**The Journey is the Reward**

When I heard that the topic for my first essay will be about the reason why I decided to take this TIMES TESOL program, I thought it was a weird topic. Why? It was because I assumed that most people just wanted to get a certificate for their future career. I thought that our essay stories would be very similar to each other. After I deeply thought about this topic, however, I realized that there were much more important reasons why I decided to take this course. They were actually more like internal or personal reasons instead of practical reasons, and this whole procedure inspired and motivated me a lot. Just like the title of my essay which is well-known saying by Steve Jobs, I thought that I already got some rewards from the journey to find the answers. And I finally found two answers.

The first reason why I decide to take this course is to get more confidence with speaking in public. Most people have a horror of speaking in public, and I’m one of them. I easily get embarrassed when I speak in front of many people, and I tend to stutter and get red in the face whenever I get embarrassed. Therefore, people who are listening to my speech can easily notice that I’m nervous. Once I feel it, I start to imagine that they think I’m stupid. This absurd idea dominates me, and also makes me more nervous. It’s just a terrible vicious cycle. I want to break this cycle by taking this course. This course will force me to speak in public most of the time, and I’m ready to do it. I’d like to be a more confident and positive person instead of a shy and introverted person.

Secondly, I love teaching of course. I feel excited and thrilled when I’m teaching something that I’m interested in to people, and I’ve been interested in English since elementary school. However, I never thought about teaching English before because I knew my English was not enough to teach others. The time that I thought maybe I could teach English to people who speak it as their second language was when I returned to Korea after studying abroad in the U.S. It’s been two months since I came back, and I’ve attended a lot of language exchange meetings in Gangnam and Hongdae. What people do in language exchange meeting is that just have a great conversation with others in their target language for usually three hours. I met a lot of new friends in the meetings, and some of them were actually English teachers. They told me that I could be a really good teacher because my English is good, and I have a sense of humor. They said it’s a great asset for teachers. Their advice gave me confidence in myself. Therefore, I decided to learn some teaching methods and techniques from this course to be a teacher.

Finding out the reasons for this essay was a good chance to think about myself and my future. Now I’ve got great stories for my job interviews and future students. I’m going to test my limits, and break it eventually throughout the course. I will no longer have fear of speaking in public. I’m going to love teaching English more than ever. Lastly, I don’t want to be a just English teacher, but a world class English teacher. In order to do that, I will absorb as much information as possible and change it to wisdom.