BRIDGES ESL

Fall 2015 Student Anthology

Yale University, New Haven, CT

Featuring works by our students:
Liping Yang ♦ Fernanda Lemos ♦ Alysson Tavares Moreira ♦ Jheiros Michael Arias Rios
♦ Jun Zhang ♦ Shubhangi Shende ♦ Galina Batarina ♦ Martha Villamil ♦ Manuel Ramirez ♦ Angela Rios ♦ Tomoko Sekine ♦ Zhenbiao Yang ♦ Carina Velloso ♦ Huizi Huang ♦ Jian Chen ♦ Jose Malitasig ♦ Oiong Wang ♦ Natalia Lysa
My Feelings at Yale
By Liping Yang       Tutor: Alyssa Patterson

In the middle of August, I came here from China. Once I stepped onto the campus, I felt it was a beautiful and sacred place. I am fascinated by the buildings.

At the beginning, too many things needed to be handled. First, I have to decorate a relatively comfortable residence and prepare necessary food for us. I do not have the driving license approved by America. One of my colleagues told me that Yale shuttle is great. Near my residence, there are two lines of shuttles, one is red line and the other is blue line. Riding the blue shuttle, I could arrive at the Hong Kong grocery where many Chinese foods are supplied. By the blue weekend shuttle, I could go to the Stop & Shop where fresh vegetables, fruits, meat, eggs and milk are provided. Certainly, some little furniture could also be bought in the two stores. I feel without a car, the necessary life is completely no problem here.

Then, I enrolled in the OISS (Office of International Students and Scholars) center. The officers were kind. Many resources, such as transportation, shopping, library, social activities and safety instruments, were introduced in the welcome lecture. After several days, I received my Yale net Identification card. It has many functions. For example, I can enter some school and library buildings directly without ringing the doorbells like before. For me, the main function of the Yale card is that I have the qualification to browse and search literatures. There are enormous electric resources in Yale library, including audio and video data. I feel it is a good chance for me to learn advanced and worldwide knowledge at Yale.

Time flies. The school year began in September. There are three courses suitable for me to learn in the fall semester. The statistic professor has often introduced the detailed calculate formulas of many theories. The epidemiology professor likes to describe some methods using examples published in journals. The SAS program lecturer gives us a lot of data and programs to show how to operate them correctly on the computer. During lessons, the communication and interactivity between the teacher and the students is frequent. If one student has some questions, he or she will put his or her hand up, and once they obtain permission from the teacher, they can ask their questions to the teacher. Of course, the teacher posts his office hours for students with questions. If a student has some urgent questions, he can send an email to the teacher. In addition, the teacher often uploads the lecture contents in the format of a PDF on Yale Classes*V2 one day before the lecture time. Therefore, it is convenient for students to take notes during the course. I think we should learn these teaching models in China.

Last but not least, I feel that Yale is a quiet and cozy place suitable for doing research.
New Haven from a foreign perspective
By Fernanda Lemos  Tutor: Caderyn Owen Jones

I remember it as if it were yesterday when I arrived in New Haven for the first time. I had never been in the U.S. before and fear and excitement were filling my heart. It was a warm and sunny day in New Haven when I saw the beautiful and huge entrance of the School of Medicine. I admit that until now I had spent a lot of time contemplating this great symbol of status and education.

Unlike Belo Horizonte, my hometown in Brazil, New Haven is a small city where the University is in the center of everything. I mean that Yale and New Haven are so connected that is difficult to dissociate one institution from the other. In comparison, Belo Horizonte is a city with more than 1.5 million inhabitants, and the University where I graduated is only an isolated point in a place full of inequities and crazy routines. It is undeniable that the change of environment provided me an extraordinary quality of life. Going everywhere in the city using only bikes or public transportation, living close enough to go to the lab by walking and having all of the support services that Yale offers are some advantages of living in New Haven. Besides these, a variety of cultural events have been a benefit of being a Yale affiliate or New Haven citizen. Symphony Orchestras, Museums, Theater Performances, Multicultural events and parties are some examples of things to do in your leisure time. Watching sports that are not so popular in Brazil like Football, Baseball and Squash, or others that are not practiced at all in my home country such as Ice hockey, is part of the reasons why New Haven is so special. In addition to these, enjoying nature is also possible in New Haven without going so far. Hiking at East Rock Park and going to the beach at Lighthouse Park are pleasant activities as well as just walking around in the downtown area to see different sights according to the season.

In my opinion, New Haven is the most pleasant city to live in that I have already visited. Nowadays I cannot imagine a better place to be living abroad!

Bridges Anthology
By Alysson Tavares Moreira  Tutor: Caderyn Owen Jones

Hi Everyone!

My name is Alysson Tavares Moreira. I am from Brazil and my hometown is Belo Horizonte, the capital of Minas Gerais. I have been living in New Haven for almost three months with my wife, Fernanda. She is a Post Doc at School of Medicine. I would like to share with you part of my life during her postdoctoral period from when I was in Brazil to my life in New Haven.
While I was working in Brazil, I visited my wife in the U.S. twice. My first visit to New Haven was at the end of December for the Holidays, and my second was in May to celebrate our fifth wedding anniversary. In August when she renewed her fellowship for one more year, we realized that it could be the best opportunity for me to live abroad and to improve my English. I then quit my job and came here.

Now my life in New Haven is very exciting. Firstly, I am taking a lot of English Classes during the week and on Saturdays where I meet interesting people from many countries. Secondly, I have been doing a bunch of good things, such as participating in cultural events and typical celebrations like Thanksgiving and Halloween, watching sports games and tasting different kinds of food and beer. Besides these, I am experiencing the colorful fall, the freezing winter and making new friends.

In conclusion, I am glad to be in New Haven and to be a part of Bridges.
I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Thank you very much!

My experience facing an unknown world
By Jheiros Michael Arias Rios Tutor: Fiona Riebeling

I think Bridges is an excellent program not just because they teach English to the community but also because they make feel comfortable to the students and help the students to make an effort to do their best.

I've been studying in Bridges for a year. My English is getting so much better but I have to keep working hard because I don't feel comfortable when I speak. I've been working on conversation with my tutor Fiona. I admire Fiona because she speaks words of wisdom, all that she speaks is about important things that happens in the world and in our communities. She's one of the lights of hope in the world and with her critical thinking she shows that this world could be better if we work together.

I want to share something that I wrote about some experiences with a person who taught me so much about this life.

He has felt what really is loneliness. He's in a constant battle against his mind. The word "opinion" has left his vocabulary. He learned that people just want to hear what is right for them or what is convenient for them and if he wants to survive to this wild world he has many choices; to lie or to tell the truth, to be a fake or to face, to pretend or to be real but he feels like the choices are to live or to die so he tries to run away from the death but it was just too late when he realized that probably is the death what gives sense to his life.

I used to fight my ego with kind ideas but it's not enough. It seems that fight doesn't make sense because the dispute against ego is the highest selfishness victory. If I'm
rational I'm not selfish because I know what I got and I'm not afraid to show what I am, I'm not afraid because what I got is what I give.

**Untitled**
By Jun Zhang Tutor: Michelle Peters

In Bridges ESL at the Asian American Culture Center, I had an enjoyable tutoring experience. I benefit a lot from this sort of oral English conversation with a native speaker, one to one, face to face. My tutor, Michelle, a patient junior, also knows my mother tongue. She has plenty of interests in Chinese language and culture. So we communicated on so many trans-cultural topics. What I have achieved is not only English language, but also cultural comparison which broadens my horizon. I suppose my tutor also learned something from my observation and critique on Chinese culture and American culture. In a nutshell, this is a fantastic language learning program. I am truly grateful for the help from you.

**“Cricket all-star” event in United States of America**
By Shubhangi Shende Tutor: Sarah Williams

One fine day, a friend of mine told me about the ‘Cricket all-star’ event which was supposed to be held on USA soil for the very first time. ‘Cricket all-star’ is the game of Cricket played by all retired legendary players from different countries. As soon as I heard this news I started browsing on the internet about the details of this game. While doing this I found out that this game will be played at three different locations: one in New York at Citi Field stadium, second in Houston, TX at Minute Maid stadium and third in Los Angeles at Dodger’s stadium. I was so excited and I booked the tickets for me and my husband on the same day itself for the New York location. Later I came to know that four of my other friends also planned to come down to watch the Cricket game. I immediately asked them to join us and I started counting the number of days remaining until the event.

On the day of the Cricket match we drove all the way to Citi field stadium in Flushing, New York. There was a huge crowd, but somehow we managed to park our car, and we stood in the queue to enter in to the stadium.

We arrived there 10 mins late but while we were in the queue, the match had already started and we were listening the applause of the people and they were cheering. My heartbeat started pounding and I was thinking I am missing a precious time of my life. I was literally counting the number of people in front of me on the queue. Finally our turn came to enter in to the stadium, and we started to rush to our seats. As soon as I reached near to my seat, I was so involved in the game that I didn’t even sit for a single moment.

The game was played between two team’s named “Sachin’s Blazers” and “Warne’s Warrior”. The captain of Sachin’s blazer was an iconic cricket star from India named “Sachin Tendulkar” and the captain of Warne’s warrior team was “Shane Warne” from Australia.
Crowd stood up on their feet to applaud and cheer for every wicket being taken and every run being scored. The atmosphere was electric for every boundary scored, and six had been hit. This was my first experience of watching live Cricket and seeing all big shot Cricket players from different countries at a single stretch. I was so fascinated by their arrangements because the stadium can accommodate 45000 people at the same time: almost 37000 people were there. No-one expected that much of a crowd there. It was great opportunity to watch Cricket with friends and spend a quality time together while watching the game. My overall experience was very exciting and enjoyable. I will cherish this moment for the rest of my life.

**Untitled**
By Galina Batarina 
Tutor: Ellis Burgoon Miskell

My name is Galina. I am from Moscow in Russia. At the moment I’m retired. I started learning English in Latvia, where I have spent the last several years.

I came to New Haven to visit my daughter, who is a student at Yale. At first I did not understand what people were saying and I needed language to communicate.

I think it is a great idea to have English classes! They have helped me a lot. I feel more confident now; my language skills have improved. I have also met my teacher Ellis, who is a wonderful person and a great professional!!

Thank you, Yale, for this opportunity!

**Branford**
By Martha Villamil 
Tutor: Julia Weiner

I live in Branford. This town is located on Long Island Sound in New Haven Country. Branford was established in 1644.

Branford Center:
This center has many stores, restaurants, and coffee shops, which line Main Street, with the green at the center. The green has 3 churches as well as the town hall.

Places of Branford:
Indian Neck, Pine Orchard, Stony Creek, Short Beach, Connecticut Hospice (the first American hospice).

I live with Nati and Bob. I care for Mr. Bob. Nati and Bob live near the beach. The house is interesting because you can see the beach from the window. It is near the Branford Plaza. Branford Plaza has Khol’s, Big Way, Hallmark, and many other stores. At Thanksgiving, many people bought many things, like toys and appliances. The parking lot was crowded.
I have lived in New Haven for one year and nine months. When I arrived in the U.S.A. I was happy, but when I heard the people speak I didn’t understand anything at all. I was scared.

I saw in my adult education school a flyer for Bridges ESL. I began on Saturday in 2014. This year I began in September. This program is very good for me because I spoke, wrote, and listened with my tutor. I’m happy. I am not scared of English because now I understand.

Thanks to my children, David, Jana, and Juan Carlos and my husband Luis for encouraging me to learn English and Julia for her patience.

Myself in 5th grade
By Manuel Ramirez Tutor: Julia Weiner
Hi! My name is Manuel Ramirez, and I am 11 years old. My family is from Mexico; I was born in New Haven. My school name is John C Daniels. My favorite class is social studies and science because you get to learn new things. My favorite sport is soccer because your muscles train a lot.

I came to Brides ESL because my neighbor Martha brought me and I didn’t know about this. So then I started to come. I like this program because it gives me time to improve my reading.

I want to go to Mexico because I want to see parades. One day you should try to play soccer; I enjoy my time at school and soccer. Something that I don’t like is taking tests.

My experience in Bridges ESL
By Angela Rios Tutor: Daisy Ramos
My tutor Daisy has helped me so much with my little bit of English. I’m happy because this program helps to the community.

My goals this year was to become an United States citizen and get my driving license. I’m a United States citizen now and I have the appointment at the DMV on December but to reach my goals I needed a good English but when I tried it was hard to me and Daisy helped me so much and I made an effort and now I have reached my goals.

I’m so happy, I love Christmas because is the time when families come together and bring happiness to each person.

Daisy is an excellent teacher, she has so much patience with me and I’m very thankful because of her effort to help me to learn English.

Thank you so much Daisy and thank you so much Bridges ESL for work on our community.
HAVING A DREAM IN ENGLISH
By Tomoko Sekine  Tutor: Emily Xiao

When I was a high school student in Japan, English was one of my favorite classes, and I liked to study it. One day, my English teacher told me, “If you keep trying to study English, you’ll have a dream in English someday. I was so impressed when I had that for the first time!” I admired him and studied English hard for three years, but I didn’t have a dream in English. After graduating high school, I went to a university. My English was getting worse and worse, because I didn’t study English as much as I did before. It was a dream beyond dreams for me to have a dream in English.

After years had passed, I came to New Haven to follow my husband. My husband is a postdoc at Yale and studies neurology. I’m helping him as a research assistant. I thought, “I’ll live here in New Haven for several years and use English everyday. I may be able to have a dream in English.”

Then, the day suddenly came true. One morning, I woke up and noticed that a man had talked to me in English in my dream. Yeah, I had a dream in English! But wait: I didn’t understand it. That’s so sad!! And what he said in my dream? It sounded like English, even though I couldn’t understand. That’s weird.

Anyway, therefore, I’m still dreaming to have a dream in English and “understand” it. Hope it will come soon.

The Trip to Yale
By Zhenbiao Yang  Tutor: Nicole Feng

Time passes quite quickly—only a little more than one month left for me here in Yale, New Haven. But I still have many things planned that I hope to complete, in order to acquire more knowledge and to thus improve further, before leaving on January 1, 2016.
--My favorable impression of this small city of New Haven just seems to advance a little bit more;
--My research project at Yale just arrives at its key stage;
--My capacity for discussing societal issues with local people (for example, my landlord who is a retired Yale professor) is just coming to a point where I am able to do so with ease;
--My sense of direction for improving English pronunciation is just gaining momentum;
--My integration into the Yale culture is also just in its infancy;
....

But I will have to leave soon. I will, and should, cherish all that should be valued in the remaining time left for me here.
I enjoy the distinct seasons of New Haven. I am deeply impressed by the winter of fully white snow and the autumn with flaming maple leaves that is rather different from my hometown—Fuzhou, China. I gradually fell in love with the style of strong teamwork of Yale’s research, as it seems much more effective. I also am becoming fond of discussing social issues with my landlord. This not only enriches my experience but also allows me to practice my English speaking skills. I am becoming more confident in my English pronunciation and speaking, greatly due to my outstanding tutor, Nicole, whose lasting patience and attentive guidance has benefited me a lot. I am also increasingly finding enjoyment in the different kinds of Yale cultures, including student classes, seminar talks, and diet, all of which affect me to a large extent.

All these are valuable memories I will keep in my life.

My Yale trip has been very meaningful.

Trip to the Disney World
By Carina Velloso Tutor: Meghana Singh

1st day: We woke up around 4:30am because our flight was at 7am and we needed to arrive at the airport earlier. Everybody was excited to go. At the airport, we had breakfast at McDonald’s (The food wasn’t nice or healthy!!) The flight was quiet, but we had an accident. Lilly didn’t feel well during the flight, and she threw up a lot. She was sitting in the middle seat; I was sitting by the window and my host father by the aisle. So I needed to help her.

When we arrived at the airport in Florida, we went to the Disney bus stop to go to our resort. It was quick and efficient. At the resort, we had lunch and we went to Universal Studios. I was very tired, but I had a good time there. My favorite ride was Aerosmith roller coaster. I didn’t go to the tower because the line was so long, around 55 minutes. Next time, maybe. During the night the park was so beautiful, they had Christmas decorations, songs, and fake snow… We had dinner there and I ate salad.

2nd day: We woke up around 8am and had breakfast together (just me and the grandparents). My host family came to eat with us around 9:30. When we done, we went back to our room to pick up our things and go to Animal Kingdom. I loved that park. It was my first time there, like Universal Studios. We had a Safari, and we could see zebras, elephants, rhinoceros, crocodiles, deer, geese, and lions. It was amazing! I really liked it! After the Safari, we watched shows and then we went to a ride! It was really funny because it was a water ride! Bill and Lucy didn’t go (because he needed stay with Lucy, she can’t go on that ride). We all got wet! Grandma’s face was the funniest She was so wet!!!!

We had a wonderful lunch with Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Daisy and Goofy. The
food and the desserts were delicious. I went on a roller coaster with Dina and was so funny! I liked it!

I don’t remember what we had for dinner. We came back to the hotel around 6pm.

3rd day: The breakfast was the same as the previous day. We went to Magic Kingdom, my favorite park at Disney World! It was really good, but I missed Mauricio a lot because my first time at Magic Kingdom was with him. I decided not to think about it and enjoyed myself. The grandparents came back to the hotel around 6pm and we stayed there till the fireworks. It was amazing, but I was so tired. We came back to the hotel around midnight. Tired, tired, tired!

4th day: This was a free day! No plans! I didn’t do anything, just hung out by the pool and stayed in bed. Around 3pm we left to see the Hoop Dee Doo Revue. It is a musical with dinner. We had chicken fries, ribs, mashed potatoes, corn and beans. I drank wine! We had an awesome time there! But, unfortunately, I didn’t feel well during the night.

5th day: We went to Epcot! That park is not special. Its good just for its food! They have a lot of types of food. We ate at the German restaurant. I didn’t like it very much. We came back early, around 3pm. During the night, I needed to work. Bill and Dina came back to Epcot to have a dinner out and I stayed with the girls and grandparents. We had dinner at the resort and I ate hamburger with French fries, which was delicious!

6th day: We went to Magic Kingdom again. We went there late, because we had ticket for the Very Christmas Party. It was really good. We spent an hour and a half in line to meet Cinderella. That wasn’t fun! The parade was different and so beautiful. Seeing all the characters and Santa Claus made me really emotional. The fireworks were wonderful, totally different from anything I’d seen before.

7th day: We went to Animal Kingdom again. I was tired and I didn’t enjoy it. I just wanted return home. After, we went to Disney Springs to have dinner. We had an amazing dinner there. I had crab cake, which was so delicious!

8th day: This was our last day, so we had no plans, and just hung out by the pool. At 3pm we left for airport. The flight was quiet, with no accidents. Now it’s back to reality!

So, I really liked our vacation. My host family was so nice to me; we didn't have any problems. I just need take a rest and get back on my diet! And maybe I need a little vacation from them too!

A Self Introduction
By Huizi Huang Tutor: Victoria Wang

It's really great to have a chance to introduce myself and get to know each other. Thanks to Yale's English Bridges.

I am Huizi Huang and was working for an economy-related periodical in Beijing China before coming to America. My hobbies include music, travel and sports. This is my third trip to the United States and I really enjoy my stay here. I’d like to share my experiences with all of you.

The first time I was here was in December two years ago. Since I entered college a
decade ago, I had heard so much about Yale University. It is no wonder, because Yale is known all over the world as an attractive and famous place, not only to students but also to the travelers. So I was extremely excited in everything and for a minute I thought it was a dream!

To me, who had lived in Beijing for 12 years, the longer I stay here, the more I believe it can be called Xanadu, which used to exist only in my imagination but now has come true.

One reason for that is I'm deeply fascinated by the campus’ scenery. All kinds of unique buildings, such as libraries, dorms, and the school buildings, make Yale look like an old but exquisite town, which is filled with a strong typical European style. The landscape makes people dizzy.

The other and deeper reason is it's an ideal kingdom for students and academic researchers. There are a lot more wonderful and useful educational resources waiting for them. The researchers don't have to be involved in different kinds of things which are meaningless. They can have a whole pure and quiet environment to concentrate on exploring science but not be isolated. And they are not judged and approved by their backgrounds, but rather by their characters and abilities. This means a great deal for them to make scientific achievement.

This is just a brief introduction to one aspect of my deepest feelings about Yale. I hope everyone enjoys their stay at Yale, makes new friends and takes away memories of happy and productive days.

Untitled
By Jian Chen  Tutor: James Post
Curious! Diverse! Amazing! My experiences in the United States can be summed up by these three words. As a student from China, New Haven is my first overseas address and Yale is my first overseas university.

Yale is colorful: red leaves, green grass, and brown campus. I spent a whole week exploring every corner in New Haven: old campus, downtown, East Rock Park, Art Gallery, and Payne Whitney Gym...I wished I could become a part of the beautiful town as soon as possible! On top of the beauty, diversity is another factor that attracts my attention. People with different cultures, food and even languages get together here. It is easy for
us to taste Mexican food cooked by Mexicans, enjoy the Gothic architecture introduced by French, and speak English with native speakers! Living here is an amazing experience!

However, for many Chinese, and especially for me, improving English oral skills is the greatest challenge of a study abroad. Luckily, the Asian American Students Alliance gave me the chance to learn English, and most importantly, I made my first foreign friend: my tutor, James Post. He is a handsome, patient and responsible tutor. Our sessions are never boring or stuffy, because his teaching style is varied. He prepares an article and a video for me, which I read and watch, respectively. When we meet, we discuss the content and he asks me questions. I love this technique, because it not only improves my reading, listening and speaking skills, but also allows us to talk about interesting topics! Sometimes, we play a game in which he plays a song and I say the lyrics. This exercise is relaxing and useful.

In these two months, many things have been new, but all has gone well. It is tough for me to adapt to a different country. But thanks to AASA, my advisor, friends and classmates, I am having a happy study abroad experience!

**Untitled**

By Jose Malitasig  
Tutor: Janet Juarez
Dear Yale Bridges,

My name is Jose Malitasig and I’m from Ecuador. I came to the U.S.A. in 2003 and I have dedicated my time to work hard to support my family. Thanks to God I have good health, my family, a good job, and my own house.

During my free time, I study English. Sometimes I attend the ESL program Junta and other times I watch English programs on TV. But I don’t always have time to go to the Junta program and watching English programs is very difficult for me because they speak very fast. Luckily, I found the Yale Bridges Program where I receive one on one tutoring. I have improved and this makes me very happy. However, two hours each week is very little time for me to improve even more.

Thank you Yale students for helping me. I like to study English because I think when I go back to my country, I want to teach English for free to the poor children. Learning English in Ecuador is very expensive. So keep going forward and never forget of the people in need around the world. Thank you dear Janet. God bless you and good luck.

Sincerely,

Jose Malitasig
Thanks Bridges ESL
By Qiong Wang  Tutor: Xinyu Guan

My name is Qiong. I came to Yale University as a visiting scholar for environmental health research in September 2015. This is my first time studying abroad. On one hand, I learned data analysis methods in my field of study, which are beneficial to my future work. But on the other hand, I often feel lonely outside of work. I miss my family and my friends in China. It has been hard for me to integrate into the American social life and make local friends. So I try to participate in a lot of activities at Yale. Bridges ESL is one of my favorite activities.

I still remember the first day I came to this center. I came early and met a nice guy named Yifu. Another volunteer of Bridges, Kate, asked me to finish an exam. By the way, all the volunteers in Bridges are beautiful and handsome. Then I met my tutor, Xinyu. She is a Yale undergraduate. She is smart, beautiful and patient. I like her very much. Her English is very good. I am also very impressed. Her teaching method is also very interesting, my classmates and I like her class very much. Since the first day I participated in Bridges, I have looked forward to every weekend. I could study, talk and laugh at Bridges. This is a magical place.

I have to say, enjoyable time always flies. This semester is coming to an end. But I gained a lot: I improved my English skills, made new friends and enjoyed every single Saturday morning. Thanks to all of you!

My Experience at Bridges ESL
By Nataliia Lysa  Tutor: Yifu Dong

My name is Nataliia and I am from Ukraine. Our family moved to New Haven almost a year and a half ago when my husband was invited as a visiting research scientist at Yale. At first everything was very unusual and new for us: a new country, new people and a new place. The thing I am most excited for is probably that at last I have an opportunity to improve my English with native speakers.

Personally, I think I had a much lower English level before I came here. Before Bridges I have studied at Adult Education Center and Literacy Volunteers ESL Courses at Gateway Community College for a few months. Although these courses were quite helpful, especially Literacy
Volunteers ESL's writing and speaking classes, after I found Bridges I decided to focus my studying efforts mainly on this class because I felt that here I achieve better results in my study process.

From an educational perspective, I believe I have improved my English mainly thanks to my tutor Yifu, with whom I worked almost a year. My main problem was that I could clearly understand people but I was not very good in speaking and, of course, grammar was a huge problem, too. Preposition and correct usage of tenses were the weakest spots in my English. I believe they still are but not so dramatically bad as they were. In my view, I have improved my grammar mainly because of writing essays. My tutor gave me topics and I did all my best to write a good essay. After he checked it I could clearly see my mistakes. I like this method because it is an active way of learning and in this case I benefit more than if I would just read grammar rules. Also in order to improve my speaking, Yifu advised me to read 1 hour per day out loud. Sometimes I had no time for that but I should admit that this method also works well.

Personally speaking, I have a very pleasant experience in learning English at Bridges. The friendly atmosphere and the warm relationship among people make this place very positive and joyful. I like Bridges and I like what these Yale students do. They are very active young people who do a very good job. Their enthusiasm and vigor motivate me in my studies and make me work harder. I think now I feel more connected to Yale and the New Haven community.
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