

2019年度 英語スピーチコンテスト 優勝スピーチ

ぼくがスピーチコンテストで得た経験は大学生生活の中でも群を抜いて素晴らしいものでした。出場者の皆さんが自らの経験や思想を言葉にして精一杯伝えようとする姿。それを全力で支えるスタッフの皆さん。時間を惜しまず指導に携わる教授の方々。この切磋琢磨し合えるチームの一員になれたことが何よりの誇りです。コンテストであるがゆえに順位は決まるけれども、順位よりも大切なものをスピーチコンテストは気付かせてくれると信じています。

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Where There Is a Will, There Is a Way

I love this saying; "Where there is a will, there is a way" because life could be full of failures but this phrase gives me hope that obstacles can be overcome. I failed at many things in my life. I failed at sports. I failed to get many credits at university. I failed at school entrance exams. Life often seems hopeless. But I assure you. If you say this phrase every day, everything is going to be all right. Because the secret weapon to success is already in you. That is will power.

The first part of my story is called "Failure." I had a dream. Ever since high school, I wanted to study abroad. I wanted to leave Japan and experience something totally new. But, I had no money for that. My family barely makes ends meet and I had to pay my university tuition on my own. You see, I have three older brothers and one younger brother. My younger brother has Down syndrome and heart disease. So my mother could not work at all because she needed to take care of him and my father could not earn much money either. We are really poor. I cannot pay for the train or bus fares, so I ride my bicycle for an hour one way to university almost every day. The only way to pay for my study-abroad was for me to work harder. So, I started having double shifts and working from 6 p.m. till 8 a.m. five times a week. Obviously, I was too exhausted to attend classes. I could not stay awake after double shifts. So guess what happened. When I woke up, school had already finished. And I had to go back to work again. The second semester of my first year at university, I got only three credits. Not only that, I failed to save money. I thought it might be impossible for me to study abroad during university. But, I told myself "Where there is a will, there is a way."

The next part of my story is called "Pursuing." Even though I had no money, I could not give up my dream. So I decided to do everything to study abroad. First, I skipped lunch almost every day and went to English Express over and over again to improve my English. Second, I found information on an affordable exchange program. Programs to the U.S. or the UK were expensive so I applied to go to a small country in Europe called Lithuania. But during the interview for the program, I had to promise to raise money for the costs. So I had to earn 750,000 yen in six months. Think about it. That's a lot of money. It doesn't even include the money you can use for yourself. So I worked 72 hours a week after school and on weekends. Third, I attended every single class so that I could get credits. It was so hard that I got sick sometimes but I never gave up. I never stopped working hard. And I never stopped believing in the phrase, "Where there is a will, there is a way." And right before I left for Lithuania in August 2018, I finally earned enough money to go abroad. After three years, I made my dream come true. My ten months in Lithuania was amazing. I made friends with people from all over the world. I got to see the different world with my own eyes. And I am more confident in my English. In high school, I could only say "yes" or "no" in an English discussion because I was not confident in my English. But now, in front of you, hundreds of people, I'm giving a speech in English. My hard work finally paid off.

Life is full of obstacles and challenges. No matter how hard you try, you might fail again and again. But keep this in mind. Dreams come true only after hard work. If you have a dream, do whatever it takes to make it come true and trust that "Where there is a will, there IS a way". Thank you very much.