**TESOL ESSAY #1**

**My English learning and teaching experiences**

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**(801)**

**Introduction**

I haven’t been a successful learner so far, because first, I don’t like to learn English for grades and money. That means I’m an intrinsic learner. Second, an English skill of reading and writing are not suited to my learning style. Third, traditional teaching techniques don’t help me to learn English better and successful than modern teaching techniques.

**Body**

First, I would like to tell about my high school English class experience. I liked to learn English more than any other subject in school. I think I am an intrinsic learner. If I hear English, even if I can’t understand all of it I am so excited and happy. Also I was always excited with learning English with low grades. I enjoyed watching American movies more than Korean movies. Also I am a visual and musical intelligence type of learner. But my high school English teacher taught us only and always as a lecture teaching style and explainer. She tried to guide students with own her thinking and opinion. She never tried to listen to the students opinions, what they want to learn. Also she had no sense of humor at all, explained many things in strict ways. Her teaching was only for the tests. We had to do 500word vocabulary tests a day. For solving the tests, we didn’t have enough time to memorize the vocabulary which she gave us daily. After taking her lessons for 2 years in high school, I thought English is so boring and only for tests. “Why I should do this with much stress?” So I gave up on studying English. Also she never showed respect for students. If we failed the vocabulary tests, she just thought we were bad students and tried to ignore us. If the English teacher had thought about the situations and ways of students (family background, physical disability and facial expression), many students wouldn’t have given up on learning English. The problem was she didn’t use multiple teaching techniques but only traditional teaching style. Finally she didn’t build good rapport with her students.

Second, there was a big chance to change my mind about giving up on English as I took an English native speaker professor’s lecture. It was quite challenging and I felt nervous about taking an English class which was only in English. I had given up on English since high school English class, but it didn’t mean I don’t like English. Just I hated the way English was only for tests. I decided to join free talking English lecture. It really made a big difference in my life. He used modern classroom teaching styles. We did lots of discussion and communication group work. Also he showed us many gestures, facial expressions and sense of humor. He used authentic materials in lessons for group work. He drew out our interests naturally. He was an involver type of teacher so he knew the subject matter well, lots of interaction between teachers and students built great rapport. There was an intrapersonal learner in his class, so it wasn’t easy to do physical types of activity for her but he tried to help her to be an interpersonal learner showing empathetic and respectful way. It gave her confidence. Finally she could get much confidence in expressing English.

Third, after graduating university, I started work in middle school as an English teacher. I also learnt a lot form the native speaker teachers. They use gestures and are very active in class. They use all methodologies GTM, DM, ALM, TPR and CLT for teaching 4 skills of English. So it allows students to be interested during class. They are much involver and enabler as a facilitator most of the time in class. With many group works and games, discussion, students easily express and present their opinions. I can see students trying to find own their answer by themselves not just ask for help from the teacher. I think it is good way to approach teaching English in a natural way for students. So these kinds of teaching techniques make many good effects to accumulate the rate of the student’s retention.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, I don’t want to make students give up on English with me. So I won’t make the same mistakes like the teacher in my high-school. First, I will try to use modern teaching techniques in class. Second, I will show more respect to students before judging them with my own opinions. Third, I will be an involver and enabler more than explainer. I want to give students more chances to think about their own answers as much as possible. I will always be aware that learning and teaching are not the same. So I will try to make my lessons authentic and useful to students for using it in their real life.