

## Welcome to BASE CAMP: Alpine Education's Preparation Curriculum for Boarding and Day School





**About Base Camp:**

Alpine Education is proud to present Base Camp, a pioneering, pre study-abroad, Western education-training program. Base Camp is designed to prepare Chinese students for success within elite U.S. educational institutions. Working with students and parents, Base Camp ensures whole child achievement through careful consideration of each student’s strengths, weaknesses, interests, and goals. This first-of-its-kind, pre study-abroad program prepares students for, and eases their transition into, elite U.S. boarding and day schools.

Base camp prepares students to bridge the gap between the U.S. and Chinese education models **before** students arriving at boarding school. It is grounded in the experience of Chinese students in American schools and informed by very extensive research. Base Camp targets skills divided into two categories:

- *Concrete Skills:* language proficiency and fluency, expository writing, public speaking, argument design and defense, interview preparation
- *Abstract Skills:* leadership, creativity, critical-thinking, cross-cultural understanding, personal reflection

Through exposure, practice, and reflection conducted under the guidance of trainers selected from America’s best universities, students become culturally competent and academically confident .

**Course Logistics:**

- Summer sessions last two weeks. There are three rounds: June 25 to July 6; July 9 to July 20, and July 23 to August 3.

**Base Camp Content Modules**

| <u>Name</u>                             | <u>Goal</u>  | <u>Takeaways</u>   | <u>Time</u> |
|---|--|--|-------------|
| <b>Presentation and Public Speaking</b> | To familiarize students with presentation techniques enabling them to articulate their ideas to a group. | Students will be able to better articulate their thoughts in boarding school interviews, participate more comfortably in formal and informal school settings, and begin to overcome debilitating patterns of hesitation, self-consciousnesses, and introversion. | 8 hours     |



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|--|--|--|-------------|
| <b>Expository Writing &amp; Logical Thinking</b> | To learn and practice writing techniques and methodologies best suited to achieve various communication goals. | Students will be better able to express themselves through essays, target areas in their academic writing needing improvement, and understand and anticipate writing expectations in U.S. classrooms.                            | 8 hours     |
| <b>Cross-cultural Understanding</b>              | To understand and more comfortably function in the culture of U.S. classrooms and schools.                     | Students will be better able to anticipate the classroom culture in which they will participate as well as feel personal autonomy over their experiences therein.  | 8 hours     |
| <b>Creative Thinking</b>                         | To explore creative potential.   | Students will learn 'changing modes' so they can consider new or different approaches critical to conveying their ideas and holding an audience's attention.   | 8 hours     |
| <b>History</b>                                   | To apply what has been learned from other modules into a real discussion-based history class.                  | Students will integrate the skills they learn from other modules into a class mimicking an American class model and environment while learning history at a new level.   | 4 hours     |
| <b>Literature</b>                                | To apply what has been learned from other modules into a real discussion-based literature class.               | Base Camp's history and literature courses are taught in U.S. seminar format to move students away from the Chinese lecture style mind-set. Thus students gain a good understanding of what is expected of them in a U.S. class. | 4 hours     |



## Alpine Creators and Instructors:



### **Corbin Schrader – Curriculum Designer**

Corbin received her bachelor's degree from Cornell University and a Master's Degree from Stanford University in International Educational Administration and Policy Analysis, with a focus on Comparative and International Education. She is the recipient of a Stanford University School of Education Fellowship and a Stanford University International Comparative Education Grant. She is currently a Mentor Instructor at Harvard University's School of Education.



### **Andy Tonsing - Instructor**

Andy is a graduate of Fountain Valley School, an elite boarding school in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he was the valedictorian (#1 student in his class.) He received his BA with honors in international relations from Claremont McKenna College (currently ranked #9 among liberal arts colleges in the U.S.).



### **Amy Li – Instructor and Facilitator**

Amy received her MA in strategic public relations from the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Journalism (ranked nationally as one of the top three journalism schools) in 2006. An experienced trainer for executives in major multinationals such as Shell, The British Council, Mercedes Benz, and GE, Ms. Li is a co-founder of Alpine Education where she has built a network of personal contacts with admissions officers of elite U.S. boarding schools.



### **Sarah Robinson – Instructor**

Sarah received her BA in public policy from Vanderbilt University (currently ranked #17 among U.S. universities). She worked at Harvard Law School in 2010 and was involved in research projects at MIT in 2008 where she interned in the summer during college. Sarah has lived and studied in 10 countries including China, India, Brazil, and South Africa.