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### Education in China and the U.S

Have you ever taken the time to compare the education system in the United States to that of another country? When comparing the education system in the United States to that of China's education system, many similarities and differences can be found. After comparing the two countries and their ways of educating students, one is able to gain many new ideas and appreciations for ones education.

Many similarities can be found when comparing the U.S. education system to the education system of China's. One similarity is that both countries follow standards. These standards are meant to be followed so that every student is grasping all of the necessary material. A second similarity is that both countries have standardized test that students must pass to prove that they understand and comprehend the standards they have been taught. A third similarity is that both countries have certain courses that are required to be taken such as English, Math, and Science. These three similarities are just a few of the many that these two countries have in common when it comes to education.

Although there are several similarities with the education systems of the U.S and China, there are also many differences. One difference is that students in the U.S. are graded with letter grades such as A, B, C, D, or F. In China, they grade simply by points, numbers, and percentages. China students are allowed to skip several grade levels if the parents feel it would

be beneficial to their child. This is not allowed in the U.S., unless the student excels to the point it would benefit him or her greatly, and it is not up to the parent. In China, students are held to higher standards than those of the U.S. Students in China are kept longer hours at school, and are not given study guides to help them on exams. There are many differences in the education system when it comes to comparing the U.S. and China.

If I would have been a student in China, I would have been pushed harder and had less individual attention from teachers. I would have had to study many more hours for exams given that they do not provide study guides for finals. I would also have to focus less on socialization and more on the added on hours of school I would have each evening. Students in China do not choose the school they want to attend, they must attend either the upper, middle, or lower level school based on their scores and leadership in academics. I would find this to be very frustrating and discouraging if I did not get accepted in the upper level school system. After listening to Tina's presentation over China and its education system I now know being a student in China would be much more of a challenge.

Teachers in China are very teacher oriented and do not have hands on things for the students to use to learn. If I were a teacher in China, I would not be able to use the lesson plans I have created so far because they have many hands on labs, and activities that would not fit in with China's education system. I would also find it hard to socialize with my students and get to know them at a personal level due to the high standards that I am needed to cover along with the greater number of students I would have in my classes. I am grateful to be a member of the U.S education system; however I do believe there are ways we can work together to get our education on the same upper level that China has. Many may believe that China students are simply better

at academics, but really it is all about the effort one puts forth in his or her education and how far one wants to go to get there.