Why an English teacher?

Since I came to Korea, I have seen a number of people who are teaching English just because they lived abroad and they speak the language. I promised to myself that I would never be a greedy teacher who is not qualified to teach English but they do to make a living from it. In my twenties, I was lucky enough to work at the Vancouver General Hospital, the largest and most renowned in the western Canada, for years and had such wonderful experiences in helping patients and people who were visiting to see their friends and family members; seeing the people in pain physically and mentally I learned to feel their sorrow from somewhere deep inside and I learned to educate them to have a fulfilling life even with the disorders they had. I think that teaching English is the same thing as what I did at the hospital. Of course, the students do not have the disabilities but they lack the techniques of using English; the patients did not know how to make the life better and richer with the physical obstacles they had. Therefore, I, myself, as a teacher, I would like to be able to make the students think that English is not just a subject that their parents force them to study but I want them to think that learning English is another way of having fun, learning to teach themselves, and communicating with the people who live on the different side of the planet. Thus, I do not want to be “just” an English teacher but I want to be a guide who helps the students to see a bigger world.

How do you expect to influence teaching based on your current experience?

In the first quarter of this year, I had a chance to teach a class at a foreign based semiconductor company near where I live. It was a class that was run mostly based on the discussions, as the level of the students were high-intermediate. Because this was my very first legit experience in teaching, I put a special effort into preparing for the class because I wanted the students to get involved and learn as much as possible in a short period of time. As I mentioned above, more than a half of the time, we discussed on topics such as politics, laws, and the company they work for, To fulfill the needs of the lesson, I gave more chances for the students to talk and get involved; we had so much fun that the manager of the company was shocked to find out that my class was the only one to get a “perfect” attendance among hundreds of classes that were run in the company. I believe that the students enjoyed coming to my class because I gave learning materials that they could relate to work and also they could find them useful for the situations that they face all the time. Now, coming to think of it, I think that I was always an “Involver” but never was or tried to be an “Enabler” ,as most of the teachers in my life were either “Explainer” or “Involver”. How could I not think of being a teacher who can guide students to get the answers for themselves? Studying with Alain for the past week helped me to think about the type of the teacher that I want to be in the future. I not only want to be an “Enabler” teacher who elicits the answers from the students but also dream to be a person who leads the class to have fun and to makes good memories of.