Title: Would you want to be forced or guided?

127th WK Grace

If you would be loved, love and be loveable.

-Benjamin Franklin

This time I would like to share my experiences how my teachers managed attendance in my school days. Also I will bring back my memories in Missionary Training Institute since they also had an English only policy.

At my 2nd grade of high school my home room teacher was known for the strict and the scariest teacher in the whole school. So I was devastated when I heard I have to spend my precious 1 year with him. And soon I and my friends found out why people call him a crazy dog. He got so mad over something simple mistakes. He got upset when the trashcan was full. And he got upset when the desks are not lined up perfectly. I understand he think classroom management is important to him. But to be honest I feel he was just a person with a lot of anger and he wanted to release his stress to his students. He could have said in nice ways. But he always yelled and punished us.

Speaking of tardy he never allowed it. At my high school before the actual class begins we had about 1 hour self-studying time in the morning. During that time students check what they are going to learn that day and some students finishes their home work.

OK. Now let’s just say I am late for 5 minutes for that self-studying time. Then, he would gave me a light punishment. He would have me look at the wall for the 1 hour. It was really embarrassing standing in front of everybody showing my back for 1 hour. Plus, it got me really tired in the morning standing and doing nothing.

If I am late more than 5 minutes he would get so mad. When he punishes his students he usually has us get down on the ground hit with a big stick. I think it was a shorten billiard stick. To me it was a fear and horror as itself. One day morning I woke up with alarm but I turn it off and fell asleep again. When I woke up again it was already 30 minutes late. That moment I literally had goose bumps because I knew what would happen to me when I go to school. So I explained my parents and begged them to call my school and say I am sick. It is bad I skipped the school. But I wasn’t brave enough to face the punishment. Sadly, in Korean schools it was allowed to punish students like that back in the days. Now I know these kinds of punishments are not allowed anymore.

In regards to English only policy I bet it is such a pressure for those of students who doesn’t have confidence or is not good at English. And yes I was one of them! When I joined Missionary Training Institute I heard the bad news. That was an ENGLISH ONLY POLICY! At that time I could only speak simple sentences. But I promised myself I will speak English as much as I can. My class mates were also not good at English but we all tried to explain with easy and simple words. Sometimes we used body language. Since we used too much body language we asked ourselves as a joke “Did we enroll for the English class or the Acting class?” Nevertheless, we didn’t give up. It was not like the Institute gave us prize for following English only policy. But the teachers encouraged us to speak more and made us felt “Oh. Teacher is helping and guiding me” We didn’t feel they were correcting or pointing out our mistakes. (Off the record the same feeling comes from you Ben! It is really good)

After I wrote down these two cases I found really an interesting fact. My high school teacher followed punishment method and the institute didn’t have any reward or anything. But the result is very different. Despite my high school teacher punished this students there were still tardy. Most importantly, the more he punished us the more challenged us. Since we all hated him we did some kind of revenge by showing our worst attitude. So it was ended up nobody were happy during that period. My high school teacher and institute teachers were also considered classroom management is important. But my school teacher forced us to follow his rule while the institute teachers guided us to follow. I think teacher’s role is helping students so they can stand on the right track. To do that I should show respect and not force my idea to them. When I look around I see some people especially popular among people. And I found they all have in common. That is they also love people and return what they receive by expressing gratitude. If you expect something from others do it first. If you would be loved love them first. If you would be respected, respect them first. That is how it works in any way.