**The Art of Learning**

TESOL 75 Essay #2

Jae Yi

"Do not confine your children to your own learning for they were born in another time." Hebrew Proverb

All learning institutions have their own set of rules and regulations. Some are more lenient than others but for the most part they are strict and demanding. A strict policy is a good policy because in the end the students get more out of learning. The methods of punishment may vary but necessary for student control.

When I attended college at New York State's Nassau Community College, their rules and policies for attendance were very strict. For instance, if we had 3 absences in one semester it would mean we couldn't get credit for that particular class. Tardiness wasn't accepted or tolerated at all. If we were late by five minutes we were asked not to enter in the classroom unless we had a doctor’s note in hand. I thought that my schools policies on attendance and punctuality were a bit harsh only because I was the student. But rather in the teachers perspective I agree because the teacher has a responsibility to the whole class and not just the few students who are tardy.

As a teacher, I would definitely enforce the institutions frequent tardiness and absences policy with various types of penalties that will reflect the students’ over-all grade. I would also implement what I learned at Times TESOL about the "Positive Punishment" by B.F. Skinner. If the student is late twice in the same week, I will give the student extra assignment to do for homework. As for absences, I would require a doctor’s note to verify they were ill. Whether they have a legitimate reason or not all assignments are still accountable. If any of these rules are not met, the penalty will be a 5% deduction from their overall grade.

I like and agree with the institutions "English Only” policy because I believe it is a very effective method of learning English. In college there were many ethnic backgrounds in my class. It made it very difficult not to mingle and socialize with them in my native language. It made learning English more difficult for sure. Through my personal experience I would strongly recommend the "English Only" policy and do my best to enforce it. We were reprimanded for speaking in our native language all the time. Maybe that’s why I can speak the way I do now. As for some of my friends they still somewhat have a Korean accent when they speak English because they continued to speak their native language throughout the learning years. To say the least, It made me a better student as well as help me to learn English much faster. I would like encourage my students to embrace the "English Only" policy because it is a very effective method that has been implemented in the institutions for a very long time with great success. I would give a couple of warnings along with an explanation as to why the "English Only" policy must be taken seriously. If the students do not adjust and adhere to this policy, I will deduct 5% to their overall grade. It seems whenever the teacher threatens to shave off points from their grade they listen and cooperate. It works all the time.

I have learned from the Times TESOL teachers that in order to present a good lesson presentation, the teachers need to show a lot of visuals along with many types of teaching methods. One book in particular that was very helpful to me was Techniques and Principles in Language Teaching by Diane Larson-Freeman. Preparing for any lesson presentations require a lot of time and preparation. I will make sure they are learning and understanding what is being taught by reinforcing them with classroom participation and words of encouragement. I will implement practice assignments of role playing so that they get a lot of practice. I will also demonstrate to the students many times before they actually present their lesson. Giving the students a lot of visuals will be very helpful. Also giving the students reading material from other teachers' lesson presentations will broaden their own ideas. A good lesson presentation takes a lot of practice so I will have the students do many practice presentations throughout the school year. You know what they say, "Practice makes Perfect" and "If you don’t succeed the first time, try try again."