**TESOL Final Essay**

**Stella**

A flood of thoughts coursed through my mind with the TESOL graduation day soon approaching. I remember my very first day of TESOL class. There was a woman who afraid of failure and challenge. She was doubtful every step she made towards the study and kept saying “What if..?” The woman was me. I used to afraid of challenge, to do new things for my entire life. In addition, I tend to think too much. But I needed to be brave and made a decision for my dream. I heard this course will be intense and hard to follow at briefing session however I did not want to run away. So I started this TESOL class with the spirit of big challenge and fear. The school has begun and the class was intense indeed. I was extremely busy from lack of time in the class. Especially, So many unexpected presentations and role-play things does not welcome at first. To me, everything was too much at that time. Because it took courage to give normal presentation and even answer the simple questions. As time passing, I found few signs that I changed. Here are my changes from TESOL class.

First, I became more talkative in the classroom. This TESOL class required a lot of discussion and group role-play so I couldn’t sit back and watch them talk. I had to speak and participate in the activities whether I like it or not. After few weeks, I found myself enjoy the conversation, talking and answering the questions easily. It is one of big change for me because I always hesitate to answer teacher’s question and very quite. I believe the great teacher is not just giving students only knowledge, teacher who can ask the right question and make students to think by them. If I want to be that kind of great teacher, I think I need to be ready by practicing discussion like these activities at TESOL class.

Second, I became more confident through this class. I personally think my weakness is lack of confidence. When I was teaching English in English kindergarten, I always felt that something is missing. For instance, I play game with students and I did not realized what is the point that we are playing game now. Plus, I did not realize what I needed for my lesson so that was linking to my lack of confidence and self-doubt. I have a passion that I want to be the best teacher in every way but I did not know how to do it. I needed to learn from the beginning. In this way, TESOL helped me to understand of what are linguistic and proper teaching methods etc. I learned how to write lesson plan, use a lot of teaching methods, how to use visual-aids properly from the class.

Third, TESOL class makes my dream clearer. I did a lot of activities like role-play, presentations, Micro teaching, discussion and ice-breaker. Plus I can get some peer instructor’s honest feedback too. It helped me see what I did well, what I need to improve on my lesson. From this wonderful feedback, I realized how much I want to be a great teacher again. I got feedback like my lesson was enjoyable and fun including meaningful ideas. I was like “was my lesson really fun and meaningful?” That really makes me happy and it makes me want to be a teacher.

8 weeks. It may sound short. But the time in TESOL class was unforgettable and helpful for me. Even though 2 more weeks left to the graduation, I felt much more comfortable what I am doing and much clearer what I will be in the future. I’ve met a lot of people in TESOL class, I even encountered myself. Suddenly one quotes by Bernard Shaw crossed my mind after I recall my TESOL class.

“We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future.”

Because I was the person always focus on the past and say “what is wrong with me?” or “I screwed up”. For example, it happened on my Micro teaching day. I blamed on myself that I made some mistakes from micro teaching. I couldn’t think anything else but what I did wrong at that time. However my instructor Frank and classmates said I did good job and tried to encourage me. Frank suggests me that do what makes me happy and fun for next micro teaching and then your lesson will be flow fine. It made me think I only focused on the past what I’ve done wrong. And then keep asking wrong question to myself. The only way I will be better person and better teacher is in the future not in the past. I almost forgot about it. I always questioning “why I did this and that?” or “What is wrong with me?” or “I am so idiot” to me. Now I know I should find the answer in the future not from the past and I know the right question to me. “What can I do for make it better?”

From the TESOL class, I learned some important things. For instance, How to be a good teacher, what is the ideal of teacher, how to prepare the lesson, have a good communication with people and also I changed myself from small pot to big pot for my future students.

I wrote some essays, had debates, wrote a few lesson plans, did micro teaching, made visual-aids and role-play with classmates. I think I also get to research about teaching more and get a lot of new information that I did not know before. Plus I had so much fun with my classmates after class. We talked about how we plan for the exams, micro teaching or sometimes our personal life. I mentioned I want to be a great tool or pot for my students in last essay. I want my future students to take many questions and knowledge and passion from me as much as they can. So they will have a dream and make it bigger from my lesson. That is one of my dreams. In this way, I am really happy that I took this TESOL course. Because I can be better teacher from this class and I can see how I am growing for my dream. I would never afraid of failure and I will keep trying my best to be a great teacher. It is my promise to myself. If I keep my promise then I dare to think I can be the wise person and teacher in the future.