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**Title:** Relationship between Asian consuming places and social satisfaction of Asian students at UIUC

**About the** “Learn the topic”

**Author:**

I am a Chinese student who is having the first year studying in America. Also, this is my first time living in a multi cultural environment like UIUC which is completely different from my hometown. Before I came here, I thought I would live in a totally American style community and get used to everything in a new way. However, I found out that UIUC contained a lot of different cultures on its campus and many students who were from different ethnic backgrounds. At the same time of getting know many Asian friends here, I realized Asian students’ social satisfaction with lives were diverse though they might come from the same background. What’s more? I noticed that there were some non-ignorable Asian factors on campus contributed to Asian students’ social satisfaction. Thus, I decided to do a research on relationship between Asian consuming places and the social satisfaction of Asian students on campus.

Generally, I focused my research on Asian restaurants and barbershops at UIUC. My initial research questions are: “What’s the relationship between Asian consuming places and the social satisfaction of Asian students at UIUC?” and “How do these places affect Asian students’ satisfaction?” To answer these questions, I used observation, text analysis, and survey to gather data. In the end, I got varied data and found out many interesting results during my analysis. And thanks to the formal students’ research “Korean Grocery Stores Influence on Korean American Identity”, I learned a lot of ideas from it.

**Keywords:** Asian consuming places, social satisfaction, Asian students, UIUC

**Abstract:** Using observation, online survey, and text analysis, this project discovers the relationship between Asian consuming places and the social satisfaction of Asian students at UIUC. By focusing on the Asian restaurants and barbershops, the research shows most of the Asian students are satisfied after consuming in those places. According to the research, style of the food and haircut, and menus and services in native languages are the two most important factors that contributed to the satisfaction of Asian students. The research finding suggests that Asian students at UIUC feel socially

satisfied after consuming in those places. Though there are difference between the Asian restaurants on campus and those genuine ones in Asia, these restaurants still can offer students a feeling of home and thus make them satisfied.

### **Initial Exercises:**

#### **Question:** Research Question Proposal

I would like to explore the relation between Asian students and Asian consuming places in UIUC. I want to focus on barbershops and restaurants. Furthermore, I will explore how these places influence the social satisfaction of Asian students in UIUC.

The first question I want to ask is “What are the roles of Asian barbershop and restaurants on campus to Asian students?”

The second question is “How do these consuming places affect Asian students’ lives in UIUC?”

I am interested in this topic is because I am a member of Asian students here. There are Asian’s behaviors related to these places that I want to explore. Also, I found some similar researches already done by UIUC students, such as “ [Korean Grocery Stores Influence on Korean American Identity](#) ”

I think I will talk to Asian students and American students on campus. The opinions of both ethnic groups are very important to my research. American students can offer great outsiders’ view, and Asian students are typical insiders. In addition, I will interview owners of those consuming places, their experience and ideas are critical to analyze of my observation.

#### **Plan:** Research Plan

First, I would like to do some interview with Asian and American students in UIUC. I want to gather information about their idea about the Asian consuming places on campus. Then, I want to interview some owners of these places about their reasons and experiences in running business in UIUC.

Second, I want to observe Asian students’ daily habits and behaviors which are related to these consuming places. For example, the habit of choosing specific restaurants and the

frequency of consuming in these places will be the main part of my observation.

At last, I will analyze texts I will need to use as my supporting material and references. IDEALS and UIUC library database will be my first choice. I believe former researchers' work on campus race issues would help me a lot in my researching and observation.

**Data:** Appendix I

### Text Analysis

The text I choose is a menu from a Chinese restaurant at UIUC. The restaurant is called EVO, and it has been open on campus for more than 3 years. EVO is a restaurant which sells delicious Chinese spicy food and bubble tea. The menu I acquired from EVO is written in two different languages. One is Chinese, and the other one is Korean.

The title of the menu is Chinese Cuisine. Below the menu, there is the list of Korean and Chinese names of courses. Next to the name of courses, there are prices for the food. Beside some names written in Korean, there are stars showing whether the courses are hot or not. In general, this menu is written in a simply and succinct way, it is not hard for people to read.

What exactly can this menu do? Many people would think this kind of menu won't be a big deal for the restaurant's business. However, it could be. There are many restaurants on campus. No matter they are Chinese or not, they have one thing in common---they all have English menus. Of course, I suppose almost every student or resident at UIUC should be able to speak and read English. Thus, an English menu can actually help customers get what they want. But there is a problem we should never miss. It's the problem of accuracy of English translation. We all know that usually foreign restaurants here use directly translations in English to write the courses' names. When traditional courses are translated in English, they usually will be odd. The problem is obvious to Chinese and Korean food. Sometimes, I can't even recognize my favorite food's name because I don't understand the English meaning at all. In this case, this menu can totally solve the understanding problem for Korean customers. It can help Korean students not only find their favorite food, but also avoid having

something they really dislike.

From this menu, you can see the attitude of EVO, too. It won't be hard for EVO to translate menu in Korean and any other foreign language. However, not many foreign restaurants on Campus are doing so. Chinese and Korean share a lot of culture and tradition in food since a long time ago. Chinese and Korean know their wonderful food's name in each other's language. EVO's menu can build a comfortable eating environment for Korean as soon as they see the Korean name of courses. After all, not many Korean or other non-Chinese students will feel pleased to eat in a totally Chinese environment with course names they haven't heard before. Though, the food may taste very good. Also, according to the static offered by UIUC, there are three hundred and eleven Korean Freshman enrolled in fall of 2008. This is forty-five percent of the population of international freshman last year. Obviously, it is necessary to offer comfortable menu for this large consuming group, too.

My research is related to social satisfaction of Asian students to Asian consuming places on campus. I remember that I went to a Korean cafe for karaoke couple month ago. My friends and I were very surprised to see that the cafe had not only Chinese songs, but also Chinese menu for songs. This really intrigues me to analyze the menu. I believe this menu's function and influence can be very important samples for my observation and survey. This Analysis from the menu can help me understand the data and result from my survey.

Reference:

UIUC Undergraduate Library statics  
<http://www.dmi.uiuc.edu/stuenr/>

Appendix II

Observation

Red Hair is the first place I observed. It is a barbershop operated by Asians. It is located on Sixth Street on campus. It is a perfect Asian consuming place for my research.

In Red Hair, there are usually 2 female barbers in the shop. One of

them is from China, and the other one is from South Korea.

I took my observation on a Monday's afternoon. I walked in the shop, and sat at the table waiting for my appointment. There were four male Chinese students already waiting for haircut. The Chinese barber was cutting another male Chinese student's hair. However, obviously, the Korean barber was not there as she should be. During my waiting, there were several phone calls. Most of them were from Korean customers, and they were all about making appointments with the Korean barber. Then, the Chinese barber explained that the Korean barber was back to Korea for family issue, and thus Korean customers had to wait for a week for services. It explained why the Korean barber wasn't on duty. Nevertheless, after finding out that the Korean barber wasn't in service, none of the Korean customers made any appointment. The Chinese students were chatting while waiting. The Indian lady was reading newspaper at the same time. On the table, there were many fashion magazines. Most of them were in Korean. I think they were used for Korean customers to read during waiting for the cut. After the haircuts, the Chinese students were very satisfied with their new hair styles and left excitedly. Then, the barber gave me the haircut and finished soon. At last, I paid the 16-dollar bill and I realized that the price of cutting in Red Hair was cheaper than those in other western barbershops on campus. Also, I left 4-dollar tip to the barber.

Red Hair has very busy and productive business. Usually there are two main groups of customers---- Chinese and Korean. Of course, American and other Asian students have haircuts in Red Hair sometimes, too. From the observation, I think barbers' ethnic identities are crucial to the consumers' decisions. For example, though Korean and Chinese are two different Asian ethnic groups with close relationship, Korean consumers still tend to enjoy haircuts from Korean barber more. Thus, they would like to wait for Korean barber to be back at the cost of waiting one more week. So will Chinese consumers, I believe. Apparently, receiving services from Asian and especially their own ethnic barbers will bring Asian customers the most satisfaction.

In addition, I think there is another reason why Asian customers like to have haircuts in Red Hair. It is the price. Comparatively, the price is cheaper in Red Hair than in other western barbershops. I think it is because Asian's culture in handicraft industry which

makes barbers willing to offer services at lower price. This is why after I had the haircut I was so satisfied that I gave a 4-dollar tip to the Chinese barber. Not only because she was from China, but also the price is already not bad to me.

This observation shows the relationship between social satisfactions of Asian consumers on campus and the Asian barber shop. By doing a survey on students' opinions, I can know more about how Asian consuming places satisfy Asian students and influence their consuming decisions.

### Appendix III

#### Survey

My research is about "the relationship between Asian consuming places and Asian students at UIUC" My last action for my project is survey and it was conducted online. I got 46 responses from UIUC current students.

My survey questions and format are showed below:

This survey is for my RHET 103''''s research. My project is about "the relationship between Asian consuming places and the social satisfaction of Asian students on campus" I focus my research on the Asian restaurants and barbershops on campus. So, the questions below are all about places at UIUC. I will be very appreciated if you can be a part of my survey.

What's your gender? Male) Female)

1. Do you usually go to Asian restaurants? Yes) No)
2. Do you usually go to Asian barbershops? Yes) No)
3. Are you satisfied after consuming in those places?

Usually not satisfied)

Usually basically satisfied)

Usually very satisfied)

4. Why are you satisfied with those restaurants? (Please pick 2

options at most):

Option1. Menus and services in native language)

Option2. Reasonable prices or relatively low prices)

Option3. Favor in the food styles of those restaurants)

5. Why are you satisfied with those barbershops? (Please pick 2 options at most):

Option1. Reasonable prices or relatively low prices)

Option2. Favor in their haircut styles)

Option3. Locations on campus)

6. How do those places contribute to your social satisfaction?

Not at all) Normal) A lot)

Among the 46 Asian students, there are 24 male students and 22 female students. Among them, 41 students chose “Yes” in the first question. I have to say I have expected that because you can always see Asian restaurants are full of Asian students if you step on the Green Street. However, only 12 students usually go to Asian barbershops on campus and they are all male. I think this is because usually haircut is not as expensive in Asian countries as here. Usually a haircut here without tip is 18 dollars, but it only cost less than 2 dollars back to my hometown in China. On the other side, as we all know girls don't need to go to barbershops a lot for cuts.

The third question is about satisfaction, 28 students chose “Usually basically satisfied” and 15 students chose “Usually very satisfied”. We can see that most of the students are at the satisfied level after consuming. I think because of the difference in Asian food between restaurants at UIUC and those back to Asian countries, students' satisfaction are decreased to a certain extent. Then I asked why they are satisfied. For the restaurants, only 5 students chose “ Reasonable prices or relatively low prices ”. Apparently, most of the students are not satisfied with the prices. Because food is not exactly the same as it is in Asia and the prices are higher than those in hometown, it is reasonable for over half of the

students chose “Usually basically satisfied”. In addition, 40 students chose “ Favor in the food styles of those restaurants ” and 28 students chose “ Menus and services in native language ”. It is very interesting to see that though many students are usually not very satisfied with the food in restaurants here, the food style and the feeling of traditional food in hometown are still crucial to students’ satisfaction. Moreover, menu in native language as the example I took for my text analysis is an important factor to the satisfaction of those students. Eating under a native cultural circumstance can let students enjoy more and feel cozier during the meal. To question 5, all the male students chose the “ Favor in their haircut styles ” as their reason for satisfaction. I personally understand this because the first time I had my haircut at UIUC was in a western style barbershop and I had to wear a cap for the next 2 weeks. The western haircut style really doesn’t look good on Asian’s head. Also, 5 male students chose the price as a factor too. Though I mentioned the price for haircut is higher than it is in Asia, the price in Asian barbershop is actually cheaper than it is in Western barbershop from my observation.

At last, 24 students chose “normal” and 18 students chose “a lot” for the last question. This question is very critical to my whole research. From the number we can see that these Asian consuming places can’t be ignored when considering the social satisfaction of Asian students. It is true those Asian restaurants at UIUC are not as good as those in Asia, but they still bring students certain amount of satisfaction. To many of the students, the joy from consuming in these places is a great deal in their satisfaction with the community at UIUC. I believe these places help Asian students especially those who are first time study in USA enjoy the social life while having a busy studying one.

#### Discuss: “Background Time”

According to [Divison of Management Information](#) of UIUC (3/12/2009), 64.6% of international students enrolled in 2003’s fall were from Asia, 67.8% were from Asia in 2006’s fall, and 73.3% were Asian in 2008’s fall. From the statistic, we can see that the population of Asian students on campus has increased a lot in the last 5 years. Meanwhile, “ Postgraduate International Students from Asia: Factors Influencing Satisfaction ” reported that the growth in the *international* education market within the next two decades will be dominated by *Asia*. It thus becomes more important to learn

about Asian students' social satisfaction. Basically, I chose to study how consumptions in Asian restaurants and barbershops influence Asian students' social satisfaction. As a result, the satisfaction in my research refers to the Asian students' satisfaction after them having meals in Asian restaurants or haircuts in Asian barbershops.

“Consuming in real life”

On the afternoon of March 30<sup>th</sup>, I walked into Red Hair of my haircut. Red Hair is a barbershop operated by Asians. It is located on Sixth Street on campus. I have to say it is a perfect Asian consuming place for my observation. There are usually 2 female barbers in the shop. One of them is from China, and the other one is from South Korea.

The shop was very clean and tidy. There was no hair on the ground because barbers cleaned the floor after a haircut every time. On the right side of the shop were 4 barber chairs and 4 mirrors. On the other side, there were 2 round table and several chairs for customers to rest. Everything placed in the shop was in order. There were four male Chinese students already waiting for haircuts before I arrived. The Chinese barber was cutting another male Chinese student's hair. However, obviously, the Korean barber was not there as she should be. During my waiting, there were several phone calls. Most of them were from Korean customers, and they were all about making appointments with the Korean barber. Then, the Chinese barber explained that the Korean barber was back to Korean for family issue, and thus Korean customers had to wait for a week for services. It explained why the Korean barber wasn't on duty. Nevertheless, after finding out that the Korean barber wasn't in service, none of the Korean customers made any appointment. The Chinese students were chatting while waiting. The Indian lady was reading newspaper at the same time. On the table, there were many fashion magazines. Most of them were in Korean. I think they were used for Korean customers to read during waiting for the cut. After the haircuts, the Chinese students were very satisfied with their new hair styles and left excitedly. Then, the barber gave me the haircut and finished soon. At last, I paid the 16-dollar bill and left 4-dollar tip to the barber.

It was not my first time having haircut in Red Hair. And I have to say I really enjoy it every time because the Chinese barber's cutting

style totally fits me. This observation was the first field activity I did for my research.

The most interesting thing I found is the influence of barbers' ethnic backgrounds. Usually, people would like to get familiar with a specific barber as a result to make their future consumption in the same place convenient and comfortable. To Asian students, they like to choose barbers who are closest to their own ethnic backgrounds. For example, a Chinese barber may have the same skill and style with a Korean barber, but Korean students would still choose the Korean one while the Chinese one might charge less. From my observation, we can see exactly how the ethnic backgrounds worked. The Korean customers would rather wait for a week than have haircuts by a Chinese barber without waiting so long. I would make the same decision because I really felt cozy and at ease when chatting with the Chinese barber during my haircut.

Apparently, Asian students care a lot about the style and ethnic backgrounds of barbers. Barbers' ethnic backgrounds can affect customers' satisfaction and even influence their consuming decision. Because of my observation, I realized that Asian restaurants and barbershops were usually very busy and productive places. Thus, I decided to do a survey instead of interviews as I planned at first. Though interviews might help me to know how students thought about those places, I believed survey could gather more information about the factors of those places that contributed to Asian students' social satisfaction.

“Let numbers tell the truth”

The next step is survey. To follow my observation, I conducted an online survey on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009. I designed 6 questions in the survey and planed to get around 40 responses from Asian students at UIUC. At last, I was very excited about receiving 53 responses. I appreciated the participations of all the students who answered me. Below are my survey questions and the number of responses for each question.

What's your gender? Male) 31 Female) 22

1. Do you usually go to Asian restaurants? Yes) 48 No) 5

2. Do you usually go to Asian barbershops? Yes) 13 No) 40

3. Are you satisfied after consuming in those places?

Usually not satisfied) 3

Usually basically satisfied) 32

Usually very satisfied) 18

4. Why are you satisfied with those restaurants? (Please pick 2 options at most):

Option1. Menus and services in native language) 29

Option2. Reasonable prices or relatively low prices) 7

Option3. Favor in the food styles of those restaurants) 45

5. Why are you satisfied with those barbershops? (Please pick 2 options at most):

Option1. Reasonable prices or relatively low prices) 8

Option2. Favor in their haircut styles) 13

Option3. Locations on campus) 5

6. How do those places contribute to your social satisfaction?

Not at all) 3 Normal) 27 A lot) 23

Among the 53 Asian students, there are 31 male students and 22 female students. To the first question, I have to say I have expected that because you can always see Asian restaurants are full of Asian students if you step on the Green Street. However, only 12 students usually go to Asian barbershops on campus and they are all male. I think this is because usually haircut is not as expensive in Asian countries as here. Usually a haircut here without tip is 18 dollars, but it only cost less than 2 dollars back to my hometown in China. On the other side, as we all know girls don't need to go to barbershops a lot for cuts.

The third question is about satisfaction. We can see that most of

the students are at the satisfied level after consuming. I think because of the difference in Asian food between restaurants at UIUC and those back to Asian countries, students' satisfaction are decreased to a certain extent.

After reviewing my 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> question, I found that style and language of the services are the most important factors to the satisfaction of Asian students after consuming.

For the forth question, most of the students are not satisfied with the prices. Because food is not exactly the same as it is in Asia and the prices are higher than those in hometown, it is reasonable for over half of the students chose "Usually basically satisfied". In addition, 40 students chose " Favor in the food styles of those restaurants " and 28 students chose " Menus and services in native language ". Though many students are usually not very satisfied with the food in restaurants here, the food style and the feeling of traditional food in hometown are still crucial to students' satisfaction. Food can always produce a smell in hometown. Moreover, menu in native language as the example I took for my text analysis is an important factor to the satisfaction of those students.

To question 5, all the male students chose the " Favor in their haircut styles " as their reason for satisfaction. I personally understand this because the first time I had my haircut at UIUC was in a western style barbershop and I had to wear a cap for the next 2 weeks. Though I mentioned the price for haircut is higher than it is in Asia, the price in Asian barbershop is actually cheaper than it is in Western barbershop from my observation.

For the last question, from the number we can see that these Asian consuming places can't be ignored when considering the social satisfaction of Asian students. It is true those Asian restaurants at UIUC are not as good as those in Asia, but they still bring students certain amount of satisfaction. To many of the students, the joy from consuming in these places is a great deal in their satisfaction with the community at UIUC.

"Not just menus"

From my forth survey question, Menus and services in native language are very critical to the satisfaction of Asian students. So,

do those menus just simply serve as menus? To answer that question, I did a text analysis about a menu I retrieved from a Chinese restaurant.

This menu is from EVO. EVO is a restaurant which sells delicious Chinese spicy food and bubble tea. It is also located on Six Street. The menu I acquired from EVO is written in two different languages. One is Chinese, and the other one is Korean.

The title of the menu is Chinese Cuisine. Below the menu, there is the list of Korean and Chinese names of courses. Next to the name of courses, there are prices for the food. Beside some names written in Korean, there are stars showing whether the courses are hot or not. In general, this menu is written in a simply and succinct way, it is not hard for people to read.

What exactly can this menu do? Many people would think this kind of menu won't be a big deal for the restaurant's business. However, it could be. There are many restaurants on campus. No matter they are Chinese or not, they have one thing in common---they all have English menus. Of course, I suppose almost every student or resident at UIUC should be able to speak and read English. Thus, an English menu can actually help customers get what they want. But there is a problem we should never miss. It's the problem of accuracy of English translation. We all know that usually foreign restaurants here use directly translations in English to write the courses' names. When traditional courses are translated in English, they usually will be odd. The problem is obvious to Chinese and Korean food. Sometimes, I can't even recognize my favorite food's name because I don't understand the English meaning at all. In this case, this menu can totally solve the understanding problem for Korean customers. It can help Korean students not only find their favorite food, but also avoid having something they really dislike.

In a word, menus in native languages are not just menus. They help Asian students enjoy the meal without having trouble in ordering. They can create a native ordering and speaking environment and thus attract more Asian students. Meanwhile, those menus help Asian students see the attitudes of those restaurants which contribute to the satisfaction of students, too.

“Time to review”

Look back to all the data and results I got, I am surprised myself. Observation, survey, and the text analysis really answered my research questions. From my observation, I found that the ethnic background of a barber could really affect Asian students consuming decision. The results of the survey and text analysis showed me that style of the haircut and food, and the menu and services in native languages were the 2 factors which made students satisfied after consuming in those places. Reported by “ Are We Satisfied: A Look at Student Satisfaction with Diversity at Traditionally White Institutions. ”, Asian students are very sensitive to the satisfaction about the living community. After analyzing my data, I know that Asian consuming places like restaurants and barbershops really contribute a lot to Asian students’ social satisfaction in this cultural diverse community at UIUC. Their styles of the services make up the difference between them and those consuming places back to Asia. At the same time of studying abroad intensely, Asian students can find a smell of home in Asian restaurants and have appropriate haircuts in Asian barbershops on campus.

To be honest, this is my first time doing a research. I am sure there are many places I need to improve for my paper. What I found very hard is that there are not many resources are related to my research. Because not many researches are related to my topic, I can barely find enough sources to support my research. I hope I can improve my searching skill so that I can do better next time. In addition, I thought I should learn more about analyzing thus my overview of data can be more clear and pertinent.

EUI Links: [Worrasangasilpa, Brian](#) . “Korean Grocery Stores Influence on Korean American Identity”

IDEALS @ Illinois , retrieved on March 21, 2009.

< <http://www.ideals.uiuc.edu/handle/2142/1008> >

This project is about whether Korean grocery stores can represent a specific idea of Korean American identity on campus. Meanwhile, it also studies how Korean grocery stores influence the formation of identity of Korean American. In this project, author tried to give answers to these questions: How do spaces such as Korean grocery stores interact with the Korean American community and

help to influence Korean American identity? Why do they shop there and what do they buy? What is the significance of food in Korean culture? I am researching the relationship between Asian consuming places and social satisfaction of Asian students at UIUC. The answers to the questions above and the procedure that authors used in the research report can give me a lot of useful supply material.

[Prevezer, Alice](#). "The Asian American Cultural Center: Its Role and Purpose at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign"

DEALS @ Illinois , retrieved on April 15, 2009.

<<http://hdl.handle.net/2142/3634> >

This research on AACC gives us the overview of this Asian culture center's objects, roles and impact on Asian students at UIUC. This project shows how AACC aims to promote pan-Asian American identity and unity through educational, social, and cultural programs as well as helping students interact with each other on campus. Its conclusion is there is a good social atmosphere at the center, and students are able to learn and socialize in a friendly environment. This work on AACC can help me compare the difference between how Asian consuming places and culture center influence Asian students' satisfaction and feeling at UIUC. Thus, I can find out whether Asian consuming places affect Asian students in a particular way or not.

**Reflect:** Personal Reflection of Research project

My project is about the relationship between Asian consuming places and social satisfaction of Asian students at UIUC. I spent 2 months on it. It is the first research project I have ever done in my life.

First of all, I want to say that I am very proud of the topic I chose. Though the project needs to be related to race, I don't think this requirement narrowed the range of topics we could choose. Because I am an Asian students and living with many Asian friends every day, topics about Asian students' social life can fit my project very well. Meanwhile, I could do my research easier as I am a member of the Asian community on campus. After reading some former researches done by Asian students of our university, I

decided my topic and knew I could write a lot about it.

In addition, survey is what I think I did pretty well. As a result of large population of Asian students on campus, I am able to know a lot of Asian students from various student associations and culture centers. At the very beginning, I thought I should do some interviews as my research activities because I could collect a lot of detailed data from the people I knew. However, after I learned more about research methods from the class, I realized that my project could be better with a survey. As I knew many Asian students, doing a survey could let me gather enough data faster and more easily. Thus, I used the internet to conduct an online survey. I got 46 responses in a night and 53 responses total at last. I am proud of the survey I did because it makes my analysis more objective and reliable.

Reading my [research paper](#) again, I think many things have strengthened my writing. I believe my organization is clear and simple, my introduction is explicit, and titles of all the sections can let readers know what they are looking at. However, I have to say there are some weaknesses I need to improve in the future, too. Though I said the survey would help me more than interviews in my research, I would like to do some interviews if I had enough time. It is because survey can give me a general view of the satisfaction of students, but interviews can let me know how exactly Asian students think of those Asian restaurants and barbershops. If I could combine both survey and interviews in my research, my analysis would be more complete and balanced. Also, I need to improve on searching and utilizing sources. To be honest, I didn't use many references in my [research paper](#). One reason for that is because there aren't many former researches similar with mine. It was hard for me to find supporting material I felt like to use. Another reason I think is because my skill of looking for sources isn't mature yet. I think not all of the sources I used in this project are useful. I will improve my searching skill as I am going to learn more about writing.

Well, how could I miss our course while talking about what has benefited my research? RHET 103 is one of the best courses I have taken in the university so far. Before entered in this course, I was still not confident about my reading and writing skill. Also, I wasn't used to talk voluntarily in front of the class before I joined this course. Now, after interacting with my instructor and classmates, I

won't try to avoid writing or talking in front of many people.

At the beginning of the course, I almost decided to drop it as I was informed there would be a research project for this course. I was afraid that I couldn't do well or even start it because I had never done a research before. To my surprise, my instructor was extremely nice and patient to the class. Her excellent instruction gave me confidence to stay in the course and start my first research project. I learned how to conduct my research, how to organize my paper and how to analyze the data. On the other hand, because this was a composition course, I realized that I had many skills needed to improve after I read the comments for my journals. For example, I used to write a lot of long and confusing sentences in my essays. Now, I barely make that mistake while writing my paper.

Another impressive experience I want to mention is the EUI conference I attended. Thanks to my instructor for giving me this opportunity, I really enjoyed presenting my project in front of students who were doing the similar research. I also learned a lot from those students' presentation at the same time. After this conference, I realize that having a project is not only about conducting it and getting a conclusion, but also sharing it with other people and learning from their ideas.

At last, I want to thank all my classmates. Their comments for my reports and suggestions during my research are really helpful to me. Without their company for the whole semester, I don't think I can achieve so much at the end of the semester.