The Longest Journey Begins with a Single Step

TESOL #90 WD

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“*Seeing much, suffering much, and studying much, are the three pillars of learning.*”

- Benjamin Disraeli, [British Prime Minister](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_the_United_Kingdom), parliamentarian,

Conservative statesman and literary figure

Confucius said, “*I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand.*” To have an effective and efficient classroom management like Confucius said, teacher gets the most important job: teacher needs to provide and create better environment in which to study with skills and methods and teacher’s attitude, intentions and personality are also important for relationship with learners.

I went to an international school that is located in Seoul, South Korea and spent my sophomore and junior year of high school there. They followed the American school systems and school curriculums were also modeled after on US curriculums. This school was systemically no different between schools in the United States, but there was one special policy/regulation at that school. The special rule that my school had was “English Only” policy. The punishment of breaking this special guiding principle were (1) get penalty points or/and W500 ($.50) fine on speaking different language (only English and the second languages that taught in school are acceptable, such as French and German); (2) cleaning classrooms after school detention if received more than limited penalty points; (3) suspension after nine times of detention; (4) expulsion after three to five times of suspension. I think the policy and the way of penalties that my high school had were brilliant idea. Therefore, if the institution that I’ll be working in has a very strict “English Only” policy and they are relying on me to implement and enforce this rule, I would like to follow their rule. For the penalties of speaking not English, I will adapt the penalties that my school had then implement and enforce the “English Only” rule to students.

It is obvious that all students are expected to be in class and on-time every school day, in every class. But, ironically we always have a student or students who are late or not showing up to classes. One time, I got to spend my first semester of 9th grade to study in Calgary, Canada. There, I was tardy for the first time in my 15-years old life. I home stayed with Canadian family and both my home stay mom and dad were faculty members of school that I attended. Thus, I went to school with them every day and when they were running late for school and I was late for that day too and that’s how I made my first and last tardiness of years of my academic year from pre-K to college. However, this school had regulations and policies on frequent absences and/or tardiness of students like other schools: (1) soon as a teacher start calling a role, begins counting tardiness; (2) three tardiness equals to one absence and after school reading and writing detention; (3) depends on classes after one to five absence it brings student to suspension; (4) expel on third suspension. With these regulations on punishment, some people might think it is too heavy for just tardiness and absences, but I don’t agree with them. I believe that frequent absences and/or tardiness will interrupt student from regular class learning and experiences and instruction from teacher that cannot hear from anywhere else. Also, show up to class on time is also respects on the teacher and class. For that reason, I will enforce frequent tardiness and frequent absences in the classroom with same concept as that Canadian school did.

In my sophomore year of college, I was able to do study abroad at one of the Universities in Seoul, South Korea and I had an absurd experience I ever had. It happened on the first day of one of my major class while the professor went over the class syllabus. He skimmed through the syllabus and stopped at his office hour and information such as e-mail address and office number section. He said, “Do NOT ever come to my office or e-mail or call me. If you have any questions or concerns, talk to your friends next to you. If you have serious questions that cannot be solved with your friends then come and see my TA not me.” That experience was something that I couldn’t ever experience in the US and I even thought that the professor was rude. As a consequence, I thought that if I become an instructor or professor at college by any chance, I wouldn’t be like him. I would like to open my office door wide and in sync school e-mail and SNSs on my phone so I can be able to communicate with students. I might not answer the students 24/7, but I want to encourage students to use email, facebook, twitter, or etc,. to communicate with me with any questions whether that are related to course work, or concerns about college life, or even life after college. And if I don’t have answers for them, I’ll put my pride in my back pocket then honestly tell them that I don’t have answer, but will find answer or introduce other person or people who can help them.

In order to manage classroom smoothly and efficiently, we need some rules. With slight tight regulations, such as speaking English only, avoid tardiness or/and absence, and teacher helping student will let student and teacher get engaged. Also, following these policies will increase the efficiency of studying and improving students’ English skills even though English is not their primary language. According to Herbert Spencer, “*The great aim of education is not knowledge but action.*” For that reason, I want to be a teacher who can let student engaged and managed to class and make classroom run smoothly and efficiently.