Ed Song

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My ‘Best’ Teacher

There are many qualities a teacher should acquire to become a successful instructor. Mrs. Volante, one of my favorite teachers to this day, demonstrated many of these qualities. She was my grade 12 English Literature teacher in Canada. Although she was an old woman standing at around 150 centimeter, she had a charisma that enabled her to manage her students well. Among many teachers that I encountered, Mrs. Volante is my favorite teacher for the following reasons. First, she was a professional who knew her materials very well and was able to teach the materials in ways the students would clearly understand. Second, rather than a traditional teacher who simply lectures the class, she was a “buddy” who could entertain the students and engage them in lively discussions relevant to the materials. Finally, Mrs. Volante could become a “disciplinarian” in necessary situations. Mrs. Volante made sure she would be strict when some students lose track of the materials to prevent the class from becoming loose.

Although I find it difficult to categorize Mrs. Volante into one specific type of teacher, it was clear that she was an enabler, encouraging everyone in the classroom to share his or her ideas in discussions. Comprehending works of English literature are often very difficult and often require help from others. To help the class understand the materials better she created a class environment where students do the learning by having discourses with each other. For instance, we would talk about how the novel relates to the contemporary society, and how we can use its contents to make our society better. During the discussions, Mrs. Volante would sometimes lead the topic when students need help with certain matters. The majority of her class was consisted of discussions, and it was very helpful because I could learn from my peers’ perspectives as well as Mrs. Volante’s.

Mrs. Volante was an effective teacher because her lectures were very clear and intriguing. While staying relevant to the class materials, her unique humor helped me engage in her lectures more. She was a smooth talker, and was very skilled at making the materials entertaining for the students. Further, she was a very passionate teacher who knew the contents the students were responsible for very well. Lastly, the class discussions were always very well done, because she was skilled at organizing classroom activities. I believe her method of teaching was effective, because I thoroughly enjoyed listening to her lectures and sharing my opinions and listening to my peers’ opinions in her class.

The Grade 12 English Literature class consisted of roughly 30 graduating students who were very passionate about learning. Reflecting that my peers and I agreed that we learned a lot from her class, it can be argued that she understood the characteristics of practical adult learners and the student levels. Since the students were focused learners who were passionate about the subject, she made sure everyone had a chance to speak their opinions by leading the discussions and asking questions to passive students.

Because Mrs. Volante was a great lecturer with great clarity, and was able to balance being a buddy and a disciplinarian, she was one of the most helpful teachers that I’ve met to this day. There is no doubt that Mrs. Volante was the most helpful teacher that I had to this day.