Name: David in 78thTC

Title: My Friend TESOL (Reflection Essay)

Changing and Challenging seemed to be cool and awesome to me, but they weren’t mine. But now they are mine thanks to something special.

Two years ago, 58thTESOL class was the thing. It was a revolution to me, as an English teacher working for a private educational institution. The TESOL class changed my identity from an English grammar teacher to an inspiring ESL teacher, making me recognize my teaching style. (I’m still teaching English grammar and reading skills.) In the following I would like to write more about the reason to teach English to children, my hope in this 78thTC, and my plan to make a difference as a teacher, especially as an English teacher.

Teaching grammar and reading skills to middle and high school students for a long time hasn’t produced good English users, but good English graders in several tests. The tests in middle and high schools and the entrance exam for universities in Korea have made teaching grammar and reading skills necessary. I don’t mean that grammar and reading skills are unnecessary. In this situation, Children under 13 don’t have to take such tests yet. That means they have time to acquire English as a communication tool without much pressure, not as a test tool. As long as I work as an English teacher, I want to be a teacher as an inspirer, not as a machine for good grades. So I want to teach children English.

What I want to gain in this course are teacher mind for children, practical skills for teaching English, and experiences that other teachers have had. I haven’t taught students under 10, so I don’t know how to teach them effectively. I know that other teachers in this course and Tobin have more experiences in teaching children under 12. Also I’m sure that their experiences will be helpful to me.

There are several things I have to do to make a difference as a teacher. The first is to continually try to love students as my children. Because I’m sure that no knowledge and skills about English are conveyed effectively without loving and trusting each other between students and teachers. And the second thing is using English in the English Zone strictly in my institution and a lot more in my classes. Especially when I correct students’ writings and they are using computers for on-line practices, I will speak English and lead the students to speak English definitely. Third, in teaching reading skills, I will prepare some questions related to the passages to encourage my students to use several language skills. The last thing is not to be afraid of using English in classes and to be more familiar with using English.

Now I know that teaching is not simple. It is probably a total art work to treat someone. Recently, my previous student who learned from me two years ago contacted me through “Kakao Talk” to greet before his two-year military service. He thanked me for still remembering him well and for having improved his English. The fact that he still remembers me also made me so happy. I think it is difficult for a teacher to be remembered well in a student’s mind without truly caring him or her. I really want to be such a good teacher who will still be remembered for caring and professionalism by many students for a long time.