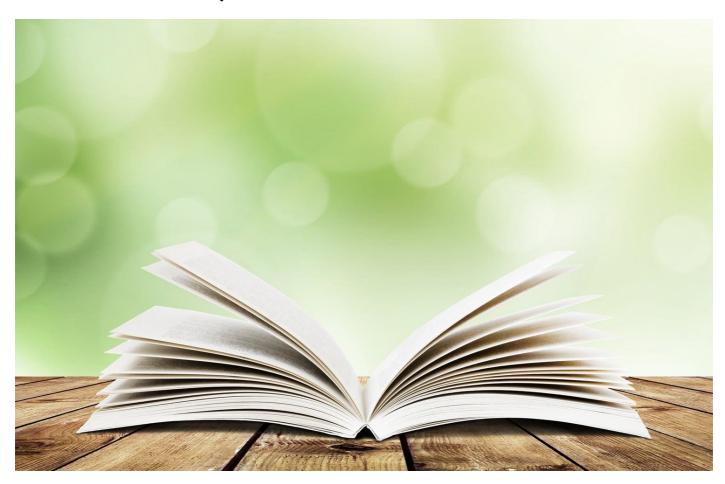
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〈「不做第一,也不做最後」試談談你對這種處世態度的看法。〉

中國的文人騷客自古以來都帶有一種中庸的消極美。感受過「一人之下,萬人之上」百官之首的壓力,苦嘗過「謫戍邊疆,百官之末」的辛酸,總是以「曷不委心任去留」的中庸姿態作結。然而,中庸之道雖美,卻太過消極,歷史的前進、人類的向上,從來都是以勇於為首,敢於為末作為原動力。

歷史的車輪飛馳,登城而望,漫漫塵煙中遙見絕唱史家司馬遷。司馬遷在百官對李陵一片落井下石中為其正名,在游俠義氣已絕的武帝盛世,他勇於當第一,雖慘遭宮刑,卻彰顯俠義之氣。而他的「史家之絕唱,無韻之離騷」更是發凡起例,合五種體例,究天人通古今,成一家之言。其史記不僅逆編年體之流而開紀傳體通史之先河,司馬遷秉筆直書,不虚美隱惡的述史態度也被後世認為是史家絕唱的第一人。若無司馬遷一騎當先,發史記體例之凡,起秉筆直書之例,班固、范曄、陳壽等眾何以記史?惟司馬遷之先河耳。

再上西洋帆船的舺板,輪船後漾漾的漣漪中正漾開居里夫人忙碌的身影。

居里夫人從小家境貧苦,姐姐唯有輟學以供她讀書。為了成為發現鐳的第一人,她曾日以繼夜、「枕戈待旦」,住在滲漏朔風的實驗室裏,每時每刻關注實驗的進展。正是為了做第一,她對鐳的發現躊躇滿志;正是因為勇爭先,她為鐳的發現忍飢挨餓;正是因為敢為首,她的成就令後世的發展日新月異。居里夫人的勇敢探索使她摘得歷史上唯一一個雙諾貝爾獎得主的桂冠。她對第一的渴望,與歷代科學巨人一樣,成為後代可以站立依靠的堅實肩膀,鑄就了現代社會。

在車輪揚起的塵土與帆船漾開的波濤中,可以看見歷代中外偉人,唯有懷鯉魚之心, 方得以躍登龍門。然而,也有些雄鯉魚自甘成為熊之魚肉,任之饕餮,只為讓伴侶能逃過 一劫,順利產卵,以延嗣續祚,也可見甘為後者之偉大。

地震中霎時的天崩地裂還歷歷在目,鋼筋鐵骨驀然灰飛煙滅,一切人類自視甚高的傑作剎那化為雲煙。然地震震得垮樓房,卻震不垮那身軀;地震震得碎幕牆,卻震不碎那心志。雅安地震時的最美教師高玉華,以區區一女子單薄的身軀,吶喊著:「你們快走,我來墊後!」在學生的疏散中,在倒塌樓房的掩映下,這位嬌小的女教師甘為最後,以「雖千萬人,吾往矣」的操守,逆著奔逃的人流,揮灑生命的華章。其為協助學生逃命而屹立到最後的堅勇,雖震怒的天地亦為之失色。

請君再看爬牆比賽,兩班同學同樣面對一堵橫亙在人前的高牆,雖姚明亦不能攀過。 兩班之中的一班面面相覷,另一班有高大雄壯者主動請纓,甘作被全班踏於腳下的根基, 願為最後。最後結果會如何?答案顯而易見。正因為有人擁有願為「最後」的精神,才能 使團隊快速攀躍高牆。最後者乃犧牲者,以一己之力力挽狂瀾,正是勇為末者的貢獻與價值。而人類正因為擁有那看似屈指可數的自甘為末者,才能永世長存。可見勇為第一,敢 做最後,令人類社會不斷向前。

秦隋因爭先稱霸而敗,滿清因腐敗落後而亡。中庸之道,看似正統明舉。可是正因中庸,壓制了千百年來科技的進步,政治的革新;正因中庸,阻遏了千百年來犧牲的勇氣、奉獻的心腸;正因中庸,促使清靜而無為,百家之沉寂。「雖千萬人,吾從之」,千秋萬代的迂腐守舊至此已極,魯迅口誅筆伐的「中國人的冷漠」已無出其右。看似中庸之道,實則拘而多畏。

正因王安石敢做第一,領軍變法,神宗朝宋室國威稍振;正因愛因斯坦不羞於做最後, 成就了二十世紀最偉大之科學家,揭開了宇宙的奧秘。

人類歷史與社會的前進向上,從來都是以「勇於為首,敢於為末」作原動力的。這輛機車,只因總有人在前駕駛引路,在後添油換胎,才能在濤濤歲月中奔馳萬里,歷久彌新。

評語:立論清晰,論據豐富有力,文筆精煉,擅於運用排比、對偶、 對比及引用等。結構井然,說服力強!

〈成長〉

望子成龍、望女成鳳幾乎是每位家長的美好盼望,隨着社會的快速發展,競爭愈趨劇烈,家長都不約而同爭先恐後地為子女報讀不同的興趣班,希望能讓子女「贏在起跑線上」,而子女們就仿如一個空空如也的瓶子,「被逼接受並容納」家長的期望以及各式各樣的安排。

但是家長這些做法是否真的是百利而無一害呢?他們為子女安排活動 以前是否經過深思熟慮或因應子女的興趣、潛力等方面而做出正確的決 策?他們是否有顧及子女的感受及傾聽子女的心聲,並與他們好好溝通後 再一起作決定?

在小孩的成長過程中,記憶及吸收能力是最高最有效率的,這是無可厚非的事實;但當一個人被逼學習自己根本不感興趣的東西,他們會提不起勁去認真學習,也未能取得理想的成績。相反,若能根據子女的個人興趣及愛好去選擇學習的項目,必定能收事半功倍之效。

在這個世界上每個人都是獨一無二的,每個人的志向、興趣、潛力、 學習能力、藝術天分等都不盡相同,故此每個人都應有一套專屬的學習方 案才能夠學有所成,並將自己的才能發揮得淋漓盡致,令自己的成功之路 更加平坦順暢。

台灣巨星周杰倫在學期間,學習成績未如理想,其操行及行為亦屬劣等,但他卻對音樂充滿熱誠,不斷創作及投稿,及後終於因遇見了伯樂而成為巨星。而周杰倫的事例亦就證明了不是讀書不成就必定是一無所成的,只要因應自己的興趣及潛力來努力,最終也能夠闖出屬於自己的一片天空。

我們的下一代並不是一個個任人擺佈的空瓶子,他們亦能夠通過發揮 所長而綻放屬於自己的光彩人生!

評語:內容取材大致切題,輔以名人事例 來說明也見恰當合理。行文通順流暢。





對於「距離」這個詞的定義,在每個人的心目中都有著不同的想法,有人認為保持一定的「距離」對雙方是最好的,如果「距離」拉得太近或太遠,這樣不但會破壞了彼此之間的關係,還會讓對方產生反感或討厭的感覺。我心目中的「距離」是無論在親情、友情、愛情裡,都應該與對方保持適當的溝通,不應該侵犯了對方的隱私,而是給予對方一定的空間,這樣的相處方式才是最舒服、最自在的。就像「刺蝟取暖」的這個故事,牠們因為寒冷而聚在一起,但這會讓對方感覺到不適,感到痛苦。但如果靠自己一個而取暖,不但不會令自己的體溫上升,還會讓自己感到孤單寂寞。相反,如果大家保持着不遠不近的距離,便會感到彼此的體溫,也不會感到孤單寂寞,這個故事讓我知道了與人相處時,應該與對方保持適當的距離,不要死纏爛打,因為這會讓對方感到不舒服,而且更會破壞雙方的感情。例如在日常生活中,我們與家人相處時,要與父母坦白,不應該欺騙父母,但還是要保持自己的一些私人空間,不用甚麼事都跟他們說,這樣就會讓雙方都感到舒適,而且還能得到彼此的尊重,那麼雙方的關係也不會太近或太遠,並能保持最適當的距離。

對友情而言,雖然朋友之間是不應該隱瞞,應該與對方說出自己的心底話,因此會更了解雙方的想法,但是把自己的心底話全都告訴對方,這也不一定能維持彼此之間的關係,而且對方也未必想知道關於自己的事,他們可能會覺得自己很煩,所以不應該把關於自己的事情、想法全都告訴對方,而是在適當的時候才講出自己的想法,這樣對自己、對朋友才是最好的距離。

對愛情而言,「距離」對一對戀人來說也是最重要的。戀人不應該總是管束對方,反而應該給對方一些私人空間,尊重對方的一些想法,不可以把自己的想法套在對方的身上,但是也不可以完全放任對方,讓他想做甚麼就做甚麼這種方法也是不可以的,有甚麼事也應該與對方一起商量,這樣的距離對戀人是最好的選擇。例如一對戀人在相處時,他們不應該老是侵佔對方的隱私,應該給予對方屬於自己的一些私人時間,不需要老是審問對方所做的事情,只要給他一些私人空間以及信任,那他便不覺得壓力,也會很樂意把自己所遇到的事情,生活中的點滴與自己分享。所以戀人之間也是需要保持適當的距離,這樣相處起來才會覺得舒適。

因此,我覺得在親情、友情、愛情之間都需要保持著適當的距離。

評語:內容尚明白、切題,能以生活例子入文,尚能凸顯主題。



〈唐老師〉

唐老師 --- 一位喜歡穿旗袍上班的老師,非常喜愛中國文化。她不喜歡說大道理,但我能從她的言行舉止看得出中國文化的博大精深,源遠流長。這位老師,不太認識她的話,會以為她是從古代來到現代的。

唐老師, 仁也。記得有一次, 我不小心把唐老師的水杯打破了, 事後我呆看着它十五分鐘, 唐老師不但沒有怪責我, 反而說: 「這水杯打破了是必然的事, 它要破碎, 誰也阻止不了, 而且, 這件事情已經發生了, 再怎麼補救也找不回從前的感覺。」她明白我十分內疚, 而我亦能體會她的慈悲和仁愛精神。

唐老師, 我也。有一天唐老師用心地和我補課時,她的電話突然響了起來,她叫了一聲:「三百萬?」我問她發生甚麼事,她說她有朋友發生了很大的事情,需要金錢的支援,我問她會否借給他,她說:「我不會借給他,我會直接給他,不用還。他需要這麼多錢,說明他的生活一定很困難,壓力必定很大,我不想再給予他壓力。」我聽到老師如此有情有義,覺得很感動,令我不禁讚美老師的義氣。

唐老師, **他**也。一天唐老師替我補課後,我們一起搭乘巴士回家。唐老師突然在座位上站了起來,然後讓座給一個老婆婆,如果是其他人,我還會有一絲懷疑他在做戲,但對於唐老師,我非常確定老師這個行為完全是發自內心的一種禮貌:謙讓。她又對我說;「助人為快樂之本,別人受到關心而感到快樂,幫助人的那位也會感到快樂。」

唐老師, 也。有好幾次我發現她說的話都很直接,沒有說過謊話。我問她:「不是善意的話,就算說謊也可以?」她很堅決的回答我;「欺騙人就是不對,甚麼善意的謊話也只是說謊的借口。」雖然我不太認同這點,但我也能感受到她的堅持,她所堅持的一種態度。

從我認識這位老師後,我完全明白中國文化到底是怎麼一回事:有情有義,有忠有禮。果然,中國文化是如此博大精深,難怪老師這麼受學生愛戴。

評語:內容豐富,組織勻稱,例子恰當,詞亦達意。

6A Suen Sen Kit (Green House)

Topic

Your principal has received a donation of a large sum of money for improving the school. She has asked you to give her some suggestions about the donation.

How I suggest spending the donation

It is definitely wonderful news for our school to get a large sum of donation in order to improve our school. I feel honored to be a member of such a lovely, big family and to take the responsibility of suggesting some ways to enhance our school.

First of all, if I get this donation, I will use it to buy some necessities used in PE lessons, such as basketballs, football and badminton equipment. Since these sports equipment are extremely easy to get damaged and some necessities, like badminton and tennis balls get lost easily, it is necessary to get more sports equipment.

Also, I'd like to purchase electronic products, like iPads or smartboards, to enhance our school's use of technology for classroom.

How students will benefit from the improvements

Let me start with the necessities of PE lessons. As we all know, it is the exam-leading education taken by our school in modern days. We are required to sit down and do plenty of exercises and examinations. So it is the most vital mission not only for students but also for school to keep students fit. If there are ample sports equipment for students, then they can have a good time in PE lessons. Exercise can help students get rid of their negative feelings and feel relaxed. Students are able to get stronger both physically and mentally to face every challenge.

In order to give students various ways to learn and make the lessons more fun, purchasing adequate electronic products is important. Students can hold an iPad and do some research by themselves. Besides, it is also a good opportunity to be up-to-date with technological advancements in the education field.

How the school should thank the donor

What the donor did for our school is very generous. I definitely believe a thank-you letter filled with words of appreciation is the best and the most classic way to show how grateful our students are. Also, we can stick the labels written 'donated by ...' on every iPad to show our appreciation.

Comments:

This is a well-organized suggestion form with convincing reasons for improving the school.

6B Kausar Hena (Red House)

The New Year in Pakistan

The Muslim nation of Pakistan celebrates New Year in March according to the Islamic calendar. It is popularly called 'Nawrooz' or in its literal meaning a 'New Day' by Pakistanis.

The moment New Year begins Pakistan is extremely unique and different from any other places on the planet. In the major cities of Pakistan such as Karachi and Lahore, people have exhilarating celebrations. When the clock rings twelve, people celebrate on the streets, fireworks in the air to mark their grand welcome for the New Year. Cities as well as rural parts of the country host cultural festivals, modern day New Year parties, and live concerts which help people forget all their past troubles, and move forward with smiles and cheers. Some major cities in Pakistan also organize fireworks shows, which are set off at midnight.

One prominently followed tradition of New Year involves burning piles of wood, which is symbolizes burning off all the evil energies of the past time. Everyone hopes and prays for a more peaceful, happy, and prosperous future. In rural parts of the country, the New Year celebrations are more intensely and prominently celebrated as it is also the harvest time of the year. Beating drums and lighting oil lamps are symbols of a better future. Therefore, people enthusiastically do it with their heart on New Year.

Resolutions are made, and new aspirations are born. Nawrooz is the time of enthusiasm, optimism, and hope for a more peaceful, and more stable future.

Comments:

This is a well-written article which vividly highlights the attractive features of Pakistani New Year. Well done! Keep up the good work!



6C Tam Kui Chun (yellow House)

Topic

Your principal has received a donation of a large sum of money for improving the school. She has asked you to give her some suggestions about the donation.

Dear Principal,

To improve our school, I would like to offer a few suggestions on how to make use of the donation that our school has recently received.

How I suggest spending the donation

I suggest that the school spends the donation improving the learning environment. First of all, the school can spend money promoting e-learning, so the school can provide more teaching resources. Second, I recommend organizing study trips and exchange programmes. Third, the school can set up different scholarships. The last but not least, with the remaining money, we can buy some new books for the library. I believe all these suggestions are beneficial to students.

How students will benefit from the improvement

By promoting e-learning, students can learn anywhere and anytime so it makes revision easier. Also, e-learning may help relieve the shoulder pain problem among students because if we replace traditional textbooks with e-textbooks, we just need to bring our own tablet to school.

On the other hand, study trips and exchange programmes are good ways for students to get to know more about different cultures. Students who take part in exchange programmes may also become more independent as they have to look after themselves in a foreign country.

Finally, setting up scholarships allows our school to provide financial support for families who are relying on financial aids. It is also a good way to reward students who have outstanding academic achievements.

How the school should thank the donor

In order to thank the donor, I suggest we invite him or her to come to our school and give a speech on how to become successful. Also, we can conduct an interview and publish it in our school magazine to show our gratitude for the donation.

I hope you will consider my suggestions.

Yours sincerely, Chris Wong

Comments:

- Suggestions are well-supported by reasons
- Able to express similar ideas with various sentence structures
- Appropriate use of conjunctions and connectives