The Perceptions of Chinese Students in the United States about U.S. Citizen’s Attitude toward China and U.S. Media’s Coverage of China: A Study on Dissonance Reduction

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This thesis titled
The Perceptions of Chinese Students in the United States about U.S. Citizen’s Attitude toward China and U.S. Media’s Coverage of China: A Study on Dissonance Reduction

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ABSTRACT

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The Perceptions of Chinese Students in the United States about U.S. Citizen’s Attitude toward China and U.S. Media’s Coverage of China: A Study on Dissonance Reduction

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Festinger's (1957) cognitive dissonance theory suggests that people will experience cognitive discomfort when they are exposed to information that is inconsistent to their previous thoughts. International Chinese students who study and live in U.S. may find it hard to adjust to the social system and the media environment in U.S, and may, as a result experience cognitive dissonance. A focus group is done to study the perception of Chinese students of U.S. media and citizens, and how they reduce cognitive discomfort and maintain consistency.

Study reveals that some Chinese students in U.S. experience cognitive dissonance from their consumption of information from U.S. media and citizens. Chinese students reduce inconsistency by changing a behavioral cognitive element, changing an environmental cognitive element and adding new cognitive elements. The role of cultural difference as a cause of cognitive dissonance is also explored.
This thesis is dedicated to my mother and father.

I thank them for their years of support to me.
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INTRODUCTION

According to a recent report, there are 196,029 students from China (China here is only mainland China) studying in educational institutions in United States; they account for 25.4 percent of all the international students, making China the origin, which ‘produces’ the largest number of international students (Institute of International Education, 2012).

Numerous studies have been done on the international students, including Chinese students. Some studies focus on the cultural differences (Ye, 2005); some study the impact of standard of English fluency (Sümer, Poyrazli & Grahame, 2008); some examine academic pressure of the international students (Ranjita, Melanee & Christopher, 2003). However, few studies have been done on the media, which have some influences on international students.

Experiences of international students in United States are not only restricted to the educational environments, but also to their experiences with media and interpersonal communication. Nowadays in the United States, many young people begin to use different kinds of media in their daily life (Foehr, 2006). Media have become a very important part of information seeking, entertainment, and communication. When it comes to news about Chinese government, policy, economy, and people, U.S. media tend to focus more on the negative aspects of China, such as human right problems, corruption, and other social problems (Liss, 2003). For example, a video named Chinese Professor on YouTube was uploaded by Citizens Against Government Waste, which is a non-profit organization in the United States (Chinese Professor, 2010). This video pretends that in 2030, China will own most of United States’ debt and all United States citizens have to
work for China. The video has already gained nearly three million clicks within three years since 2010. Another example, the cover of the *Time* magazine of October 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2012 was the face of Xi Jinping, Chinese new President (Time Magazine, 2012). On the red photo of Mr. Xi, the words said *The Next Leader of the Unfree World*. Even in the 2012 Presidential election, both President Barack Obama and GOP candidate Mitt Romney labeled China as a *Currency Manipulator* during the foreign policy debate (Tracker, 2012).

Some surveys find that many United States Citizens hold negative attitudes toward China. For example, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs’ survey in 2010 showed that nearly two-thirds of United States Citizens believe China practices unfair trade, and a majority of them prefer the administration to work with South Korea and Japan in order to limit China’s rise (The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, 2010). Based on this situation, this research will examine whether that Chinese students in United States may experience cognitive discomfort in reconciling the negativity of media coverage and perceived peer perception with their own views of China.

However in China, the media hold a contrary attitude toward Chinese government and Chinese Communist (Deng & Zhao, 2009; International Communication Effects Research Team, 2007). When reporting natural disaster, Chinese media tend to focus on positive part, such as how armies save survivors and rebuild after disaster and how local government and central administration act. The movement of government is the center of most reports (Liping, Deng ,Shuwen, & Zhao, 2009). However, in U.S. media, most reports may emphasize aspects such as human suffering and delay in providing help that
may be considered negative by Chinese students. Individual, instead of government is the main focus of articles and TV news (Liping, Deng & Shuwen, Zhao, 2009).

The differences in the nature of media coverage may be rooted in the cultural differences between China and United States. “Culture means the whole complex of traditional behavior which has been developed by the human race and is successively learned by each generation” (Mead, 2002, p.90). Culture can be learned (Axelrod, 1997) and it is associated with groups of people and its content includes norms, values, shared meanings, and patterned ways of behaving (Boyd & Richerson, 1988; Bozeman, 1992; Kroeber & Kluckhohn, 1952; McFate, 2005; Mead & Me´traux, 1953; O’Reilly, 1989). Based on these definitions of culture, I argue that the media are also included in the culture because it reports news with values and shared meanings, thus giving audiences certain patterned ways of behaving.

Besides media, the cultural differences between China and USA also show in other aspects. In China, the most important value of culture is collectivism (Li, 2002). It means individual in China would put the group value first while personal interests come second. In China, conformity is accepted as a desired way of interpersonal and social interactions (Hui & Triandis, 1986; Hsu, 1981). Opposite to the Chinese culture, U.S. culture places more emphasis on individualism, which could also be called as independence (Hui & Triandis, 1986). Some western observers found U.S. children may be more likely to behave in ways contradictory to social norms than Chinese children who may be more respectful to the social norms and practices (Hui & Triandis, 1986). These differences, if extended to the news system, may also imply that United States citizen may be more likely to criticize the government than Chinese citizens.
When international Chinese students leave their motherland and go for higher education in United States, they begin to confront the conflict between the two cultures. The Chinese culture, which is society-centered, and the U.S. culture, which is individual-centered, may cause conflict during the acculturation process (Singh, Huang & Thompson, 1962).

Intercultural communication is often defined as communication “between people from different national cultures, and many scholars limit it to face-to-face communication” (Gudykunst, 2002, p. 179). Chinese students in the United States now face this kind of situation: international students need to adjust to not only the education system but also the sociocultural system, which is different from their own (Zimmermann, 1995). Many studies state that adjustment to a different culture may be very difficult. Thomson and English (1964) reported that over 60% of all prematurely return Peace Corps Volunteers prior to 1963 faced the adjustment problems. Oberg (1960) stated that people may feel hopeless when they adjust to a new environment.

When Chinese students who have been deeply influenced by Chinese culture come to United States and get exposed to opinions about China that may be different from their perceptions, they may get confused. Their thoughts, which are shaped by Chinese culture, especially media, may be challenged by new opinions from media and people of United States.

According to the theory of Cognitive Dissonance, when people receive some information inconsistent to their previous experiences and beliefs, they may experience cognitive discomfort and may modify different elements of their belief system or their behavior to address this discomfort (Festinger, 1957). When Chinese students face some
negative comments on a Chinese issue through the media and personal communication, they may also try to find consistency and reduce pressure.

This study uses the theory of cognitive dissonance to explore issues related to cognitive dissonance among Chinese students when faced with opinions/perceptions about China they may find negative; also explored are the strategies that may be used by Chinese students to address such cognitive dissonance. The first two research questions are what Chinese students’ perception of negative news about from U.S. media is, and what their perception of negative opinion from U.S. citizens is. Besides, the last question is how Chinese students reduce cognitive dissonance if it exists.
LITERATURE REVIEW

The Image of China in U.S. Media

In the U.S. media, the image of “China threat” dominates most of the reports about China. U.S. media cover both the positive and negative aspects about China, however, there are far more articles reporting the negative parts of China than positive parts (Liss, 2003). In Liss (2003)’s study, the negative image of China including five facets: rivalry conflict with the U.S., coming conflict over Taiwan, breakdown of law and order, human rights abuses and a repressive political system, social unrest, and corruption. Especially because of the rapid growth of Chinese economic, military and global influential power, “China threat” is one of the most popular images of China (Yang & Liu, 2012).

The reasons why U.S. media have negative reports about China are very complex. In Yang and Liu (2012)’s study, the reasons could be identified as the growth of Chinese military power, the increase of Chinese economic capabilities and influences, and the political/ideological differences between China and the United States. The element of the political/ideological differences has been very stable for a long time (Yang & Liu, 2012). China is a socialist state while the U.S. is a capitalist country. The conflict between different ideologies could explain why U.S. media have negative news about China. However, the number of reports about the ideology decreases gradually. The element of increasing military and economic power of China has become the main focus of U.S. media (Yang & Liu, 2012). Some U.S. media indicated that Chinese is a problematic state and an existential challenge, rather than a partner or a friend, and the rise of Chinese
military capacities would also threaten the place of U.S. in Asia (Halper, 2011; Pravda, 2013). Besides, ‘China put U.S. factories out of business’ and ‘China is a threat to U.S. dollar’ are also popular topics (Browne, 2014; Heffner, 2014).

Besides the above reasons, cultural differences could be also seen as a reason why U.S. media have negative views about China, which will be explained in the following parts.

The Definition of Culture

“Culture means the whole complex of traditional behavior which has been developed by the human race and is successively learned by each generation” (Mead, 2002, p. 90). Hofstede (1984) stated that culture could be defined as “interactive aggregate of common characteristics” that may determine how human beings respond to the environment. Culture can be learned (Axelrod, 1997) and it is associated with groups of people and its has a wide range of phenomena including norms, values, shared meanings, and patterned ways of behaving (Boyd & Richerson, 1988; Bozeman, 1992; Kroeber & Kluckhohn, 1952; McFate, 2005; Mead & Me´traux, 1953; O’Reilly, 1989).

Although culture is reserved for the whole society (or a nation), it could also be divided into different categories such as an organization or a family (Hofstede, 1984). Hofstede (1984) used subculture to define these categories. Most people within each subculture share common traits with the whole society. These traits will also make them different from people belonging to other culture who could be also named as foreigners (Hofstede, 1984). To this extent, culture could also be defined as “national consciousness” because it helps people to define nationality.
Culture may also be seen as a system of social norms that also influences the structure of the society and the development of social institutions (Hofstede, 1984). Media are also a part of the culture. Media play a very important role in conveying the shared values of the whole society. Media “legitimize” certain ideas and makes it more accepted by the population (Lull, 2000). Mass media communicate the shared values, rules and norms, which are agreed upon by most people, and repeats them to maintain the social structure. Lull (2000) stated that, both the media and the products and services which media offer together help create the dominant values and ideology. From this perspective, cultural differences are not only reflected in media from different cultures, but are also propagated by them.

The Differences between the Cultures of China and United States

Hofstede (1984) stated four dimensions that distinguish the cultural differences around the world:

*Individualism versus Collectivism*

This dimension explains the relationship between individual and the group. Individualism means the relationship is loose. Individuals would take care of themselves and their immediate families only (Hofstede, 1984). Contrary to individualism, collectivism means that individuals place the group value first; individual interests come second. A tight relationship between individual and society is emphasized in this kind of culture (Hofstede, 1984; Hui & Triandis, 1986; Hsu, 1981).
China is a collective country while the U.S. is an individualistic country. As a result, Chinese media tend to have more positive reports about China because the value of China is their group value. U.S. media, however, would have more negative reports not only about China, but also about U.S. because media have been seen as a watchdog of government and its task is to supervise government.

*Large versus Small Power Distance*

Power Distance indicates the degree to which unequal distribution of power in a society is accepted by its members (Hofstede, 1984). People in large power distance society would prefer a hierarchical order, to some extent, ignoring the further justification (Hofstede, 1984). People in small power distance society ask for power equalization and demand justification for power inequalities. The most important problem in this dimension, is that how people deal with power inequalities (Hofstede, 1984).

China is a country with large power distance (Brockner, Ackerman, Greenberg, Gelfand, Francesco, Chen, Leung, Bierbrauer, Gomez, and Kirkman, 2001). Chinese media prefer not to criticize the government because they see government is on the top of hierarchical order. However, U.S. is a state with small power distance. U.S. media would put the government in the equal position to them and they do not concern as much as Chinese media to criticize their government.

*Strong versus Weak Uncertainty Avoidance*

This dimension explains the degree to which society members feel uncertain and ambiguous. In cultures with strong uncertainty avoidance, there are very strict social
values and meanings to rule people’s behaviors and belief. In cultures with weak
uncertainty avoidance, the atmosphere would be more relaxed. Deviant persons and ideas
would be more easily accepted. People in high uncertainty avoidance countries tend to be
pessimistic about ability to control politician’s decision while people in low uncertainty
avoidance countries tend to be optimistic about ability to control politician’s decisions
(Hofstede, 1984). In the same way, Chinese media would be like to support the
government’s decisions instead of criticizing them and changing it, which is opposite to
U.S. media.

*Masculinity versus Femininity*

Masculinity stands for a preference in society for “achievement, heroism,
assertiveness, and material success” (Hofstede, 1984, p. 348). Femininity stands for a
preference for “relationships, modesty, caring for the week, and the quality of life”
(Hofstede, 1984, p. 337).

China emphasizes femininity. As a result Chinese media would not be like to
point out the misbehavior of government because they seek for the harmonious
relationship. U.S., at the same time, emphasizes masculinity. Within the influence of
masculinity, U.S. media focus on the achievement and so they may ignore the harmony
and criticize the government if it doesn’t have some kinds of success.

Based on the above analysis, culture difference reflects in the differences between
the media of China and United States. While Chinese media prefer the positive report the
government and its leader, U.S. media focus on the negative aspects of government
(Deng & Zhao, 2009).
The culture differences may also influence the patterns of interpersonal communication of people from U.S. and China. Chinese students may not speak very openly about others’ (including people and groups) disadvantages because they would consider the harmony of the whole group. However, U.S. students may be more open in expressing their ideas to public when they think the disadvantages of certain people and groups violate their interests. This cultural difference may lead to a situation with different expectations from interaction, when during interpersonal interaction between Chinese students and U.S. students, Chinese students may find it unusual that U.S. citizens tend to judge their motherland and government.

However, there are also some limitations of Hofstede’s framework of national culture differences. It has been criticized for using only reducing five dimensions to define cultural difference, which is very simplistic. The research of Hofstede (1980) limited the sample to a single multinational corporation, which would not be very representative. Besides, Hofstede’s frame just expressed a certain period time of cultural differences. What’s more, it ignored within-country cultural heterogeneity (Sivakumar & Nakata, 2001).

Even though the Hofstede’s theory is not perfect, many researchers have applied his framework to research because “clarity, parsimony, and resonance with managers” (Kirkman, Lowe & Gibson, 2006). So, in this study, researcher will still use the Hofstede (1984)’s dimensions of culture to explain the findings.
Overview of Students’ Media Use in China and United States

Some researches have been done on the media use of young generation in United States. Henke (1985) found that college students treat news media with increasing importance as they grow older, and at the same time, the consumption of news media use also increases. That means that the students in their senior year would spend more time and be more likely to read newspapers, watch news programs on TV and search for news on the Internet when compared to freshmen. Another survey also showed that people who are between eight and eighteen years old would spend most of their time with media; the only other activity that scored higher was sleep. Furthermore, the consumption of media increase from year to year (Rideout, Foehr & Roberts, 2010). Currently, people prefer to use more than one type of media at the same time, this is called media multitasking (Foehr, 2006).

Social media use also plays an important role in students’ daily life. Social media such as Facebook and Twitter have become a main channel for people to know what happened (Mitchell, Rosensitiel & Christian, 2012). Some news events such as sports matches and accidents break out faster on Twitter than on CNN and other people easily report these types of news, so it spreads very quickly (Kwak, Lee, Park & Moon, 2010). In 2006, More than 2,000 United States colleges used Facebook, which makes it the seventh most popular site on the World Wide Web according to total page views (Cassidy, 2006). In Facebook, users can “like” some politicians, governments, and news organizations to get some news. They may also get news from their friends (Baresch, Knight, Harp & Yaschur, 2011).
Based on the discussion above, we can find that media are very important for students in seeking news or just knowing news. Henke (1985) found that the news media which college students use might influence their knowledge, activities, and even political awareness. The international news coverage of media is also determined by the “international diplomacy, national government and military policies and historical-cultural heritage” (Lent, 1977, p. 4). So, when students consume media content critical of China, they would have a negative view of China. Based on this situation, it is easy for the current college students in Ohio University to have negative feelings towards Chinese issues, which may be shown in their speech or other ways.

There are also some other studies that examine international Chinese students’ media use patterns in the United States. For example, researchers have found that the use of media changed significantly after Chinese students arrived in the United States (Yang, Wu, Zhu & Southwell, 2004). The frequency of use of Chinese media, including newspapers, websites, and radio decreased significantly, while the usage of U.S. media, such as movies, magazines, books and newspapers increased noticeably (Yang, Wu, Zhu & Southwell, 2004).

In view of the facts, I argue that international Chinese students would come in contact with some negative comments and attitudes toward China during their usage of media.

Overview of United States Citizens’ Attitude toward China.

According to Pew Research Center’s Global Attitude Project (2011), about half of United States Citizens hold a positive attitude toward China, while 36% have negative
attitude. But 53% of United States Citizens are worried about the increasingly growing Chinese economy (Pew Research Center, 2011). Another Pew Research Center’s report said that about 22% of United States Citizens also thought that China poses the most danger to U.S. (Pew Research Center, 2012).

Based on this situation, when international Chinese students come to the United States for study, they will be exposed to the image of China created by U.S. media, which will be very different from what they have learned and known in China. This would cause concern and pressure.

The Theory of Cognitive Dissonance

According to the theory of Cognitive Dissonance, when people face ideas and beliefs that do not fit with their previous experiences and previously held beliefs, it may result in cognitive distress or discomfort; this discomfort is termed cognitive dissonance (Festinger, 1957). In another words, when inconsistency occurs, whether in behavior or thought, dissonance occurs.

When does dissonance or inconsistency occur? There are two situations in which dissonance occurs. The first situation is when people face certain new events or information; this may result in short-time dissonance with their former experiences, knowledge, behaviors, and opinions (Festinger, 1957).

Talking about the Chinese students, the dissonance they face is that some Chinese students have not read or heard too many negative comments or news about China before they arrived in United States. In China, some Chinese media are in the control of a “Communist political system” (Winfield & Peng, 2005). In this kind of situation, few
Chinese media sources would hold very negative attitudes to the current government and economy. However, in the United States, Chinese students may be exposed to a larger amount of media content critical of China, which may give rise to dissonance.

The second situation is that people may experience long-term inconsistency (Festinger, 1957). It may be due to a decision or situation where the decision is made based on resultant evaluation of facts and ideas and part of these elements are inconsistent with existing belief system (Festinger, 1957). An example would be Chinese students staying for study or work in the United States even if they find the media content about China to be biased and critical.

To international Chinese students, this situation may occur if they come up with some opinions like “the United States is better than China” or “U.S. citizens are more friendly than Chinese”, then the dissonance would appear. These opinions go against their former thoughts, so that inconsistency emerges. Sometimes international Chinese students make a decision to work in the U.S. Some scholars stated that when people want to join some groups, they would alter their evaluation of the group relative to other conditions (Draycott & Dabbs, 1998). According to this statement, Chinese students would easily think of advantages of the United States (because it is the group they want to join) and disadvantages about China, which they would not have felt before.

When people experience dissonance, what will they do? The presence of dissonance will drive people to eliminate the dissonance. The greater the dissonance, greater the avoidance of situations adding to dissonance (Festinger 1957). Festinger (1957) found that the number of dissonant elements, the number of consonant elements, and the importance of the elements could determine magnitude of dissonance. Draycott
and Dabbs (1998) found that dissonance could be reduced in three ways: increasing consonant elements, decreasing dissonant elements, and reducing the importance of dissonant elements. According to Festinger, (1957), the reduction of dissonance occurs in three ways by modifying cognitive elements.

The first way is “changing a behavioral cognitive element” (Festinger, 1957). People who experience dissonance would change their behaviors and related behavioral elements. When people feel inconsistency and pressure, people would change their minds to reduce these kinds of feelings. In this case, behaviors related to these feelings, which are also named behavioral cognitive elements, would also change with the feelings. For example, when people realize that KFC is junk food, they would get rid of it even though they have been eating it for a very long time. Since their feelings about KFC have changed, their behaviors relevant to it would change, too. Their feelings towards KFC are reversed from love to not love, even hate, and their behaviors are also reversed from love to eat to not to eat. In this way, people change their actions to reduce pressure (Festinger, 1957).

The second ways is “changing an environmental cognitive element” (Festinger, 1957). It is a way of changing the environment, or environmental elements, in order to reduce dissonance. It means that people would feel inconsistency and pressure from the environment and they will change certain parts of or the whole environment to gain consistency. The alteration of environment could be evaluated in different ways. The environment could be big or small. A small environment may be treated as the surroundings of a person. For example, when a student experiences dissonance due to an opinion of a friend, he may stop spending time with that friend and attempt to make new
friends whose ideas are consistent with his ideas. In this case, the behaviors and thoughts of this student’s friend remain the same, but the environment of this student has changed. Since the student gets away from the old friends and get supports from new friends, he would gain consistency and not need to change his thoughts. Environment could also be regarded as very big environment, such as the whole society.

In many cases, it may be much more difficult to change the environment than changing the behaviors (Festinger, 1957). Festinger (1975) argued that if people can totally control the whole environment, changing an environmental cognitive element would work very well. But for the people who do not have the ability to change the environment, they would seek other ways to reduce pressure.

The third way is “adding new cognitive elements” (Festinger, 1957). This way is when people face a situation where it is impossible to eliminate dissonance; they would add some other cognitive elements to the situation. Sometimes, changing the behavioral cognitive elements and environmental cognitive element would be not that easy; in this situation, people will have more cognitive elements as a result (Festinger, 1957). Actually, “adding” can have two meanings. One is adding, the other one is reducing. Adding means add the percentage and importance of cognitive elements (Festinger, 1957). For example, a person who loves fried chicken is just told that fried chicken is junk food and he should stop eating it at all, however, he personally loves it so much. He would feel the pressure from bad comments about KFC, but he would not be able to stop eating at KFC. He may seek some other reports or comments that support KFC and decide that KFC is not that harmful to people’s health. These new reports and comments are new cognitive elements that can help him reduce the dissonance. Reducing means reduce the percentage and
importance of cognitive elements (Festinger, 1957). For example, the same person who loves hamburger just hears some other news about fries. It is said that fries would be more harmful than hamburger. After this, he would think that compared to fries, hamburger is not that bad. These new elements just add new weight to the balance between cognition and dissonance.

When international Chinese students face unfriendly talks or comments on China, many times it may be impossible for them to avoid or alter the environment. However, they may attribute this perceived unfriendliness to lack of awareness about the reality among U.S. media and people. This may be a new cognitive element. Alternatively, they may also accept that there actually are some problems in China and accept what U.S. media and United States Citizens’ opinion about China as true. This may be another cognitive element.

The last way is to gain agreement and support of social groups (Festinger, 1957). It is actually not the methods reducing dissonance that Festinger (1957) talked about in the An Introduction to the Theory of Dissonance. But in the book, A Theory of Cognitive Dissonance, Festinger used three chapters to explain the Role of Social Support. When people are experiencing dissonance, in order to gain consistency, they would ask someone else for help (Festinger, 1957). On one hand, interpersonal communication is a very easy way for people to get new dissonant elements, which are inconsistent with the former thoughts. On the other hand, people can get support and cognitive elements efficiently from the others surrounding them. Getting help from others may be treated as parts of these former three ways. However, based on the research topic, this way would play a very important role among Chinese international students.
Finally, the reduction of dissonance is a procedure of attitude change (Draycott & Dabbs, 1998). Draycott & Dabbs (1998) found the two factors that influence people’s reactions to dissonance: one is “salience” of the reaction and the other is “cost” of the reaction. The comparison between the “salience” and “cost” determines whether the attitude change occurs or not. Based on the discussion above, the following research questions are proposed.

RQ1: What is the perception of negative news about China from U.S. media among Chinese students?

RQ2: What is the perception of negative opinions about China from U.S. citizens among Chinese students?

RQ3: How do Chinese students reduce dissonance when they are exposed to negative representations of China?
METHOD

To find the answers for the research questions, a focus group methodology was applied to the research.

Focus group is a frequently used method in the social sciences. It involves one or more groups of people together to discuss some certain problems and a moderator manages focus group (Lunt & Livingstone, 1996). There are many advantages of focus group. It gives researchers an opportunity to deeply understand and study people from the target population (Kitzinger, 1995). Kitzinger (1995) thought that compared to one-to-one interview, focus group is easier for people to get different samples’ views. Focus group can have many open-ended questions, which may encourage people to talk and give the answer in their own ways (Kitzinger, 1995). In this way, researchers will get a lot of data, even some new ideas researchers have never thought about.

Based on the characteristics of focus group, it fits this study. There are three reasons.

First, it would be hard to recruit hundreds of Chinese Student in Ohio University to join the study in the method of survey. Since focus group can collect large amount of data with relative small sample to survey, it would help researchers gain what is necessary for this research. Compared to interviews, researchers do not have to interview every individual, and it would save money. Besides, focus group will save the cost in the same way.

Second, it would be easy for focus group to collect various and deep views from different people. Focus group is where people could talk very openly. In this study, researcher would explore the cultural communication question among international
Chinese students and examine the theory of cognitive dissonance when Chinese students exposed to some U.S. media. In this case, data should be specific and detailed, and focus group method could meet this needs.

Third, focus group will give researcher new ideas about this study. Even though researcher should collect as many sources and come up with as many answers to research question as possible, there still would be new possibilities that something would be ignored. However, in focus group, the open-ended problems would encourage people to talk, as well as coming up with new thoughts, which are out of the range of researcher. Considering the advantage of focus group and the characteristics of this study, research decided to use focus group as the research method.

All the questions given to the subjects were set before the focus group. There were 19 open-ended questions in the question list (The question list is attached to the thesis in Appendix A.). There were also some follow-up questions that moderator used during the focus group to clarify the meaning of individuals or to ask for more detailed.

Some scholars state the typical number of groups is three to five as well as the focus groups should have six to twelve members in each group and eight is the most common number (Bernard, 1995; Morgan 1998). In this study, I planned to conduct 4 focus groups with 8 people in one group. Any student who came from China and was enrolled in Ohio University was considered a potential participant for the study. Researcher screened the participants before they attend the discussion.

Before the study began, I designed to category different groups based on three elements: major, how long they stay in the USA and gender. A randomly sampled group would not work very well because they may holds very similar opinions on certain topics
(Morgan, 1998). Have people from different subgroups would gather people with different background and share various perspectives (Morgan, 1998). In a university, the majors would be the most important subgroups. So major would be one of the elements for screening.

Another point very important was to check how many years Chinese students live and study in United States. The longer one person lived in a new place, the more different opinion he would be from another who just arrives here. Put people live in the U.S. of different periods together would gather different ideas.

The last but not least was gender. Gender is a very basic background variable for screening in focus group (Morgan, 1998). Woman and man, because of different gender, would like to see things from different aspects. When a group had both similar number of woman and man, they could express their ideas from different gender’s view.

Following the above three principles, the four focus groups should be arranged in this way: focus group 1 and 2, 8 people with mixed majors and genders; focus group 3, 8 people with mixed majors but only female students; focus group 4, 8 people with mixed majors but only male students.

Participants were recruited through email lists and chat groups of Chinese Learners Association (CLA) and Chinese Student and Scholar Association (CSSA). Each student who attended was offered $10 as incentive. All the focus groups were conducted in the Learning Room of Ohio University library.

Four focus groups were conducted among a total of 30 international Chinese students studying in Ohio University November 2013 and February 2014. The specific dates were: 20th, 24th November in 2013 and 2nd, 8th February in 2014. The students
who were willing to attend the research filled a filter questionnaire first; Chinese students who had lived in United States for at least a year were qualified for this study.

In four focus groups, there were 20 female students and 10 male students. The length of time they stayed in the U.S. is distributed in the following chart.

Table 1

*Length of Time in the U.S.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
<th>Length of Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1-2(not including 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2-3(not including 3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3-4(not including 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4-5(not including 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5-6(not including 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6-7(not including 7)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7-8(not including 8)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majors of focus group participants are distributed in the following table.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
<th>Major</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Journalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Plant Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Financial Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Acturary science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Audiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Biochemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Strategic of Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Media and Arts Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Instructional technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Accounting &amp; Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Accounting &amp; Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Graphics Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Music in Music therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Management and Strategic leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Art History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nutrition</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Each focus group had 90 minutes discussion to give everybody an opportunity to express his or her ideas. The researcher was the moderator of this study and controlled the procedure, getting rid of the possibilities only one or several people in this group keep talking. Moderator is one of the most important things of the focus group (Kitzinger, 1995). In order to keep this principle, moderator asked participants to answer questions one by one. They were allowed to say “I don’t know” or explain they just had no comments. Moderator also gave some participants sometime to think about their answers and went back to them again after the others all gave their opinions.

The focus group were held in the study rooms in the Alden Library where would be quiet and also easy to book. And they have enough seats for 9 people. During the discussion, audio record was used.

However, some problems existed during the process of recruitment and discussion of focus groups. There were only 30 students instead of the planed 32. Because of the difficulty of recruitment, researcher finally did not category each focus group based on three elements. Researcher collected students who were available for the same time together in one group. In two groups, one participant was absent for the discussion. As a result, two groups had 8 participants each and other two groups had only 7 participant.

Moderator gave participants who attended the focus group the Ohio University Consent Form to explain the purpose and the procedure of the study. The risks and benefits were also mentioned in this document. In order to protect the participants, all the names of them were replaced by code during data collection and transcription process.

Each focus group lasted around 90 minutes. Moderator gave a brief introduction of this study first. Then moderator asked the question from the list to every participant
and digital recorder was used to record his or her answers. During the discussion, Chinese students were required to use English. However, if they found it hard to state their thoughts clearly, they could use Chinese.

Thematic analysis was used to investigate the data collected from international Chinese students. A thematic analysis has been chosen as a foundation method to clarify and to analyze qualitative data (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Its big advantage is flexibility (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Since qualitative research always provides incredibly diverse, complex and nuanced data (Holloway & Todres, 2003), the flexibility of thematic analysis will help researcher to provide a detailed and logical account of data (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

Researcher created a transcript of the focus group discussion after conducting all focus group. There were several words and paragraphs written in Chinese and researcher translated them into English during transcription. Then researcher read the transcripts for 3 to 4 times to develop comprehensive understanding of all the material. Afterwards, researcher compiled the answers to the same questions from different focus groups together, coding line after line. Based on the codes, different themes were formulated. Researcher then analyzed the themes to answer the research questions.

Extracts from the focus group transcripts are used as examples to explain the nature of themes and subthemes. The transcript for the four focus groups is included as Appendix B. The extracts, presented as examples are identified by acronyms FG1, FG2, FG3, and FG4; here FG refers to Focus group and the numbers identify the focus group (For complete transcript of each focus group, please see Appendix B). The transcript was used for analyzing the result.
RESULTS

Thematic Analysis

A thematic analysis was used for investigating the focus group data (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The researcher read the transcripts of four focus groups 3 to 4 times to develop comprehensive understanding of all the material. Afterwards, researcher put the answers of the same questions for different groups together, coding line after line. Based on the codes, different themes were formulated. The researcher then analyzed the themes to answer the research questions. The extracts are followed, for example, with FG1, Participant 1. FG1 represent focus group 1 and the second 1 means the code of the participants.

Based on all the transcripts of four groups, three themes were identified. These were:

(1) Perception of negative news about China from U.S. media
(2) Perception of negative views about China from U.S. citizens

(3) The way to reduce cognitive dissonance

**Theme 1: Perception of Negative News about China from U.S. Media**

![Diagram showing subthemes: Positive, Neutral, Negative]

*Figure 2. Subthemes for theme 1*

Chinese students who joined the focus groups discussed their perception of social media and mass media, including both local and international media groups.

In order to give a more clear definition of this theme, there are three sub-themes to explicate more details about subjective feelings. These are: positive attitude, neutral attitude and negative attitude

**Sub-theme 1: Positive Attitude**

Some Chinese students held a positive attitude toward negative reports from U.S. media. They clearly indicated either their support or appreciation to negative reports about China.

Examples to demonstrate this context for the Positive attitude are:
I think sometimes I appreciate negative reports about China (FG4, Participant 5). So I think, to me, the thing that most Chinese think negative, I don’t personally perceive them as negative (FG1, Participant 7).

Because I’m more exposed to kind of negative, but personally I would believe it more objective perspective of China (FG1, Participant 8).

Participants who had this kind of view saw negative news actually as a different way to evaluate the events that happened in China, and this kind of news was very different from the partisan reports from Chinese media. They thought that coverage from U.S. media demonstrated different aspects of the same stories and issues and also pointed out existing problems in China. Since they tend to believe the negative news about China in U.S. media was objective, they indicated that this news helped Chinese students understand more about the current status of China.

Sub-theme 2: Neutral Attitude

Some Chinese students held neutral opinions, which were neither supportive nor antagonistic, toward negative news about China. Some Chinese students just blocked the news and did not care about it no matter what U.S. media reported. Some Chinese students’ expressed understanding of many different reasons that would contribute to the nature of media content; they evaluated their attitude towards the media content as neutral.

Some examples for this sub-theme are:

It’s reported by U.S. media, I can understand it (FG1, Participant 6).

I don’t care. This is reality (FG2, Participant 1).

I feel nothing. Because it’s totally business. It’s not emotional thing (FG4, Participant 3).
Students who held this kind of view not only saw the news itself, but also took into consideration other factors such as the present international situation, the business of media, history, and cultural differences. They had their own perception of what was negative and positive news about China. They tended to feel very conflicted about changing the negative U.S. media and also the current situation of China, so they just ignored it and chose inaction.

Many Chinese students also emphasized the credibility of negative news about China. Examples to demonstrate this context are:

But if they just talk in a objective way, I think it’s ok because we do have a lot of problem and…(FG1, Participant 3)

I know there is a pollution, it is…I shouldn’t be angry if they say this is pollution, because there is a pollution...(FG2, Participant 1)

Some Chinese students believed that some problems that now existed in China were the main reason why U.S. media had negative reports about China.

As to credibility of U.S. media, some Chinese students mentioned that whether media were professional or not influenced their judgment of credibility. Participants suggested that a big media group with long history was more reliable than individual bloggers. Examples to demonstrate this context are:

I guess I agree with them, it depends on the report itself and the creditability. It’s some newspaper from nowhere, it has a reputation of being negative, I probably wouldn’t believe it in the first place. I might check other bigger media…to see whether it’s true. It will increase the possibility I might believe the report after I read it. The judge based on my knowledge, experiences and …just everything. If it is just some sort of news story, now even a real news story, like the thing I mentioned in my…I blogger wrote something looks like news story about the shooting, some Chinese student killed his girlfriend in Chicago. That guy used Chink in the title something like that. If you use the Chink title, I wouldn’t believe anything from their point of view. Not the facts, but the opinions (FG3, Participant 5).
Chinese students believed that large media groups with long history were more objective, because they had very good reputation and good reporters. These guaranteed the absence of personal preference. Individual bloggers, however, may have many personal opinions instead of giving a whole picture of events. In this kind of situation, some students thought the reports from big news groups would be more reliable.

Sub-theme 3: Negative Attitude

Besides positive and neutral attitudes, some students expressed negative attitudes towards news coverage of China.

Some examples for this sub-theme are:

I feel a little bit angry, but most is embarrassment other than angry (FG1, Participant 2).

When I read the negative news, I think they are bullshit. It’s none of their business (FG4, Participant 1).

Just feel angry because it’s not true, may be just some people, but not all of us (FG3, Participant 1).

The students who had a negative attitude toward the news about China have very complex reasons. For example, some thought the negative views are not true, or only partially true. Many of these participants expressed that the untrue nature of the news coverage is the reason for their negative evaluation. Some Chinese students thought that there is no need for U.S. media to judge the current government or situation in China, regardless of whether there is a problem or not.

One of the reasons why some students held a negative attitude toward U.S. media was because U.S. media stereotyped Chinese, including Chinese students and travelers.
They thought U.S. media exaggerated the disadvantages belonging to certain amount of Chinese students to all Chinese citizens.

Examples for this context are:

I remember about 2 or 3 years ago, we have someone post some pictures online about the Chinese students, like in OU, they play Majiang everyday or…Yeah, that kind of news is really about me, so it really influence my life. My parents thought me: oh, you are a student there only live a life like that. Feel very embarrassed. I found this news negative, but it’s partially true. It’s not everyone and not everything (FG1, Participant 4).

I think Chinese people are portrayed by some stereotype like they are…I think some characteristics are not belong to all Chinese citizens, just few parts. And they use part to represent all Chinese citizens, I think this is not the truth, and it’s negative. I think they just use a few people’s characteristics to present all the Chinese citizens (FG4, Participant 7).

It appears that the criticisms from U.S. media of Chinese citizens aroused more anger than that of Chinese government and policy. People stated that this kind of negative news stereotyped Chinese. They admit that some Chinese behaved inappropriately, however, the way U.S. media report would make the audience think all the other Chinese behave the same. So when participants talked about the U.S. media’s negative news about China, most of them had an unfavorable attitude towards the U.S. media.

Some Chinese students also tended to divide news into different parts. They were likely to accept the facts rather than comments from the U.S. media. Some Chinese students thought news was comprised of facts and commentary from the reporters and the media group behind them. Some students considered facts as neither negative nor positive. They perceived that U.S media added their opinions to facts. According to them, these opinions left a negative impression of China on the audience and the opinions, not the facts, were the source for their negative attitude.

Example to demonstrate this context is:
I think when we see negative, we can see how our Chinese journalism report U.S. When we see the news on our country, we just report the fact, we don’t contain any opinions about U.S, we didn’t have positive or negative. While in U.S, U.S. journalists like to put their opinions on the fact. So they will produce a lot of issues (FG1, Participant 8).

In the discussion, some Chinese students also mentioned how they thought some other Chinese students reacted to negative news in U.S. media.

Examples to demonstrate this context are:

I think students generally are young, they are eager to learn. And their opinion is easy be manipulated… (FG2, Participant 6).

Like no.7 said a lot of new comers always feel more nervous…when the people, because this is our own country (FG2, Participant 5).

I think there are three kinds of people when they read news. The first one is they are biased by the bad news and they get back to China, they want to change; the second kind of people is they read the news, and they just think, oh it’s happening, we just deal with it; and the third kind of people is they already knew the situation China has…and he will feel upset, because he knew one person’s power is not enough to deal with the situation. He just don’t want to read anymore. When somebody mentioned it, he just oh, it’s really happened, I don’t really care about it (FG2, Participant 5).

According to the third-person effect, in many situations, people display a self-serving bias where they estimate the influence of harmful inputs to be stronger on others than themselves (Davison, 1983). Participants suggested that other Chinese students, especially new arrivals, would be influenced by the negative news; this may be seen as a manifestation of the third person effect. Since some Chinese students mentioned that new arrivals or some other Chinese students would act more strongly to negative news than themselves, they treat themselves different from the others. This means that they thought they were less influenced by biased news coverage about China in U.S. media.
Figure 3. Subthemes for theme 2

Compared to Theme 1, not many Chinese students were more ambivalent towards the perception of negative views from U.S. citizens. Some Chinese students suggested that they just keep a very neutral attitude toward the opinions about China from U.S. citizens.

Example to demonstrate this context is:

I got a story to share. I was here...there was a local shooting club. Three or four years ago, I joined them. I was the first, not even Asian, like none-white to join club. And it is all local, what they call that, red necks, something ohio, and I started shooting...with them. You can tell at the very first begging, at first I wasn’t very good at that time. But you can tell they are hostile to you. They don’t talk to you, they don’t even have eye contact with you. That was the first year. The second year, my skill...improved a little bit. The third year, I was the third place in the B group. Not too bad, but not on top because I didn’t have too much experiences. But now you know that...gradually you know those older guys and shooting people, they are like...the shooters are old white, really really conservative...But the thing is, you can tell at the first they are very hostile to you, then they get to know you, they know...you know you are not that bad. Then you gradually...you can earn their respect, but you can tell, still fundamentally, they are different from you, but they will show some respect to you. That’s...they are the people you just never gonna change. They are stand. They have been educated that way, so... (FG2, Participant 3)
Some Chinese students did not take the attitude of U.S. citizen toward China as negative. They thought that they were ignorant and conservative, but not having very judgmental opinions toward China.

Example to demonstrate this context is:

I think Americans they are kind of difficult to generalize that well, like there are many kind of people. A middle school kid, like ask me, do you guys have potatoes in China? Do you have refrigerator? Just, you know, ridiculous. He doesn’t know…have a basic idea how China is. Talk about American students and Professors, they kind of, generally have a pretty positive opinions on China. I think they are pretty astonished by the rapid…economic development we have achieved these years (FG1, Participant 4).

Chinese students pointed out many reasons why U.S. citizens have negative attitudes toward China, but they did not hold negative attitudes toward them. They tried to understand the current situation U.S. citizens were in and would not like to take their negative views very seriously.

**Theme 3: The Way to Reduce Cognitive Dissonance**

The third theme is to explore how international Chinese students reduce cognitive dissonance when they are exposed to negative views about China from both U.S. media and U.S. citizens. The negative news and views from U.S. media and citizens could be seen as the origin of inconsistency. Chinese students who are subjected to this negative information use different method to reduce them. Such reactions are related not only to their perception of the negative opinions about China in United States, but also to their personal experiences. For example, some people stated that many students had already read the New York Times before they came to the U.S., but some people just began to read some form of English news after they started studying in the U.S. Additionally,
students’ majors also seem to impact their news consumption behavior. For example, some students who majored in journalism read a lot of news, but some students who study business prefer only read the business part of the news or little else.

According to the theory of Cognitive Dissonance, there are four ways to reduce inconsistent feelings (Festinger 1957). However, based on the data collected from the four focus groups, only three of the ways were used to eliminate cognitive dissonance, which are also three sub-themes of Theme 3. These are:

1. Changing a behavioral cognitive element
2. Changing an environmental cognitive element
3. Adding new cognitive elements

Figure 4. Subthemes for Theme 3

Sub-theme 1: Changing a Behavioral Cognitive Element

In Festinger’s (1957) Cognitive Dissonance Theory, changing a behavioral cognitive element comes with the changing of related thoughts and beliefs which will result in behaviors changing. Some students indicated such changes.
Examples to demonstrate this sub-theme are:

Change me something. Some news in China is prohibited. I used to search on YouTube and watch the radio and some rumors in radio about Bo Xilai, about Chinese government corruption. It became a routine, often search on YouTube to watch that kind of news. Maybe it’s not true, just for fun, things that forbidden in China (FG1, Participant 5).

I think it does have a pretty influential impact on my views of China. Because I’m more exposed to kind of negative, but personally I would believe it more objective perspective of China (FG1, Participant 8).

The participants who chose to change their behaviors reflect the change in their belief system. After being exposed to negative news about China, they were more influenced by the U.S. media and also tended to doubt what they used to believe. As a result, they searched for more negative news about China, which they had not done before. At the same time, they trust the negative news more than the partisan news from China. In this way, Chinese students gained consistency by eliminating the past beliefs that just brought new cognitive dissonance to current opinions.

Sub-theme 2: Changing An Environmental Cognitive Element

Based on Festinger’s (1957) theory, changing an environmental cognitive element basically means altering the environment, to any extent. It could be the whole society or just the situation around the individual (Festinger 1957). Changing the environmental cognitive elements helped Chinese students get away from the source of cognitive dissonance, as well as gain consistency.

In this study, participants had these dimensions of environmental change to reduce inconsistent thoughts.

Examples to demonstrate this sub-theme are:
I still explain the thing I think it’s actually happen in China to my friends, because I really think a neutral view is very important for my friends to treat me or treat with Chinese person (Participant 2, 3).

So just give them the thought that it’s bad things happened, anyone in China, not just the government, all the citizens, we try to help. We will work on this, we will solve it (FG2, Participant 5).

I feel like there a lot of things I haven’t see before needs to be improved, and I feel more responsible for doing things for this China (FG1, Participant 8).

The thing is I’m not going to bring politics by myself, or any kind of news that I know would bring argument. Mainly things, me talk with American friends, mainly about our history and cultures, mainly cultures (FG2, Participant 1).

In this case, some students who reduced cognitive dissonance through environmental change did not escape from their original groups (Chinese students). They tried to explain the current problem that existed in China to U.S. citizens. In other words, they changed the environment by changing the current situation in the U.S. Explanation may help change U.S. citizens’ impressions about China. As a result, U.S. citizens who interacted with Chinese students may change their former negative thoughts about China into more neutral or positive impressions, or at least they may not talk about the negative aspect of China in front of Chinese students. In this way, Chinese students reduce the cognitive dissonance from both U.S. media and U.S citizens, since the media also influence U.S. citizens.

Furthermore, avoiding the topics, which may bring conflicts between Chinese students and U.S. citizens, is another way to reduce cognitive inconsistency. Some Chinese people thought some sensitive topics might bring arguments between them and their U.S. friends, which also might make inconsistencies more invisible to themselves. Both of the above mentioned ways could be seen as adding environmental elements to
reduce cognitive dissonance. Chinese students chose to persuade U.S. citizens or just stopped talking about certain topics, and this changed the environment around them.

Others expressed their desire to bring improvements back to China, at the same time, showing that they do not try to cater to or support the negative views from U.S. media and citizens. By improving China, the problems that existed in China now would no longer be problems in the future, and U.S. media would not focus on these problems and report negative news about China. U.S. citizens would also have no source of negative views. Then Chinese students gain consistency. This change included change in both the small environment around them and the larger national environment.

Sub-theme 3, Adding New Cognitive Elements

Festinger (1957) stated that adding new cognitive elements implies two different ways of modifying the cognitive structure: one is by adding the cognitive element, and the other one is by reducing the cognitive element. Adding means adding to the importance of some cognitive elements and reducing refers to reducing the importance of some cognitive elements (Festinger, 1957). Both of the methods add new elements to the previous cognition, but adding the percentage and importance of cognitive elements means increasing the numbers of cognition to support the former thoughts. Reducing the percentage and importance of cognitive elements means increasing the numbers of cognition to dispute the news ideas, which bring cognitive dissonance (Festinger, 1957).

Examples to demonstrate this context for adding the percentage and importance of cognitive elements were:
Several months ago, my professor, my advisor went to China for conference. The city was Qunming. And when he came back, we talked about Chinese pollution, the air pollution. He thinks that obviously Qunming is one of the best air quality cities in China, of course. Qunming is ok. But, like in Beijing or Shanghai is very bad. He maintained that this is a very normal standard with country is growing. This stage is like, every other developed countries have come through this (FG4, Participant 6).

I feel like one thing will help us…for example, last week, I was in Chubb Hall, and a cashier asked me: is that real that pollution happening in China? I say, yes it’s real, but we are working on it. It’s happen to any other developing country, like London in 19 century, they had this pollution they still have it. But just because we are developing, it’s like out of control we can’t do it. But once our situation is getting better, government will work on it. It’s not because we give up. So just give them the thought that it’s bad things happened, anyone in China, not just the government, all the citizens, we try to help. We will work on this, we will solve it (FG Participant 2, 5).

I think it’s kind of, I mean, recently, like in this past three years, I think China media really does change in a good way. Like, while I was in China in the past summer, I was watching the CCTV, the news (FG2, Participant 5).

Because everybody has their judgment. I mean as a person, I definitely won’t believe them all. Actually, I will do research myself on line to see other…I won’t believe in one media, one kind of source. I will try to find other source to balance their idea (FG3, Participant 7).

The above first three examples have the same ideas: China is getting better. For the students from China, because of the influence from Chinese media and culture, they tended to have positive views about China (Winfield & Peng, 2005). The negative views from the United States were inconsistent to them. When they were exposed to negativity, they added the “China is getting better” element to their previous positive views about China and it helped to increase the percentage and importance of the positive cognitive elements. Even though they may still continually have more negative cognition from U.S. citizens and U.S. media, with increased the importance on fast development, they would not treat the problems that existed in China as unsolved. Because China is improving, it will solve the problem sooner or later. In this way, the “Better China” element increased
the importance of the former positive perception about China, and Chinese students were able to attain consistency.

The fourth example suggests that some Chinese students read the positive news from China to balance the negative news about their country, since Chinese media tended to have more positive reports about their state (Winfield & Peng, 2005). When they read some negative news from U.S. media, they seek news of the same event in Chinese media. Emphasis on the positive aspects of the same event in Chinese media also increased the percentage and importance of previous thoughts. Some Chinese students described it as “a comprehensive thought”. All in all, it helped Chinese students gain consistency.

Examples to demonstrate this context for reducing the percentage and importance of cognitive elements were:

Basically I feel these negative news are totally business. I don’t think the media holds any opinion of China or anything else. They just think this kind of news can attract a lot of audiences and gain a lot of money (Participant 4, 3).

Because first, I think the people here, the domestic people here in Athens have some bias about Chinese people and they only know very few about the real life of people in China. Their think… that it’s totally different from what really happens in China (FG4, Participant 7).

Like my roommate never eat vegetable or fruit, they just like…she doesn’t like it. For those people who don’t live China or Chinese, they just don’t like it, there is no reason (FG2, Participant 1).

The elements added here are the influence of business, politics, and culture to U.S. media and citizens and the limitation of them. All of them provided the reasons why the U.S. media and citizens had these negative views about China. Students experiencing dissonance added these reasons to explain why U.S. media and citizens do not have the same thoughts as them. These new elements helped Chinese students in the United States understand why U.S. media and citizens had negative views about China. The reason why
they hold negative views toward China was because they have limitations and they are also influenced by many other factors. So, the negative news and views were either ignored or understood by Chinese students but not accepted. The reason why Chinese students were not consistent with negative opinions was because the limitation of U.S. citizens and media, which means the negative opinions were not trustworthy. The importance and percentage of cognitive dissonance was reduced by the new added elements and helped the students resolve the dissonance.

However, while analyzing the transcripts of the four focus groups, it seems in many cases the Chinese students enhance the importance of some elements to evaluate the U.S. and China as equivalents. This may be due to the conflicting situation where students want to be consistent about their perception of China, but they also want to justify their choice to seek education in the U.S.

Examples to demonstrate this context are:

In China, I heard a lot of things report about American government, American citizens they can free talk, free to vote. But after I come, I think it is a dream. I change me opinions for the American governments and citizens. I think the Chinese government and American government is the same for me. They have something good, and a lot of something bad for the citizens (FG1, Participant 7).

I want to add a point, there are some part of the reason, and lead to this, is also Chinese government’s own fault. Because the…make it so difficult to get access to the Chinese officials (FG2, Participant 2).

Some Chinese students compared either Chinese media and U.S. media or Chinese government and U.S. government together and concluded that the problems were the same in both countries. Participants compared these two countries’ media and argued that problems such as stereotyping international students and tourists existed in both countries. Or some students acknowledged the problems faced by China as the reason
why U.S. media have negative views about China. For students who had positive or neutral attitude toward the United States, they added the new cognitive dissonance elements, such as “U.S. and China government are same” and “Chinese government blocked some news." to emphasize, it’s not only U.S. media’s “mistake”, China also needs to be responsible for this situation. In this way, some Chinese students reduce the importance and percentage of “U.S. media’s fault”.

Some Chinese students may hold positive attitudes toward both China and the U.S. So, in the focus groups, some students used a lot of “It Depends” to add or reduce new cognitive element to balance. They asked for more information to make their minds. And their attitudes would change with the situation.

Some Examples for this context are:

It depends on the validity and reliability (FG3, Participant 3). I think it depends on which channel it’s. I mean talk show is an entertainment channel, we should not take it seriously. If the post is from, like official U.S. media, then media said some negative things about China, we should take it seriously (FG1, Participant 2).

I think it depends on the news and how they report it, and how people read it, like who read it. If it has a lot of emotional words or something, it probably make me feel angry at least unhappy. But if it just like before, there is report about, un, talking about Wen Jiabao’s family, some bad information, some good information. I don’t feel angry or mad about it because it’s telling the truth with objective position. It think it’s ok. But like the Jimmy Kimmel thing, It’s not ok. But I do agree with No.5. Chinese people are over reacted (FG4, Participant 8).

For the Chinese international students who now lived and studied in U.S, the negative views about China would be inconsistent to their previous perception. However, the negative views about the U.S would also bring them new cognitive dissonance. Since they had already choose to come to U.S, they must see some advantages from the U.S. If they kept very negative views toward U.S. media and U.S. citizens, their behavioral
elements would not be consistent with the cognitive element, which would bring conflicts to themselves. It should be admitted that, even though this study researches on how Chinese students reduce cognitive dissonance, some students’ answers potentially mentioned the problems of the U.S. would also bring new cognitive dissonance to participants. In this kind of situation, some students would choose to judge different events in different situations to balance China and the U.S. and avoid dissonance.
DISCUSSION

There were three primary objectives of this research study: first, to study Chinese students’ perception of negative news about China from U.S. media; second, to analyze Chinese students’ perception of negative views about China from U.S. citizens; third, to apply the theory of cognitive dissonance to investigate what Chinese students would do if they experience cognitive dissonance. Because few related studies in this area exist, a focus group is used to develop insights about international Chinese students’ perspectives of U.S. media and U.S. citizens, and how they reduce cognitive dissonance.

This study finds that Chinese students receive cognitive dissonance from both U.S. media and U.S. citizens. Chinese students held complex attitudes toward the news coverage of China in U.S. media. The origins of cognitive dissonance from U.S. media are the material of the reports, the creditability of the reports, the creditability of media groups and the comments of reports. Additionally, Chinese students receive cognitive dissonance from the conversation between them and U.S. citizens. Even though U.S. citizens may have negative opinions about China, Chinese students held neutral attitudes toward U.S. citizens.

Cultural differences played a very important role in the existence of cognitive dissonance that Chinese students receive from U.S. media and citizens. In Hofstede’s theory (1998), there are four dimensions to define cultural differences: masculinity versus femininity, strong versus weak uncertainty avoidance, large versus small power distance, and individualism versus collectivism. Two of these dimensions, masculinity versus femininity and individualism versus collectivism will help explain why Chinese students gain cognitive dissonance.
A major difference between China and the United States is how each country values masculinity and femininity. China tends to emphasize femininity, and the U.S. tends to emphasize masculinity (Zigang and Fan, 2004). On one hand, Hofstede (1998) stated that femininity represents that a relationship is warm and harmonious and everybody is modest and tender. What’s more, femininity also stresses harmony between countries. It prefers to have international conflicts solved by negotiation and compromise. On the other hand, masculinity (Hofstede, 1998) emphasizes that man needs to be “assertive, ambitious and tough” (p. 16). Stress on equity, mutual completion and performance is important in this kind of society. Masculinity also prefers that international conflicts could be solved by “a show of strength or by fighting.” (p. 17). As a result, a Chinese student who comes from a feminine society would prefer harmony to conflicts. However, U.S. media tend to have some negative reports about China (Deng & Zhao, 2009). U.S. citizens may also have negative opinions of China. People from feminine countries will have some worries about possible criticism or rejection by the others (Hoshino-Browne, Zanna, Spencer, Zanna, and Kitayam, 2005). The negative opinions from U.S. media and U.S. citizens can be seen as criticism and rejection. International Chinese students will not agree with the negative views from the United States because they think it may influence the harmony in personal and international relationships. It may also make them worry. That’s why some Chinese students thought, “When I read the negative news, I think they are bullshit. It’s none of their business” (FG4, Participant 1).

Chinese students hold the same attitude toward reports about China including negative commentary. Some participants in the focus group perceived that only the
reported facts in the news were objective, and they tended to avoid the comments media added into the reports. They thought the comments in the reports were negative, and contained many criticisms of China, and were comprised of only personal ideas. Participants of the focus group could see reports that included negative comments as an origin of conflict, which according to Hofstede (1998), could push against feminine culture. In this situation, Chinese students were exposed to cognitive dissonance from U.S. media because the negative comments would damage the harmony, which is valued among Chinese students.

In my study, cultural difference is an origin of cognitive dissonance. In some other studies, the relationship between cultural differences and cognitive dissonance is different. Like in 2000, Crotts and Erdmann did a study on the influences of national culture on customers’ evaluation of travel service. Researchers found that customers from less masculine countries tend to be more satisfied with flight service. Two possible explanations were given to interpret this finding. First, respondents from feminine countries would like to have more sympathy and more disregard of disadvantages compared to those from more masculine societies. Second, respondents from feminine countries tend to have less criticism than people from masculine countries (Crotts & Erdmann, 2000). In both of the studies, people from less masculine countries prefer harmony and would not like to be in conflict.

Another dimension of cultural difference between China and the U.S. is individualism vs. collectivism (Hofstede, 1984). China is collectivist and the U.S. is individualistic (Hui & Triandis, 1986; Hsu, 1981). Collectivism means the group value should come first, at the same time individual’s interest comes second. A preference of
tight relationship between individual and society is shared in this kind of culture (Hofstede, 1984; Hui & Triandis, 1986; Hsu, 1981). In low individual countries, “identity is based in the social system” (Hofstede, 1986. p 171). Collectivism also emphasize that individuals should belong to organization. People in collective society have “belief in group decision” (Hofstede, 1986. p 171). In high individual countries, the situation is different. People in individual countries prefer that “identity is based in the individual”, and emphasize on individual’s achievement (Hofstede, 1986. p 171). For students who come from China, they are raised by their motherland and they represent Chinese group. They will put the value of China first. The negative reports and conversations will damage the image of China and are against their value system. For example, some Chinese students thought U.S. media and citizens had stereotypes on Chinese government and citizens, which were always negative and many Chinese students stated that they thought China was improving and these stereotypes were partial. This would also explain why Chinese students gain cognitive dissonance from the negative reports from U.S. media and citizens. These negative reports and opinions have a bad influence on the Chinese image, which is against the group value of Chinese students. Since they are from a collective country, Chinese students could not adjust themselves to this kind of situation and are exposed to cognitive dissonance.

Some other studies also prove how people from collective cultures would value the group value first. In Gardner, Gabriel and Lee’s (1999) study, people who from individualistic societies would reflect individualistic goals greater than people from collective societies. Parson and Shils (1951) also stated that self-orientated individuals
are able to pursue private interest regardless of the others’ private and collectivity-oriented individuals allow group interests take the place of individuals.

In contrast, people who are from collective societies would also reflect higher collective goals. This would also explain why Chinese students gain cognitive dissonance from the negative reports from U.S. media. Whether the U.S. media have a negative report about the government or Chinese people, some Chinese students cannot agree because they prefer to put the group value first: The public criticism from the media damage the group value and therefore, is undesirable.

The Relationship between Cultural Differences and Cognitive Dissonance

In my research, cultural differences could be seen as an origin of cognitive dissonance. Some other studies also focus on the relationship between cultural variations and cognitive dissonance. In one study, researchers focused on European Canadian, Asian Canadians and Japanese citizens studying in Canada (Hoshino-Browne, Zanna, Spencer, Zanna, and Kitayam, 2005). This study stated that culturally ideal self-concepts vary from Eastern culture to Western Culture. As a result, the effective self-affirmation also varies across different cultures. The independent Western’s self-affirmation is to affirm their uniqueness from the other people. In contrast, interdependent Eastern’s self-affirmation is to affirm the connection within their groups. This article is consisted of four studies which include the postdecisional justification Among European Canadians and Asian Canadians, study among European Canadians and Japanese citizens, and postdecisional justification and independent self-affirmation among bicultural and monocultural Asian Canadians. Researchers concluded that both easterners and
westerners could experience dissonance. However, culture differences will influence which dissonance would be aroused and reduced in different situations (Hoshino-Browne, Zanna, Spencer, Zanna, and Kitayam, 2005). This result is consistent with the research of Kitayama, Conner Snibbe, Markus, and Suzuki (2004). Kitayama et al.’s (2004) study is done between North American and Japanese students. The finding of this study is that: the cognitive dissonance of North Americans originally from the worry about their own competence and personal elements; the Japanese cognitive dissonance is from the worry about possible rejection of other people. The differences of cognitive dissonance reflect the different cultures between North America and Japan.

As discussed above, culture differences could be seen as the origin of cognitive dissonance. Chinese students who value both interpersonal and international relationship harmony would see the negative views about China from U.S. media and citizens as criticism. They will make Chinese students worry because they have an unfavorable influence on the harmony and also the image of China. On the other hand, cultural differences could also be seen as the reason to explain why people with different background would receive different cognitive dissonance. People from different cultures may receive different type of cognitive dissonance and may have different ways to reduce pressure when they face the same problems.

The Difficulties of Studying Abroad

My study discovers that media could be a reason of the existent of cognitive dissonance of international Chinese students because of cultural differences. It brings a new way to treat media because few researchers have ever focused on the possible
influences brought by media to students that would result in cognitive dissonance and moreover, bring new difficulties for international students to adjust to a local academic and social system. Some studies have been done to identify the problems that international students would meet when they study abroad. In the study of Sümer et. al (2008), researchers found that the age, race, length of stay, gender, and proficiency in English would bring international students anxiety and depression. In another study, international students who adjust themselves to United States local educational and social environment may be stressed because of different language, studying habits, teaching environment and cultural values (Ranjita, Melanee & Christopher, 2003). These studies point out the possible challenges that international students would meet in their abroad study experience. However, not many of them mentioned what role that media would play.

In these studies, some of the elements that may bring international students anxiety and depression could also be seen as cognitive dissonance. In the theory of cognitive dissonance, all information that is inconsistent with the current belief and values of people could be seen as the source for cognitive dissonance. In the study of Sümer et. al (2008), researchers identify differences with individualism-collectivism among race. The cultural differences would bring international students with new information. Students from collective countries are not familiar with the manners of individual countries. As a result, they are exposed to cognitive dissonance.

The above analysis proves that cognitive dissonance is a problem that international students would meet during studying abroad. Media in the foreign country,
which can also be seen as a component of the culture and a mean for communication of values rooted in the culture, plays an important role in giving rise to cognitive dissonance.

Dissonance Reduction

In my study, Chinese students reduce cognitive dissonance they collect from both U.S. media and citizens with three different ways. These are: changing a behavioral cognitive element, changing an environmental cognitive element and adding new cognitive elements.

McFalls and Cobb-Robbers (2001) point a new way to reduce cognitive dissonance. In their study, researchers help students with different cultural background reduce cognitive dissonance by informing the theory of cognitive dissonance. This study indicates that if students would be educated with the theory of cognitive dissonance first, they will be less resistant to discrepant information. They tend to more accept the news information than respondents who are not exposed to this theory (McFalls & Cobb-Robers, 2011).

However, teaching international cognitive dissonance theory could be seen as a new aspect of adding new cognitive elements. As discussed above, the cognitive dissonance theory could be seen as the new elements added to students who hold rejection to new information. After being exposed to this theory, students will know the reason of the existence of cognitive dissonance and the process of producing inconsistency. For students who first hold a very resistant attitude toward new knowledge, they will know that the reason why they have this kind of attitude and why it is reasonable to have it. This understanding will help them reduce their worries and fears.
when they adjust to a different culture. Sümer et. al (2008) states that if international students could not adjust to a foreign culture, they may be hopeless and depressed. But if they understand why they feel uncomfortable with the new information, this understanding can be seen as a new cognitive element, which may reduce the importance and percentage of the negative feelings they have toward new information and help them to accept new knowledge.
LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE STUDIES

One of the limitations of this study would be the sample’s demography. All the focus groups’ participants are from Ohio University’s different majors. Because of the difficulty of recruiting Chinese students to join the study, researcher only put people with the same available time together without taking their majors into account. Since participants majored in Journalism dominated a high percentage, it would also influence the result of this study.

Another limitation is the focus group. Because focus group relies on the interaction between all the participants, so it is possible that group itself influence the data (Morgan, 1997). The influence can be divided into two ways, one is participants withhold something they might say in private, the other one is participant express more extreme opinions than they might say in private (Sussman, Burton, Dent, Stacy, & Flay, 1991). This is an inevitable aspect of focus group which is also very hard to identify (Morgan, 1997).

To address those limitations, two future studies could be done. One is refine the recruitment and arrangement of focus groups. Students with different majors and even different schools could be invited to attend this study. Each group will have different character to ensure the variety of focus groups. Group with mixed gender, majors and groups with same gender could be identified clear for future study. Another way is to conduct another survey. Since there are some limitations that focus group could not avoid, a different methodology could be used to solve this problem. Besides, survey could be more practical to gaining better knowledge with a big size sample.
IMPLICATIONS

The findings of this study provide insights about the international Chinese students' psychological activity and reaction under multi-cultural influence. This study demonstrates that cultural differences are a source of cognitive dissonance. This study also shows that both U.S. media and U.S. citizen may become the source of cognitive dissonance for Chinese students. Both the content of negative views and how U.S. media and U.S. citizens express negative views would cause Chinese students experience dissonance.

The findings may help universities modify the present structure to assist foreign students to adjust to local culture. An increasing number of people go to foreign countries to achieve higher education (Knight 1994; Knight and de Wit 1995). There are more and more foreign students coming to United States for higher education (Desilver, 2013). Chinese students by far constitute the highest proportion of the whole population (Desilver, 2013). International students will meet different problems in their study and life. In order to help international students adjust to United States culture and environment, some universities hold different activities and lectures to help foreign students (Thomson and English, 1964). For example, in the University of Kansas, international Family Association was held to help international student adjust to new environment (Homeland Security). Also in Ohio University, the International Student and Faculty Services is set to “provide support services for international students, faculty, staff and scholars, and their dependents; to enable them to achieve their educational goals and objectives” (http://www.ohio.edu/isfs/about/mission.htm#). One of its purposes is to play a role in expanding the University's appreciation for cultural diversity.
Even though some scholars argue that adjusting to a different social and educational system could make foreign students uncomfortable (Lacina, 2002; Ye, 2005), media also plays a very important role. Nowadays, students are more and more exposed to different media (Henke, 1985), and it would be much harder for foreign students, including international Chinese students to get used to a different social and academic system.

This study presents insights into the role U.S. media and cultural differences plays in inter-cultural communication. Some studies showed that many international students may have very different background from the other United States students, and these differences may lead to discrimination (Lacina, 2002). Negative reports from U.S. media may create barriers to cultural adjustments and keep foreign students from adjusting themselves into U.S. culture. In this study, because of Cultural differences, Chinese students received cognitive dissonance from U.S. media. The theory of Cognitive Dissonance (Festinger, 1957) indicates that people would consistently gain dissonance, and they are not likely to join the new social group and only stay in their own groups to prevent inconsistency.

In future work, universities should take the perception of media into consideration, and should think about giving foreign students a comprehensive idea about U.S. media and helping understand the system of U.S. media and how it works. If they were more familiar with U.S. media, they would acclimate themselves more to the target society. This will be very helpful for both inter-cultural communication and foreign students reduction of cognitive dissonance.
Universities could also teach international students the theory of cognitive dissonance. As discussed in the study of McFalls and Cobb-Robbers (2001), students who were acknowledged by the theory would adjust to the new information better and have less cognitive dissonance.

Besides the improvement of the universities, students also need to have a more positive attitude to adjust to the foreign culture. International students should have a positive attitude toward unfamiliar objects, even though they may cause some pressure. If Chinese students get acquainted with how U.S. media work, it would help them to reduce cognitive dissonance.
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APPENDIX A: QUESTIONS FOR FOCUS GROUP

Question List

1. Introduce themselves: including major and how many years the live in the United States.

2. What kind of American newspaper or TV programs have you ever read or watched after you came to United States?

3. Have you ever watched or read some news or TV programs that talk about China which you think are negative?

4. What’s it about? How you got it?

5. In what way you find this report negative?

6. How do you feel when you come up with this kind of news?

7. How do your friends feel about negative coverage of China in U.S. media? How do you think other Chinese students feel about negative coverage of China?

8. Why these reporters want to have these negative reports?

9. Would you think Chinese students would accept their points of view?

10. How do you think that feelings about negative image of China may influence behavior of other Chinese students?

11. Why these reporters report some certain news or in some certain ways?

12. Do some reports change your thoughts about China? Or do some reports change your thoughts about America?

13. Do the other people feel this news negative? Why or why not?

14. What kind of talking topic you will have with your American friends?
15. Do you talk about Chinese government and policy with them? What kind of views they would hold?

16. Do you think they hold negative attitude toward China? In what way their talks make you feel like this?

17. Do you think why they have these negative attitudes?

18. How do Chinese students would feel when they come up with these opinions?

19. Would they accept these opinions? Why or Why not?
APPENDIX B: TRANSCRIPTS FOR FOCUS GROUP

Focus Group 1

What kind of American media have you ever read or watched after you came to United States?
1, I ordered the times, the magazine. I read couple of times only. Just, I ordered for one year, but I only read the cover. During the twelve magazines, there are four covers about China. One is for the President Xi, and the other one is for the earthquake or something, I don’t remember. So I think China really have huge influences on American media, such as the Time magazine, use Chinese events. I also watched the Joe Stone Show, the talk show. He always make jokes about Chinese or something like that. He is talking about something, not joke always, sometimes joke on American government and himself also.
2, Washington Post just had a story, I think report about one-child policy. So the one child policy will be eliminated soon, so Washington Post just had a story about that.
3, I watched NPR.
4, What about…before the last presidential election, so all the candidates talk lot about the policy… the foreign policy to China. I think CNN, some channels…
5, I just search for the business, like…When I read the report or the paper, I just read the Forbes or Wall Street Journal, just the business part, always focus on the America, I didn’t…
6, I do the research…like she pointed out, we just focus on the business part, or just read some papers, we research something. But actually we do not see some video.

How you define negative news about China?
1, It just depends on person. Interesting and neutral way, I don’t think it is a serious thing.
2, I think it depends on which channel it’s. I mean talk show is an entertainment channel, we should not take it seriously. If the post is from, like official U.S. media, then media said some negative things about China, we should take it seriously.
3, I think he means that which matters is the source of the comments. If the comments from non-official channels, such as entertainment or something, it’s not a big deal. But it is from BBC or some very serious news program or some other, that should matter because that stand for the U.S. government, or something.
4, I think the problem is, who is talking. …He is African-American, and he always use Nigger word to describe African-American. But because he is black, it’s ok. But you can not imagine if white man said and use this word, it’s a horrible thing.
Technically, any report deviate from the truth, can be defined as negative. But, the problem is we don’t…almost we never know what is truth. So sometimes, you can see the corrupt report, report about Chinese government corrupt or something like that from U.S. medias. But that’s depend on…but we never know the truth, so I can not judge whether it’s negative or positive. Or some people maybe have…while because they reflect their mind, but some people like Chinese government officials maybe angry with this news. So that’s depends on what’s your position.
5, I think for the most policy report, I think we should very serious report…force the fact to report it. The personal opinions for the policy, I think, is rude for the Chinese culture
also for us International Chinese students in the United States, which is not good for our study or communicate to the native speakers. Also, American people may have the negative feelings for the students, after they read about those reports. I think the serious reports we should focus on fact, don’t base on their opinions for the Chinese culture. I think truth is both negative and positive, we should report…if we report the negative, we should also report the positive for this policy. I think no policy is negative for the citizens around the world in every culture, so must have positive for everyone. I think if we report the disadvantages of one policy, we should also point the advantage of the policy for the citizens for Chinese or other countries’ people. There are different cultures or situations of different countries, so we should follow the Chinese situation for…like there are a lot of population in China, more than America. If we follow the American policy, I think more disadvantage than advantage…

6, I think like… some news talk about Chinese, like the insurance, the coverage…and they talk about like…they said the population coverage in China is like 90 percent. American news told us it’s not true. In the rural area, the people…there are many people do not have like insurance coverage, and they still stay in the poor, and some people like they get desert…I mean…I think the American media just like focus on specific part to show the…they don’t say the general coverage or something like…They just show the part truth, but not whole truth. Part truth is the meaning of negative.

7, Speaking of American media, you can definitely see, there are kind of have two types of news. There is one time, primarily focus on the…information, how truthful the event is. The other kind is definitely more toward…like opinion based. So it’s like, it definitely has some truth in there, some actual event. But it is more about this journalists or writers, his or her own opinions. So I think, when I…or maybe when we kind of make a judgment or opinion on things, it’s probably better to look at how much, how truthful deviation or description of the event. And then, because everybody has their own judgment, their own perception on things, I think really, how truthful the event can give you the real sense of what is going on. And given the articles and video, or TV show that I watched, while it’s just my own opinion and probably 80 percent of the event are true fully reported. I mean definitely everything have a lot of sides and you are reporting from a…if American journalists reporting from a domestic American perspective, his own perspective is limited any ways. So I think, probably there were reports, like human trapping, food safety that kind of things, I think it’s pretty obvious to all Chinese. But I personally kind of think, we give ourselves a lot of excuse, not looking at these things seriously. So I think, to me, the thing that most Chinese think negative, I don’t personally perceive them as negative. I think there are a lot of things that Chinese, if we want to be elite, especially in the American society, we have to think of things more with more critical eye. So, that’s my personal point of view. I still remember the report that I read on back…magazine, it’s about…like talking about Chinese guy owned the most expensive car in south east Ohio. It’s probably like 2 or 3 years ago. It really striked my at that time, because…I don’t think from that author’s perspective, he is really like…putting a lot of hatrism or a lot of anti-Chinese kind of…he is really trying to be objective, trying to present what is actually going on of the Chinese community here in Athens. So I think most of American journalists, I think, at least, comparing to Chinese journalists, I think they are more objective towards the truth of event.
8, I think when we see negative, we can see how our Chinese journalism report U.S. When we see the news on our country, we just report the fact, we don’t contain any opinions about U.S, we didn’t have positive or negative. While in U.S, U.S. journalists like to put their opinions on the fact. So they will produce a lot of issues.

**How do you feel when you come up with negative news?**

1, I kind feel good. Because they are reporting China untruth fact, how can I feel bad.
2, I feel a little bit angry, but most is embarrassment other than angry.
3, I think it depends on the person or the journalism intends to talk China, I feel angry. But if they just talk in a objective way, I think it’s ok because we do have a lot of problem and…even our main stream, like CCTV, do the same, I think, talk down on other countries.
4, It depends. If it is not my business, I may feel happy because it has a kind of entertainment to me. But if the news is really matter about me, I may feel angry or…negative…I remember about 2 or 3 years ago, we have someone post some pictures online about the Chinese students, like in OU, they play Majiang everyday or…Yeah, that kind of news is really about me, so it really influence my life. My parents thought me: oh, you are a student there only live a life like that. Feel very embarrassed. I found this news negative, but it’s partially true. It’s not everyone and not everything.
5, I think even American students, some of them playing video game every day. I think, specifically to bad news, because I don’t know CNN or TengXun or whatever Chinese media, they got more exaggerate. It doesn’t got the original meaning of American Media. I think, I have a friend from film telling me, it is just like part of their project that this journalist like, show photos and talk about their lifes, just describe how life is, like for Chinese students here on campus, but not intentionally to saying that this kind of corrupted…terrible life here for Chinese students. But because of the Chinese media and, it’s kind of like…I don’t know, it is just degree thing into a level and same like every Chinese student in America, like not doing things, but just live their lives in a very bad…yeah.
6, It’s reported by U.S. media, I can understand it. Because I think those reports have not…So we may have some cooperation between the two countries, but I think there is more competition. So, if the U.S. media report something negative about China, I will understand that, although I will think it’s not the truth, but I will understand because your…always want to say something bad for you. But what makes me feel real bad is Chinese media report something about Chinese students is U.S, that’s really a problem. There is an example, I think the couple, the boy and the girl were killed in a…in California. The U.S media just report it, that’s it. But the Chinese media exaggerate it in much more negative way. So that makes me even feel much worse.
7, For negative news, I some time feel ridiculous, I just ignore it. Because it’s not the truth, not the fact, why should I care about it? So I just ignore it.
8, I just think, it depends on personal opinion or objective for the journalists or something like that. It’s personal ideas, I will just block the news.
5, I think for in the terms of the physical infrastructure, actually a lot of the…like the railroad, express train, Chinese is definitely more advanced than U.S. It’s pretty common for them, I don’t know…I think it’s probably because they feel incompetent. I think’s
it’s pretty common. I do see, in terms of this, it’s a negative report, because I believe that
development of Chinese infrastructure in a lot of ways more advanced than the U.S right
now. I think my personal perception is actually changed over the years. If I just came in
U.S. for a year or two, and I will be like very so angry, and can’t control my emotion.
Like really talk to every Chinese student, like how can this magazine talk about China in
such manner. But right now, after five years, I really feel that I find that…I still have
some emotions, but more often, I feel kind of indifferent to it. Probably, it’s not ok. But I
feel like, this is just news, it’s what happens, you can only change yourselves. It’s not
about how bad Chinese image is, it’s about what can you do to make this country better if
you think it’s a patriotic person. So I don’t have that much more emotional attachment to
this type of news…

How do your friend feel when they come up with negative news?
1, yeah, I talked to my father about the Children Table things. We feel the same, because
the words come from the children doesn’t make sense.
2, We just talked about…like regard this as a joke.

Why U.S. media has negative news about China?
1, That’s motivated. So you can see the different background of different media, like
some media are liberal, some are really conservative. They are controlled by different
political power and financial powers. So even for the same thing, even for the mastic
United States event, they can have very just…opinions very different, distinguished
reports. So when they report something about China, that really depends on, you know,
their background. For example, like the aircraft, I think the aircraft company in U.S.
spend huge amount of money in lobbying with congress, government, also U.S. media.
So they can write something about…so these reports are motivated.
2, I think the it is really a common thing. I think American and China, the two biggest
power right now here in the world. I think the power relationship or positions are kind of
in a kind of diagnose, so this kind of conflicts or…kind of competition, I think is pretty
common. I don’t see it’s difficult…The big background kind of drives in become the core
or the center of news, news stream because these are the biggest two power.
3, I agree with their opinion. Just like the competition. Government has the position to
talk all the personal opinions of this, negative reports.
4, I think the negative news may draw people’s attention. The most people do not know
the truth. I think it draw, just like the Chinese people’s attention. The reporters want the
Chinese in the U.S. to know the truth. But I mean, we don’t know the truth or not. The
want you to accept the truth, they think it’s the truth, they want some people…
5, I also hear a piece of rumor say in the OPEE program, sometimes you are required to
write an essay about comparison and contract between two countries. You describe the
advantages of the U.S. system, U.S. College or whatever, and you say something bad, say
the U.S. College is much better than Chinese University, you kind of getting high grade.
6, I think the producer of the program only care about how many people watch their
program. But they are not really…their purpose to increase the people…the amount of
people watch their program. But they are not really care about how Chinese people feel
about that. More people argue they can
7, I think maybe because the American people thought China is a big competition. I think it’s a economy…maybe American people sort of afraid of beyond by China. I think it is sort of ideology thing, countries…things, because China is not a capitalist country. And I think, most Chinese people know America better than American people know China. If you don’t know something, usually afraid of it.

8, A method of attract attention, because China has a lot of people and if they report something negative our angry people will click the website thousands of time make their website more popular than ever.

9, I think they just report things, they think it is right. But we don’t think it is right, so we think it is negative. For example, American people…American journal always like to criticize people human rights in China, they think this is right so…I actually didn’t have some…I think these negative things are very common. They just report what they think is right. Because of different culture background or something…because we are different, then a lot of thing they think is right but we don’t think.

Would you accept their point of view?

1, Firstly, I just think we don’t care.

2, Well, some students may read the news and don’t care…but maybe more Chinese students just don’t know such news. Because they don’t read any newspapers, so…or they just read Chinese news medias. That’s it.

3, It just depends on different people. I never talked this kind of news to my roommate. He is a typical宅男(?). If talked to him, such negative news, he will be angry to why American media report things like that.

Do the negative reports about China change your thoughts about China or America?

1, Yes, I can’t find some example but…

2, If some of my American friends talk about the negative news with me, I will try to explain it and try to make it better: it’s not the truth. Chinese is better…something like that. I will talk to the more if I heard some thing negative. I will try to fix it, to…

3, It doesn’t change my mind about China. Good still good, bad still bad. But it change me a lot towards U.S. media, even including The Post. That’s true. I think it is just some standards, not for Chinese but for some OU policies.

4, I don’t think I have change.

1, I think I have changed some thing but I don’t know. Maybe let me think more about China, how to improve our country.

5, Change me something. Some news in China is prohibited. I used to search on YouTube and watch the radio and some rumors in radio about Bo Xilai, about Chinese government corruption. It became a routine, often search on YouTube to watch that kind of news. Maybe it’s not true, just for fun. Things that forbidden in China.

6, I think it don’t change my opinion about China and Americans.

7, In China, I heard a lot of things reports about American government, American citizens they can free talk, free to vote. But after I come, I think it is a dream. I change me opinions for the American governments and citizens. I think the Chinese government and American government is the same for me. They have something good, and a lot of something bad for the citizens.
8, I think it does have a pretty influential impact on my views of China. Because I’m more exposed to kind of negative, but personally I would believe it more objective perspective of China. So things like human rights, Internet censorship you wouldn’t have exposed to any sort of this things if you are in China. But in the United States, you are kind of...information all sort of information about, so it’s kind of make you really think about this country... not like becoming like developing any...but more concern of this country. I feel like there a lot of things I haven’t see before needs to be improved, and I feel more responsible for doing things for this China. Because there are a lot of things I see that I did see before really need a kind of collected efforts all Chinese community to any type of Change. In terms of American media, I personally don’t have a perception change. Because I always feel there is no absolute freedom of speech or...because every news group, any government is representative of their own interests. Even when I was in China, couple of years ago, I didn’t believe there is any everything good in the U.S. So this type of view didn’t really change.

What kind of talking topic you will have with your American friends?
1, food,
2, Chinese culture
3, Guns
4, A guy talked with my the Culture Revolution. Really surprise me.
5, I think in this kind of historical events, we are kind of being blind, I think they know way more than us.

What kind of attitude they have toward Chinese?
1, Some they can’t believe, like one-child policy.
2, Just one American student said to me, you have single-child policy, is it because Chinese people don’t like to have sex.
3, Sometimes I think we really rarely talk about government or policy. I think they do have different kinds of ...I think they feel themselves more superior, regarding the education, policy, and also their own political system. But I think they have their own rights to do it.
4, Americans are just sometimes confused about Chinese policy.

Do they have negative attitude?
1, No.
2, When I go to church, the most people they talk about China, they just like the positive about China and they said
3, One girl told me about the toilet...Because she travelled in China and in Yunan Province...
4, I think Americans they are kind of difficult to generalize that well, like there are many kind of people. A middle school kid, like ask me, do you guys have potatoes in China? Do you have refrigerator? Just, you know, ridiculous. He doesn’t know...have a basic idea how China is. Talk about American students and Professors, they kind of, generally have a pretty positive opinions on China. I think they are pretty astonished by the rapid...economic development we have achieved these years.
5, I ask my American friends, one of American friends, what’s your opinion toward China, to Chinese? He just told me, like Chinese students are rich. I think it’s positive. He asked me why? I told him because a parents only have one child, so two people’s…

**Why they have this kind of attitude?**
1, One professor asked me to recommend some book about China to her, so I think the older people think things much more mature. The younger they just get what they can get and they believe it. It depends.
2, I think, like some professors, they want to know China just from the internet or from the book. I think in the library, the have a of news about China.
3, It is similar to the Chinese people in China how to gather information like, the information about United States, how they recognize United States. The people, like my parents, they think everything in America is better, is better than China. But it is really not. They are collect information from, like traditional TV program, the people ideology. So maybe in United States, the traditional idea, the people in the United States, they think China is developing country, is a poor country. Maybe, especially, people in the United States and Europe, they think they are the best in the world. Even they don’t have a car, even Chinese people don’t even have shoes. So things are not what they think about. 4, I think they definitely get a lot of perspectives from newspapers, American media, press, a lot of them are sort of negative. But there are a lot attemptable changes they can see in their daily life, everyday, like in Athens, that Chinese community have been growing tremendously. So something that is kind of invaluable…this development of China, is something they could not avoid. I think Americans themselves have kind of generally, like kind of general interest or curiosity to change to different. So they are pretty…but different kind of things like troubles. A lot of them talks to me and ask me why there so many Chinese students coming, or why Chinese economy developing…have been growing so fast. I think this is a pretty good thing. I don’t think they have negative attitude…but some of them might do, but overall, they are just really…curious of what’ going on and kind of figuring out.
5, I think students, or people in the United States, they are open-minded and very good. My friends who from European countries or Korean…students always ask them very ridiculous questions like, what you have in China? Does Chinese people have TV or Chinese people electricity, something like that? But what I experienced in United States, I never met this, such questions like that.
6, I hear the rumor that some professors in Business College do have negative views about Chinese students, because of the communication…
Focus Group 2

**What kind of American media have you ever read or watched after you came to United States?**
2. NPR. Fox News.
3. USA Today

**Have you ever watched or read some news about China? What kind of news it would be?**
1: There are a lot about China. CNN likes to talk about tradition about China. They introduce the Chinese culture, like the Chinese tradition festival; there is usually many and long reports about it.
2: There is one program which I watched on Hulu. I forgot its name, but like Daily News or something. It’s not mainly talk about China, but...he make fun of...like politics. I remember, one thing he talked about China now is about air pollution. It is kind of the end of the year...
3: Actually most of the information I got about China is from the newspaper and is just the major events the introduced and the reports some maybe the disaster like the earthquake in Sichuan Province, and they criticized the behaviors the government did. And sometimes, I watched some programs on TV to introduce the history of China. And they are trying to use a positive way to, and maybe the neutral way to introduce not the criticize.
4: here are plenty of things going on TV, so like Fox news they talked about sometimes...well, the go pretty negative, negative images, but at the same time, they will say something about they think would be neutral position. But, just say something...you know there are something happened in China always have two sides to...express to, show other people. Apparently, they will pick up not so good no so popular image side. That’s that. But that’s the news.
5: I didn’t pay a lot of attention about this kind of news. All I know if this article is from China, like in group meeting, our boss will have very critical view about this kind of article. He will very doubt the result.

**Do you find these reports negative? Why you think it is negative?**
1. I don’t think it is negative, though. I feel it all about politics. I mean, to be honest, I don’t even know what’s going on in China so far. I mean what we know is from the newspapers from China. It’s hold by the government. They show me us to see. So we don’t know what really happened, it’s good or not. So what we read from here is what U.S. government allowed us to see, for their people to see. Maybe there is bad thing about China because they want their people to see “ok, I live in America, this is a wonderful place. So, I don’t know to be honest.
2. Another reason I see is because whenever there is a big change in the political regime in China, usually there is a lot of coverages on that. And maybe one of the reason is
because U.S. media they also don’t know much about what’s going on in this political change. So they tend to use a political view to see, like, what happened in the past, to analyze what’s going on in the future. Usually, in this kind of situation, you don’t have, you know, a very…I don’t know… happy attitude. You just tend to be critical.  
3. They never have a good attitude towards us. I just see China is the new Russia, in my way. Anything in their…there is just no good signs. One thing I like about the Fox is because they pick up the things, and they just say, I don’t like it, I hate it. It’s not like CNN or NBC. They just say…I don’t like it, they are bad people, they are crucial, whatever economies, I don’t like them. But for those lefties, they would be like “there are some good things in China, they do this good, this good…however…”. I don’t like it. I knew because I don’t like the country, just say it. I never see something really positive. If they see something positive, it would be more like “I’m afraid of you” kind of thing. Like you guys having wonderful market, that’s good. But, you have done something really…you have political…pollution. They will throw something in there even if this is good. Or say, couples of them were news…Fox reported about by himself; this is a big step for the Chinese mediatory of whatever, and you can sense there is a fear in there. It’s not like that, it’s not supportive. You guys would become another bad buy villain. So, honestly, I never see any positive words. People will two sides of news. They always have that side of view, which is understandable. You will see all kinds of articles describing similar neutral position, describing something, like ceremony, blablabla…and at the end, there would always be like” we don’t know what’s behind this new official…this new oriental country, what they wanna do. There would always be one sentence or one paragraph. You can think there is something more, something evil behind…Just like (the North Korea). I don’t think they will put a evil label on us, but it’s something behind it, the journalists, they were write to make you think that we are going to be bad.  
4. Actually they are kind likely telling the truth, but with conspiracy inside it. I think these news try to keep professional, but they just can’t help to…conspiracy theory to the news. Try to think China maybe did some thing, but there maybe another aim they focus on, not just like hold the big Olympic. In other way, maybe China will have bigger move behind the Olympics games. Or maybe China will have big battle ship, and they are trying to think, maybe China have another movement behind building the ship or something…  
2. Actually it’s bad to say it’s bad. Other readers would think, ok, this newspaper, or this writer, reporters are not really…I don’t know, not really good, because he is against everythng. So he would say…assume you to say.  
5. While I mean, every media, they have, while you know, their right, their benefits, of course, they have their sponsors, so they have to work for someone, so …Just take Voice of America for example, it’s very…it’s kind of like the opposite of CCTV, because this is the propaganda toward or for America, they are government’s. So usually, like, anything about China is negative. They are saying, I’m showing you the real China. Is that objective? NO, because they never report about the good side of China. They just want to show you, we are different from the Chinese propaganda. You know, media, we are showing you the negative side, we are good, but it’s not objective at all, either.
6. I think because of the limit of the source, they got news from Chinese government…how to say, it is not very easy to get actual happened in China, even for us. And Americans have a very different way to think about this, compared to Chinese. I think, it’s…I really don’t think they want to negative. Sometimes, the news, or the actual, the view they got is in that way, is what Chinese government gave them. So the just have a lot of space to think about it, imagine about that kind of situation. I don’t know. I don’t think American media is want us to think Chinese persons are evil…
3. I just think they just put out reasonable doubt and…
6. Yeah, I really think it’s reasonable, it’s not biased position, or biased view.

In what way you find these reports negative?
1: First of the first is the topic. It’s easy to see, usually it’s portion…I don’t mean that it’s never exist in China, it exist. But the thing is, they emphasize on the topic that’s more negative for the image of China, at least the perspective of Chinese government. They usually report about, you know, one-child policy, air pollution, or all these stuff that Chinese government doesn’t want to be emphasized.
2: I think it all start with a “but”. They just show a news to you, and explain some in …way, and BUT, or maybe something similar to but, just the word like that, and then, he would give us his point, and it’s kind of like negative way to say…not that negative, but the criticized way to explain how his will…So maybe that’s their way…and also give you a space to let your free will to think how the reader or the watcher, their own thought. Maybe they will think their own negative way toward the events. So I think it’s their way to show negative.
3: Like, for example, to the…we have the Olympics Game, we had a huge event and we hold it really well. But Americans will think about…they won’t think this is showing a…that China is developing, like we have good economy and people are rich in China, we kind of like doing all our own good jobs. They will think about we are still old China, like in ancient Qing Dynasty or something like that. They only think, the government, like to…money from their people. They will hold this…they won’t think, ok, we are able too, not just …money from…like the citizen, something like that.
4: News are news, journalists they won’t report anything common, right? Something is happening, and they will pick it and report it. Apparently they will pick something that will interest people here, right? That wouldn’t be something that happy, good stories. For people here, they like to here something not cool, not good outside of the states. So there are thousands happening in China or Russia or anywhere, at anytime, the journalists would just pick something that, people here would like to know. And there wouldn’t be like hundred of stories a day, maybe one story per reader one day. So that story has be the people…has become the story people here like to know and most of the time, it’s not good. So, I don’t blame or think this is something wrong to do. It’s just their job, you know, they need to write something people here would like to know. Apparently people like to know something bad about our country.
3: I feel like every newspaper or any media in all kind of countries…I mean their main purpose is to make their people think we are living in heaven. Other people, any other one living in any other country live in hell.
1: I don’t agree on this, today we are just talking about how U.S. media covered China. If we look how U.S. media covered U.S, there is still a lot of negative reports, so it’s not like they are trying to make people think, yeah, we are living in the heaven. I think for journalists, everything like everyday, is like, no people dying, it’s not good news. We only report if someone suicide or there is bullying like that.

2: Report good things are not attractive, because it happens everyday. But if really something bad happened, that’s attractive. That would let the reader to buy your newspaper or watch your programs.

How do you feel with negative reports about China?

1: I don’t care. This is reality. We are not going to change it. This is just my opinion. We are not going to change it. You can’t change the impression of people. You can’t change the way people, the journalists, the American journalists, write story. There is nothing you can change. Just not care about.

2: I don’t know it is a good example or may off the topic. When first I came here and I had a roommate, she is from Thailand. And we kind of talk about things between Mainland China and Taiwan. From our knowledge, Taiwan belongs to us, long history, bad history, just like the things we have with Japan. But in their history book, Taiwan belongs to Taiwan, they call Taiwanese. So I had a huge argument with her, tried to persuade her that we have those history, but after all, they are all Chinese. And then I gave up. It’s just not anything I can control. I might can persuade her, but I can not persuade anyone, or everyone in this country or any other countries. So I like it, ok I have this idea in my mind that China is good, I love China. I’m trying to be honest, we have bad things happened, this is my home country. But I don’t care about any other people say about my country. It’s said to say, but I really give up.

3: I still explain the thing I think it’s actually happen in China to my friends, because I really think a neutral view is very important for my friends to treat me or treat with Chinese person. (To negative news) I feel it happens. Because in China, we also have a lot of bad news about America. But I didn’t see any American explain this kind of things to Chinese.

5: I fell like one thing will help us…for example, last week, I was in Chubb Hall, and a cashier asked me: is that real that pollution happening in China? I say, yes it’s real, but we are working on it. It’s happen to any other developing country, like London in 19 century, they had this pollution they still have it. But just because we are developing, it’s like out of control we can’t do it. But once our situation is getting better, government will work on it. It’s not because we give up. So just give them the thought that it’s bad things happened, anyone in China, not just the government, all the citizens, we try to help. We will work on this, we will solve it.

5: For me, it’s not to explain to people. But it’s fun thing to discuss with people whenever there is a topic like this. I’d like to discuss with my friends, American friends, International friends or other Chinese friends, because we all have own views on this. We can expand it, not just the media coverage on it. Then it come a topic for us to express our own views on it. For me, because most of the negative coverage and U.S. media coverage on Chinese is on politics, because they are very into politics. But for people, when I get in touch with people, we all more into the cultural stuff. So, we can still talk
about other, like China has such a, you know…full of culture. It’s very interesting to me
tell people other aspects of China.
5: Actually, I kind of agree with No.5. Just keep a neutral. But someone really want to
critique Chinese, what’s Chinese government doing, or maybe what’s Chinese people
doing, I will try to argue with him and try to let him keep a neutral way. Because
everybody has their own idea, I not really bother them to have it. And, but please be
positive…Because everything can change, it just about times. You can’t keep just one
view for all times, and like the No.6(?) says the pollution problem, yeah, we have the
problem, but we’ll do things to solve the problem. This is all about times. I kind of keep a
neutral way, point to it, but if someone really did, I will fight with him.
1: I’m not angry. I just don’t have any feelings. I know this is how they…they pick the
story, they broadcast it…I really don’t have any feelings. Pollution, yeah, they report it. I
know there is a pollution, it is…I shouldn’t be angry if they say this is pollution, because
there is a pollution.
3: I really feel it’s their freedom, their right to talk the way they want. Because in this
way, the can sell more products, and people will have more willingness to read this kind of
things. I really think we just accept this way because…in Japan, there would be more bad
news, just showed in the Newspaper, in the Internet. I don’t have…It’s ok (to have these
news)
5: As long as they keep professional, I’m ok with it (negative news)
4: I think relatively, comparing to other country, U.S. media has been the most objective
one.

Why do you think reporters or journalists have these kind of negative news?
1: They make it for living. Boss lets them. I think it’s a business thing. Even there is
something good, the story wouldn’t be published I guess.
2: …China is such a hot topic now, it’s not easy to get around with China. So you have to
write about China. And as such a competitive country, for the U.S, what is interesting for
both the people and the government is the political issues.
3: I think the business is one part. The other part is, I think about, the way they, how they
are thinking about things. Because in China, we have something like government control,
and we have a lot of government business. But in America, they don’t have that kind of
thing and they…and it’s very hard for them to understand how this is happening and how
the government control this kind of thing. And of course there are a lot of dirty business
behind Chinese government. Sometimes they just have very clear view about this dirty
thing when they feel confused and don’t understand, they will just report it. And I think,
our know exactly what happening. ‘It’s like when the cover is removed, we may cannot
accept the true fact. What they see would be the distorted truth, which means what they
report would not be the fact at all. Or maybe what we get from media is not truth, either.
So we actually don’t know what really happened. So, I don’t think we can give our
judgment on the paper. It is something is happening; there is no need for us to give a
conclusion whether it’s truth or wrong. Sometimes, it just . However, I think the paper in
America just talk what they wanna to.’就想遮羞布被拽掉了以后，我们可能没办法接
受这个事实，他们看到的，或者他们内个什么的知识经过扭曲的事实，所以他们报
道的不一定是真正的事实，或者我们知道的不要一定是真正的事实，所以他们。。。
真正在发生的事情我们是不知道的，所以我觉得就这样说这些报纸怎么样都很不中立的一个方法。就是一个正在发生的事情，我觉得没有必要说，它是对的或者不对的，强加给他一个态度，有的时候它只是在暗示你一个态度。但是美国，我觉得这边报纸什么的直接说 negative 很少（It’s like when the cover is removed, we may cannot accept the true fact. What they see would be the distorted truth, which means what they report would not be the fact at all. Or maybe what we get from media is not truth, either. So we actually don’t know what really happened. So, I don’t think we can give our judgment on the paper. It is something is happening; there is no need for us to give a conclusion whether it’s truth or wrong. Sometimes, it just . However, I think the paper in America would not only report the negative part.）。

1: And actually look at the U.S. TV program, it’s becoming really popular, the talk show, so you are not objective, people want you to have a point of view. Like they have those critiques on TV to talk about these issues, because they want people…people want to see that you have your own…you’re commenting on those things, not just telling us what the fact.

2: I think news is one thing...they tell you what’s happening. That’s one thing. There is a huge part, like...people like a bunch of four or five people talk about why, what’s going on. Instead of telling what’s happen, they will give you reasons, or least what they think the reasons. That’s another way.

4: Actually I think...all neutral thing happen everyday, the reason why they report in this way is they just enlarge the bad side, I guest, because it’s much more attractive, like what we said before. They are trying to minimize the effort of the good side people all know the good side, people want to know things behind the event. So they try to enlarge the bad side, maybe the critique sides.

5: I think it’s all politics, and I hate it. I just think, it’s all political, government business things happened in every country.

6: I think it may represent the opinions of the government...misunderstanding on our culture or history. I think the journalists are pointing by the government.

2: I want to add a point, there are some part of the reason, and lead to this, is also Chinese government’s own fault. Because the...make it so difficult to get access to the Chinese officials. You know, when we are taught how to have a fare objective report, we have to display the news of different parties. But for the Chinese officials, even when I was in college, when I report for my school newspaper, so difficult to get to those officials, even there are school officials, they don’t want you...They know you are going to talk about them, they don’t even to come out and explain. So if they have more open attitude and they talk to the journalists, maybe it will be a little bit different. So some of the reason is because they are closed to the western media.

4: I agree with No.2’s idea. That’s true. Since the government block the idea, so people will try to guess what really happened. And you can’t control people guessing things. It may something have wild guesses, you never know.

5: I think it's kind of, I mean, recently, like in this past three years, I think China media really does change in a good way. Like, while I was in China in the past summer, I was watching the CCTV, the news. I feel like they try to change in a more opening way. They start talking things badly happened about China. And they will come up in a good view, like how we can change it, like anything behind view, what’s really happening. I think we
are changing now, really. I can see the government trying to work on it. It’s really a good thing. Try to learn how to run the news, how to run all the things, like in America, opening, like everyone have freedom to talk. It’s really good.

2: Actually if you look at CCTV international news and compare to American International news, I personally think have the more open attitude toward international news. For U.S. journalists and media, we talk about other countries just like: Oh, you have human rights issues.

**Would Chinese students accept this kind of opinions?**

1: I think for Chinese students who first come to U.S, they are very curious, and they feel like very interested in...because when they first get accessed to Facebook. YouTube, they will look for those bended things in China. You know, this is alternative for them, so...I don’t know, for Chinese student, I don’t feel negative report is a bad thing because we already accept a lot of the opposite side. Then when you get to these so called negative reports, for you, it’s alternative, for us, actually it’s bad for us to balance. We have the positive reports from China, negative reports on the same thing, for us, I can judge from myself.

2: I think news is news. I mean, like, never have two sides. When we read from Chinese media, it’s all about, many about positive way. And when we read from here, many about negative way. But we usually read news, I mean, anyone should remember that, what happened is a fact. When you read both way, positive or negative, it’s really up to ourselves to determine which is really happening. And so when you read things in both ways, actually can help us to think, ok, not just good things happened, bat things happened too. And I’m the one who determine which one I’m going to think.

3: I don’t the people who first come here. When I first come here, like, you know, there are lot of things you couldn’t see in China. Then, one, two year, gradually you know, they are just news, they are just stories people tell. So longer you have been here, the more you are exposed to those kind of things, you will realize it’s true if you are out of country, you become more patriotic. There are a lot of us become...it is not like we are non-sensitive to that, it’s just... you know, we have our image of China. China is big, there are a lot of things going on. It’s just not one story want change your view of a country. But, I think most of us, at least I can speak for myself, I have a pretty fixed image of the country. First, I maybe a little shocked, a little exposed to those things I have never seen in China. But the more I see, the more I realize that China I know is still the China I know. So, don’t think or too much a lot of media exposure. We won’t change that.

4: The history about like western country to eastern country, not just China, all Asian country, it’s really not easy to change. Like, the easiest way...like to take an example, all the movies and dramas we saw on TV, like every image they put in those shows, anything they...Asian is about they are smart but they are dump. Like Bigbang Theory, they had the serious happen...like they test one of Shelton’s theory in Hubei (A Chinese province) and actually it turned out to be a fake one. Actually it was the truth. It really happened. But it’s not just. It’s not in general; it’s just like one point. It’s like individual things. And the owner of that dinner in Two Broken Girls, that Han, the Korean guy, he is short, and dump, he is so dump, but he is so smart. It’s all the image about western
people towards Asians, how they think we are. It’s just like through a long history, it’s just for one generation we can change about. I mean we can try. I can try to persuade all my friends around me, but they just like small group. It’s not the whole population.

5: They all think Chinese are nerd. But people are smart, but always show a nerd side. And in every TV drama, they are…every single time Chinese, or maybe the Asian guys showed up with a glasses, really thick glasses, and showed up. But they are really smart, extremely smart.

6: I think students generally are young, they are eager to learn. And their opinion is easy be manipulated. I have a story, before I come here, I heard a news…it’s the university of Alabama, the Chinese journalists report that the flood just ruining, I mean the dormitory of Chinese students. But when I come here, when I met with a student from University of Alabama, he tell me this news are fake, it’s manipulated by the Chinese government. So, they cursed the journalists on the website. So I think, students’ opinion are easy to be changed in China, when they see, they heard the western journalists report some bad things…They maybe very sensitive. They will argue on the form. But when they come to United States, they realize the truth, and if they maybe heard the news…report from western journalists, their idea will be changed.

1: I really think everything has two sides, and the way they are writing out the news we already got is just one kind of side and the news we got from China or the blog we read, like from Weibo (Chinese Twitter), that might be another side. I won’t judge, this just what’s happening.

5: I think there are three kinds of people when they read news. The first one is they are biased by the bad news and they get back to China, they want to change; the second kind of people is they read the news, and they just think, oh it’s happening, we just deal with it; and the third kind of people is they already knew the situation China has…and he will fell upset, because he knew one person’s power is not enough to deal with the situation. He just don’t want to read anymore. When somebody mentioned it, he just oh, it’s really happened, I don’t really care about it.

3: I’m curious how many of you really care about how the media here coverage. We have own way of things…what’s going on in China, Chinese website, Chinese TV and stuff. So, yes, we watch TV, that’s right. But I don’t think anyone really care about.

4: I think it’s all about how we think Americans, think about what’s going on in China. How they think about us is not like…it’s never change how we think about China. Because we spend a long time, like 20 years in China, we know what’s going on there. Two years, up to seven years…is not going to change anything. But the way…like the other people’s opinion towards China, this not we might worry about.

5. Like no.7 said a lot of new comers always feel more nervous…when the people, because this is our own country. And when the outsiders know the bad thing about us, they will feel nervous and they want to try to explain. But for us, we have been in U.S. for 4 or 5 years, we already know we can’t change anything. But we can let them…we can show them ourselves it’s not really happen.

May influences the behavior of Chinese student?

1: Just like I said, first year when I came here, I argued with my roommate, then I just feel like it’s not really my job…It’s not only me can change…Like he said, after seven
years, he doesn’t care. After five years, he’s going to fight with any other people, but deep in his heart he knows that only him cannot change anything.
1: Try to show Americans, we are not that bad.
2: There are different kinds of students. So some people may never care about news, so never read news, whenever they see it. It doesn’t matter. I have my own life. I cook, I got in travel, it doesn’t matter. And there are people who just like reading news. So I just want to know what’s happening. It doesn’t matter how they report it. They have the ability to catch the fact in it. And there are people, for me like I’m studying journalism…if I see some really interesting topic, but I can see that American media have its very own opinions on it. I tend to find how her countries media report on this. So it totally depends on your situation, like I’m interested in some topic and I study journalism, I tend to find out more about this.
4: Reading more doesn’t mean change.

**Do the negative reports about China change your thoughts about China or America?**
1. Maybe for ten years old came here and got this news may change his mind, but we are not that teenage.
2. We know what’s going on. Another ten years are not going to change us. We are adults, we know how to think things in a critical way, in a neutral way. And why we care about America?
3. I think the reason why we are not so shocked or have such a fear reaction to it is because when we were in China it’s not like we are in South Korean. Because of the Internet, and Weibo and everything, we already get to know…we have the basic view about…U.S. is different from China, U.S. has more freedom when they talk about press than China. So that’s not that shocked to us.
4. I agree with her. Since our society is more and more open, so we are showing less sensitive to the western world.

**What kind of talking topic you will have with your American friends?**
1: The thing is I’m not going to bring politics by myself, or any kind of news that I know would bring argument. Mainly things, me talk with American friends, mainly about our history and cultures, mainly cultures. But only if they bring things, when I was outside, people ask me, they really think badly happen in China, like pollutions, this is a good example. Only if they bring this up, I will talk about that and I will try to explain. But other than that, I don’t wanna bring argument. I know, even though I don’t care. But I’m a Chinese and I don’t wanna people think bad about China. So I will try to explain, but I just don’t wanna argue.
2: They like to ask some questions about stereotype things. They like to…I don’t know, before they knew a Chinese, they may have this like, all Chinese are smart are good at math, play ping pang. So when they get to know a Chinese in person, they like to verify these questions…
1: They said like, toward a Asian girl, you like keep run, you like jump, you like to make weird noise, and you must know something about Kong Fu, how many children you have in your family, are you the only child, blabla…it just so many things. When I was in Wal-Mart, the old guy will walk towards me and yield at me: Go back to your own country.
3: I got a story to share. I was here…there was a local shooting club. Three or four years ago, I joined them. I was the first, not even Asian, like non-white to join club. And it is all local, what they call that, red necks, something ohio, and I started shooting…with them. You can tell at the very first begging, at first I wasn’t very good at that time. But you can tell they are hostile to you. They don’t talk to you, they don’t even have eye contact with you. That was the first year. The second year, my skill…improved a little bit. The third year, I was the third place in the B group. Not too bad, but not on top because I didn’t have too much experiences. But now you know that…gradually you know those older guys and shooting people, they are like…the shooters are old white, really really conservative…But the thing is, you can tell at the first they are very hostile to you, then they get to know you, they know…you know you are not that bad. Then you gradually…you can earn their respect, but you can tell, still fundamentally, they are different from you, but they will show some respect to you. That’s…they are the people you just never gonna change. They are stand. They have been educated that way, so…
4: One thing that I change after I came to the U.S. is in the past we all think that America is so free and open. But, no. Comparing to Australia, or European countries, the Americans are so conservative.
3: Even the Liberals, they are conservative liberals.

Do you think American people hold negative attitude toward China?
1: I think, first of all, they have the general view that we were poor, like, we are not in a modern country in their eyes. Some of them don’t think even that is a civilized, you know. That’s the first thing. Second thing, these years, they have been changed, in China, like getting more rich get more media coverage on TV and stuff. They have these feelings, to me, the people I have contacted with, they have this sort of fear, what’s going on, are you guys going to be the next Russia, that kind of thing. So negative plus fear, I think that’s the main stuff.
2: I still feel like…think old generation. Not the friends or the classmates I can come out with, I feel like they just like us, they don’t care. They just wanna know more about China, about other country, other culture, they don’t really care about politics. I mean, Americans they are into politics, but about young generation, they are not that care. Like I said, all the guys talk to me like…I don’t know, Chinese nerd or whatever…but when you hang out on the street, you can see like people…to Asia, not just Chinese. Not like that happened to me in Wal-Mart but four years ago not happen to me every single day in every one. It is just that old guy.
1: I think, people I meet, I think they are not learn U.S. study, even read news all the world. They I just very conservative. And once I meet with a senior, he just asked me if China has snow. I don’t think they just have unvagarious thoughts about on that Asian country. They messed up, maybe China, maybe Thailand, south eastern Asia.
3: Actually as he said, the old generation is kind of fear what China is really happening. Like they feel like China is developing really fast, and the kind of fear. Maybe has strong effort by the government. But for the younger generation, they heard a lot from the old generations, talking about bad side about China. They are curious what really happened in China. So they mainly curious about the history, the culture and everything. They are keeping much more open way to China. Not just focus on the bad side. But old people,
they are fear what happening in China, and the have no idea, they just guess and holding a negative way, they think China is still a poor and bad country, and always want to invade other countries or something like that.
2: It’s hard to change old people’s mind.
4: In my lab, there is still one faculty won’t talk to me. But the others are very friendly.
1: Athens is a strange place, Athens county. 2008, one of the campaign, you guys can see it on the news, the elections was all for Ohio, south east Ohio, we are old red because we are…. South west Athens county was completely red except one …city is blue. So this place is weird. Because in the city, all college people, all the faculty and student, relatively, liberal, open-minded, like we are free, have friends in the classroom, in the college, hang out in the bars in Court Street. The people you meet will be relatively again, open-minded. But outside this town, they are different.

**Why they have negative attitudes towards China?**
1, From their parents.
2, From the old generations.
3, From the activity from Chinese, they come here a long time ago. They like do some bad things.
1, I don’t know…you don’t have a reason if you don’t like a thing or you don’t even have a reason if you like a thing.
4, And also because of the cultural differences. It’s just different. They just can’t accept it, they are just too different. Like, Why do you have one child policy? Save you, because of it we lost our sisters. We don’t have our brothers or sisters, too.
1, Like my roommate never eat vegetable or fruit, they just like…she doesn’t like it. For those people who don’t live China or Chinese, they just don’t like it, there is no reason.
5, Just like I said, dragon is a fortune creature in our culture. But in United States, it’s a evil thing.
4, And there are so many Chinese here now. They took the jobs away. That is one of the fear.

**How Chinese student would feel with negative opinions?**
1, I really never meet a person hold a negative view towards the whole country or the whole race.
2, I have, but there is nothing you can change, as I said. I do better…I do whatever I can to earn respect, but I don’t do it for them, because I wanna do it for myself. But the better I do, I earn their respect. But there is nothing I can change their pre-perception of me or China. I just ignore them. There is no point to argue with them. I do care, but there is nothing I can change, I just give it up.
3, Actually when you are doing your own business, actually people will change their idea while they saw you change. And you become better, and they will change their view.
4, Even you just got a new job, join a new company, people will feel a little hostile for you, because you are the new. I think it’s the same things happened in here. What they think about is just kind…you are new.

**Would you accept their negative views?**

1, It depends. If they just talk about pollution, yes, it exists. I will just tell them something they don’t know.
2, They are not given the whole picture, I guess.
3, I think I just consider about others’ opinions. I’m not like say ”accept”, I just consider, ok you think about it in this way, I think about it in this way.
1, It’s good for people to have different opinions.
3, Yes, we can discuss, but you ask me to accept you whole opinions to change my. That’s not gonna to happen for sue.
4,
Focus Group 3

What kind of American media have you ever read or watched after you came to United States?
1. The post, some newspaper about our school.
2. I read both Athens News and New York Times, newspaper. And for TV programs, just …talk show, like Opera Talk Show, like Jimmy Kimmel’s talk show, something like
3. I watched TED talks.
4. Just random newspapers, you know, in the library.
5. Newspaper such as CNN.
6. Speaking of local newspaper, both Athens News and The Post, our campus paper. Sometimes, Dispatch, especially their website. As international ones, New York times, sometimes. Free and available somewhere. My former roommate subscribed to Time Magazine, so I used to read that too. As to TV shows, I watch the Daily Show.

What make a news negative?
1. That reminds me Jimmy Kimmel. I don’t know a month ago, it talked about little kid, went to China and killed everyone in China. That is very conversational thing in China. But back in here, I think, from my point of view, it’s not a very big deal in America, especially in International student. I don’t think it is a big serves…a big conversation point, so… I don’t know sometimes I think especially the critical were negative reports recognized in China, when it comes to here, I think not too many people take it very seriously.
5. To me, being negative doesn’t’ include something that’s fact…like if some disaster happened in China, they report it only without comments, personal opinion, I don’t consider that is negative. My definition of negative, on top of reporting some facts or truth that happened in China, some reporters insert their own opinions or their stereotypes…into that story.
2. I think some perhaps read the news about the do not lose the rubbish, just as use Chinese. I think it’s bad. And that make people think, the things is all Chinese do that.
3. I remember last year, some repots happened at OU about Chinese students, it’s about…interviewers read some reports about Chinese students do not study. Lots of pictures exposed on Internet. And many parents in China are a kind of influenced by the news.
4. I think America is a country that is very open for everybody they can express their personal feelings, opinions about Chinese student issue things. So when Chinese see that negative comments on Chinese students, they will have negative feelings about that. It means that, first of all, America is very open to allow person to express their personal feelings, opinions about Chinese.
7. First I think is unreal, second, partial and biased, stereotype. I mean, if it’s a truthful report or a representation of Chinese students or Chinese issues, I think it is not negative, to some extent, even positive, positive attitude to truth, for telling truth. I think that’s, maybe one of the principle of journalism. I’m not sure, yet.

How you get these negative reports?
1, social media.
2, Human sources, like students.
3, From friends.
5, When something controversial happens, you hear about it. Facebook, Renren, Weibo, something like that.

**How do you feel when you come up with negative news?**

1, Just feel angry because it’s not true, may be just some people, but not all of us.
5, If something that somebody wrote unprofessionally, like they put their own personal bias, stereotype in it, I would feel, 鄙视 (scorn) that reporter who wrote something unprofessional. But if something are true and no personal thing involved, I feel sorry some people did that, but I don’t think all readers will consider all Chinese like that just because one person.
2, I don’t have personal feelings, but I’m worried about how other people, when they read this news, how they think about Chinese people. I’m a reader, I’m from another country, how I feelings after I read this news and how I view Chinese people.

**How do your friend feel when they come up with negative news?**

1, I think some of my friends, they feel angry of course, but I don’t think they take it serious because next day they will live the same life.
2, Also feel angry.
5, I remember one friend in our QQ group try to convince people to protest because a lot of Chinese-Americans and the Chinese people living in America, they protest against that, somebody really got…they want to stand up.
3, I think my Chinese friends feel angry but I think some people abroad to America will feel stronger feeling of angry than Chinese people.
4, Based on my thoughts, the people in China, they may feel anger, much more anger than students, people in America because we are in the situation, we know the two different cultures. But they are in China, so they may have stronger feelings than us. That’s my personal thoughts.
5, I just remember something else. Another friend of mine she wrote a blog about, like how this protest thing going to far now, like asking the TV station to fire Jimmy or to cancel children table, is just going to far. She mentioned that lot of people in China got so angry partially because of the mistranslation. When the kids said, proposed this idea of killing everyone in China, Jimmy said that’s a interesting idea and somebody translated that into 这是个有趣的想法 (This is a fun idea) which is he meant because he, because right after he said interesting… we know when we say something is interesting, we will not … is probably convince them to think in another way, like what Jimmy…so a lot of people didn’t really watch that video, they just got angry because they heard that somebody mentioned killing all Chinese people in the show.
7, It depends. Actually I don’t have many Chinese friends here so I barely talk with them.
6, Sometimes I think negative feelings can be magnified by media, like agenda setting. In China, a lot of social media or just mainstream media, they…this a lot. But here, not may people talk about this. It feels like, in China, it’s a wow, big deal. Like here, nobody knows it.
7. It depends on how severe the situation is. Like the talk shows, they are now really have great influence, impact on our lives, I think that’s just why people act like nothing happens.

**Why you think these reporters have negative news about China?**

1. I think, sometimes it is about media give a country, this country’s people a stereotype. They kind of have a global public image. Some people just hate, or don’t very like us. But it’s just…it’s not the majority I think. Well, maybe some reports, you know they have their point of view or political believes, they don’t like Chinese or Chinese government…they don’t like Chinese people. I don’t think people don’t like Chinese people...probably don’t like Chinese government. For, like…for creativity industry, they don’t like this, but for Chinese people, I don’t think reports have some specific negative feelings. Obviously, some people just don’t like…they write their emotions into their articles. It’s possible. But most of the time, I see a lot of reports about negative things happened in China, the report itself is not negative. It’s critical, not necessary to be negative. I tell truth, it’s about bad things, give you uncomfortable feeling, but it’s not have negative feelings about you. Focus on the events, not on the people.

2. I agree with she said, there are some personal reasons…personally they don’t like Chinese people or Chinese government thing. But also I think there is history reason…the culture history reason, discrimination…I believe it exists.

3. I agree with them. Because I think, maybe some people just don’t like Chinese people and just some…比如说一些种族歧视，历史遗留问题(For example, some racial discrimination and historical problems), make them don’t like Chinese people and think Chinese people and Chinese government are all not good, so…

4. I agree with them. But I want to add one idea about…maybe it is just because some Chinese have bad habits, and they just think maybe all Chinese people do so. So they just dislike them.

5. I’d like to generalize the question to a level ideology. First I think it’s the journalists, the… and journalists who create this kind of negative report. It’s his… self-preference to choose which ankle or which prospective issue to report this news. So, I think, he may highly influenced by ideology, just hate community, so he tend to report China from that ankle, critic some kind of …intentionally negative report. Also I think by…doing this kind of negative report for other courtiers, it’s actually a method of…kind of like raising American reputation…In the…environment of global competition, some times to blame other countries’ reputation could raise yours. And also you know, America always act like the global police, some thing like that. So, I think, they …to watch to review some scandals or bad things all around the world.

6. I agree with No.7 and No.1 about the ideological issues, the reason is one of the major reasons. Because whenever I read some negative news, something bad happened in China, they always added…they tend to mention that, said something, basically all the fault of the government who make the people suffer. So I agree with No.1. Reporters don’t usually blame Chinese people, say bad things about the people. But they blame the government, that’s what they do. And besides some, I think it might be true there is some races people, races reporters just not professional enough to…but I don’t think it is the case in most cases.
6, I think reporters may be like to expose something truth, but they don’t know if it is really true. And some reporters like to see Chinese people fighting with each other. They try to 上头条 (get the headline).

1, Here I summarize one point, I think, first, I don’t wanna say it but I think it’s true, America is jealous of …so far China, biggest economic success. Just because you know, American economy is like right now… it’s not booming. They are kind of jealous of China. Second, China is heating the turning point. Right now, we have a lot of problems. That’s true. That’s why people can always talk about Chinese, China so many problem, like environmental issues, like…it’s not very…people do not have enough legal rights, something like that. And third, I think, some American media that only have their own stand, their political belief. I heard this a lot, CNN, they don’t really take Chinese…. They kind of, not very…of Chinese issue, so…They are not very neutral when it comes to…I think some media have their stand. And for, I think it’s also partly because we…our government, our media is not very transparent, compare to America. Because we hide so much, people want to dig out, so that’s why so many negative issues about China. (41:)

5, I want to summarize a little bit what No.4 said. I think she said Americans, maybe they happen to know some Chinese or see some Chinese who does bad things or has bad habits, then they will have stereotype that maybe every one in China is like that. That might be one of the reasons. They don’t know many Chinese. They happen to know…some jerk. Then, it might influence their opinions.

Would you accept their point of view?

1, It depends on how they report it and personal believes, personal views.
2, And…experiences. Like if some reports said…report about Chinese food security, I will definitely accept to that…it’s negative but you have to accept…it’s true.
5, I guess I agree with them, it depends on the report itself and the creditability. It’s some newspaper from nowhere, it has a reputation of being negative, I probably wouldn’t believe it in the first place. I might check other bigger media…to see whether it’s true. It will increase the possibility I might believe the report after I read it. The judge based on my knowledge, experiences and …just everything. If it is just some sort of news story, now even a real news story, like the thing I mentioned in my…I blogger wrote something looks like news story about the shooting, some Chinese student killed his girlfriend in Chicago. That guy used Chink in the title something like that. If you use the Chink title, I wouldn’t believe anything from their point of view. Not the facts, but the opinions.
3. It depends on the validity and reliability.
7, It depends. Because everybody has their judgment. I mean as a person, I definitely won’t believe them all. Actually, I will do research myself on line to see other…I won’t believe in one media, one kind of source. I will try to find other source to balance their idea. But I will…I mean if I see something very negative, I will…to myself first, I think whether we Chinese do that, something like we don’t have creativity, I will think about that. Actually, I think it’s true. It review…actually review the truth. I mean it’s partially review the truth, but it actually reviews the truth. And I don’t think that kind of article is that misleading because everybody, I mean even people from other countries can see their tags of their clothe, and tags of other things, you can see Made In China everywhere. So
you can have your own judgment, maybe you don’t...you do not necessary have to listen to what media said.

4, I think I cannot accept most of the views. But some of them are really true and helpful, maybe it’s here for the Chinese government so...maybe some of them, I will accept. Something is really true, maybe it’s helpful, I will accept.

5, If it is some kind of prediction, nobody know what’s going to happen in the future. So if I don’t agree with it, I will just laugh. I won’t take any prediction seriously, even the weather report.

Do your friend have some changes?

5, One specific friend of mine who is probably...kind of exception. She started...all most all western report on China, especially Chinese government, even before she came here. Basically, she embrace anything negative about Chinese government. But it’s a kind of extreme, I just want to share.

3, I don’t have too many Chinese friends here.

2, My friend, we read the news, but didn’t change anything.

Do some reports change your thoughts about China? Do some reports change your thoughts about America?

1, Some negative report about Chinese travellers, they don’t really behave...they not throw trash on the ground. And they went across the street when they see the red signal but...when I saw this kind of report I think I should not all this things of this report. It gave me an alert.

2, I don’t think I just know more about different situation in different country, like the security of food not security as well. And health insurance things, this thing I didn’t know before I came here. I just feel that I have approached to know different things around the world.

3, I think it didn’t change my thought in China because I lived in China for 18 years so I think some negative, some negative news can’t change me thought of China.

4, I just think about it can’t change...but maybe have a little things like when some Chinese, you know, smoke in the public place and I always think I won’t do that. And if it’s my friend, I will talk about bad influence...and this things is not very good. Maybe some parts will change but not all.

7, For my thought of Chinese people, I think actually, even it’s negative report, event it’s partially true, it actually influence my thought about China. Because living...this...partially truth actually reviews some of the truth in China, like the food security and the government. Actually I tend to read articles from journalism in America or from other country. I don’t believe in Chinese press, you know what I mean. I think it’s more objective here. But actually it also influence my opinions about America, because I think they are not that neutral as what they proposed that...democratic. They are actually heavily influenced by politics.

5, I agree with No.7, especially on the second part. I used think American journalism is more neutral, and more objective than...after I came here, that’s the part I change. But still, compare to the journalists environment in China, it’s still much better, more free. It
doesn’t mean everyone here is professional and objective. My opinions on China, not really...
6. I think I tend to believe journalism in America a little bit. Not really change…if something can change my mind, I think I must have experienced it. If I don’t experience it, it can’t change my mind.
Focus Group 4

What kind of American newspaper and TV programs have you ever read or watched after you came to United States? Who goes first?

7. In face, I don’t really watch American news. I’m used to listening to some radios or broadcasting. Usually I choose New York News. M: It’s a newspaper? 7: No, it’s just a radio.

1. Like the post, our local newspaper, Athens Messenger, and Columbus Dispatch For national newspaper, I will read New York Times, Slate(?). And I listen to NBR, And I will watch CBS.

5. I read some New York Times from the free stand from the Library. And I read some news about entertainment from the Hollywood reporter website. And I get some news from social media like Facebook and Twitter.

4. I’m the same. Some times I took the newspaper from the New York Times from library. Basically only read the technology part. Mostly I subscribed New York Times on my Facebook, so sometimes they have like short pieces of news posted, and I read it.

Let’s move quickly to the second question. It’s that ‘Have you ever watched or read some news or TV programs that about China which you think are negative?’

5: Jimmy Kimmel News. I read recently. And I think people are giving him a hard time. I mean it’s not that big deal. I think Chinese people are over reacted. It’s negative about China. But I think Chinese people may have over reacted.

4: I agree with No.5. Chinese people are over reacted. Too sensitive.

5: Because it’s about like an underage kid from the TV show said that to kill every one in China. So I think that sentence itself is a little bit offensive, but I think people who made the show may have neglected. I think they don’t really mean to hurt Chinese peoples’ feelings but, they are really careless.

2: I have read some news about election about China. Maybe it doesn’t say just directly, but I have got some hints from their lines that our China... he maybe benefit from his background because he came from ‘red family’. Unfair to them. And it is on the first page of New York Times. I think they have got some sensitive information about people’s republic of China. But may be that is the truth, but it’s how they write that.

8: BBC news talking about Chinese New Year, the “whore” year. Maybe it’s just a mistake or something, but I don’t think that is very bad or negative.

3: I have no idea.

1: I read some news about Chen Guangcheng who came to US as...He is a black guy. He told the world that he was abused by Chinese government and Chinese political system. But I think the issue is more complicated than what he said. But PBS news hour, they covered the news from the frame from what that person said, but they didn’t, like really looking into the issue. For me, I think it’s not the question or problem of US-China Relationship or US media is attacking China. It is that the U.S media are using their way to do International news...are very simple. They just want to tell a story and attract audiences. And that’s all. They don’t really care about what they are saying.

4: I heard something about Chinese government is sending International attack radio to the other country. I mean that could be true. Because Chinese has lots kind of report to. So they only report what they want to their people.
How do you feel when you come up with these negative news?

7: I’m not really angry about this. Because I think it is a kind of stupid. I think most part of American Citizens have their own opinions about what really happens. So I don’t think citizens really believe in the news. So I think sometimes the news is just tells his opinions and I think sometime I thinks it’s stupid.

3: Basically I feel these negative news are totally business. I don’t think the media holds any opinion of China or anything else. They just think this kind of news can attract a lot of audiences and gain a lot of money. So basically for me, I feel like that smart people won’t really believe in that, at least they should watch different side news to compare to, to get a comprehensive ideas. But basically, most people, especially the people who has no idea about China, these media are their only information source of China. They may just believe in it. But I hardly think they will have any influences in others’. ..I really hard think most American citizens will really trust it. Just like the Chinese people not really trust the 7 o’clock evening news. I feel nothing. Because it’s totally business. It’s not emotional thing.

8: I think it depends on the news and how they report it, and how people read it, like who read it. If it has a lot of emotional words or something, it probably make me feel angry at least unhappy. But if it just like before, there is report about, un, talking about Wen Jiabao’s family, some bad information, some good information. I don’t feel angry or mad about it because it’s telling the truth with objective position. It think it’s ok. But like the Jimmy Kimmel thing, It’s not ok. But I do agree with No.5. Chinese people are over reacted.

6: To me I see both the good news and bad news on newspaper, on all this media. I think most of them are objective. To me it’s like objective. Like this they are telling the truth stories that happened in China, even it’s bad like picking …I agree, it’s the truth. I don’t think that’s negative. Maybe because I don’t read too much, I don’t get much information from the media. I really don’t see much negative coverage meaning they are just telling the truth. To me, it’s ok. To me I don’t receive, like distorted, false news too much to me.

4: Talking about the truth, I think it’s also associated with the tones in the news. Just saying about the examples information about economic. If I read about something like Chinese economy is growing really fast. Their economic is threatening us. Both are telling the same thing, but it makes me feel different. I can’t really say which one is negative. Because it’s about the authors’ thoughts. If it’s truth, it’s ok with me. Most of the news are associated with the political groups, so yes, some of them are pre-edited. I think FOX is more real.

5. I think sometimes I appreciate negative reports about China. Because sometimes you can’t hear negative news in China provided by the government newspapers in China. I think several month ago, there is a thing happening in Tianan Men Square like a Jeep is running wild in the square and killing some people. When the news breaks, there is nothing in Chinese newspaper. But if you look at the American newspaper, Americans report a lot of them online. I basically trust their reporting because I think, I have looked different newspapers, like New York Times, Washington Post, they all reported the same event and they are most the same. So I think, this thing happened. But in China, the government newspaper just ignored, like they might mention it in several sentences, but
just very brief. There is no details like, how many people injured or…Nothing. Just short sentences. I think it’s a negative news about China. When we saw the news, it’s a really bad thing. I think it’s the truth. I really appreciate this report because we can’t see it in China.

7: I think Chinese people are portrayed by some stereotype like they are…I think some characteristics are not belong to all Chinese citizens, just few parts. And they use part to represent all Chinese citizens, I think this is not the truth, and it’s negative. I think they just use a few people’s characteristics to present all the Chinese citizens.

1: When I read the negative news, I think they are bullshit. It’s none of their business. They are really doing better than newsmakers in China. We are newsmakers in China, we are journalism practitioners. We can do better report use issues, like we are the justice guy. The other said are bad guys. We are doing good things to report their issues, like we are protecting their people. But those are just dramas they write. They are just making stories. Probably there are some truth. I think there are truth in those stories, but for me it’s none of their business.

2: I think if it is totally fact or truth, and it is objective, I feel nothing. But as to their comments and their opinions, I agree with No. 1. Because I’m much influenced and believe that collective is…Because I think Chinese culture is a collective one and American is individualistic one. And in the collective culture, we believe in collectivism. That means, individuals, like journalists, no matter how famous or critical their ability to observe, they are constraint by their time and all the people around them. So maybe they are not able to provide the whole picture, the whole image of another country. And that country they may have never been there before. For example, we have some papers about the second world war happened in Russia, I forgot which one. But if you review, you read this newspapers published, reported at that time, it’s not objective or provide the whole picture. But at that time, these journalists are report what they trusted. So I mean I don’t know about other Chinese, I think these journalists may do not have…not so much expectation like Americans…like the journalists are playing a role as a watch dog and they could perceive the truth. They could seek out what really happens maybe Americans believes. But I think…I believe in collective truth after…If you really want to fill a objective opinion about a particular issue, it should be 盖棺定论 (final judgement). If you really want to know something, you should seeing from the prospectives after the influences of the particular issue is gone, from historical and objective, not at that particular time.

Do you talk some negative news about China with your friends, and how do they feel about it?

6: Just recently my friend came back from Beijing. They told me that they survived during the winter. They said the pollution is so tough they couldn’t sleep at night. Both of them are living in Beijing. So, this kind of talking, still I feel, this is the thing, the very truth thing that is happening in China. I don’t know whether it’s negative or not.

Why you think these reporters have negative news about China?

3: It is a strategy to attract more audiences. Because, basically how the GDP about China growing very fast, no one will be really, really interested in it. But if they talk about
China is going to fast and they are going to threaten us, American people will really watch that. That’s all, This kind of strategy is used to the whole world. That’s basically they focus a lot on Middle East and they ignore Africa at all.

2: I agree with No.3 because as the Newtown shooting happened, the news exploded, and the journalists just prompt themselves into this kind of news. I think I have read some news about the whole Newtown, this small town was harassed by the journalists. But at the same time, maybe just the same day, in China Henan Province, I think there is a knife attack, two students died and more than 30 people were in the hospital. There are some Hong Kong media, South China Post, they have reported some different news coverage between these two countries. Because the Chinese media see nothing about the Henan knife attack, but they spent almost the whole afternoon reporting about the Newtown shooting. So I think some Hong Kong journalists commented on this unfair report. I think may there is the New York Times, its journalists, they are too engaged in this Newtown mass shooting as happened in the US. And there are just two or one about this different coverages. As they say, Chinese media do not focus on the tragedy in their own country, but United States. I think if there is two tragedies didn’t happen at the same time, maybe, maybe, I just say, the American journalists would focus more on different report. But they are engaged in this Newtown mass shooting in their own country. So I think the journalists love to report tragedy because they could catch eyes.

1: I think on the practitional level, first, if you chat with friends of International Correspondents in China, most of them either in the jail, or on the way to a jail, like the friends of those correspondents, I think most of them like to destroy the Chinese government and they think they are doing right thing, they have the right to do so. They think they are doing good thing for Chinese people. They are justice guy. So those friends are their information sources. They got opinions and they got impressions of China society from those friends. So those people may affect the stories of the correspondents told. Another thing I think, like for most Chinese companies, we are still not the stockholders of American media companies. We are not their stockholders, we are not their bosses, so they don’t have the obligation to entertain us, entertain Chinese.

7: I think the writer who write the news, they all have some stereotypes opinions about Chinese people. So in their writings, they reflect their ideas. So there are some very negative parts in their writings and these are showed to the audiences.

8: I still think it depends on like what kind of things they are reporting. For example, if they are telling the truth, it doesn’t matter it uses negative terms or sentence to explain it or not. It is just negative, like pollution, everyone knows that. Even the reporter just use normal words, just telling the truth with objective position, it’s still negative. So I think it depends on what kind of things. They have to tell the truth, they have to report something. If there is a nature disaster happened in China, like no matter they use negative or objective position, or negative position, it doesn’t matter. It’s still a negative news. The other reason, probably their leaders ask them. For this part, I agree with the others.

6: Because I don’t think these news are negative, so there would be no question why these people report these things.

4: I agree with No.3. To reporters, it’s all about money, because they are not promised to report their news on the paper. It’s whether the editor like your news and like to put it on the newspaper. I mean, to be... for those reporters, they ought to be critical writers. So
they humble on those things. They are able to think in both ways. They choose to write in that way which we might think would be negative, it is because they think it would help put news on newspaper and make money.

5: I think we should take into account like who is reporting, like maybe it’s a big newspaper, maybe they are more trust worthy. But if it is a …reporter, maybe what he or she says be wrong. I think if it is New York Times, I will trust what they say. I don’t think it is what they want, if they report something, most things require them to do so. So maybe it’s not their choice, maybe it’s their editor’s choice. I don’t think they report something negative on purpose, they just…there is something happened, they just want to report it. So there is some worth in the news, that’s why they go after it. If it is a big journalist organization, I intend to trust their reports. The ‘Big’ depends on their reputation, maybe if you look at their histories, they have good reputation, then I tend to trust their opinions.

Would you think that, including you, the Chinese students would accept their points of view?

7: Once I have watched a TV show, the Chinese leader has been portrayed like very fat and like eating. I think this is totally opposite to the realities. So I just don’t think that Chinese students will agree with the media. Especially International Chinese students, they are from China, they know more about (China) than American writers, the reporters. So I think they will believe in their selves more. But the truth which the reporters write, they will think it’s right.

3: Basically first I see very very few Chinese students in the US only watch the American news television or newspaper. So basically they will use Chinese newspapers or websites together with American news website, probably, some of them maybe just read Chinese news website only. So basically, at least, even though they are totally based on the objective fact, they may have a little bit best opinions, maybe, I’m not quiet sure, but basically I believe they won’t have the same one, so at least you have different information sources with different opinions. If you’re not really stupid, you will have a very comprehensive ideas or opinions from different sources from yourself. So it’s really hard for Chinese students in U.S. to accept the U.S. news only. For those people, the U.S. newspaper is the only information source. For them, maybe they can…because they don’t have other opinions to get from that, so…you see.

2: I think it depends on what kind of news they are exposed to. Because, if it is economic news about the threatening China, I think my friends around me would now believe that. Because, while, American economy is better than China, but its growing…it’s just growing slower. No one would think that China is threatening America. But as to political news, my friends, especially my friends on Facebook, they are living in China, they prefer to believe in what these American media report. Because they think in China, you can’t get a comprehensive view of political issues in China. Like the Tian’an Men Square, political issue, is portrayed…is described in Chinese media. But in the American media, sometimes called the Tian’an Men massacre. My friends, as to these political issues, they tend to use what the American media use and they tend to believe in that. Sometimes they use some software to ‘cross the wall’…use that to watch video provided
by American media, even if, their camera or their video can just provide a particular perspective. But they tend to believe in that.

6: In the first place, I agree with the No. 3 that our source of information are combined by both, Chinese and American sources. We browse both Chinese websites and US websites, so it’s not possible for us to be only influenced by the American media because probably our main source come from China, because there is our mother language. And the second place, I think, I agree with No.2 because, there is a saying that…there is a day, my friend on qq sent me a message saying that: When we were young, we learnt English to learn about the world. But when grow up, we learn English to learn about ourselves. It’s the same meaning as, you know, something the Chinese government hiding…they are hiding information from us. So, I think that’s the main phenomenon that most people would agree that our government don’t quiet report much negative information itself. But the bottom line is again, depends on whether the media is telling the truth story. If it’s not telling the truth stories, I will feel angry. But if it is telling the truth story, even though it’s some kind of bad thing, I will accept.

4: First, most Chinese I know here not really read news. I mean to me, it depends on the people who are reading this. If they’d like to accept the points in Chinese newspaper…for most of the news, they would accept the information. Some really negative news, like things reporting here, they might think about it and figure it out: this is the truth. It depends on how negative it is. Like how impressive the new is,

8: I think it depends on the knowledgeable, how the student who like reading the news is knowledgeable to know the things that distinguish really wrong or really right. If it is just like, just once you see, you know, it’s not true, then you won’t accept it. But if it’s probably wrong or probably right, then probably for me, I will compare like different source, like different country, how Chinese report it, how American people report it. And I compare them. But if I see, Oh my god, it’s so fault…then I won’t accept it.

2: I think it also depends on how much the Chinese government hides the news from people. Because if you have no access to what happened in China, you have to use ‘Freegate’ to access other sources. Because the Chinese government are used to hide some news, especially the political ones from their people. So we may not tend to believe in their…If they could report something very openly, allow media to report it freely…that’s kind of…which kind of news source would you access. I think firstly Chinese, because it’s our mother language.

5: I think it all depends on how we trust the news. Like depends on our perception to accept the negative once or not. So with think, it is probably truth, then we tend to believe it. If it’s not, then we won’t believe it. Sometimes, I just, maybe not everyone cares about it. If accepts it or not, sometimes we may just see the news, laugh it out and we don’t take it too seriously. I don’t think when we read a piece of news, we take it really that seriously, like a piece of artwork or research, to study it, and decided if we accept it or not. OK, we think it’s happening, ok, they write about it. Then we stop there, we don’t think too much about it.

1: I agree with no.5. When the news goes into our brains…when our brains process the information, we just take it as a piece of, like a topic on our dinner table, and for us, for most of us, we don’t even talk about this news, because it will related to political issue or
religion issue, it’s not like…most of the time we just talk about entertainment news. So it’s really…we just know that fact, and we don’t want to judge whether it’s true or not.

3: 打个比方，信不信新闻和信不信政党一样。有一部分人是始终相信这个政党的，比如美国的民主和共和党。相信民主的始终是相信民主的，相信共和的始终是相信共和的。两个政党就争中间一方两边都不站的，那边是左右摇摆的，新闻也是一样。愿意相信这个的始终是相信这个的，愿意相信那个的始终是相信那个的。当中的那一部分，不知道相信那一边的会在像到底哪一个是对的，就这么一回事。

(For example, to believe or not believe news is same to party. Some people will trust one party forever, such as the Democratic Party and Republican Party of the United States, the people who believe in Republican Party will always follow them, the ones who trust Democratic Party would never change, too. The others are uncertain. The news is the same to this kind of situation. People want to believe it will believe it, the ones who don’t, would not change their mind.)

How do you think that feelings about negative image of China may influence behavior of other Chinese students?

5: I think maybe for the audiences and reporters, I mean, we should have a sense of humor, like the Americans’. I mean they can make fun of their leaders, and they can make fun of…sometimes critical events. But in China, this will never happen, maybe not in the near future. But if we could adapt these kind of humor, a lot of things won’t be that…have very serious consequence at all. I mean we shouldn’t taken some, especially politically things too seriously, it’s not good for anyone. I mean if everybody can just relax, do not be to serious.

3: I think these American media have less influence on…comparing…maybe because I grow up more independently, I was not a 愤青, so I’m not hurried to any judgment. But it’s about China, or about America. After I came here, I think they are not such a society so different from China. I mean their journalists, media, news men, they are not justice. They are just human.

8: I kind of agree with No.5. After I came here, I learned more about 调侃与自我被调侃 (make fun and make fun about ourselves). I think the most part I change is to accept their humor or their seriousness.

1: I want to add something to the No.2. I think for some Chinese students, after they came to U.S, they are also exposed to negative news of U.S. local or central government…or federal government. So they could understand that U.S. is no longer a benchmark when we compare like truth society or a success of a society. So like there are news about the abuse in the nursing home in the U.S. and like, we have serious food safety problem in U.S., and some…you know, some organic or not organic, genetic engineer…like for some major, in major news media coverage, some U.S. media also ignore those problems. Same things also happen…both in China and in U.S. This could change the way we are looking at the China society.

2: Maybe because America is lower than my expectations, so…

3: I have no opinions about this question.

6: I think for me, I think what No.5 just said, adding some humor, like from the media, I think, is like the one key difference between Chinese media and American media.
Chinese media are controlled by the government, as American media are more like, stand along, independently. So these are the key differences between these two countries. So consequently, I kind of …more believing American media, because it stands alone, it’s more independent. Whenever you see something reporting from Chinese media, you know there is some influences, because I have some friends who works for newspaper and television in China. They told me there is a lot of news, they know, but they are not allowed to report. For me, personally, when I came, and for a while, I feel that I could have more neutral objective, more views of the things, because when I was in China, I was totally influenced by the Chinese media itself, just one source. But after I came here, I have both kinds of information available to me. 东海防空识别区(East China Sea ADIZ),  from Chinese perspective, it’s totally right, it says Japanese has been doing it for some decades, some other countries doing the same thing, it’s our right to do the thing. But what I got from American news is that, the Chinese government set this defense zone without negotiating with neighbor countries, totally just itself. You know that zone doesn’t belong to us, 这不是我们国界以内的(it’s not within in our countries’ border), so if you just stand from Chinese point of view, it’s our right to do so because other countries are doing this. But if you stand from the U.S., more neutral stand point of view, it’s kind of a little more aggressive. Another thing I notice is that, in recent years, Chinese kind of boosting its armies and weapons, if you log in sina.com, you see like in the first page, you always find some thing about our army, how good our airplane is, how good our armies, weapons are, something like that. I didn’t see that maybe five years ago. This is something I notice that…Now I can stand from a more neutral point of view that Chinese governess kind of boosting, but if you just stand from Chinese point of view, our country is growing stronger, that’s a good thing. But maybe it’s not that good. Becoming more neutral is why I feel about the change I have after I came here.

7: I just have read some Hong Kong news after I arrived in U.S. Because in mainland China, you can’t get connection to the Facebook, or something which can have some Hong Kong News posted ideas some new. From the Hong Kong news, I found some historical events review something that mainland have coverer, I think, have some bias, but it reflect some truth, but which can make me feel know more about our government. I think this is useful.

3: Personally,… I don’t read news before I came here. But comparing our generation with my grandma, sometimes we’d like to talk about some political things in lunch, and most of the things they are talking were what the Chinese news are saying. But to us, since the Internet is growing faster, like us we came to America, we saw some other aspects of the truth, and we start to think some other ways. I say it maybe influence us, but hard to tell.

**Do some reports change your thoughts about China? Do some reports change your thoughts about America?**

8: Just like what the No.6 said, before I came to America, I can’t stay a neutral position. But I do think, before I came to here, I only had one source, like Chinese par source. And after I came here, I got two parts. So, for the culture thing, that’s my nation, that’s my country, I have to…must support it. But after I got more news from American perspective, probably I would think about it, I still would love my country and still support it. But I still feel some changes happening in my mind. I will take more objective position.
3: Basically, I don’t change anything. Firstly, before I came to U.S, I read English news and Chinese news already. So after I came here, since I don’t have television, so there is still online news. There is no difference. And I can’t really recall any news any Chinese news or American news change my thought or behaviors like this. If you have to say anything change me a little bit, it’s probably, life experience and United States totally different from the expectation, both in good and bad ways.  

7: When I was here, I have read some articles which Chinese reporter doesn’t want to write. Like, I used to read a article about…for the games which in China there are no reporter interested in writing it. But in the U.S, they use this topic to review some people use the games to earn money, which make me feel more, like break my eye side. I know there are some parts of people in China to use games to earn money, use the Internet. So it’s useful.

What kind of talking topic you will have with your American friends?  
6: Several months ago, my professor, my advisor went to China for conference. The city was Qunming. And when he came back, we talked about Chinese pollution, the air pollution. He thinks that obviously Qunming is one of the best air quality cities in China, of course. Qunming is ok. But, like in Beijing or Shanghai is very bad. He maintained that this is a very normal standard with country is growing. This stage is like, every other developed countries have come through this. That’s something I talked with my advisor.  
8: I talked with my friend about one-child policy. I don’t think it’s good or…I mean, the policy is positive or negative, I don’t have a opinion, because it depends on different family. When I talked to him, he said, for the parents, it’s one of their job. Like they have a lot of children. they think kids are kind of…it’s a big part of a happy family. If, they don’t have, like, so much sibilance(?) with them, they won’t be happy as they are now.  
3: They basically said all Chinese students are rich, and 95% percent of Chinese are Buddism…Buddist, which are totally wrong. And basically that’s all.

Do you think they hold negative attitude toward China?  
7: Because first, I think the people here, the domestic people here in Athens have some bias about Chinese people and they only know very few about the real life of people in China. Their think… that it’s totally different from what really happens in China.  
8: They are not as knowledgeable as us. We know a lot of culture, we watch their movies, but they don’t.

Do you think why they have this negative attitude?  
1: I think on screen, U.S. is portrayed as a terrific land. Like, there is an American Dream, and everyone can live to it. But for China, it is portrayed as a terrible land. Like our Chinese is suffering on their motherland. So that is what both China…Chinese and American see on TV. So that, we have, like, we are hearing the same story, like America is good, China is bad. I think both Chinese and American has the same picture. When Chinese people come to America, they maybe change their mind. If, Americans came to China, they probably would also change their mind. I think it also depends on the time they spend on the land. If you just travel around the country, you are just a traveler, and
the place you went to is just, you are just go to site seeing. And if you work there, you will have totally different opinion.

2: I once talked to Dr. Carson. He said China...everybody said China is a socialist society. He disagree. He said that he is much more communist than most Chinese do. But China is totally a capitalist society. I think what he said is ninety percent of true. I don’t know whether it could be counted as negative or…

3: Actually, I can recall Carson said about China is an obligatory oligarchic Socialist state.

8: I think this kind of opinion come from media. Maybe several years ago, and when we talk with others countries, other citizens, we say that you don’t know the current situation in China. There are media information, like several years ago, from China, the watch movies of Zhang Yimo, Gong Li, very old ones. And what we see and what we watched are like very updated information. I think, that’s probably the problem.