

Being Awake, Aware and Alive
Project for Field Trip to Chicago Chinatown 2017-18
By Wei Liu

“The millions are awake enough for physical labor; but only one in a million is awake enough for effective intellectual exertion, only one in a hundred millions to a poetic or divine life. To be awake is to be alive. I have never yet met a man who was quite awake.”

“Morning is when I am awake and there is a dawn in me.... We must learn to reawaken and keep ourselves awake, not by mechanical aids, but by an infinite expectation of the dawn, which does not forsake us in our soundest sleep.”

-- Henry David Thoreau Walden “Where I lived and what I lived for”

This is a project for you to stay “awake” as a person and to experience Chinese architecture, artifacts and garden as well as Chinese food consciously and deliberately. You are going to be aware of: 1. who you are: a high school student from a suburb of Chicago in the United States; 2. what you are doing: try to use camera to record what you know about Chinese culture through buildings, artifacts and gardens as well as Chinese food that you think represent Chinese culture. Pay attention to different time periods and regions in China; 3. how you are going to do it: use your camera to tell a story about one of the four topics in Chinese and English.

Before the field trip, you need to do some research about Chicago Chinatown to explore one of the following topics: its history, buildings’ and garden’s styles, Chinese American museum’s exhibitions and artifacts as well as Chinese food. You will decide in advance what topic you are going to focus on and what subjects you are going to take pictures of. During the field trip, you will have opportunities to take pictures and ask or write down your questions.

After the field trip, you will have a week to compile and write captions for your pictures and turn them in to google classroom on the Friday of the following week after the field trip. We will present the projects on the following Fridays. Through your presentations, you will make Chinese culture and your own field trip experiences alive and meaningful.

Mandarin Chinese Levels I, II, III, IV 2017-18 Field Trip
Waubonsie Valley High School, Aurora, IL
Photovoice of Chicago Chinatown

1.) Guidelines:

Each student needs to turn in a total of 10 photos as well as captions for the photos. Each caption should include the information listed below in both Chinese and English.

1. This is a picture of
2. I took the picture because
3. This picture represents my field trip experience to me because

2.) Content:

The pictures should fit into two of the five categories:

1. Explain history of Chinatown
2. Illustrate Chinese architectural characteristics
3. Images of a Chinese garden
4. Chinese food
5. Museum artifacts (color, shape, size, function, and aesthetic value, etc.)

3.) Language requirements:

Level I use sentences 这是。。。我喜欢因为它。。。

Level II use sentences 这是。。。我喜欢因为它。。。它/他/她/很。。。

Level III use sentences 这是。。。我喜欢因为它。。。它/他/她/很。。。我觉得它/他/她很(不)重要。

Level IV use sentences 这是。。。我喜欢因为它。。。它/他/她/很。。。我觉得它/他/她很(不)重要, etc.