

普林斯顿校长2025开学演讲：求真守正，勇于质疑

Princeton President Christopher L. Eisgruber addresses the Class of 2029 during Opening Exercises

We today welcome you not only as students, but as the newest members of our community of scholars.

我们今天欢迎各位，不仅是作为学生，更是作为来到我们学术界最新的成员。

I accordingly want to note some of the commitments that define academic life, not only here, but across America's research universities.

因此，我想阐述定义学术生活的若干核心承诺，这不仅适用于这里，也适用于全美研究型大学。

One commitment is to respect standards of academic excellence when evaluating scholarship.

第一项承诺是在评估学术成果时恪守卓越学术标准。

Universities divide knowledge into branches or disciplines such as philosophy, physics, art and archeology, neuroscience, sociology, and computer science.

大学将知识划分为不同分支或学科，例如哲学、物理学、艺术与考古学、神经科学、社会学和计算机科学。

Each discipline has its own set of methods, models, concepts, and assumptions by which to test arguments and claims.

每个学科都拥有自身独特的方法体系、理论模型、概念框架和基本假设，用以检验各种论点与主张。

When Princeton decides whether to hire or promote professors, we evaluate their scholarship by reference to the standards of their disciplines, not by whether their work is popular with the public, government officials, or powerful interest groups.

当普林斯顿大学决定是否聘任或晋升教授时，我们依据的是其所在学科的学术标准，而非其工作是否受公众、政府官员或强势利益团体欢迎。

We expect faculty members and students to be loyal to the truth not to the preferences of any party, official agenda, or ideological platform.

我们期望教职工和学生忠于真理，而非迎合任何党派、官方议程或意识形态平台的偏好。

Universities must be independent sources of data, theory, and argument.

大学必须成为数据、理论和论证的独立源泉。

Faculty members and students should have the incentive, the responsibility, and the freedom to pursue scholarly excellence even when the arguments they generate might anger or displease powerful people.

教职工和学生应当有动力、有责任、有自由去追求学术卓越，即使产生的论证可能激怒或触怒权势人物。

That independence gives universities a unique and essential role within a free and democratic republic.

这种独立性使大学在自由民主的共和体制内扮演独特而至关重要的角色。

It also guarantees that they will be controversial.

这也注定大学必将引发争议。

You'll find that the scholarly disciplines represented on this campus pursue truth from varying angles and perspectives.

你们会发现，这座校园里代表的各个学科从不同角度和视角追求真理。

If, for example, you ask an apparently simple question such as, what is color and why does it matter, to an art historian, a physicist, and a philosopher, you will likely get very different answers from each.

例如，如果你向艺术史学家、物理学家和哲学家提出一个看似简单的问题——什么是颜色以及它为何重要——你很可能会得到三种截然不同的答案。

And by the way, when I propose asking professors a question, I mean the suggestion literally.

顺便说明，当我建议向教授提问时，这个建议是字面意义上的。

One of the great privileges of being a student here is the access you have to faculty members who are not only world leaders in their academic discipline, but also dedicated teachers.

在这里求学的一大特权，就是能够接触到这些教授——他们不仅是学术领域的全球领军者，更是潜心教学的师者。

Go to their office hours, invite them to lunch, or to your athletic competitions, or artistic performances.

在他们的答疑时间拜访，邀请他们共进午餐，去观看你们的体育竞赛或艺术表演。

Find out what they know and who they are beyond the classroom.

去发现课堂之外他们的学识与人格。

I strongly recommend going to office hours early in the semester.

我强烈建议你们在学期初就去参加答疑时间。

You don't have to ask about the course.

不必局限于课程内容提问。

You can ask them about color or for that matter you can ask them whether they agree with what I've said in this speech.

你们可以询问关于颜色的问题，或者就此而言，也可以问他们是否认同我本次演讲的观点。

They have no obligation to agree with it.

他们没有义务赞同我的观点。

I find they often disagree with what I say.

我发现他们经常与我意见相左。

They have no obligation to agree with it and neither do you.

他们无需认同我，你们也同样不必。

That brings me to another of the commitments that define scholarly communities.

这让我想到学术界的另一项核心承诺。

We treat respectful disagreement as desirable and beneficial.

我们视尊重基础上的异议为可取且有益之事。

When people ask hard but fair questions about our ideas, we should regard their inquiry as a compliment.

当人们对我们的观点提出尖锐但公允的质疑时，我们应将其视为一种赞誉。

It means they're taking our thoughts seriously enough to care whether they are correct.

这意味着他们认真对待我们的思想，并关心这些思想是否正确。

Princeton physics professor Jim Peebles exemplified this spirit in comments that he made after receiving the 2019 Nobel Prize in physics, which honored him for his theories about the origin, structure, and evolution of the physical universe.

普林斯顿大学物理学教授吉姆·皮布尔斯体现了这种精神——他在获得2019年诺贝尔物理学奖后发表感言时，其理论因揭示物理宇宙的起源、结构和演化而获奖。

Professor Peebles said at his press conference and in interviews that he hoped that the cosmological theory to which he contributed would eventually be proven wrong.

皮布尔斯教授在新闻发布会和访谈中表示，他希望自己参与创立的宇宙学理论最终被证明是错误的。

That he said is how science works.

他说这才是科学的发展方式。

New generations of scientists replace older theories with better ones.

新一代科学家会用更完善的理论取代旧理论。

To live up to the ideals of a scholarly community we all need to recognize that some of our opinions will turn out to be wrong.

为践行学术界的理想，我们都需要承认：我们的某些观点终将被证明是错误的。

We should want to find our errors.

我们应当主动发现自身错误。

To do so we need to seek out criticism and test our views against the most cogent objections.

为此需要寻求批评意见，并用最具说服力的反对观点检验自身见解。

Let me mention one other principle that is fundamental to this and other scholarly communities.

请允许我说明另一个对本校及所有学者至关重要的原则。

That's a commitment to honesty.

那就是对诚信的承诺。

At Princeton, the undergraduate honor code is, one, especially visible manifestation of this important commitment.

在普林斯顿，本科生荣誉守则这一重要承诺最显著的体现之一。

I trust that I don't need to explain why honesty is better than dishonesty, or why it's wrong to steal other people's ideas, or claim credit for words that are not our own even words generated by a machine.

我相信无需解释为何诚信优于欺诈，为何窃取他人思想或将非己原创的言论（即便是机器生成的文字）据为己有是错误的。

You've known that since childhood.

你们自幼便明白这些道理。

I will add however, that honesty bears a special connection to scholarship and education.

但我需要补充：诚信与学术教育具有特殊关联。

A dedication to truth requires among other things truthfulness about the sources for our ideas and claims.

对真理的追求尤其要求我们如实交代观点和主张的来源。

We must own up to our ideas, including our mistakes, if we wish to learn from our errors and benefit from criticism of our thinking.

我们必须对自己的思想（包括错误）负责，如果我们希望从错误中学习，并从批评中获益。

There's value and honor in being wrong.

犯错具有价值与尊严。

Being wrong is an indispensable part of improvement, learning, and discovery.

错误是进步、学习和发现不可或缺的组成部分。

There is however, neither value nor honor in cheating not in scholarship and not in any other domain of human activity.

但欺诈毫无价值与尊严可言——在学术领域如此，在人类一切活动中亦然。

Scholarly standards, respectful disagreement, personal integrity, these qualities among others help to define the community that you now join.

学术标准、尊重基础上的异议、个人诚信——这些特质共同定义了你们此刻加入的共同体。

I am so glad that you will be part of that community.

非常荣幸你们将成为这个共同体的一部分。

I look forward to getting to know you in the years ahead as you explore this university and find your own place within it.

我期待在未来岁月中了解你们，看你们探索这所大学，并在此找到属于自己的位置。

To Princeton's great class of 2029, to our incoming transfer students, to our new graduate students, and to everyone who joins or returns to our community as we begin a new academic year, I say, welcome to Princeton.

面向伟大的2029届普林斯顿本科生、新入学的转学生、新研究生以及所有在新学年加入或重返我们共同体的人们——我谨此宣告：欢迎来到普林斯顿大学。

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