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Classroom Management Assignment:

“They may forget what you said, but they will never forget how you made them feel.”

-Carl W. Buechner

According to Jim Scrivener, “classroom management is a group of organizational skills to create the conditions in which learning can take place (79).” It includes grouping, seating, activities, authority, critical moments, tools, techniques, and working with people. When a teacher spends time and efforts to manage the classroom, her students would feel that they are in an appropriate place to study. This is very important: how students feel about the conditions of their learning space.

It is one of the teachers’ roles to be prepared in various aspects ahead of the class hour to provide a good lesson to the learners. There, however, are a number of occasions that happen unexpectedly and teachers cannot be prepared for every single moment. For example, there are institutions with strong policies that students have to carry out. In this case, teachers should somehow help and encourage students to comply with the policies. Let’s think about three unexpected circumstances that could happen.

Your institution has a very strict, “English Only” policy. They are relying on you to implement and enforce this rule. In this situation, I would first have a discussion with my students about the effect of speaking English. Once they seem to realize the effectiveness and the importance, I would create an atmosphere that using English is natural. I place value on developing the atmosphere because there are students who feel intimidated when they speak

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English. They fear making mistakes. They are uncomfortable with what others might think about their pronunciation. They are just not used to it.

I would ensure them how natural it is to use English in the classroom. As Scrivener mentioned, “communication is the priority, rather than accuracy (102).” When students make mistakes, I will relieve their anxiety and be patient and generous. Rather than correcting every single error all the time, I will have a specific error correction slot. Moreover, I will not expect them to follow the policy thoroughly from the beginning. I will wait and work on it gradually if students are not used to speaking English at all.

Another circumstance is to deal with frequent tardiness and frequent absences in the classroom. In Times Media, policies on tardiness and absence are very strict. They are directly related to the disqualification for the TESOL course since it is about getting certificate from another institution. On the assumption that it is teachers’ role to increase the attendance rate in this particular circumstance, I have several ideas.

I will make the first few minutes of the class very interesting and important that students do not want to miss. I might tell them interesting stories, do icebreakers, or talk about something very essential. To younger students, I will provide them opportunities for getting bonus points if they arrive on time. To encourage students’ attendance, I will have a strict policy; when someone was absent last time and is having hard time catching up with others, it might affect the entire class. I will help them understand why by putting emphasis on the general class atmosphere.

The last circumstance is to help your students prepare for any lesson presentations that they may need to do throughout the school year. When I attended Mandarin High School in Florida, I had to prepare for a lesson presentation. This was my first presentation in English, and I had absolutely no idea how to do it and where to begin. My teacher did not

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provide students any demonstrations and all she did was suggesting lists of possible topics. As a teacher, I will have a clear example and a guideline, while giving students a lot of options. I will be open to any questions but will not be too supportive because it might interrupt students’ own space to be creative.

With respect and passion, I will try my best to create a great learning environment. Then “students may forget what I said, but they will never forget how I made them feel.”