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### Thriving in a Sea of Change

Choosing to study abroad is one of the most significant decisions I have ever made in my entire life. There are many challenges and difficulties in every aspect of my life that I need to overcome. It requires a lot of efforts and perseverance to adapt to and thrive on a new culture in a different country.

On July 8, 2018, with the support and blessing from my teachers and my beautiful vision of my education and a new life in the United States, I embarked on an adventure to LAX Airport from Peking International Airport.

After I arrived in Los Angeles, I took a ride to my new apartment which I selected on a website called Zillow. Getting away from the uproar of downtown Los Angeles, I saw many defined and nice-looking Spanish style houses. They were really magnificent and fabulous. Finally, I arrived at my place. I was looking forward to living in my new home in Orange County and starting a new exciting life.

My new home in Orange County is fantastic and has a yard, and even the street's name is so beautiful, called Gentle Breeze. It is a tranquil and nice street. I settled down and unpacked my handful luggage. Because of my timely schedule, I was very exhausted and slept in my first lovely night in Orange County. On the second day, I went to buy some decorations in order to make my home more comfortable and to improve life quality. This

was my first-time speaking English with native speakers in the United States.

My new school is called JSerra Catholic High School, which was established in 2003. The campus is really pretty and has plenty of resources. However, in my first week, my grades were not ideal, and I was falling behind in every subject because of language and cultural differences. In order to solve this problem, I asked for help from some senior Chinese students. They told me to frequently ask teachers questions and put more efforts in class and at home in order to improve my grade. Therefore, I often went to discuss with my teachers about how to become a successful student. Moreover, I became more concentrated on studying and spent extra time after school working on my homework and asking teachers questions about my confusion of class content. Eventually, I can understand more in the class and start to catch up with my peers. I greatly appreciate the support and kindness which I received from my upperclassmen and my teachers. I will continue to try my best to thrive in the United States.