

Challenge

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Good afternoon, everyone.

First, I have a question for you. Do you have any motto in your life?

Mine is to always try to challenge everything. Today, I'd like to talk about the three main things that I challenged in these four years and what I learned from those experiences. I am a senior now and I do hope that my experiences can help your campus life and future.

I've been studying English and international communication in Otemae. I like to study English since I was child, so LEO and GJS classes were fun for me. In those classes, I met many people and became good friends. Some are older and some are younger. To become a friend with them, I could know some different knowledge or cultures, especially one of my friends changed me a lot. He was an exchange student from America. He showed me how interesting it is to study abroad, and how important it is to challenge everything. When he left Japan, I promised him that I will study in America. However, I've never study abroad before, so I was afraid a lot about my English and be alone in a foreign country, but I challenged it. First, I went to a short study program in New Zealand. In the first week I became a home sick, and I couldn't use English well, so my heart was broken. However, I remembered about him--he always tried to talk to any Japanese students with his Japanese. So, from the second week, I tried to talk to my classmates with a not-good English and joined some school programs. I made many friends, and I could know how interesting study abroad was. Then two years ago, in this speech contest, I said I would challenge to go to America.

Last year, I did it! I went to America and studied for two terms or for 6 months! During the first term, I was in the second class from the top of ESL, the class for non-native speakers. But I wanted to pass ESL classes and study with native speakers. I asked teachers and some coordinators, but they said, "It's too hard for you. If you can get really high score in two exams, you can take it, but that's almost impossible." However, I didn't give up. I tried to study really hard. I went to the library to study, made a lot of friends and practiced listening and speaking. What's happened? I got 100 score in one of the exam, and I got high score on another exam. When I passed ESL, I was proud of myself. Not only studying, but I worked hard to let people know about Japanese culture as well. When I try some new things, I am always nervous, but the challenge makes me strong.

Second, I belong to the Acoustic Sound Club. To perform something, you need to practice hard. We're supposed to practice every day for three hours. In the freshman year, the club's atmosphere was not good because of the relationship and hard practice. Some members left and actually I wanted to leave too. However, I don't like to run away, so when I became a sophomore, I tried to change the atmosphere. I became a leader and tried to talk every member and had meeting sometimes. The club changed! Now we have good relationship. It was hard at first but from this experience, I learned communication skill and I can sing and play better.

Now, I am challenging new classes. As a senior, I don't have to take many classes but I want to learn many new things. I'm studying tourism and bookkeeping now and they're exciting because they're new to me!

I always chose difficult options. I didn't need to go to foreign country to study, but I did. When I was told that a class is too hard for me, I challenged the idea and passed the exam. When the club was bad, I could leave but instead I changed the club. Under these my situations, I chose the hard way. I believe what someone said, "When life gets harder, challenge yourself to be stronger." I will challenge everything forever. Lastly, I appreciate this university to let me have those experiences. Thank you very much.