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Class: 96 WD

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Responsibility: Being a World-Class Teacher

In 2008, Noam Chomsky, one of the most eminent linguists, said that "The more privilege you have, the more opportunity you have. The more opportunity you have, the more responsibility you have." The privilege or opportunity this wise person stated in this quote means studying in a university or college. In other words, students who studied in universities or colleges have responsibility to contribute to society their knowledge. When my favorite professor wrote down this quote on the very first day of a semester, I was quite impressed. Since then, I have thought about what kind of contribution I can make.

As an English major student, I had a chance to go abroad when I just finished my first year in university. Fortunately, I had a relative of my mom in New York, so I stayed in there for a year. One night, my cousin asked me to volunteer in a Korean Community School. The thing she asked me was teaching Korean language to Korean-American children. Most of them were around 5 to 6 years old. As they were born and raised in America, they couldn’t speak Korean at all. When my cousin offered me the teaching voluntary, I was quite afraid of it because I had never taught anyone before in my whole life. However, as I just started teaching with full of fear, it turned out that I actually, really love teaching so much.

When I came back to Korea, after finishing a year studying in New York, I found a voluntary work as a Sunday school teacher in a Catholic church. That was in January 2011. It has been almost two years since I started teaching in there. Once in a week, every Saturday, I meet almost 20 children. I’m in charge of the third-year students. The thing I learn from teaching is while I am teaching students something I know, I am also learning from them. Even though they are young and sometimes just naughty, I am still learning and getting happy or positive energies they have. However teaching them is not always a happy thing. Sometimes I face the limitation and ask myself “Am I a good teacher?”

I also teach English to two students for part-time job. One is a ten-year-old girl who wants to be a perfect English speaker. The other student is a teenage boy who really hates to study. These two students are actually the main reason why I applied for this TESOL course. While I teach them, sometimes I face the huge difficulty choosing the reality and the ideal. The students’ parents expect their children to get high scores in tests because their children are studying with me, a teacher. This is the reality. On the other hand, I want to be a real good teacher. Regardless of scores, I want to make them happy and enjoy the class by teaching some interesting things, talking about some issues, and listening what they really want to do. Completely lost in the middle of teaching, I start TESOL to be a good teacher.

In March, I will be a senior. Now I need to admit that I should know what I am good at and what I want to do. Back to Chomsky’s quote again, I totally agree with this person. For the last three years, studying and majoring in English Literature was definitely a privilege and opportunity that I had. Also I need a responsibility to contribute what I learned to society. I found myself loving teaching so much, and I think it’s time to contribute. The important thing is I don’t want to be a minor league teacher who pretends to know what teaching is, but actually does not know anything. This is the main reason why I applied for TESOL course. Help me and support me to be a real world-class teacher!