

## Reflection 2: Caitlyn Krueger

Since arriving in Beijing China, it has been an eye opening experience. The endless sea of people along with the hustle and bustle of everyday life is somewhat overwhelming at first and has caused me to think about the different systems and lifestyles we have in the United States in comparison to China. I really enjoyed meeting and talking to the people and students at Chinese Agriculture University. I've gained an insight as to how they communicate, what they do in school, what they eat, and how they interact with others. I am truly amazed at how well the students and citizens of China have accommodated us and are always willing to help.

I cannot help but think about how sometimes in the U.S. we may judge someone of a different nationality and say things like "they are in America, why don't they just speak English?" I think about my current experience here in China when I am trying to talk to someone who does not understand me and now I appreciate how helpful they are when it comes to communication. I believe we tend to take for granted the simplicity of communication with others. When faced with ordering food or bartering for an item at stores in China it is challenging, but after practicing it is becoming easier and I feel more confident in communicating in spite of the language barrier.

Another part of the trip I have found interesting is their schooling process. For example, in the U.S. we have many choices when it comes to picking a career field. In China all students must take a college entrance exam similar the U.S. However, based on the exam score in China students are then placed into a career field that may have not been their ideal choice.

I believe that everything I have experienced so far will carry on into my future career as an elementary teacher. I plan to gain a better understanding of what some of my students are going through, especially if they are attending school as a foreign student. When I am able to understand my students and they are able to understand me, learning will take place.

Sincerely,

Caitlyn Krueger