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Personal Methodology of Learning English

My past learning experience started in a small town in Vancouver, Canada. Before going to Canada, I was just a kid who attended a private elementary school in Seoul with the preppy uniform. At the time, I knew only the basics of the English language. I lacked in speaking and made copious amounts of grammatical error in writing. However, during my last elementary school year in Canada, my learning method started to build up through “Memorization”. Every Friday of the week, our class always had a vocabulary test. My teacher, Mrs. Mcloy, gave out 20 words to memorize; in addition, she handed out blank flashcards to write down the synonyms and antonyms for each word. This method really raised my English to a higher level. Through this method, I learned that it’s very effective to know similar and different meaning for every vocabulary we learn. I used this type of learning method during middle school when things started to get much more difficult.

Glenbrook Middle School was a public school with over one thousand students. Students were mainly from local elementary schools and because of this, many students already had a strong friendship among themselves. As for me, it was challenging to make new friends with my limited English skills. I was up for the challenge and decided to join various clubs in the school or outside of school. Chess, soccer, swimming, and eco-friendly clubs were mainly the groups I really enjoyed because there was “communication & teamwork”. Mrs. Price, my principle teacher in Glenbrook Middle School, told me a team player is the key to every solution and I strongly agreed with her. During my middle school year, I used my active personality trait as an advantage to work in groups to develop my communication and teamwork skills. To work as a team or a group, I began to speak English fluently and also encouraged me to show leadership to others.

High School was a whole different story. After finishing middle school, I bonded with a lot of friendly people but, I had to move to another town to attend a high school that my parents wanted. In result of this, I was off to another new start. St. Thomas Aquinas High School was a private Catholic school with a strict teaching system. My school competed with other competitive private schools in Vancouver to stand out academically. Subjects like Religion, Social Studies, and Literature were some of the new courses I had to study. To successfully learn and accomplish assignments, I used mostly my “preview & review” methodology. This method was very simple but I had to put a lot of time into this skill. Whenever I had homework or assignments, I previewed the coursework before the day it was given out and review right after when it was assigned. This method taught me how to organize and prepare well for my learning experience.

Going over Elementary School to my High School years, I had a variety of methodologies to learn English. Memorization, communication, teamwork, previewing, and reviewing were the main skills I built to survive the difficulties of English language. When I get my TESOL degree, I will soon become an English teacher to teach students the way I taught myself. With the methodologies explained above, I will reflect from my past English learning experience and help the students learn English as easily as possible.

Word Count: 583