

Main Text (The essay must be 1 page in English or Japanese)

Essay Title: Lay a solid foundation, and time will come for you to shine

Topic Num.:

Difficult the first time, easy the second. I always believe that. Sometimes, we eager to do something, but somehow, we fail to get our foot in the door.

After graduate school, I was once confused about the future. On the one hand, I admire the successful like Gates who gets ahead through more obstacles, fears, and puzzles. On the other hand, I am afraid to face the unknown challenges or the potential failures. After I saw a film - The Pursuit of Happiness- countless times, I decided to make the first move. I looked for opportunities to study aboard and did a part-time job to support myself. Finally, my efforts were proved to be worthwhile at the time that I got an offer from my current supervisor. It was my first to enjoy the feeling that I broke through myself. Then I knew what all we need was just the courage to take the first step.

When I set my foot on Japanese soil, I truly realized that the distance between the ideal and reality. Life was infinitely more difficult than I'd ever thought. At that time, my Japanese was bad and even could not speak a complete sentence. Whenever I stood in front of a Japanese stuff, my face was mottled red with embarrassment. Language ability, in fact, does not get overnight. The excitement of aboard had made me feel excitement, away from anxiety, misery and the reality of my situation. Accept it and face it. So, I bravely started using disguised Japanese and body language to communicate. At that moment, I understood that taking the first step needed adequate preparation for the following steps. Since I started studying here, I has been almost enthusiastic for my work. However, there was a time that I wanted to quit. Mathematics used to be my major, but my major has been changed into the computer, Therefore, there were a lot of things to learn, including the background of my research and programming skills, which made me like a piece of a paper when others had been a famous painting. I was filled with the stress, despair, and anxiety and I could not sleep well for a long period of time. I realized that I fell into a dark depression, and I was supposed to find a way to relieve the stress. After careful consideration, I applied for a holiday. In the short span of the holiday, I found I was eager to return to the comfort zone. As a result, I began to play badminton when I came back to Japan, creating my new comfort zone. I like badminton, which is the only sport makes me confident, brave, and relaxing. Moreover, I seriously summed up the reasons for this failure and made a research plan. I set aside time to read a high-quality scientific literature once again, just to acquire a better understanding. Each time I read it, I learned different knowledge and took notes. I told myself that I could walk slowly, but I could never stop walking. In this way, day after day, I became more and more convinced of the process and realized what an advantage it was. From these experiences, I found that the first step is not a hasty decision. In March 2017, I completed my first paper about the data center, and the paper has been accepted by IEEE conference which was held in Canada. At that moment, I went wild with joy at the good news. But real life can even be stranger than fiction. When you felt good about yourself, life often made a joke with you. I heard a bad news about my VISA for the IEEE conference. I was refused to travel to Canada. Due to the limited time, I could not try again for the visa to attend the conference. I could do nothing but accept the fact. So, besides the preparation, we also need a bit of luck when we take our first step.

Nowadays, I am over the hump and life returns to normal. With a lot of efforts, I finished my second paper in March 2018 and I really enjoy this kind of works. Although I lack so many things, I still trust in myself, because I believe that the life may always have regretted the future can still be good. All I need is to keep my feet on the ground. Now I am busy to prepare my third paper during the doctorate study period. I thankful for that experience, and so glad being able to help myself. Courage, preparation, plan and a little luck may be steps in the right direction.