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TESOL Class #73

February 22, 2012

**Class Management**

*“You can’t teach a man anything, you can only help him find it within himself.” - Galileo*

For an effective language teaching, the teacher should not only have a great knowledge of the subject but also know various methods and classroom management skills in order to control the students and to help the class run more softly and efficiently. Therefore, the teacher should be well-organized, prepared. They should know how to arrange the seats for certain activities, the proper material and equipments would be used for their lessons in the classroom. Also, teacher should be aware of unexpected situations or problems that may take place related to enforcement and discipline of an institution’s policies. Confronting these problems, teacher should have their own methods to remain neutral and to maintain appropriate discipline in the classroom.

First situation is where teacher makes a strict “English Only” policy. The common reason for this policy is that the language teacher wants the students to improve the students’ English speaking level. Mostly, the students are afraid of speaking English, because they are fear of making mistakes in front of others. In my opinion, this phenomenon happens because most of Koreans learn English through Grammar where they have to make the correct full sentences of using exact grammar. Therefore, I think the most important part after making “English Only” policy is to make students feel comfortable. Teacher should make a classroom surrounded by English posters, letters, and familiar famous English stars on the wall so that they feel comfort with the language. Students should not stress out when they speak English. Teacher should encourage them and listen to them carefully. Teacher should be patient, positive and enthusiastic so that students could express their thoughts freely where teacher would give positive reaction and compliments.

The second unexpected situation that I might confront is frequent tardiness and absences in the classroom. If I were a teacher, I would make strict grading system for being late or being absent without any reason. Because, if I am loose with the attendance, students might think as an easy class and would now show any respect for the teacher. On the other hand, in my opinion, to prevent students’ tardiness or absences, the most important thing is to find out the reasons why the students come late and don’t come to the class. To do that, I need to talk with the students what their problems are and should be aware of each student’s environment. After knowing the situation, I should give some advices for solving the problems. Also, the class should be very interesting and valuable so that students would feel bad if they miss the class where others can get rewards and people who are being late or absent cannot. To not be compared with others would motivate late students to come earlier. Therefore, according to B.F Skinner’s theory of reinforcement and punishments, positive reward or negative reward will have higher positive results than negative punishment.

Last situation is about the method of how I will help with my students to prepare for any lesson presentation. I think the task of teacher is to help every student to accomplish in the class. Hence, the teacher should give good explanations and demonstration so that every student will understand what they need to do exactly. Teacher should be open-minded where students might send Emails whenever they have questions to ask or always be ready to answer questions and to make a comfort environment. Another method is to have the casual presentation in the class which is tightly connected with some topics; this might help students before having a long presentation because they have certain ideas of how to do lesson presentations in the future. Besides, another good example is that to share some thoughts dealing with some tips how to make a successful presentation with the classmates. By sharing enough information about lesson presentation and practicing in front of people that we are familiar with will make to increase students’ trust in the classroom.

In summary, a good successful teacher should be ready for the unexpected situations because we never know what will happen suddenly. In other words, it is important that teacher should be fully armed with the methods, knowledge, and the techniques of dealing with the problems. “We should not be panic even though all at once problem arises!” (Scrivener)

Word Count: 743