

# MOTIVATIONAL STORY FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

**W**ondia Yeo, international student at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) has shared her experience with the analytical reading and expository class: English 113B. Throughout the interview, she recalled her progression in this class and discussed its

impact. She took English 113 A during the previous semester and could automatically see the difference with the current class. Yeo said: “the level is higher and it is a very challenging class because of the large amount of readings required, writings and activities such as blog, research and presentations”. All of this work contributed to her improvement in critical reading and writing in a fun learning environment. It is with excitement that she pointed out interesting activities that she enjoyed doing in her English class. The project Space was one of the great activities that has helped her to grow in terms of information search. The assignment was about to visit a place in Los Angeles (L.A.) and write a description of the place, do a presentation for class, write an essay on the issues related to the place and write an annotated bibliography. She has chosen to go to “Little Tokyo” in Downtown L.A. with her

teammates and she not only learned about what makes a source a good one and how to include it in her writing but she has also learned a lot about the Japanese culture and history which she found agreeable. Moreover, her strengths and weaknesses were revealed through essay writings. Quote analysis, grammatical mistakes, subject agreement and verb tense errors constituted the flaws in her writing. Being aware of this helped her to gradually make less mistakes and improve her grade. However, she is very excellent at writing thoughtful essays and choosing the appropriate evidence for each paragraph. At the end of the semester, she realized that she needs to improve on inserting more evidence and adding more analysis in her papers. She was proud of her last essay because she took into consideration her weaknesses and all the advices from the professor and the S.I.

- **Developing English language skills**
- **Interview with a CSUN student: senior year, Political Science major, attending English 113 B class for Spring 2015.**

MIREILLE W.Y. – REPORTER

leaders. She said that gaining feedback on her essays through peer reviewing from classmates and the S.I. leaders was advantageous. It allowed her to make changes in her paper for the better understanding of the reader. Yeo states: "the peer review activity was important. For my essay about sports, the peer reviewers told me that I need to include examples in the paragraph about the marginalization of women in sports otherwise it does not sound convincing". She did that and her paper looked better. In fact, writers can get different perspectives and interesting ideas from other people who read their papers.

She concluded by mentioning how beneficial English 113B class was for her. It has taught her to take a strong stand while writing and know about the ongoing discussion or controversy about the topic, hence the importance of research. It makes easier to insert a counterargument which gives a great value to the paper. Research also offers an informed point of view which makes people smarter. Also by working in group, she gained team work experience which will be valuable in the future for other classes or work.