



Pre-BA assignment feedback form

(to be completed by marker)

<i>Student Name: Wen Hui Loo</i>	
<i>Module Code: SICH3005</i>	<i>Student number: 2012792</i>
<i>Module title: An Introduction to Classical Chinese Literature</i>	
<i>For completion by marker:</i> <i>Comments:</i> 	
<i>Marker's signature:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
<i>Provisional mark:</i>	
NB. All marks are provisional until confirmed by the final examination board.	

Oral Presentation Script

Word count: 1526 words

Chapter 1: The Introduction

Good morning and good afternoon Respected Provost, Ms Deng and my fellow students. I am Loo Wen Hui. Today, I would like to share one of the essays which I had been learning from this module —— "*Zou Ji euphemistic advised King Wei of Qi to accept others' admonitions*" 鄒忌諷齊王納諫.

First of all, there are three parts in this presentation. Just for an opener, I will concisely introduce the overall background of the essay including the origin, theme, and setting. Secondly, I will share the structure of it. Since this essay was written in Chinese Classical Form, the meanings of the whole essay will be briefly explained in English in the second part too. In addition, a simple conclusion will be finalised then.

Chapter 2: The Background of the Essay

This essay was chronicled in Chapter 8 of Strategies of Qi in the <Strategies of the Warring States>. As the title of the book, <Strategies of the Warring States> was one of the historical books on the major events that occurred in the Warring States period of the Eastern Zhou dynasty. This includes the anecdotes of political manipulations and warfare in every state as well as the strategies and political perspectives of the School of Diplomacy. As a result, this book has been known as a vital classic for us to study the historical incidents in that era.

After briefly introducing the book, we would be keen to find the storyline of this essay. Just like the title of the essay '*Zou Ji euphemistic advised King Wei of Qi to accept others' admonitions*' 鄒忌諷齊王納諫, it describes the story of a grand chancellor advising his Emperor euphemistic and eventually, the King listened to his opinion by accepting others' admonitions. There are two main characters in this essay, Zou Ji and King Wei of Qi. 鄒忌 Zou Ji was the grand chancellor stated above who had gone through three generations of the Emperor, Duke Huan of Tian Qi,

King Wei and King Xuan of Qi while King Wei of Qi, whose personal name was Tian Yinqi, was the fourth Emperor of the State of Qi during the Warring States.

As we know, there were Seven Warring States during that period. In fact, every Emperor of the states attempted to employ the means and policies in order to gain the biggest benefits and authority for their states and themselves. Therefore, strategists became critical people at that moment. In the meantime, while the rulers of every state apprehended that if they lost the support of the citizens, they would not be able to lead the country. Hence, they were trying to recruit talents from all over the country for the sake of operating the highest standards of governance. As a matter of fact, Zou Ji was also one of the strategists of King Wei of Qi during that time.

So, what kind of strategy did Zou Ji provide to his Emperor in order to win hearts and minds? The answer for it is as follows.

Chapter 3: The Structure of the Essay

This is the original edition of the essay. In this part, I would like to share my opinion about the structure of it. At first, I would generalise this essay into four plots: Exposition, Rising Action, Climax and Denouement.

1. Exposition

First and foremost was the beginning of the story. In this section, the author described the beauty of two main roles, Zou Ji and Xu Gong as an introduction to the story. According to the essay, the author used two kinds of expressions to illustrate the beauty of a person, good-looking with six-foot-tall as well as the most attractive person in the State of Qi. Thus, I recapitulate this section as “The descriptive of two characters”.

2. Rising Action

In this part, the author mainly touched on Zou Ji’s inquiry with others about his beauty compared with Xu Gong and also his encounter with Xu Gong eventually. Initially, Zou Ji regarded himself as the most handsome person, but he was not confident in himself after hearing that Xu Gong was the most attractive person in the State of Qi. Therefore, he attempted to get responses from his wife, concubine as well as his guest who visited him. As a result, everyone consistently commended that

he was more handsome. However, when Zou Ji met Xu Gong the next day, he only found out that he was not as beautiful as Xu Gong and realised that those people who gave him the replies had their own intent. In fact, his wife was partial to him, his concubine awed him as well as his guest needed his help. They dared not to provide him pertinent advice instead. Therefore, I generalise this part as “The realisation of Zou Ji’s personal problems after meeting Xu Gong and listening to others’ advice.”

In addition, the author used three different ways of writing to portray the interaction between Zou Ji and his wife, his concubine as well as the guest. At first, since he considered that he was more beautiful than Xu Gong, he requested his wife’s opinion about his view with a confident tone. As I mentioned above, owing to his wife’s preference, she never gave real feedback to her husband by praising him that he was more handsome than Xu Gong. After that, while Zou Ji’s self-confidence gradually became lesser, Zou Ji asked his concubine about his beauty again in order to get an ideal answer, but to no avail. Indeed, owing to their lower social rank, concubines would be more afraid as well as awe-inspiring to their masters. Hence, she just firmly told Zou Ji that his beauty was second to none compared with Xu Gong. Although Zou Ji had received two views from his family members, he would like to get a reasonable response from others again. So, he sought opinions from his guest who visited him the following day. Nonetheless, since the guest required Zou Ji’s assistance, he also gave the same response as the concubine by replying that Xu Gong’s beauty could not be compared to his. Therefore, from the communication above, we could apprehend that the different relationships with the main character would show dissimilar interactions as well as the ways of their thinking.

3. Climax

As we know, the climax is the peak or even the highest point of tension in the story. In this chapter, the author presented three different states of outcomes from this incident. This contains the reactions of Zou Ji while meeting Xu Gong, the responses when King Wei of Qi listened to Zou Ji’s advice and the feedback of the residents in the state after receiving the dictate from the Emperor. Since Zou Ji learnt a lesson from the interactions between his wife, concubine as well as the guest, he also attempted to share his fault with his Emperor as a sign of warning in order to persuade King Wei of Qi in accepting others’ advice. As far as we know, the leader of a state or even a country with supreme entitlement and wealth would be respected

or even flattered by the citizens who hope to earn some benefits for themselves. Therefore, for the sake of becoming a great leader in organising a state or a country, he or she must be modest to listen to others' advice with the view of self-improvement. Fortunately, King Wei of Qi accepted Zou Ji's opinion by bestowing rewards to the people who gave feedback on him and his state. A few months ago, since King Wei of Qi attempted to make better of himself and his state, the nations of the state subsequently did not provide any expostulations to him. Hence, I sum up this chapter as "The way of advising his Emperor by sharing his own experience."

4. Denouement

The final part was the end of the story. As King Wei of Qi was trying to receive others' feedback about him and his state, the leaders from the other states gradually affiliated to him instead of using force to win hearts and minds. Thus, I conclude this part as "Obtaining public support by listening to others' advice."

Chapter 3: Conclusion

According to the story above, I made an overall structure diagram in Chinese Classic Form in order to illustrate the main context of the essay. In a nutshell, this essay was telling us about how Zou Ji used a euphemism to advise his Emperor, King Wei of Qi and finally, the King accepted his opinion as well.

In summary, this story was divided into four parts: Exposition, Rising Action, Climax and Denouement. The first part explained the descriptive of two characters, while the second part was about the realisation Zou Ji's personal problems after meeting Xu Gong and listening to others' advice. Then, the third one expressed the way of advising his Emperor by sharing his own experience and the final part was about obtaining public support by listening to others' advice.

This is the end of my presentation today. Any comments or suggestions are appreciated. Thank you for your attention.