

Table 1 Excerpts of students' sharing at the debriefing session.

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Examples</i>
<p><i>Students' Observations at the marketplace</i></p>	<p>In order to keep soy products fresh, which is highly perishable, the vendors are more willing to give the number of plastic bags requested by consumers. Otherwise, customers could bring their own containers. [Student Investigator 01]</p> <p>Vendor stalls have their own style in making connection with customers to boost sales, for example, greeting customers with words such as “beauty”, “handsome”, “granny”, and calling migrant workers “friends”. Some vendor aunties may give hugs to the migrant domestic workers. We can see how close they have become seeing each other day by day in the marketplace. Some vendors remember the names of the domestic helpers too. I saw a helper pointing to a mango saying it’s from Indonesia, but then the vendor said it’s actually from Taiwan and happily gave her a discount. The vendor said it was for the helper to have some taste of her hometown, and joked the price would be higher if it was for the employer. Even the provision of plastic bag is an act to build connections and to boost sale. More plastic bags mean better categorising of good and less risk in leaking. It is also an act of generosity, too. Therefore, whether to use a plastic bag, the decision falls to a larger degree in the hands of the customers. [Student investigator 02]</p> <p>I found that different consumers have different shopping patterns. For example, some consumers will bring their own food container to buy meat; some bring their own eco-friendly bags; some will ask the stall owner to sort and to put meat separately in plastic bags first, and then ask for a larger plastic bag to hold other things together. [Student Investigator 03]</p> <p>Some shop owners said they would praise customers who brought their own bags. [Student Investigator 04]</p> <p>Compared to stall owners, consumers dominate the power of plastic bag use. [Student Investigator 05]</p>
<p><i>Reflections</i></p>	<p>I would probably do the same if I were the vendors. There is a lot of competition. Many use plastic bags as a way to promote fresh food and good services. [Student Investigator 06]</p> <p>It is a common sense not to drop blood and water around in a shopping mall or on the subway. How could you hold fish and meat that is dripping on the way back home? And how can you do it when you are packed like sardine on a bus or train compartment full of people? No one drives and put everything in a trunk like the way Westerners do their groceries here. How can you not use plastic bag? [Student Investigator 07]</p> <p>I am actually like most customers before this study. I would use a lot of plastic bags unconsciously. [Student Investigator 08]</p> <p>I am a very environmentally conscious person. I would reuse plastic egg holders and bring them back to the wet market to buy eggs. Also I found that most shoppers did not reuse old plastic bags. Maybe it is a practice seen as low regarded? [Student Investigator 09]</p>