How to be an Ideal Teacher

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“Will is power.” This is one of my favorite sayings that I deeply agree with. We face many challenges in the field of education, and lesson plans are necessary in terms of minimizing the possibility of facing with unexpected problems in classroom by pre-planning. However, we should admit that there are sometimes frustrating situations, however hard we try to prevent those problems. As a teacher, how would we deal with the problems successfully?

If my institution has a very strict, “English Only” policy, I would be very strict about it as well. It is because however strict a rule is, it can be very easily broken if people in charge of it are not that strict. I remember the “English Only” policy of the language institute I attended in Sydney. The institute had a great reputation in Sydney in 2001 when I was studying English there. The policy was run like this: if a student breaks a rule, he or she has to put 1 dollar into what we call donation jar placed in each class. When the jar is considered full enough, a class could make its own decision to have a party with the collected money, having fun. In my class, we had a party once a week. But it was not with the collected money from students breaking a rule. The jar system didn’t work well, so we split the party’s cost in the end. Now, I think it could have been working well if there were staffs or teachers who were in charge of walking around to check the students by rotation. Or the students breaking a rule will be issued a yellow warning card and the violation will be recorded in the students’ file. It seems very strict, but I assume that through this strictness we can form an immersion language learning environment successfully so that the students could have a lot more opportunities to practice their English.

Second, I would like to talk about how to enforce frequent tardiness and frequent absences in the classroom. Tardiness and absence interrupt learning for students in the classroom. I think it is very important to have students realize this fact, first of all. Then, point out that the percentage of recorded tardiness and absences will be reflected in their grades. Or, the use of the donation jar can be a good idea, I think.

Last, let’s think about how to help students prepare for any lesson presentations that they may need to do throughout the school year. In fact, I prefer to have students make a presentation in class about any topic they are interested in. I am sure that it enhances the ability to organize their thoughts and speak English in front of people. An enabler, one of teachers’ role, I always consider important in class, and in this prospective I believe the greater opportunities a student has for doing by themselves, the greater his or her ability to learn through their lives will be. Teachers can help students prepare for the presentation by giving them the list of website addresses which are relevant to the topic, and showing demonstration. Furthermore, teachers should make a warm atmosphere in classroom so that students can get a tip from teachers whenever they think they need some.

I agree with the idea that an ideal teacher should be able to cope with unexpected problems in class and to enhance the motivation of all students. “Will is power”. I hope to have a confidence that I am a great teacher, and furthermore to try harder to overcome no matter how frustrating situation in class comes along. I believe every teacher should have a strong will to improve the way of teaching and managing classroom, trying harder to achieve it. Then it would help themselves to be an ideal teacher after all.