

## Writing from the CUNY Language Immersion Program (CLIP)

# The Future is in My Hands

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I was raised in America. I have American thoughts. Many traditions from my native culture are difficult for me. The one that makes me most perplexed is the system of following a family's ideas for their children's future. My father is a chef. My relatives all work in a restaurant, and my family expects me to be a chef.

Since I was young, I have had many dreams. I was interested in dance, music, and being a doctor. All of those ideas were rejected by my parents without giving me a chance to try them. Recently, I was not going to tell the truth when my parents asked me why I wanted to start college. But I did. I told them I wanted to study psychology. I tried to share a dream again. They laughed at me. Even though my parents support me going to college, they never quit trying to convince me to stop dreaming. "You are not that good to be a doctor or a psychologist. Work in a restaurant and follow the family tradition to be a chef."

What they care about is for me to make money when I'm an adult instead of challenging myself. One idea I learned in high school here is to be free to challenge myself and do anything that I want to do. The reason I started CLIP is that I want to prove to my family that I won't accept the future they require of me. I hope they will understand me, and as a child educated in the U.S. I must use my own strategies to prove I can be successful in a career I choose. The future is in my hands.

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