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My Best Teacher

Mrs. Spears was my teacher at Bob Jones University of USA in 2011. She was among the assistant teacher in English 101 which was grammar learning section in English course of BJU. Since English 101 class was big, the class was divided into five groups. I was in the group number one and the group was started on September 2011, and ended on December 2011 until the final exam. The class of English 101 was successful and there are three reasons. First, many people got an average B+ or A on their report cards. Second, People said the class was much easier than English 102 [the section of English essays] and English 103 [the section of English poems]. Third, many people said that most teachers of English 101 are more willing to have time to help students’ assignments than the teachers of English 102 and 103.

In my opinion, Mrs. Spears, was an explainer because she used to write the section and the function of the grammar on the chalkboard. In addition, although she knew the subject of the English grammar well, she did not like to take the questions but instead she continued to talk how students should study the grammar and how they can use the grammar in the essays and in the conversations. But she lacked the style of involver, and enabler, as a result, the class lacked the actives and conversation between the students.

Like most of my professors and teachers in BJU, Mrs. Spear was also a traditional teacher. For example, she really hated people bringing laptops and Smartphone to the class because she taught students were using these devices playing themselves but not focusing on the class. In addition, she made sure that everyone got focused on the class, if anyone who got fallen sleep on the class, she made that student to stand up and for the last of her class time made sure that student did not fall into the sleep. In addition, she did not accept any excuse for the late works. For example, one student was having a headache so she had to go to hospital and turned her essay homework one hour late. However, she told the student that the assignment should be done in time and she should have done the homework before she got sick. As a result the student got an F in her assignment. For her teaching style, she mainly used the textbook in her class time, but did not use the computer’s power points. She was also a teacher-centered, which meant that she wanted her students to follow her lead instead being followed by her students. For example, she did not like students talking each other while she was lecturing and anyone who secretly tried to speak each other, she told them to be quiet or be kicked out of her class. She also tested out the students regularly by giving quizzes every day and tests in each week. If the student did not do well on the test or quiz, she told the student to come to her office and go over what answers she or he got wrong and go over the answers. Also, when she was writing grammar structure on the board, she left the blank and made students to stand up and fill up the blank to write the right answer. If the student did not get the right answer, she told him or her to spend more time to study the grammar. However, there were things that I did not like her teaching style, because she was so forced to being traditional, the class lacked the styles of modern classrooms. Many students were not eager participants who wanted to speak out for the answer. In addition, banning electronic devices made people hard to understand the words they want to know. As a result, people could know the words after the class was over because they could use their electronic devices after the class was over.

Mrs. Spear was a very devoted teacher. Although she was pretty strict and showing no mercy to the late works or cheats, she always emphasized that the working on her assignments will help students how to use them in the essays and in other works as well. Understanding on students’ levels she understood that some students like English second language students did not have a same English level as American students. So when she was lecturing, she usually read slowly that every student in her class could follow her speaking. In addition, after the class was dismissed, she met ESL students one after time and asked if she or he had problems understanding the grammar or doing homework then she or he should come to her office. She also put emphasized that students should aim for the highest grade in her class. She mentioned that English 101 is the foundation of learning English grammar and if the person does not get good grades in this class then the person will not do well in English classes or other classes like Speech, History, and Psychology. However, emphasizing these words in excessive ways, some students had a hard time to get over it because they did not have English as their major so they had hard time with her and thought she did not proper respect for the students.

Mrs. Spear was one of the best teachers in my life and I want to teach the students like her. There are three reasons why I support her style. First, teaching the class in teacher-centered she was able to get the full attention in the class and put students into studying shapes. Second, she taught traditionally putting her lecture in her chalkboard not allowing computer or electrical device in her class, which allows people concerted her words on the board write down their words into their notebooks not to be distracted by other things like doing Facebook or games during the class. Finally, she continually encouraged students to put their best efforts doing their works and talked their works reflected what they will become in the future. However only being an explainer and teaching students traditionally, the class room’s mood was always downcast and less confident, which in this day, the modern school students do not want to be in. So in my opinion, her teaching style will be great in our school because it was strict and traditional. However, if she goes out and teaches in other schools which teach students modernly and require teachers to be an enabler and an involver, she will viewed as a bad teacher who lacks mind of students-centered, empathy, antiquity, and respect toward the students.