Times Tesol 119th - Sara**h**

**The Most Influential Teacher In My Life**

Of all the English teachers I have met, the one who influenced me the most was Mr. Kevin Smith, the teacher I want to be like. He was the teacher for the English writing class when I was in the university. I liked him the most because he used good methods of teaching and it was very efficient and useful. Through his course he taught the strategies of writing in English, I improved not only my English skills, but I also developed my writing skills in general.

To begin with, Mr. Smith was a great enabler who helped me to broaden my perspectives to English writings. Before his class, I had got the idea that English writing is all about correcting grammar errors. However, what he made me do was to draw the big picture of the writing first. In his class, first, the students shared ideas and brainstormed about topics together. Second, we outlined the big ideas and wrote the first draft. Through this process, we did not have to care about the grammatical errors or spellings of words we used, because in this phase so far, the important point was the big picture. After organizing the ideas, we could finally do the corrections of the sentences. This whole process of writing helped me use time efficiently when I write, and what is more, it even helped to improve my writing skills in Korean as well.

Second, in Mr. Smith’s class, not only did I get the chance to experience Traditional teaching, but I also got to see the Modern teaching as well. First, it was Traditional way of teaching that the students had been lectured of the process of writing, received assignment and took written tests. The Modern teaching was brainstorming the ideas in a small group, assigning to make visual aids and taking oral tests for midterm and final exam. Mr. Smith had the routine for proceeding of the class. At the beginning of the class, the students took a quick written quiz for the purpose of reviewing of the last class. After that, Mr. Smith guided the process of writing. Then, we brainstormed the topic given of the day, outlined and checked the flow of the writing. And we received the assignment to write the draft, or to finish writing. Also, we had the other assignments for midterm and final exam, which were written and oral and the students were recommended to present with visual or musical aids to get a good score on the exam. In this sense, I would say Mr. Smith was able to teach in both ways combined well.

Finally, I think Mr. Smith was good at Learner Retention. He accomplished a retention rate of 80% by using experiential learning. What he did was to let the students write an English journal every day. Through repetition of this habit, I learned how to express personal feelings and how to explain events that happened in English. Also, I was able to find out my habitual mistakes in English sentences. By learning from everyday work, I could easily memorize the expressions by using them in the journal. Moreover, it enabled me to easily notice my mistakes and prevent me to make the same mistakes again in the future. The habit of experiential learning by writing a journal every day improved my retention of English.

In short, Mr. Smith was the most memorable teacher for me. That is because, first, he was a good enabler through teaching me the process of writing. Second, he combined the traditional and the modern way of teaching very well. Finally, he improved my retention rate to about 80% by assigning to write a journal every day. For these three reasons, I would say Mr. Smith was the teacher I would like to be in the future.