

# Doing Something Special with My Life

ChunHong Ma

## BEFORE YOU READ:

1. During the pandemic, have you done anything special to help others?
2. What is the role of facemasks in helping to stop or slow down the spread of the coronavirus?

This pandemic is the most terrible situation I have ever seen in my whole life. Yet it is also a time when people try to help each other.

When the pandemic spread through Oregon, some people in the Chinese community wanted to

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help. We knew that frontline workers were very short on masks. We wanted to support them. A leader in our community, who works

with the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, organized our community to get masks. We raised money and used it to buy masks from a company in China. In addition, some local Chinese families asked family or friends in China to buy masks at the pharmacy and mail them here. After we collected all the masks, we delivered them to local hospitals. We also donated masks to Portland Public Transportation, the police sta-



*Masks help prevent the spread of the coronavirus by blocking the flow of infected drops when you sneeze, cough, or exhale.*



*ChunHong Ma is from China. She is an ESOL student at Portland Community College in Portland, OR. She hopes the world will be more peaceful and safe!*

tions, and some clinics. The workers there were grateful when they received the masks.

Even though I know I'm not a hero like the frontline workers who are risking their lives, I wanted to do something special in my life.

## AFTER YOU READ:

1. Study the author's use of the word "yet" in the second sentence of the first paragraph. What is its role as a transition word? What does it signal to the reader? Try writing your own sentences using the word "yet."
2. Study the author's use of the phrase "even though" in the last paragraph. Try writing your own sentences using the same phrase in various contexts.
3. Read the article on the previous page and then write one sentence that captures the main idea of both essays. Use "yet" or "even though" in your sentence.