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My Best Teacher

The best teacher I have ever had was an intelligent, warm-hearted woman. Her name is Megan Hof and she was my ESL teacher in the States. I went to Montana, USA as an exchange student where there were not many foreign students. I barely spoke to other people since I was very shy and nervous to talk with people in English. Mrs. Hof helped me to raise my self-esteem and taught me that learning new language is fun and useful. Thanks to her I could take lectures without difficulties by end of the semester.

Mrs.Hof was an enabler because she allowed me to share my idea. Every Friday students in class had a presentation. Topic for presentation could be anything like hobby, family, friends, favorite movie or even the dream you just had last night. She did not limit our options. She only emphasized that we need to practice our thoughts and feeling in front of people. This helped me a lot not to be shy when I talked to people in English. I figured out English is just another way I can communicate with people. She always said that motivation and self-esteem are most important when learning a new language. She asked me ‘Why do you want to learn English?’ and ‘Why are you here?’ a thousand times. Because of her questions, I could keep my motivation high during class and it helped me a lot to learn English quickly.

Whether or not she knows, as Krashen’s theory, she tried to make a high motivation, high self-esteem and low anxiety environment for students to use the language freely at any time. She was an effective teacher because she empathized with students. Since I was an international student I was not familiar with America culture. Whenever we had a comedy shoe during semester at student’s union, she always took us to the shoe and explained the meaning of idioms or humors. I hardly understood what was so funny about it for the first month but I got a good sense of humor. She was very respectful. Also she was a positive person and had never judged other students regard to their age, nationality and sex.

Considering what I recalled, Mrs.Hof seemed to know language skills. As I mentioned before Mrs.Hof had us do presentation every Friday and it made us use all four skills at the same time. During presentation I had to speak and read what I prepared and listen to what other people thought and write down their opinions to answer it.

She tried to make a modern classroom. She let us pair up or group up to discuss lots of different topics. Fortunately, because of her photographer husband, we could see many visual materials that helped us a lot to understand lectures. Like this she applied various teaching techniques to allow us to increase our retention. She did not only lecture or reading but also she let us experience new things and monitor and teach other students new things. Considering that I have still remembered about I learned that day, Mrs. Hof was a very effective teacher.

Mrs.Hof was an enabler and an effective teacher, sharing control and making us create our own ideas. All students did extra work on their own not because of grades but for themselves. She used various teaching techniques to increase the retention rate. I would like to become an enabler and effective teacher like Mrs.Hof when I teach my students.