

在家自學

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我想告訴大家關於在家自學的事情。我來上普及灣大學之前，我在家自學了三年。因為我住在洛杉磯，所以除了在家自學以外，也做了很多的課外活動和社區服務。雖然很多人認為在家自學就是父母教孩子，但不是這樣。比方說，我在家自學是學校把課本送到我家，我一邊自學一邊在網上上課學習，然後在網上交我的考試和寫作，所以老師可以打分。

很多的人不太懂在家自學的事情。讓我來告訴你們吧！

在家自學讓我長大了很多。除了我的家人以外，平常不是每天跟同年紀的人在一起所以比較沒有同學給我的壓力。我參加自己喜歡做的活動，不用擔心朋友是不是也要參加，也不用擔心別人的看法。我的時間比較自由可以做很多不同的娛樂活動。比方說，我參加了一個叫 Toastmasters International 的社團活動，訓練公開演講的能力。

在家自學的時候，我平常早上九點起床，吃早飯，有時間跟我的狗玩。可是我每天都要上五節課，每節課以後我都會做一個小時左右的功課。雖然五節課很多，但是我可以比較快地學完。我平常下午三點就把功課都做完了。

在美國，在家自學的方式有很多，父母教孩子學習或者上網自學都是一種方式。我覺得上網自學比較好，因為很多父母並不懂很多課題，所以學生可以自己上網學習怎麼做。雖然很多的國家有在家自學的這種學習方式，但在美國非常流行，這樣的家庭超過一百萬。我來自加州，那裡在家自學的學生最多，他們的考試分數常常比上一般學校的學生高。

除了學生有較高的考試分數以外，大多數的父母選擇在家自學還有別的原因。有的想用宗教的課本，有的覺得有更自由的時間幫他們的孩子。在家自學不但有比較自由的時間表，而且常常有比較少的功課，所以學生可以有更多時間跟家人在一起。

我也上過一般的學校，也在家自學過。學校和在家自學不一樣。我覺得跟別的學生在一起很重要，可是在家自學的時間讓我自己成長。我覺得如果有比較多自己的時間，會讓年輕人變得更獨立、更自信。當然，能跟我的狗和貓多一點時間在一起也不錯！

Homeschooling

I want to tell you all about the homeschooling experience. Before I came to the University of Puget Sound, I was homeschooled for three years. Because I lived in Los Angeles, apart from homeschooling, I also did a lot of extracurricular activities and community service. Although many people think homeschooling means that parents teach their children, but that is not so. For example, with my homeschooling, the school sends textbooks to my house. I studied independently and attended online classes, then I submitted my tests and essays online so the teacher could grade it.

A lot of people don't know how homeschooling works. Now, I'm going to tell you!

Homeschooling allowed me to change a lot. I don't often see other people my age on an everyday basis so I didn't go through peer pressure. I know a lot of young people worry about other people's opinion. I joined whatever clubs I liked and didn't worry if my friends joined or what other people's opinions were. My time was

relatively more flexible so I could join do a lot of recreational activities. For example, I joined a club called Toastmasters International to train my public speaking skills.

While I was homeschooled, I would get out of bed at nine in the morning, eat breakfast, and play with my animals. Every day I attended five classes, after each class I did an hour of homework, more or less. Although five classes is a lot, I could finish relatively quickly. I usually finished all of my homework by three in the afternoon.

In the United States, there are many homeschooling methods. Parents can teach their children or students can study independently online. I think online schooling is relatively better because parents don't know all subjects, so students can learn them online instead. Although homeschooling is done in many countries, it's extremely popular in America; over one million families homeschool. I am from California where there are the most homeschooled students. Homeschooled student's grades are also often higher than other students.

Apart from student's higher grades, most parents choose homeschooling for other reasons. Some want to use religious texts, others think more free time would be helpful for their children. Homeschooling not only provides a more flexible schedule, but it also gives relatively less homework so students have even more time to spend with family.

I have gone to traditional school and have been homeschooled. They are different from one another. I think that spending time with other students is very important, but my time homeschooling allowed me to grow up alone. I think if people have time alone, then they can become more independent and a more confident. Of course, hanging out with my dogs and cats isn't bad!

Vocab List

在家自學：Zàijiā zìxué - homeschooling
這樣：Zhèyàng - such
長大：Zhǎngdà - grow up
年輕：Niánqīng - young
壓力：Yālì
擔心：Dānxīn - worry
公開演講：Gōngkāi yǎnjiǎng - public speaking
左右：Zuǒyòu - more or less
方式：Fāngshì - method
家庭：Jiāting - family
超過：Chāoguò - more than
一百萬：Yībǎi wàn - one million
分數：Fēnshù - grade
一般：Yībān - general
原因：Yuányīn - reason
宗教：Zōngjiào - religious
自由：Zìyóu - free
成長：Chéngzhǎng - grow up/develop
成為：Chéngwéi - become
獨立：Dúlì - independent
自信：Zìxìn - confident
思想家：Sīxiǎngjiā - thinker
當然：Dāngrán - of course