**Managing the Class Is the Key**

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*“The secret in education lies in respecting the student.”*

By Ralph Waldo Emerson

I have been a part of many different schools and experienced various types of teachers in diverse cultural settings. I lived in Korea for the first 13 years of my life and was educated through eighth grade. At the age of 14, I moved to the U.S. and attended a prep school in Illinois where the second phase of my life began. This was the period when I began studying English while becoming accustomed to American culture. I spent five years in suburban Chicago and made my way into New England where I stayed for five more years attending a university. I did spend a few months in Japan in the second year of college because I was an enthusiastic young learner who wanted to experience as many things as I could. I have had classes in three different languages and attended many different school in three countries. Some teachers have better command of class than others, but different styles of managing the class should be respected because all teachers have their distinct methods in doing so.

In my first year in the U.S., I was a full-time ESL student. All the classrooms had “English Only” policy, and we were not allowed to speak in our native language even in hallways. As an English learner who had recently began a serious studying, it was an extremely difficult policy to follow since my communication ability in English was limited. If teachers found me speaking Korean to other Korean students, they would report it to the principle which resulted in a long consulting about why English was the only language to be used in school. On top of the scary confrontation, I would lose points in Speaking and Listening class which could result in repeating of the same level that lasts two months. After a few months of struggling, I realized that prohibiting the use of native language and enforcing the full use of English was one of the most difficult but the most beneficial rule that helped me to familiarize myself to the language. I always had to either look up or consult others to find the right words and expressions in everything I do. If I were to be the instructor for English learners, I will enforce very strict “English Only” policy that may involve penalties and imposing extra work if caught using the native language. Even though such enforcements may appear to be severe in some ways for beginners, I have been led to believe that extreme experiences happen to result in extreme results.

I believe that being punctual to the class is the one thing that students can show their respect for the teacher. It shows that they have devotion and feel responsible for the class. If a student is frequently late or absent to the class, it would be safe to say that the student does not respect the class as well as the instructor who teaches it. If I were in charge of the classroom, there would be a severe penalties for being late and absent for class. There will be points deducted from the final grade for the class. I may implement an automatic failure of the class if a student is absent more than a certain number of times depending on the duration of the session. I strongly believe in being on time for every class unless the student has a family emergency or medical excuses. These reasons can be viewed as unavoidable circumstances, but no other excuses would be taken on non-punctual participation to the class.

There have been many teachers with whom I studied that were exceptionally good with helping students get their jobs done. There would always be students who are not familiar with the subjects. With those, there are also students that are simply not able to follow the class as well as others. If these students were to prepare presentations for the class, the teacher’s instructions are the most important thing that students can use. If I had to instruct and assist students to prepare for their presentations, I would start with thorough explanations of what the presentation will be. Depending on the level of understanding that I assume by talking to the student, I would differ in the length and depth of explanation but I would rather be more specific than vague. After verbal help, it would be more comforting for me to personally demonstrate how the presentation should look like. I would prepare a sample and perform it in front of the class. I would specifically point out the important parts of the presentation that I want the students to emphasize so that they can concentrate more on those parts that are crucial to the presentation. I believe myself to be more of a doer than a thinker or a talker; thus, my approach in helping the students may be overdoing in some aspects, but I prefer it to be in such manners.

All teachers I have had in the past have different style of teaching and treating their students. I must admit that not I was not fond of all the teachers’ ways of managing the class; nevertheless, I do respect all of my teachers who have left tremendous impacts on me and their teaching styles and techniques. Every teacher may need to improve or modify his or her way of teaching and classroom management skills, but all of them deserve to be respected for the efforts that they put in for the students.