“Education is the best provision for old age.” by Aristotle

**“Most influential teachers in my life”**

Ji Young Yang

Teachers who are good or bad are very influential to students who have spent most of their time in the school. They can elicit students to expose what’s inside them or leave it. I had the greatest teacher when I was in the 6th grade in Junha Elementary School in Ulsan. My teacher Sung Man Lee was unforgettable teacher to me because he discovered my specialty I didn’t know before. On the contrary, one of my university professors has been the worst teacher ever. He had his own pride about what he was doing and he was a genius so that he didn’t know how to teach and he didn’t understand students’ difficulties. Comparing these two different types of teachers will help me how to become a good teacher.

When I was in elementary school, I was a very small and shy student. I couldn’t talk to the new students. I was an introvert. I remember that my parents were concerned about me a lot that I couldn’t make an eye contact with other people. Moreover, I couldn’t answer the questions when my teacher asked. I hated to read the textbook in front of the students. My homeroom teacher surprised me because he remembered his students’ names on the first day. And most of the girls in my class liked my homeroom teacher because he was very kind and handsome. I think I was one of them. When he tried to discipline the students, he was very just and unbiased to those who were in trouble. My teacher was very warm-hearted and he took care of the students as his own children.

After three months, my teacher invited me to come to the teacher’s lounge. He asked me to teach calligraphy to the class. It was pretty shocking to me because I had never taught the class and how did he know that I had been taking the calligraphy class for 3 years? I told him that I couldn’t do it but he kept asking me that I could do it. I didn’t like to stand out. He persuaded me to do it and encouraged me. Finally, I taught the class for 20 minutes. Without his encouragement I couldn’t find what I was good at. After teaching the class, I learned how to speak out. He elicited what I had and what I was able to do.

On the other hand, I had a bad professor in college. I was in his conducting class. My professor was a genius and very famous in Canada and USA. The class was designed as a private lesson. We were supposed to meet twice a week but he wasn’t able to make it because of his concert schedules. I remember that I had only two classes with him throughout the semester. It was hard to know him and to understand his teaching style. According to his teaching style, there was no respect at all. He even showed racial discrimination to those who were international students. When I asked him some questions for my recital, he discounted that I didn’t know. Also he didn’t understand the difficulties that students had because it was so easy for him. The way he treated the students was not right as a teacher. He didn’t even try to build the relationship with the students. In short period, the class I had with him was the worst class.

Comparing these two teachers gives me to think what I need to be a good teacher. From my best teacher I’ve learned that I need to pull out what students have. The most important thing that teachers must have is that teachers need to encourage and challenge students even though they make mistakes. Moreover, from my bad teacher I’ve learned that I need to be humble as a teacher. A teacher doesn’t mean that he or she dominates students. When I show them respect, they also respect a teacher. Therefore, if I didn’t have my teacher, I am not able to become who I am now.