

Be proactive (主動)

Good morning, teachers and students. Today, the topic that I want to share with you is: Be proactive (積極主動).

General speaking, there are **two types of people in the world**. The first type is **proactive people** (積極主動的人). The second type is **reactive people** (消極被動的人).

Proactive people are people with positive thinking. Proactive people always try to be part of the solution, but not part of a problem. They always try to solve the problem, but not to create a problem. Proactive people always try to admit, correct and learn from mistakes and do not get into an accusing mode (控訴模式). In other words, proactive people will not try to blame others and the environment.

However, reactive people are just the opposite. Reactive people are people with negative thinking. Reactive people always try to be part of the problem, but not part of a solution. They try to create a problem, but not solving the problem. Reactive people will not admit, correct and learn from mistakes. They will not think that they are wrong. Reactive people always try to get into an accusing mode. In other words, they always try to blame others and the environment for the mistakes.

Boys and girls, **I strongly invite all of you to be proactive people.** To be proactive, **I invite all of you to do two things.**

Firstly, remind yourself that you can choose your response. Remind yourself from time to time that you have the power to choose. You absolutely have the power to choose a positive response. Look at the word **“responsibility”**. **It is composed of two words: response and ability.** In other words, proactive and highly effective people have the ability to choose their own response. So, remind yourself from time to time that you can choose to be happy. Of course, you can choose to be

unhappy, but proactive people know that they have another choice. To be proactive, you can choose not to be affected by the physical environment. To be proactive, you can choose not to blame outside forces. To be proactive, you can choose not to be driven by feelings and environment, but by values. To be proactive, **instead of saying “There is nothing I can do”, you can choose to say, “Let us look at other methods and alternatives”.** Boys and girls, remember that you have the power and authority to choose your responses. This is the first thing that you can do if you want to be proactive. Remember, **“I am what I am today because of the choices I made yesterday.”**

To be proactive, I invite all of you to do the second thing. Try to focus on “who you are”, and not on “what you have”. Don't say that “If I have a big house, I'll be happy.” Don't say that “If I have more money, I'll be happy.” Don't say that “If I have a new mobile phone, I'll be happy.” Do not focus on “what you have”. Try to focus on “who you are” and say “I am energetic. I am healthy. I am lovely.” Once you focus on your character, once you focus more on “who you are”, you will be proactive, positive and happier.

Boys and girls, I sincerely hope that you can be proactive. Once you are proactive and not reactive, you will surely become highly effective people. But may I remind you one more time? **“To learn and not to do is really not to learn. To know and not to do is really not to know.” So, the key point is: Do it now.** Try your best to be proactive and say “No” to reactive mentality.