**The best key word is to motivate your students**

***“Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you doing”***

***–Jim Ryun-***

After becoming a teacher, I will confront various situations and may have to even

deal with range of unexpected problems during the class. What I believe is that

within a classroom it is also a small society and it is all about working with people

and I, as a teacher would have to make decisions and make options in actions which

would be using appropriate methodology, tools and techniques in the right class.

In order to make teaching more effective and students to be more involved, I would

always have to listen to my students, build up good relationship with them and

spread even and appropriate attention to the students.

Under the strict ‘English only’ policy in the institution, many students will be under

great pressure especially for those who are not confident in using English. Thus, in

order to motivate and to make students use English voluntarily, it is important to

make the whole classroom atmosphere more comfortable and relaxed. Therefore the

teacher should be a language counselor in order to deal with the fears of the

students and encourage a friendly, relaxed learning environment to allow the

students to speak ‘only English’ in a more comfortable way. Immediate error

correction may reduce students’ confidence thus may result in not speaking up and

being afraid to speak and make mistakes. In order to let the students enjoy using

English, the teacher should always encourage the students and make them feel

relaxed and confident in using English. In this way, the students will try to use

English only on their own initiative without enforcing.

Frequent tardiness and frequent absences could mean that the student is not

enjoying the class and not motivated. Normally in Korea, many teachers apply the

B.F. Skinner’s negative punishment which are deducting scores from the grades and

giving punishments etc. When I went to the University in Korea in 1998 to 2002, my

English professor, Ms Lee also managed our grades by relating the absences and

tardiness. I could recall that even if I liked the English subject, I didn’t want to attend

her lectures, so I was often late and often absent which meant I didn’t even cared

about the grades since I wasn’t motivated at all to attend the class. In such cases,

Skinner’s negative punishment doesn’t seem to work. If I were the teacher, I would

try to go for the positive reinforcement by motivating the students. For younger

students, I may give stickers to students who are present and are not late for the

lesson. Later on, before the semester ends, I will be giving prizes according to the

number of stickers the students have and award them up to the 3rd runner up.

Another way for the students to be motivated could be the class environment.

Learning is facilitated in a cheerful environment and the students are most likely to

be involved in an interesting class. I, as a teacher will have to use humors to make

the class a fun place and help students to build relationship with me and even

among students which is also very important in students being motivated. If the

students build good and firm relationship with the teacher and among each others,

then they will be looking forward to seeing each other and therefore look forward to

being in the class as well since the student interaction will be maximized.

A lesson presentation may be a big pressure for the students to handle themselves

and if it is preparing throughout the school year, then the given preparation time isn’t

short either. If the given preparation time is long enough, then the students might

leave the assignment nearly to the end of the due date, thus the teacher should

help the student prepare step by step giving each steps a due date to submit the

part of the assignment. For example, if it is a lesson presentation, then the teacher

divides the assignment into several stages such as research for material, selection

for the activity and lead in questions, draft lesson plan etc. In this way, the teacher

would be able to guide the student step by step giving comments and feedbacks and

have negotiation together regarding the subject. A teacher always being opened to

the students, is also an essential feature in helping the students preparing for the

assignment, which would help the students feel more comfortable in asking for

teacher’s advises. At the beginning of the school year, grouping students for the task

would also be a good idea, since they will be able to share their views and learn from

each other while preparing for the presentation. Helping the group to create a

supportive rapport amongst the students will also be the teacher’s task by

encouraging the interaction among them.

The solutions which I have given above all concludes as being a nice and kind

teacher instead of a strict teacher. However, this doesn’t mean that I will be a weak

teacher, Instead I will be a respectful teacher by respecting the students first. It is

true that students prefer a strict teacher than a weak teacher, however as I recall, a

a teacher without enforcing, but who motivates the students are seen as the best

respectful teacher.