天我们看了棒球赛调整时差，但比赛前夜我仍无法入眠，或许是赛前紧张吧。在这之前我从来没有参加过这么大型的联赛，也从没有着正装参赛，一切的新鲜感让我感觉既有点小紧张却又享受其中。

虽然最后我和我的搭档没能晋级淘汰赛，但是我从每一轮的比赛中都学到很多，并且我对公众论坛式辩论（Public Forum Debate）也有了一些新的认识。美国与中国的学生辩论的方式是完全不同的，尤其是在二辩的反驳中。中国的辩手们通常只是读一篇事先准备好反驳对手观点的材料，如果不幸没有针锋相对的证据，那么我们的辩手们就无话可说了。美国的辩手们则不会让证据占据大量的辩驳内容，他们只把证据作为支持观点的辅助。因此，在我们的辩论赛中你会看到这样有趣的情形——中国的辩手在反驳时抱着电脑或是厚厚一沓材料，而美国的辩手们则只手拿薄薄一张纸，看着笔记，娓娓道来，与我们中国的辩手们形成了鲜明的对比。在他们身上，我学到了一种用逻辑思维进行辩驳的技巧，这是需要时间积累的。

另一点的不同就是在对比赛的态度上。中国的辩手，至少是我自己，是以一种比较紧张，谨慎的态度去面对比赛的，

然而美国辩手就从容与淡定许多——他们在比赛间隙经常会讨论刚刚的比赛或是日常的谈话。一个女孩甚至从包里拿出了她的图画本，开始给自己的绘画上起了色。

还有一些趣事，虽然与辩论无关。在阿拉巴马，人们都非常好客和热情——尽管伯明翰街头的行人不多，但是你见到的每个人都会热心地向你问好，好似把你当作家人。我还记得美术馆礼品店里两位慈祥的女士，我们之间也结交了深厚的友谊。造访教练 Thom 父母家的经历更是令人难忘。在那里，我吃到了在阿拉巴马吃的最美味、最丰盛的一顿饭，这次短暂的停留也让我了解到了更多的传统美式生活。我们一行在那幢小屋度过了一段如此愉快的时光，最后，从那小草坡上径直滚向地面，而忘记了划伤的疼痛。

这次联赛带给我的收获是无价的。在辩论上，我的技能提升了许多，我学到了如何有效地指出对手的弱点，我的演讲风度也得到了提升，现在我也能够更好地反驳对手。除此之外，阿拉巴马的自然风光，历史文化也都已成为我心中一幕幕美好的回忆。

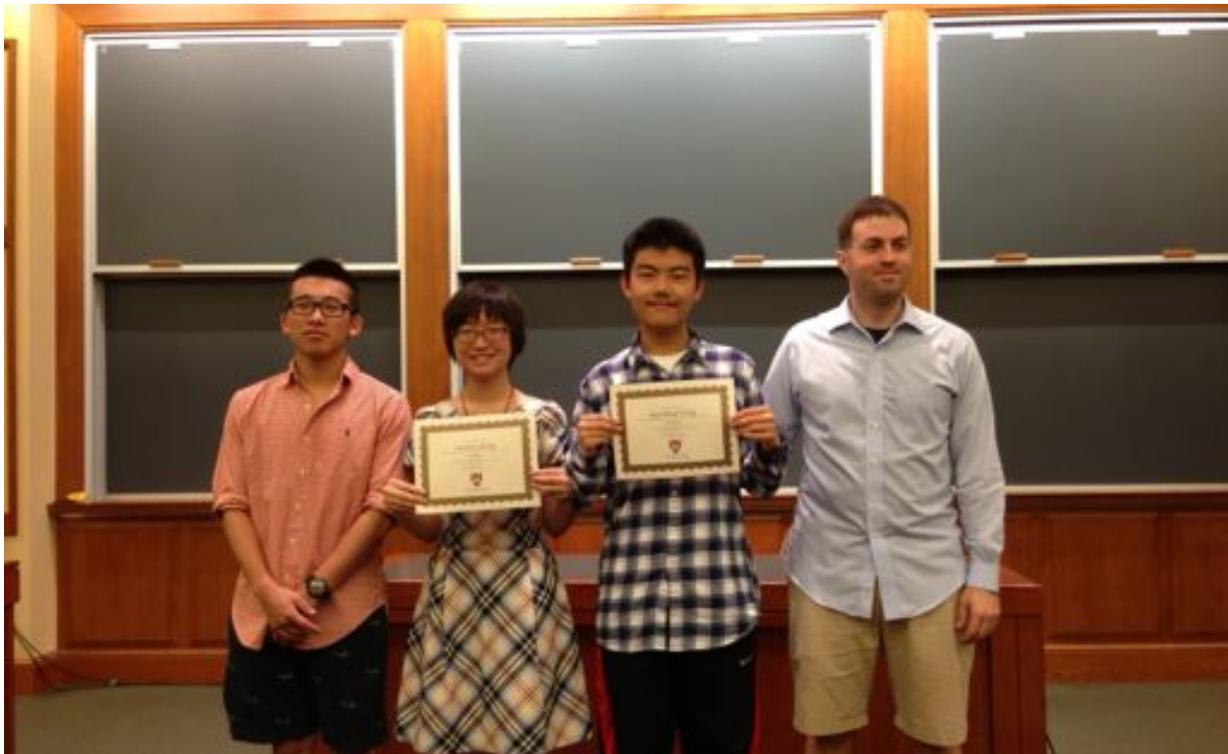
哈佛——就如梦境一般，却如此真实

哈佛，这所著名的常青藤学校，是世界上许多人心中的梦想，我也是其中之一，今夏，在哈佛辩论营，我实现了这个梦想。

由于先前在阿拉巴马的全国总决赛，我们一行人比其他学生提前一天到了营地。因为阿拉巴马糟糕的吃食，尤其是没能规律地吃早饭，我们给美国项目负责人留下了一个“一群要吃早饭的人”的印象。所以第一天早上，宿管就带着我们到了波士顿市中心的中国城吃了一顿广式早茶。这顿丰盛早餐后仅仅 2 小时，我们又用了午餐。第一天，我们一行人都吃得饱饱的。

第二天，真正的挑战开始了。在辩论营期间，每日的计划如出一辙。上午 3 小时的讲座，加上整个下午的小组活动，晚上更多的小组活动。每天学习过后我都累得精疲力竭。晚上点名之后，我还要和我的搭档和朋友们一起查找资料，收集证据。营地的生活并不轻松，但是我过得很充实，很有成就感。

辩论营中给我留下最深刻印象的是 Jeson 的盘问技巧。Jeson 是小组教练之一，他自己作为一个中国男孩在辩论坎坷之路中坚强地走来的故事就十分鼓舞人心。他



的英语不是那么纯正，但这丝毫不影响他在辩论中谈笑风生。礼貌地打断与精彩的提问、顶级的演讲风度，都让人钦佩。他说话时，你可以感受到那种无人能敌的自信与气概。他的辩论方式让我很受启发。他教会了我们如何计划 crossfire 的时间，有目的地提问，这些都是我从未接触过的，也让我对 crossfire 环节有了一些新的想法。

Childree 老师是我在辩论营的教练，他也给予了我很多的帮助。他帮助我适应并掌握了一种新的、更清晰、更有效的听记 (flow) 方式。听记，简而言之就是记下发言的内容，是辩论中相当重要的一个环节，这也是一门不简单的艺术。Childree 在第一次讲座中就向我们演示了他的听记方式。起初我对他奇特的听记方式不敢苟同，我认为这太乱了。但自己尝试后，我竟发现了这种方式的使用价值。观点之间的对比碰撞与相互联系都在一张纸上清晰地展现出来，绝对高效。这种新的听记方式让我能够更好的回击对手，也让我的总结聚焦 (final focus，辩论赛中地最后一个环节) 更具逻辑性和说服力。

Childree 老师也让我意识到了一个稳定合作、分工明确的搭档关系的重要性。与去年营地的搭档分配不同的是，今年我们的教练尽力把我们安排成原先比赛的组合，这是因为今年的学生很多并不是新手。搭档的组合是辩论中最最重要的东西之一。

“搭档如夫妻，夫妻在一起时间越长，之间的感情也会愈发深厚，但同时也会有更多的冲突”，Childree 说，“在搭档的组合中也是一样，你与你的搭档合作时间越长，之间的配合就会越默契，同样，也会有更多的挑战。”成功、成熟的搭档必定是久经风雨的。在这次辩论营中，我对搭档的意义有了更深的理解，知道如何更好地合作、分工、交换信息、互相帮助。更好地合作的确帮助我在辩论上获得更多。

我们在营地遇到了阿拉巴马全国总决赛的对手，我们在学校的辩论教练也在美国的营地任职。这足以说明辩论的世界虽小，但是却是群英荟萃的“上流社会”。

辩论营的核心是提升自我，超越自我。自我往往是一座难以逾越的高峰，我们的教练却有办法帮助你做到。在训练过程中，教

练不会给你太多的表扬与鼓励，他们却会无情地指出缺点。起初我有些不适应，但是我努力克服了自己的缺点，这样的教学方式实为高效。我必须得感谢我的教练们。

在哈佛的这段时光对于我来说意义重大。首先，我体会到了成功的喜悦与激动 (我是最佳辩手 & 冠军)。其次，我的英语技能得到了显著的提升。并且，我得到了各种的辩论技巧与能力。我可以毫不夸张地说辩论营改变了我很多，它也会继续激励我在未来学得更好，走得更远，变得更成熟。

结语

如果用一个词来形容这次美国旅程的经历，我会说这是“独一无二”的。这些经历的独特之处体现在我去过的不寻常的地方里，体现在我参加的丰富多彩的活动里，更体现在与我一起度过这段旅程的一生的挚友上。这次的经历也不仅仅局限于“独一无二”，我从中也成长了许多，能够更加合理地思考问题。我会永远铭记这些难忘的地方，这些美好的时光，与这些杰出的人们。这，是我人生中的一个里程碑。