

Challenging Myself in Hokkaido

Hizuru Hashimoto (Kawamata High School)

Since I was in junior high school, I have been interested in studying English. Moreover, I have always wanted to improve my English. As soon as I heard of this Three-day English Skill Up Program, I talked with my family and decided to challenge myself by applying for this course. The teachers gave us some homework. We prepared for the course with the help of our ALT, Mr. Cormac. Although I did the best I could, I was not sure that I could keep up with the other students. Before we went to Hokkaido, I was looking forward to taking this course, at the same time I was nervous, too.

This program made me happy because I was proud of what I achieved, and I enjoyed attending this program with my new friends. During the program, we could experience many kinds of things.

First, I made friends with many students from Hokkaido. They were really nice and friendly to us.

Second, I learned an important thing about presentation. One of the teachers, Mr. Chris told us “Don’t be shy.” “Don’t be afraid.” “Mistakes are OK.” ”Don’t mind.” “Mistakes make us strong.” He repeated and repeated these words many times. I think these phrases are very cool.

Third, what I enjoyed the most was the food in Kuriyama. Everything was delicious! We ate a lot. I heard that Hokkaido is famous for its delicious vegetables, such as corn, onions, pumpkins, and potatoes. They are truly delicious! I like them all.

I will never forget the good times we had together in Hokkaido. Through this program, I learned that English is difficult. However, I can still enjoy learning English. My goal in English is to speak more fluently. In addition, I also want to improve my accent, and intonation.

I will never give up. I will keep studying English and make my dream come true. I can change my future and myself. Anything is possible. I will always try my best. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Learning and Growing Together

Yuka Saito (Kawamata High School)

I took part in the English Communication Program to challenge something new. Before going on this training course, I was very nervous about the thought of speaking English with foreign teachers. Then the teachers gave us some homework, Pre Assignment 1, 2 and 3. I wrote essays about my school and my dream. Though I did the best I could, I was not sure that I could keep up with the other students on the program.

On November 23, we arrived in Kuriyama, Hokkaido. All of the students as well as teachers welcomed us with a big smile. They were very kind and nice people, so my worries were all gone at once. During the program, we could experience many kinds of activities. I learned that mistakes are good. Mistakes are OK. This is what the teachers said to us many times. Before I took part in this program, I was always afraid of making mistakes when I spoke English.

What I enjoyed the most was studying English conversation with the teachers and students from Hokkaido. It was difficult for me to speak in English. I could just speak a few scattered words but not full sentences. After attending this course, now I know I must study English harder.

My goal in English is to speak more fluently. In addition, I want to pay closer attention to my pronunciation, accent, and intonation. I was able to experience the difficulty and pleasure of speaking English and this has motivated me to try even harder. I want to make use of what I learned in this program for my future life and my future career. I will never forget the good times we had together. I made good memories at this English program in Kuriyama, Hokkaido.

Through this English Communication Skill Up program, I learned that English is not always easy for me to learn. Although English is difficult, I can still enjoy learning English. I will never give up. I will keep on studying English and make my dream come true. I can change my future and myself. Anything is possible if you believe in yourself. I will always try my best. Wish me luck.

Broadening my Horizons at English Camp

Yasuyuki Kanno (Kawamata High School)

I took part in the English Communication Skill Up Program for three days in November. Before we went on this training course, I was very nervous about giving presentation in English. To help us prepare, the teachers gave us some homework, Pre Assignment 1, 2 &3. We wrote essays and thought of five questions to ask. I did the best I could with the help of Mr. Cormac, our ALT. I was not sure that I could keep up with all of the other students. When I heard about the English Camp, I became very interested in it. I was very happy to be able to join the English Camp.

During the program, we could experience many kinds of things. In the first lesson, the students from different schools played some ice-breaking games to get to know each other and enjoyed communicating in English. I was impressed that all of the students had to speak in only English during the workshop. It was a useful way to practice English conversation. I learned that mistakes are good. Mistakes are OK. That is what the teachers said. Before I went on this program, I was afraid of making mistakes. Now, I do not mind making mistakes. I feel much more confident in my English ability.

What I really enjoyed the most in Hokkaido was the food. Every dish was delicious, so we ate a lot. I heard that Hokkaido is famous for its delicious vegetables, such as corn, onions, and potatoes. They are truly delicious. I like them all. I also enjoyed making conversation with my new friends. In the room, we stayed up late at night and played card games. Of course, the next day, I was sleepy all day long, but it was fun. I enjoyed studying English conversation with the teachers as well as the students. It was not easy to speak in English. I could only speak a little in English. I could just speak a few words but not sentences. Now I know I must study English harder. I would like to speak more fluently. In addition, I need to pay closer attention to my pronunciation, accent, and intonation to improve my communication skill. One more thing; compared to our hometown, the snow in Hokkaido piles up so quickly that I could not believe my eyes!

Through this program, I learned that English is useful and important. I will keep studying English and make my dream come true. I made many good memories at the English Camp. I will never forget the good times we had together. I could learn many things in English Camp. For example, I learned the importance of communication, and the joy of studying English. I want to join the English Camp again.

Unforgettable Memory in Hokkaido

Yuito Inoue (Kawamata High School)

Five students and I went to Hokkaido to attend the English Communication Skill Up Program. Though we wrote three essays and prepared five questions for the teacher, I was very nervous to take this course and give a presentation in English.

At first, I thought that three days would be very long. However, the time in Hokkaido went by so fast. During the course, I was surprised to hear that mistakes are good. Mistakes are OK. That is what the teacher said all the time. I was afraid of making mistakes before.

What I enjoyed the most was studying English conversation with the teachers as well as the students from Hokkaido. It was difficult for me to speak in English. I could just speak a few words, but not full sentences. Now I know that I have to study English harder.

In addition, I felt that the English lessons were completely different from our usual lessons. Instead of reading and writing using the textbooks, all we did was speak, speak, and speak! It was awesome! One more thing, I was surprised and delighted that I could make myself understood in English. I am proud of myself.

I learned many things through this program. I realized that my English is not good enough and I want to improve my English skills, especially speaking. Nevertheless, I will never give up. I will not quit. One of the teachers said to me, "Don't give up." and "Believe in yourself." These words mean a lot to me.

Therefore, I will keep them in mind and I will try to live my life by this motto every day. If I keep studying, my English will become perfect. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Overcoming my Limits

Yuta Hirayama (Kawamata High School)

I took part in the English Communication Skill Up Program for three days in November. Before we went on this training course, I was very nervous about giving a presentation in English. Before we departed, the teachers gave us some homework, Pre Assignment 1, 2 and 3. We wrote essays and thought of five questions to ask. I did the best I could with the help of Mr. Cormac, our ALT. Still, I was not sure that I could keep up with the other students on the program.

Once this program started, all my worries were gone. Because the other students as well as teachers welcomed us with a big smile. I was impressed that all the students had to speak in only English during the workshop. I realized that my English was not good enough to communicate in English. During the program, we could experience many kinds of things.

I made good friends from Hokkaido. In the first lesson, the students from different schools played some ice-breaking games to get to know each other and enjoyed communicating with each other. They were really nice and friendly to us. As soon as we arrived. Mr. Darryl Wharton-Rigby spoke to me in English. He was very friendly and funny.

What I enjoyed the most is food in Hokkaido. Every dish was delicious so we ate a lot. I heard that Hokkaido is famous for its delicious vegetables, such as corn, onions, and potatoes. They are truly delicious. I like them all. I made many good memories at this English program.

My goal in English is to improve my communication skills. Although I am a little bit shy, I will try to speak to other people as often as possible. In addition, I would like to speak English more fluently. Moreover, I want to pay more attention to my pronunciation, accent, and intonation.

After attending this three-day training course, I think that English is not always easy. During the workshop, I felt that my English was not perfect enough. In addition, I accept that maybe I will keep making mistakes, but that is OK. I will never give up. I will keep studying English and make my dream come true. I can change my future and myself. Anything is possible. I promise that I will always try my best. Wish me luck.

A Life-changing Experience in Hokkaido

Eita Homma (Kawamata High School)

I took part in the English communication Skill Up Program for three days in November. Before we went to this training course, I was very nervous that I would not be able to give a presentation in English. Then the teachers gave us some homework, Pre Assignment 1, 2, and 3. We wrote essays and prepared five questions to ask the teachers. I did the best I could with the help of Mr. Cormac, our ALT. I was not sure that I could keep up with the other students on the program.

Once this program started, all my worries disappeared. Because all of the students as well as teachers were very kind and nice to me. During the program, we had great experiences. Our room was spacious and we could relax there. Therefore, the next day we were not at all tired! In the room, we stayed up until midnight and played the king game and card games. We stayed in an old wooden school. It has been renovated with new doors, windows and bathrooms. The atmosphere was wonderful!

On our first day in Hokkaido in Kuriyama, it snowed all day long. Snow piled up to our knees by the end of the day. Compared to our hometown, the snow in Hokkaido piles up so quickly.

In Hokkaido, the English Lessons were completely different from our usual classes. Instead of reading and writing using a textbook, all we did was speak, speak, and speak! It was awesome. It was a lot of fun studying English conversation with teachers as well as students. In addition, I learned that mistakes are OK. That is what the teachers said. I was afraid of making mistakes. Now, I do not mind making mistakes any more. It was hard to speak in English. I could just speak one or two words but not full sentences. I hated English before. However, in this program I could enjoy speaking and studying English. Now English has become my favorite subject and I want to study English harder. My goal in English is to speak more fluently. Moreover, I want to pay more attention to my pronunciation, accent, and intonation. I made many good memories at this English Program and I will never forget the good times we had together.

Through this program, I found studying English difficult. Though English is not easy, I still enjoy learning English. I will never give up. I will keep studying English and make my dream come true. One of the teachers said to me, "Don't be shy. Don't be afraid". I will always remember these words and try to live my life by this motto every day.

