

![MC900237521[1]]()

The Times Media

TESOL for Children

First Reflection Essay



*Student’s Full Name* [**Mija Kim**]

*Student’s Nickname (or first name)* [**Clara**]

*Date of submission* [**May.14.2011**



**First Personal Reflection Essay**

***Instructor: Alan M Ezekiel***

***Version first essay v1.2***

You have probably spent many years studying English as a second language. Write nine to twelve paragraphs, double-spaced, 500 to 700--word essay describing your experiences learning English. What are your thoughts and feelings regarding your education in English? Was it a positive or negative learning experience? Was it successful, if it was not, then why not? Why do you think so? What implications does your past learning have for your future as a teacher? How will it affect you as a teacher of English? Write real and interesting experiences!

**Please relate your experiences to the modules we have discussed.**

* Teacher's qualities, what makes a ‘good’ teacher?
* Three teacher types
* Feedback and motivation
* **T**eacher **T**alk **T**ime and **S**tudent **T**alk **T**ime
* Reading your students,
* Enthusiasm and real experiences
* The environment in which you learned
* Different roles of the teacher

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TESOL for Young Learners Essay Evaluation Criteria****The writer:** |  |
| * uses terminology in the correct way
 | /10 |
| * organizes ideas in well in paragraphs
 | /15 |
| * refers to topics from Module 1 – and Module 2
 | /15 |
| * Uses personal experiences
 | /15 |
| * Gives examples of activities used by former teachers, i.e. “The teacher was an involver because…”
 | /15 |
| * Supports their thesis statement in the introduction with a related conclusion
 | /10 |
| * The writer clearly expresses how they plan to teach English to children in the future based on their experience
 | /20 |
| Total Score of Essay | /100 |

**Introduction**

Last winter, I enrolled an immersion Tesol course for one month at this Times media center. Before that, I worked at the elementary school as a substitutor teacher for 3months. I had been learning English for a long time, but never had any chance to teach the students with a native teacher from England or America. I had a little confidence to speak with natives but the teaching with a native, it was a kind of nervous work for me. A day per week, on Tuesdays, it was so happy for me to meet the native, but too burdensome to teach the student

**Main paragraphs**

Oneday, I got a textmessage from Times media. For short time workers who teaches in the school. There is an aid from government, So from it, they can register in Times media for Tesol course or Children Tesol, etc. What an amazing news it is!! I thought that system was made for the person like me who had a little experience and skills at their job. So wonderful... I could enroll and meet 19 friends and Valeri who was the instructor. At first, I was so accustomed to speaking in Korean. so frequently used Korean at this Times media. And during breaking time, on the hallway I asked the assignments and the part which I couldn't understand in the class to the excellent students in Korean.

I could understand almost 80% what I had listened during class but couldn't speak it in English exactly. and the worst thing was that I believed to be fluent in English . In the classroom there were 19 students , Among them 3 were elementary school teachers and one man was a professor in the University. And I knew it later that 3-4 of them had been abroad to study English more deeply and widely. Among them, I felt so small. And I was so afraid to ask something to our instructor, Valeri, She alwasys told us to send an email to her, if we had questions about the lecture or assignments. but I wouldn't send it because I couldn't express my points exactly in English.

One week passed, and she gave us the first essay about our learning English experience like this one. I made a lot of spell mistakes, at first, I didn't know that but later reading it again, I felt so ashamed. And secondly, she gave us another assignment , listening lesson plan. I had to read textbook but our class was running everyday without any one day break, I didn't get suitable time to read it. On the weekend, I scarcely made it . It was full of mistakes and Valeri always had been waiting for our asking about it. But why didn't I get in touch with her? I undoubtly could say that she was a good teacher, that is an involver who knew the exact answer and the right process. If we would have wanted a help from her, she could have given us a lot of feedbacks and ways of thinking to do our assignments. After getting the low score at the first listening lesson plan, I gradually started to use English in the classroom and on the hallway. The atmosphere of that course was going forwards to keep using in English everytime. At night, I had to record the conversations which I had had in the afternoon in Korean with my friends . And I followed Valeri to ask something which I didn't know, now It was more comfortable to ask her than to our friends. In English, there was nobody who spoke better than her.

Now, I have to write down about our instructor, Valeri,

She tried to treat us (19 persons, of course adults, we were from twenties to sixties) very equally and very fairly. She respected us as adults who had professional jobs and knowledge. In the first essay, I wrote about my education background, after getting bachelor degree in the Sociology, I studied English and Psychology again in the online college. And then, she showed to me a special and personal concern.

Although we were poor at speaking English, she had a strange power to make it laugh, After making a lot of mistakes in speaking or doing micro-teaching , she always told our good strenghts, and never blamed our weakness. So at that time , I thought, I was one of the best students in this world. I didn't know that it was her skill to encourage us to study more confidently and interestingly. There was a paper which we wanted the instructor might help us, so I wrote on it like this "Please catch out my talents in the language" I forgot this for a long time. But she often threw me unexpected questions and I was so surprised at the first but after knowing her intentions , I felt it so thankful . She did her best to satisfy her student's wishes.

Because of not graduating educational part in the University. I didn't have enough skills and backgrounds in teaching. From her, I learned a lot of useful things. For example. CCQ. ICQ. and drilling ways in English. fun activities and the importance of 5 minutes before class. Of course, they were a part of textbook for Tesol course. However her teaching method was so wonderful. for example. there were many pages about the ways of teaching English (TPR, CLT, CLL etc), if we read it by ourselves, it might take a long time.but she wanted us to make them short with group members and to draw simple pictures or make it simple sentences . How wonderful.

And when I asked something not understandable, she didn't tell it directly, always reminded me of thinking her actions and phrases during her lecture. So I always had to observe her actions , facial expressions and words very carefully. So I think that was a good feedback for my questions.

From the second lesson plan, we worked together as pairs. and asked to her many questions and she gave us a lot of materials, feedbacks and specific , detailed process and examples about developing our lesson plan.

On the mid-term exam. I felt it was too difficult , but on the final exam, I could finish it very earlier than any other students. And I could understand all what Valeri said, How strange!! At first I couldn't response to her with the right expression and also I felt her very different world's person. However, approaching to the graduation day I could response to her very freely. and felt it easy to speak in English. And thanks to her gracious and generous help, everybody could get a Tesol certificate with very high score.

**Conclusion**

Last winter I studied in this Times Media center of Tesol course for one month. I had a chance to teach the students with a native in the elementary school. For me individually, it was good and benefical to meet her once a week but, officially as a teacher it was too burdensome to teach them with her. So with the aid from our government, I could register Tesol course.

There were 19students. They had a lot of enthusiasm in studying English and had good background for learning it. Some of them had been abroad to study English and some of them were teachers in the school. I was not sure that they could understand all what the instructor, Valeri had said, but I only could catch up with her around 80% or so. At the first, I couldn't reply her question in English and always asked in Korean about the assignment or the important part of class on the hallway at the break time to the Korean students. And I wasn't accustomed to use English. so used Korean so much...

I couldn't ask the part which I didn't know to Valeri in English. But with her good and generous concern and teaching , we all could get the Tesol certificate. About her, she was a good involver who knew the right way and exact answer, and didn't ignore us, even respected us as adults who had professional background. Definitely, she tried to do her best for her students satisfaction in learning English. and encouraged us to speak in English and made us to feel very confidently in using English and had a magic power to let our mistakes make funny and nothing wrong. How wonderful! At that time with her , I thought I was one of the man who spoke in English very fluently. And I will tell her feedback of my doubtness about her lecture, she always made me to reflect her actions, phrases and facial expressions. and never told directly about my questions.

I think her teaching methods were so wonderful for me who has a little experience and knowledge in teaching . From her, I learned many useful skills , and theories. And thanks to her gracious help, I became to enjoy using English very frequently and could speak in English freely , I darely say.

And now. I work in the elementary school as a part timer teacher for one semester, So amazing achivement for me. Teaching the students. I apply the methods which I have learned from her to them. And I always try to teach them with various fun and interesting games or activities. I know that the 5 minutes before class is so important moments for the students. Before going to bed , I always search out the fun activities for next day's lesson. At this Children's Tesol course, I look forward to learning and practicing many good and helpful activities and games for the children.

Overwrite this and summarize your essay and give your opinion here………

Line of your essay………………..

**References**

 **Learning Teaching by Jim Scrivener**

Overwrite this and write your references here of other materials you have looked at or used……..