**Classroom management**

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What could distinguish the successful class and unsuccessful class? One of the most obvious and the important skillset would be the ‘classroom management’. Definition for classroom management is to create the conditions in which learning can take place. This could sound very simple, but there are numerous skills, and classroom is always full of unexpected events. Common classroom management areas include grouping and seatings, activities, authorities, critical moments, tools and techniques and working with people. By effectively controlling these areas, we can rise to unexpected events and provide optimum learning environment to the students. To see how classroom management could work on real situation, I have devised some examples to demonstrate what teachers can do to manage the class.

First, the institution has very strict “English Only” policy. This is a rule that student can easily forget and ignore. This could be easily worked out for children by giving mild punishment until it gets carved in their head. However our target students are ‘Adults’. This means we need to respect them, and give them motivation. Punishment can easily lead to discouragement in English study and end up being very negative to the class. One good way to make this policy work is to put lots of distinguishable sign saying “English ONLY” on the wall. With this sign, students can get creative and make a slogan or banner and put it with the sign as well. This will remind people to use English all the time without discouraging students in any way. However this could not get rid of all the Korean speaking students. They may speak English while teachers are around, but when they aren’t they could use Korean, and form negative environment for other classmates. So to get rid of this, teachers can use a trustworthy student to spy on other students during breaks. The spy will report to the teacher, and teacher can reward the good students or give mild punishment for the students that didn’t behave very well. This is way of managing classroom with tools and giving authority to the student.

Second is on dealing with tardiness, lateness and frequent absences happening in the class. When I was in PoSung HighSchool in 2005, teachers dealt with students like this by physical punishment. In modern classroom this would create very negative atmosphere, discouraging the students, however this worked well in PSHS. Reason why it worked in PSHS is because most of the students did not like physical punishment, and only way to avoid is to come on time. So key point from here is that we need to find something that students are afraid of, or doesn’t like to do. Of course we do not want to push the students too hard, so the punishment would be very mild, but it could be embarrassing. When I was enrolled to Oryun Middle School in 2003, our class had to pay fine of 100won per minute they were late for school. It is small money, but it is something that we do not want to lose. And back then, few hundred wons were very valuable to us. With this money, at the end of every month, we had hamburger or pizza party at school, and person who paid over 500won were not allowed to eat. Another example is in same school, 2002. Every week our class assigned four students to clean the classroom after school. This used to be in order of last name, to get rid of this, teacher decided to pick four people that was late the most during the week. This was beneficial for students that were supposed to clean, and now lazy students had reason to come in early. So to deal with lazy students that are frequently absent or late, we could use mild but motivating punishment.

Third is helping students to organize themselves. There are three effective way of doing this. One is giving out course outline in the beginning of the class. By giving students the syllables and exact timeline of what and when we are doing, students can prepare for the lessons themselves and be ready. I have seen this being widely used in Universities. Second one is a way my high school, Indooroopilly State High School, used. It was year 2007 when I first saw it, and it was very effective. Beginning of the year, school gave every student an organizer. It has all the school contact details, the exam period dates and other necessary information. Organizer had page for every day, so we could write down our assignments and homework there and check it at home. Some teachers even required to bring organizer into the class. However only downside of these two is that, if students don’t bothers to use it, than all the resources spent to make these would be wasted.

To sum up, classroom management can be very small, but very effective to the class. As examples were shown above, none of them were very costly, cruel or humiliating to the students and teachers. Also it is very easy to execute. Most of unexpected event or managing problem could be solved this way. The solutions for the examples above are the tip of the iceberg. There are lots of different ways to make things happen, but always have to consider about the target student and the consequences of the regulation you are making. However best way would be everyone following the rules without needing to punish them.

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