Amon McGuire

This I Believe Speech

There's always something you don’t know about in this world. There’s always a new perspective to peer through. There will always be new experiences to discover and knowledge to uncover. I lived in Saipan my whole life until I had to move to China when I was 12. I was strongly against moving to China. Saipan is my home, it’s where my friends and family live. My perspective of China was not that great at all. I thought it was just a country with overcrowded polluted cities with people manufacturing cheap plastic merchandise. It was not until I got used to living in China, when it made me realize that it’s not so bad. The first times the worst, I had horrible grades in chinese class and I hated the culture. For example, people would let their children crap and piss on the middle of a sidewalk or on the grass at a park, it’s as if the children were the parent’s dog. People played their movies out loud without earphones and drove on the wrong side of the road! Although it felt like I was in a zoo and the animals were the ones watching us, eventually everyone adapts. My chinese got better, wo shuo zhong wen zen de hen hao. I also learned that the chinese culture, isn’t that bad. Most Chinese people overall are actually very tolerable to idiots like me who have no clue about what's going on. Furthermore, I started to enjoy going to an international school. I made some great friends from around the world, it opened me up to what it was like to make completely new friends with drastically different lifestyles than I was used to. When I came back to Saipan after living in China for 3 years, I felt no regret at all. Although I felt a lot less ignorant, moving to China also taught me that I really don’t know how the world is. It doesn’t matter if you take a geography class or look at videos online. New experiences and perspectives develop as you take the chance to learn or do something out of the ordinary. I believe that it is imperative to keep an open mind, it allows you to discover things you never knew you liked to do. It allows you to relate to different perspectives. Why is perspective so important? Imagine your dog making a mess and you get mad at your dog. Take a minute to be in its perspective, it doesn’t know what he’s doing, he just wants to have fun. This allows you to understand other people's emotions and actions. When you discover how something works, like how to manufacture a car or experience what getting a broken bone is like, you start to have a deeper appreciation for it. Our perspectives shape how we act and react to situations. This is why I believe that there’s always something you don’t know about, there’s always something to discover.