Cindy Ahn

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My Best Teacher

My family moved to Canada when I was 17 years old. At that time, I could not speak English at all. I met Mr. Robert when I started to attend an ESL course in Winston Churchill High School. I remember him as my best teacher in my life because he gave me self-confidence, empathized with the student’s problems, and provided our needs and wants in the classroom. I was in pre-production stage at the beginning of the class. I used body language instead of speaking English; however Mr. Robert helped me to reach the Intermediate fluency stage. I give thanks to him until now.

Mr. Robert was an enabler teacher because he gave us many chances to speak through the group project, provided useful lectures and materials to teach the students. I was a visual learner because I understood the meaning of words and the expression through the pictures and body languages. When he used lots of objects and flash cards through the fun activities, I understood the lesson very easily and well. In ESL class, the most of students were very nervous and shy to speak English as all beginner level; however he listened to the students, and gave us clear and positive feedback during the lesson.

Mr. Robert was an effective teacher because he showed empathy with the students. Even though the students were in pre-production stage, he used fun and effective activities under the eight intelligences. He used all the intelligences such as verbal, logical, visual, musical, kinesthetic, inter and intra personal, and naturalist in the lesson. He knew our wants and needs to learn English. We had group work to discuss and did the presentation about our work. We enjoyed share our different culture through the story telling lesson. Sometimes, he played the guitar to make a song with the students. He taught us through the student- centered teaching method in the modern classroom. We were very happy to learn English from him.

If he only focused on book and grammar, our retention rate would have been very low. Our retention rate went up to 80~90% because he used many different kinds of teaching methods based on experiential learning and teaching/mentoring others. Mr. Robert provided productive and receptive skills under the integrate-skill approach in a lesson at the same time. I remembered that we went to the zoo with him. Mr. Robert taught us how to buy the subway ticket, and how to find the way where we want to go from the map. We learned how to order the food at the food court and learned all different kinds of animal’s names. After we came back to the school, he gave us the writing homework about our experiences at the zoo. The students learned a lot of useful conversation through the great experience.

I remember Mr. Robert as my best teacher because he was effective and kind teacher who gave us high-self confidence, high-motivation, and low anxiety under the Affective Filter Hypothesis. Even though I was in pre-production stage, he helped me to reach the intermediate fluency stage at the end of his course. I want to be an effective and enabler teacher like Mr. Robert. I am willing to encourage the students to create their own ideas and teach English in an effective way in the modern classroom. I thank Mr. Robert who is the best teacher in my life.