

## How My Chinese Grandmother Found Her American Dream | Annotation

	Employs a Public Voice	Advocates Civic Engagement	Argues a Position Based on Reasoning & Evidence	Employs a Structure
<p><b>Title of Student Work:</b> How My Chinese Grandma Found Her American Dream</p> <p><b>Form:</b> Article</p> <p><b>Media:</b> Text</p> <p><b>URL:</b>  <a href="https://youthradio.org/journalism/education/how-my-chinese-grandma-found-her-american-dream/">https://youthradio.org/journalism/education/how-my-chinese-grandma-found-her-american-dream/</a></p>	<p><b>Score:</b> 4 <b>The writing:</b></p> <p>Employs effective rhetorical strategies in support of the goal of presenting the writer’s grandmother as a person whose immigrant experiences are worth understanding. For example, dialogue from an oral history interview is interspersed with the writer’s reflections. The writing reflects a respectful, inquiring, and thoughtful tone. <i>“I couldn’t believe this. I had expected an explanation about a childhood fantasy.”</i></p> <p>Reflects an understanding of the public audience, using vibrant imagery and an emphasis on her of her grandmother’s hard work. <i>“My grandparents opened a restaurant in 1989 in the corner of a small shopping plaza at the center of Madera, California. Since then, my grandma has opened up the lacy curtains to reveal the restaurant’s red interior and simple oriental lanterns every morning with a small smile and wrinkled hands.”</i> Including the photo of herself with her grandmother also effectively helps bring the reader into the story being told.</p> <p>Effectively establishes the writer’s credibility by illustrating how she</p>	<p><b>Score:</b> 4 <b>The writing:</b></p> <p>Effectively raises awareness about the lived experiences of immigrants at a time when immigration policy is a significant civic issue. The writing implicitly advocates for taking the time to talk with people about their immigrant experiences. <i>“Do you know what the American dream is?” I said after a moment. Then, she gave me the longest answer she had given in the whole interview.</i></p> <p><i>“Yes, but before, I didn’t know anything about the American dream. I just wanted to come here to make a better life for my family. I just wanted to make a better life for the next generation.”</i></p> <p>Also effectively raises awareness that people who have immigrated to the U.S. share a basic American value, that, with hard work and ingenuity, success can be found in the United States.</p> <p>Does not make an explicit recommendation for a desired change or action; therefore, we do not evaluate questions of reasonableness and feasibility.</p>	<p><b>Score:</b> 4 <b>The writing:</b></p> <p>Uses effective reasoning, employing historical empathy, as a means of crossing the boundaries of age and experience in search for understanding the choice someone made in another place and time. <i>“Stepping into my grandmother’s shoes, I discovered the amazing strength she had to start a life in America.”</i></p> <p>Thoughtfully selects details from the oral history interview, using the grandmother’s personal experience as evidence, to build an argument about the value of work, reasonably concluding that it is <i>“important to realize the point from which all futures stem: for most Americans it begins with the need to find a job.”</i></p> <p>The title of the piece explicitly connects to an immigrant vision of America. But the writing also implies that understanding the challenges her immigrant grandmother faced is important if we are to appreciate the how ideas connected to this view of America have motivated immigrants.</p>	<p><b>Score:</b> 4 <b>The writing:</b></p> <p>Employs an organization that effectively develops the central point of the piece, the need to understand the immigrant experience through the eyes of an immigrant as a means. The writing integrates powerful vignettes, interview excerpts, and the writer’s reflection on what she learns from her grandmother.</p> <p>Includes a short vignette about her grandparents’ work experiences after immigrating to America that provides a strong and purposeful opening. Concludes with the writer reflecting on the impact of her grandparents’ hard work on her own future, which underscores the significance of this piece., <i>“I know my dream will be much different from my grandmother’s, because I will not have to breathe air polluted by thousands. I will not have to go to sleep hungry at night. I will not have to live in a world where work is all I know and have to think about.”</i></p>

	<p>sought out and listened closely to the words her grandmother had about her immigrant experience. Establishing for the reader, the meaning of those words by recounting the history of her decision to come to America.</p> <p><i>“They saved their money and in 1985 made the leap, arriving at the San Francisco airport ready to create a new life for themselves and their family.</i></p> <p><i>“How did you feel when you first entered the U.S.?” I asked.</i></p>			<p>Artfully (beyond competently) links ideas in the text through incorporating excerpts of the oral history interview throughout the text.</p>
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