**Power of Respecting the Student**

Irene (83rd weekday TESOL)

“The secret in education lies in respecting the student.”- Ralph Waldo Emerson. In my opinion, showing respect to students is very important in education. It is essential for every age of students. According to ‘Adult learner characteristics’, adults also needs to be shown respect. The teacher can show respect in many ways during the class when they teach. I think that students can feel it through small things like encouraging, praising, and even through a teacher’s face. It doesn’t need any serious procedure. It should be come out from teacher’s mind through the relationship between students and teacher. If a teacher shows respect to the students, students will follow the teacher’s class with more strong passion to work.

When I learned English at university, I met professor M. To recall, there was no interaction between him and the students. He was an Explainer rather than an Involver. He was always strict and his one-way communication made the student bored. His lecture was one-hundred percent of TTT(Teacher Talk Time). Sometimes he showed some sense of humor to students, but it was only dirty jokes. It made students more unpleasant and students cannot feel any little respect from his whole teaching types. He didn’t really try to check how much the students understood. He was just busy to move quickly. I didn’t even want to ask him about some things that I didn’t understand well, because I couldn’t expect any kind of answers from him. Naturally, I lost every interest of learning in his class and many other students felt uncomfortable in his class. I just waited for the finish time during the class.

However, Professor D’s class was completely different. I could fully enjoy his class. He was an Involver and Enabler at the same time. When he lectures, he used PPT material. There were some pictures and sentences which can help students’ understanding. That visual material worked. Just chalk and talk lecture may decrease students’ interest of that class, but visual material and questions for students were always made students awake. It was also effective to make students concentrate on his lecturing. His Eliciting skill was great, so the students tried to figure out what the day’s topic would be. When he let students do some group presentations, I and my friends worked at our spare time after the class. Although professor D didn’t force us to do it like that, we decided to meet and study for our presentation by ourselves. Because all students could feel his respect for students, students also tried to study harder. Even though the result was not good enough, he understood how much we tried first. When we made a mistake, he didn’t punish us. He found good point from our work first, and he recommended better expressions after compliment. Students gained more confidence, and could study harder under professor D’s perfect balance of four language skills; listening, reading, writing and speaking.

With this experience, I realized maintaining rapport between students and teacher through respect is the most important thing. I strongly believe that good relation lies in respecting each other. There would be no successful class without good relationship with students. If I show respect to students, then the students will show respect to me. Through understanding students’ difficulties, giving compliment first, encouraging student, using various materials to help understanding, and asking gentle question will make my students work hard themselves without any displeased force from teacher. If a teacher respects and have affection for students, it will mean you already made a big successful step for your education and theirs.