Title: Positive class management

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-“Effective classroom discipline should be a means of helping students become caring, ethical individuals” (Hardin, C. J., 2008)

Class management is a requirement for teachers to provide students with the condition to work together and act in good behavior toward a common goal for the whole class. In this regard, when teachers sometimes encounter a situation where students do not follow class rules or they disturb learning environment, they need to deal with the unexpected problems. In this essay, I would like to discuss a few methods to discipline students in class.

Firstly, “English Only” policy implemented by academy institution is aimed for students to expose themselves to English speaking environment. However, it is quite difficult for teachers to watch students and control their behavior all the time during class, because students tend to speak their native language when there is no surveillance. In order to make them to speak in English, I believe that teachers should encourage their students in positive manner. For example, teachers remind them of “English Only” whenever they do group work with no interaction with their teachers so that they can voluntarily speak in English even for a short time. In addition, two or three good students who follow the rule are prized at the end of month, and then it will also motivate the others to participate autonomously for next month if they find that they can be prized for good behavior.

Secondly, controlling attendance and tardiness is related with diligence that can influence the whole class. Same as “English Only” policy encouragement, practical rewards can be increase students’ attendance. For example, gift coupons or education fee discount for the next enrollment can motivate them to study continuously. On the other hand, if students are late three times, or absent twice, collecting penalty fine can be effective as well. With the money collected, students can share snacks at the end of month. From my personal experience when I studied English speaking skill at YBM from 2003 to 2004, the penalty rule was quite effective in improve the attendance rate.

Finally, working together in the whole class can be effective to increase students’ participation and their involvement. When I studied at Catholic University of Korea, I felt burden and stressful about preparing some presentation tasks alone. On the other hand, I felt more confident and actively participated in group work. As the process of completing a presentation task, teacher and students brainstorm together in class, review sample presentations, and divide two or three into small groups and share their ideas. Most importantly, teachers should lead each student to be a presenter at least once or twice through the year to provide equal opportunity to practice presentation skills.

In conclusion, I believe that managing class and disciplining students in positive ways are very important to nurture their self-motivation. Instead of forcing them to do so, providing appropriate rewards, I think, can draw more their commitment on their class. On the other hand, penalty is required from time to time about students’ bad behaviors that can negatively affect other students, but it should not be too harsh. Moreover, the idea of doing things together can reduce students’ anxiety and further increase their participation in class, so teachers need to assign group work to students, and prepare together.