**Great art of teaching**

by Julia

' To know how to suggest is the great art of teaching'

- Amiel Henri Frederic

A teacher is not a person who only teaches students knowledge.

A teacher is like a designer. They must design better environment to make students study more efficiently and productively.

A teacher is like a captain of a ship. If a teacher leads students in a wrong way, they might be lost without knowing where they are heading to. As a result, they would give up their study due to lack of motivation. Therefore teachers must always check if their classes are doing well as they planned at the beginning of course.

In addition, it is important to make students motivate by listening what they want and what they need. Lastly, a teacher is similar to a counselor. They have to try to read their students’ mind and find if there are any troubles or difficulties. If they find out something wrong, they have to talk with the student to rectify his huddles.

In this essay, I want to talk about 3 different situations and suggest my solutions reflecting my past experience.

There is a class in which all members must use only English even though they have their own mother tongue.

How can I design and implement this policy efficiently and smoothly?

Here is my real story. It is about my English teacher named Jonathan who taught adult students English Speaking as a native speaker in SAMYOOK language school located in SINCHON in 2003. In the class, we had to speak only English in the class. But at first, it was very hard and awkward for me to start to talk with others in English. Nevertheless Jonathan always attended to make us feel free to talk in English. At the first time, he made 6 groups of two members. When I talked with just one, I wasn’t nervous so that I could talk very freely and naturally. The next day he made a bigger group of 3. His group was getting bigger day by day. At last, after we practiced speaking English enough, we were able to present in front of all students in English. at that time, I was satisfied with his way of leading the class. I think it was a good method for students to open their mouth and talk in English. But looking back, he was an easy-going teacher. He used to throw a topic of the day and made students have a free talking and then give a homework at the end of the class.

Sometimes I could find some students whispering in Korean with others.

That’s why it was impossible to know every English expression we want to say.

But there wasn’t any specific rule. We could get to the next level after some speaking test: question and answer. Of course, a few students who couldn’t answer to the question well were not able to pass the test. This is all I could recall about the class.

So, through my experience, my class with English only policy is designed and planned like this.

First a promise that we must use only English is essential for this class.

Second, I can use ice breaker to encourage all students to participate in and have fun before I start the lesson. The most crucial point is the ice breaker must be related to the lesson and it should be easy for the students to talk. before I begin the ice breaker, using ICQ and CCQ, I can make sure them what to do next easily. And secondly, as always there are some expressions used frequently in the class.

So we can post some useful English expressions on the board to make them speak easily anytime. For example, ‘ May I go to the bathroom?, I have a question, Submit an essay’ are helpful for the students. But sometimes the promise could be broken by some students, in that case, we can give them some deduction. To do like this, we must often remind them of our deduction rules and post a wall chart of deduction list. Moreover whenever my students have no idea of some words or expressions in English during their free talking, I can allow them to use a dictionary application and to check out the expressions they want to know. Because it’s very hard to repond to all questions and rectify student’s errors in a limited time.

Here is another situation which happens often in the class.

It’s just about absentees and latecomers. In my case, I was often late for my class so that I could remember well about my past homeroom teacher’s respond.

When I was a first grader in BUIL middle school in 1993, corporal punishment had been used frequently. So whenever I was late for the class, most teachers used to make me raise a desk or smack my palm.

But it didn’t work. It could not make me regret my fault and have a motivation. I think it was not effective way to change the student’s attitude. Both absence and tardiness are not only bad for time management but also harmful for attention. So a detailed and specific solution is required.

If they give some notice in advance of the class, it’s okay. But if not, it could disturb the balance of time management. In that case, a rule is needed for the class. It must be strict. No1. is if someone would be late for the class with a specific reason, they have to give a notice to the teacher before the class but if not, the late comer cannot participate in the class on the day. The student ought to study on his/her own.

No.2 is related to the absence. in the case of an absentee who gave a notice at least an hour in advance of the class, I can give the student a make up class on another day. However it’s impossible to have make up class for the absentee without any notice. The student have to finish up the lesson by him/ herself. If a student is absent for my class more than 3 times a month, the student cannot move on to the next level and 3 tardies will be counted as 1 absence.

I will make a table of deduction list about tardies and absences below and post it on the wall.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| per action | Point deduction |
| Tardy | -2 |
| Absent | -4 |

According to this table, I will make the student who is between -6 and-12 point have a make up class another day. The day could be appointed after negotiation with me.

Lastly, I will present a gift certificate or offer a tuition fee D.C for the next month to a student who attended to my lessons without absence for a month.

As I mentioned above, I can deal with tardiness and absence problems

Finally, improving student’s presentation skill is another key success factor. While students are preparing the presentation, they will be able to understand what they have learned and how they share the knowledge with other people. It is specially important for students because presentation preparation can enhance not only their academic ability but also communication skill. Although I haven’t prepared any presentations when I was a student, it might be a quite helpful growth engine for me if I had chances to prepare presentations. Therefore, I will let our students present what they learn and understand. In addition, I will be with them to coach how to prepare effective presentations with proper visual supplements. For example, student and I will develop a script for presentation after student prepares draft one through peer discussion and research. At the same time, student will be able to collect proper image and video clips which will support his presentation. Then I will help him to perform perfect presentation by video recording. It is one of most effective methods for preparing presentation because student can realize what should be fixed and improved by discussing issues with others. Through the whole preparation process, I will also cheer up the student so that he can be fully confident and fearless.

I mentioned 3 different situations and talked about my opinion and solutions for the better. To be a good teacher, we have to be specialized in our knowledge basically. But I think that the most important thing is enthusiasm for my work.

If I make a genuine effort to improve my class steadily and constantly. I could play a role of a designer, a captain and counselor in teaching.

‘ The mediocre teacher tells, The good teacher explains, The superior teacher demonstrate, The great teacher teaches inspires. – William Arthur Ward.

A teacher who inspires a student can change the student’s life.

So I will do my best to be a great teacher .