

適用單元	大學入門導論
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篇名	If I Were a Freshman Again
來源	網路
內容	It is the habit of age to give sage advice to youth. One of the pastimes in which everyone periodically indulges is the pleasant hallucination that if he were given the opportunity to live his youth over again he would do it differently and more successfully. We are all of us, even though we have no more than reached middle age, given to regretting our neglected opportunities and our lost youth. It gives one a virtuous feeling in imagination to dodge all error but it is extremely doubtful if many of us, even if we had a second chance, would avoid many of the pitfalls into which we stumbled, or follow a straighter path than that by which we have so far come. If it is merely pleasant for us to conjecture what we should do if we had a second try at it, it may be profitable for those who are younger to listen. If only foresight could be as accurate as the backward view! 給年輕人一些金玉良言是老人們的習慣。大家偶爾喜歡的一種娛樂就是美滋滋地幻想如果有機會再年輕一次，他會少走彎路、更加成功。儘管不過人到中年，我們都 習慣於後悔曾經坐失良機、虛度青春，這讓我們在想像中有一種高尚的感覺——避免所有的錯誤。而特別值得懷疑的是，即使有第二次機會，我們當中的許多人真的 就能避免我們犯過的錯誤，或者少走一些我們走過的彎路。如果說猜測再給一次機會我們會怎麼做，對於我們只是自我安慰，對於那些聽我們講故事的年輕人可能就會獲益匪淺。先見要是與後見一樣準確無誤該多好！ Learn to Work with People about Me 鬧中取靜 I should learn to work with people about me. As it was I lived a somewhat isolated life. I did my reading and my studying alone, and though there were some advantages in this method, there were serious objections. Now I must often work under different conditions than those by which I was surrounded in college; there is work to be done where there is no quiet, and I do it with difficulty. As I

tried on a crowded ocean steamer to put these wandering thoughts on paper I was constantly annoyed by the confusion about me and by the spasmodic attempts at conversation made by a well-intentioned but misguided young man at my side. If I had learned to work under different conversations I might have turned the conversation aside as a steep roof sheds the rain. I believe it is a great advantage for a young man to do his work himself, but he should not subject himself to the slavery of doing it alone.

我會學會在周圍有人的環境中工作。實際上，我的生活有些與世隔絕。我一個人看書，一個人學習，這種方法雖然也有一些優點，卻也有著嚴重的缺點。現在我經常要在與大學完全不同的環境裡工作，手裡有活兒要幹，周圍卻不那麼安靜，結果我就感到很吃力。曾經有一次在一艘擁擠的海船上，我正想把這些紛亂的思緒寫下來，卻不時受到一些干擾，身邊一位出於好心但誤入歧途的年輕人有一愣兒沒一會兒地想跟我說話。如果我學會了在不同的對話場合工作，我可能就避免了和他的談話，就像陡屋頂讓雨水滑落一樣。我認為讓年輕人自己做事好處不少，但是他不應該一個人死扛。

Take More Difficult Work 知難而進

I should take as a freshman, if I had my work to do over again, more work that I have no especial fondness for or that I find difficult. I like an easy time as well as any one, and I do not wish to give the impression that I think it an error for a student to follow the profession he enjoys or to do the work he likes. In point of fact I believe that a student should choose those lines of work along which his tastes lead him. I think it very likely that those things we do most easily we shall do best; but I have found that training comes through struggle, and that those people are developed most who resist most, or who struggle against difficulty and opposition and overcome. I had known a good many geniuses, but they generally had the most commonplace careers because they never learned to do difficult or disagreeable things.

如果重新來過，作為大一學生，我會做一些我不喜歡或者發現很難做的

工作。我跟每個人一樣，喜歡隨遇而安，我不希望給人留下這樣的印象：認為學生從事自己喜歡的職業或者做他喜歡的工作是一種錯誤。實際上，我認為學生應該根據他的興趣愛好選擇這些工作。我認為我們做得最順手的工作可能做得最好，但我發現訓練來自鬥爭，反抗最厲害，迎着困難和反對意見上並克服障礙的人發展得最好。我認識許多天才，他們一般都從事最普通的職業，因為他們從未學會做難度很大或者不合意的事情。

Students come into my office every day who want to get out of work or to drop a subject, or to cut a class exercise for no better reason than that they find the duty difficult or the instructor or the subject dull. Much of the work of life is not pleasant. Half the things I am forced to do during the busy days of the college year are unpleasant things and things I dislike doing. I have been forced to learn to give these things my best attention whether I like them or not. I wish I had learned in my freshman year to do more such things.

每天都有學生到我的辦公室來，他們想不做作業、不修一門課、或者不參加一次課堂活動，僅僅因為作業太難，因為老師或者課程讓人煩。生活中許多工作都會讓人煩，我在大學裡就忙得要命，硬着頭皮做的事情有一半是讓我煩和不願做的，不管喜歡不喜歡，我只能學習專心致志地做這些事情。真希望大一的時候我學會了多做一些這樣的事情。

Just yesterday as I was sitting at the breakfast table talking to a young freshman, in whom I have a rather vital interest, as to next year's course, I suggested a subject which I thought good for him to take. "Is it easy?" was his first question, and when I answered in the negative his interest waned. In the world in which we must in time work there are few easy roads, few snap courses. We shall be forced to do a great many hard things. If I were a freshman I should learn to do such things early.

就在昨天，我還在早飯桌上和一個我非常感興趣的大一學生就下一年的課程進行過討論，我建議他修一門我認為對他有好處的課程。「那門課容易嗎？」這是他提的第一個問題，當我回答說不容易時，他馬上就開始打退堂鼓了。在這個世界上，我們最終都得工作，可容易走的路太

少，容易讀的課程不多，我們不得不做許多難做的工作。如果我是大一學生，我會早學會做這樣的事情。

Become A Ready Speaker 能說善道

Like a great many people, I suppose I am not now doing the work that as a college student I planned to do. I am in no sense a fatalist, but I am convinced that men have their work chosen for them quite as often as they themselves choose it. If I had supposed that I should be called upon to speak on the most unforeseen occasions and upon the most unfamiliar topics, I should have given myself while in college the practice which I believe is the method everyone must employ if he is to become a ready speaker. I have learned that, sooner or later, every intelligent man is called upon publicly to express his ideas, and no matter how abundant these thoughts may be, he will suffer much pain and have little success unless he has had pretty regular and persistent practice.

和許多人一樣，我想我現在做的工作並不是我獨大學時計畫做的。我絕不是個聽天由命的人，但我相信人的工作一半是自己選擇的，一半是別人替你選擇的。如果我 早知道我會被邀請在最無法預測的場合就最不熟悉的話題發表演講，我就該在讀大學的時候做一些練習，我相信要想成為出色的演講者就得使用這種方法。我發現每一位智者遲早都會被要求公開發表意見，無論他的思想可能有多麼豐富，除非他訓練有素並持之以恆，否則他會痛苦不堪、難以取勝。

I ran across an old classmate last spring, an engineer of no little repute, whom I had not met since the day of our graduation. "How would you change your course," I said to him, expecting that he would long for more mathematics, "if you had it all to do over again?"

去年春天，我偶然碰到一位老同學，他是位名氣不小的工程師，畢業之後我們就沒有見過面。「你會怎樣更改你的課程，」我問他，期待他說想學更多的數學，「如果你有機會重上一次大學？」

"I should learn to write and I should learn to speak," he answered, "and I should begin as a freshman. As it was I avoided every opportunity to do either, with the idea that only ministers and lawyers have need of such practice, and I suffer for it every day. My boy is to be an engineer, but I am going to see that he does not make the mistake that I made. "

「我會學會寫作，學會演講，」他回答說，「而且我會從大一開始，實際上，這兩件事我都刻意會避過，心想只有神父和律師需要這樣的訓練，而我現在每天都因此而受罪。我兒子想成為一名工程師，我準備把關，不讓他重覆我犯過的錯誤。」

When I am called upon unexpectedly to speak, and my knees shake, and my voice falters, and the word that I long for comes with difficulty, or fails to come at all, I agree with my classmate, and I feel sure that if I were a freshman again I should learn to speak correctly and without notes.

當我突如其來接到演講邀請、雙膝發抖、聲音發顫、想用的詞半天才出來或者乾脆不出來的時候，我同意我同學的看法，並且我敢肯定如果我能再次成為大一學生，我會學會出口成章並且不用帶演講稿。

註：〈如果重做大學生〉（If I were a freshman again），是美國上個世紀初伊利諾大學修辭學教授 Thomas Arkle Clark 一篇有名的講稿，對象當然是針對大學生，許多大學大一英文課都會選讀這篇文章，一方面作為新生的教材，更是對大學生的期許。

Thomas 在演講的時候早已是為人師表，他向著剛進大學的新生叨叨絮絮，用他開頭的話來說：“上了年紀的人總喜歡給年輕小伙子良言忠告”，敘述中帶著要是當初怎樣，現在就如何的假設語氣，希冀先見與後見能契合有多好，不厭其煩申述如果重做大學生，我會積極謀劃、學會更專注，挑戰那些艱難或無趣的事兒，在紛吵的環境中平心靜氣的與人共處、學習；有許多天才型的學生一般都選擇了安穩的職業，因為他們在大學裡從未學會處理難題，更別說提出不同的意見。如果重做

	大學生，我應學會寫作，學會演說；我確定給我再做一次大學生，我會出口成章並且不帶任何小抄。Thomas 怎麼會要大一新生都學會寫作、演說呢？又不是要 成為作家、律師或政論家，那當然不是。寫作與說話，出口成章，這些其實是思維、品格教育，寫作或說話是廣義的大學思辯、懷疑的基礎，所以他才會感嘆那些天 才最後都選擇安逸的工作以終身。
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