Involving students in the class room

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* “ Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand. ” **- Native American Saying**

Hearing, listening and seeing are strong senses in our brain system. However involving is more powerful. Because involvement would include all of these senses, as touching, hearing, seeing, feeling, touching, smelling, taste are. Involvement is in most cases experiential learning, which indeed means; ‘Involve me, I'll understand’. It means a lot for teaching. This is what we as teachers should always have in mind.

 My institution, *Times Media*(2012. 4. 7 -), has a “English only” policy. I think it has been kept so well. I was thinking about the reason for this successful implementation. It could have many reasons. I think the main reason is the students’ involvement. My teacher, Ben, has been encouraging us to use English during the class. He didn’t impose or punish at all. Instead of that, he is always preparing engaging activities. These activities are interesting; so students can involve lessons concentrically. On top of that, the atmosphere of class is enthusiastic. We are not shy to speak to each other in English.

Unfortunately, I couldn’t have this “English-only” class in my past public education system (1995.3-1998.2). My past English teachers in school spoke in Korean except when they were reading the text book. They only emphasized grammars of English. Their teaching style was based on “Grammar Translation Method(GTM)”. Most Korean students may have similar learning experiences like me.

When I studied at William Carey International University which is located in Pasadena, California(2002. 8 – 2003.2), I could have opportunities speaking in English during E.S.L. classes. My Korean friends and I were shy. Moreover, our speaking was not fluent to speak something in English. My teacher, Ms. Lucy knew us well. She was teaching us with interesting skits, games, etc. It was based on “Total Physical Response Method(TPR)”. It helped us to involve in the classes.

Although teachers are eager to teach English, students can be passive. Unexpected tardiness and frequent absences can be happen. Then, how can I manage to these things? If I were an English teacher, I would use various teaching method that I have learned. As Howard Gardner said, there are many kinds of intelligences. I would stimulate their multiple intelligences. If my students have a difficulty in classes, I would talk individually with them after class.

For students’ successful presentation, teacher has to be considerate. I think the important thing is giving enough time(or pauses) to think for presentations. Usually the extroverted students tend to be more talkative than the introverted students do. The introverted students may need more time to express their presentations. I would also encourage them to do their teamwork project. For team work can make everyone involve the lessons. But teacher always monitor it carefully.

In conclusion, classroom management is about how to involve the students all. No one should be isolated. The great teacher is very engaging and holds the attention of students in all discussions. I would like to be a teacher who has a passion for my students so that they can enhance their abilities.