**I used to say, “You LOOKS like Britney Spears.”**

**But Guess What? I’m an English Teacher now!**

80th WK T Blair Bae

 (604)

 I remember the time when I was maybe seven or eight years old, I was singing “Old McDonald had a farm~” with bunch of kids and a native speaker teacher. I didn’t know what I was doing, I just enjoyed the singing and playing games classes. That is where my English learning life has begun. I also think it was a quite successful start. From this very first experience, now I can say my intelligence strengths are musical, visual and tactile-kinesthetic.

 When I turned 14, my family moved to the Philippines. First year at International school in the Philippines, all the foreign students had to take ESL course. The course handled all four language skills, but especially they focused more on the Listening and Speaking skills. Also the teacher Ms. Agnes (I still keep in touch with her!) was like an Involver who gives not only the lectures but also a lot of group activities. I first had difficulty adjusting myself to the class. I was so surprised since it is very unusual teaching style in Korean Schools, where most of the teachers are explainer who just speak everything to students. Since I learn better with visual aids, music related materials, and by actually doing it, I found her teaching techniques very comfortable and enjoyable.

After few more years have passed, I decided to go to the United States as an exchange student. My host family came to pick me up at the airport and we headed to the restaurant ‘Chilis’. That was the most awkward moment waiting for the foods to be served, and they ask all the questions, I just give Yes or No answers. And Suddenly I wanted to say something to my host sister, and I said, “You looks like Britney Spears!” I knew right away that I should’ve used “You look like Britney Spears!” I hated myself for making a mistake on basic grammar and I felt like I’m the beginner again who communicates with a few isolated words. It was so frustrating memory for me, but my host sister “Alex” didn’t point out my mistake but she gave motion that she is listening to me and actually want to have more conversation. She probably can’t even remember about the incident, but as the said person, just remembering the moment makes me blushed.

 Just like my experience, most of the Second language learners face this kind of unforgettable and unavoidable moment. Now, I’ve been teaching students for 4 years. Along with my experiences, I’m trying my best to really listen to my students. Knowing their learning ability is important but I put more effort to build an emotional barrier or the affective filter to motivate the students. Even If the concept is difficult, if the students know that the teacher is always there for her/him/them, you never know how much their retention rate will boosts up.

 Without my experiences as a Second language learner, I would never dream to be a teacher. Now that I can distinguish my students by their modes of learning and by multiple intelligences, I will try my best to be a teacher with an E.A.R (Empathetic, Authentic, Respectful.) for my students. With this chance to look over my qualifications and learn such meaningful classes, I would love to have confidence to say at the end of this course, “I am now a real teacher and my second language learning experience has been a total success and it is still a success!”