

I love this learning adventure! Here's why.

I was born in a business family. My grandfather was an entrepreneur who started a food business in Hong Kong, then my father inherited the business and expanded it. When it comes to my generation, I don't know much about their business. Well, I don't know any business even though I want to continue the legacy. I know I want to pursue business major in the future, but how can I get any experience from it? I want to start a business of my own and not make other people say things like, "Oh, you're just the beneficiary of the family fortune." This is when Apprentice Education gave me a chance to enter into the realm of a start up.

When I started working in the tea plantation on the Taiwanese mountains, I complained to the teacher that the weather was hot and the process was meaningless. But later I realized that that was the point, the purpose of this was to let entrepreneurs roll up their sleeves and get their hands all sweaty. So many young people like myself think we know everything. Like, sure, we know everything from the Internet. But when it comes to hands-on experience, we know nothing. I learned that things are easier said than done. The teacher is right, the purpose of harvesting and making the tea is not the work itself, but to help you understand what these products are and how we can turn them into a business.

Everyday there, we had some sort of experience with tea making. We packaged different types of it and learned to make awesome boba drinks with a variety of handmade toppings. Our teams were competing with each other on making the most creative milk tea that could potentially become a million dollar business. Before, it simply started with just Tapioca Express. Then came Quickly, and now there is Gongcha, Teaspoon, Happy Lemon, you name it. The variation in making the tea drink is competitive, but the fun is to make it more interesting by adding extra goodies with it. We made dyed scarves and organic meals boiled in the tea. Those can be given as milk tea promotions or even sold for additional profit.

Besides the great organic food we had on the high mountains and the street food in Taipei, we spent many hours designing our business plan and webstore. This is truly an awesome experience that I have never heard from other tutoring places. Much thanks to John and Vicky for making this trip so fun and rewarding. I will definitely write about it on my college applications.

-Jason