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**First Essay Assignment**

Language has many uses. It can be a tool, merely a field of study, one more line on one’s resume, or even a country's identity. Before learning any language, I think a person needs to know "why" they are learning that language and the instructor should also fully understand the language as well. I would like to talk about my various English learning experiences and what and how I will use what I learned at Times TESOL to be an English teacher in the near future.

First and foremost, I learned English in America like how other Americans learn their mother tongue. According to the textbook, this would be a type of immersion. After graduating elementary school, I moved back to Korea and this is when I started to learn English as a foreign language and from teachers who used English as a foreign or second language. This is when I started to go through difficulties and found out that English is difficult to learn in a non-English speaking country. All the teachers focused only on grammar and the teachers inevitably had to use traditional methods of teaching. Come to think of it, I think it was the only option for them to teach a class of 40 students who were grouped by age and not their levels. If they had this TESOL program at that time, things might have been different. Due to the lack of advanced English teaching at school, I had to rely on private academies that fortunately divided the students according to their levels and test scores, when I was a senior in high school. Then as I wished, I majored in International Studies in university and my major exposed me to an English speaking environment. Thus, I was lucky to further develop my English skills. Yet, from working as an English teacher, I realized my weaknesses in English and that is why I started this TESOL program.

Now, to talk about what kind of teacher I would like to be I would have to briefly talk about the example of classroom 2 on page 10 of the textbook. This teacher is implementing a communicative approach and eliciting the students’ participation by asking questions to the students. I want to be a teacher that builds rapport with the students and tries to empathize with them. I would also like to be a teacher who considers the different learning styles of students. I do not want to be the stubborn teacher who thinks my way of teaching is the best and that the students must follow my style of teaching. One other important thing I would like to add which is different from what my previous teachers were like is that I want to add a feedback of my class and the activities from all my students, after each two to three sessions. This way, I will be able to adjust my syllabus or class according to the needs of my students. I want to be a flexible teacher who is open to change.

To conclude, what I expect to get out from the seven weeks of this TESOL program is for me to use English not only as a means of communication but to be able to teach the language in depth and know more about the semantics and the grammar of it. Most importantly, I would like to use that knowledge and learn the methods to effectively teach English to various age groups. I do not want to be a person merely being able to speak the language. This is because my father used to always say that even the homeless people on the street know how to speak and understand English. Therefore, I want to become a professional and also learn the tools and skills needed to make a motivating and exciting classroom atmosphere for my future students.

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