Essay # 2

**Class Management**

**-English Only and Attendance Policy-**

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(1075)

*“Power is of two kinds. One is obtained by the fear of punishment and the other by acts of love. Power based on love is a thousand times more effective and permanent than the one derived from fear of punishment.”   
by*[*Mahatma Gandhi*](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5810891.Mahatma_Gandhi)

As a teacher, it is important to create the atmosphere that keeps students organized, focused, attentive on task, and academically productive during a class. Therefore it is required for teachers to have sort of skills and knowledge for classroom management. Through this essay, I would like to deal with an implementation of an English only policy and attendance policy as introducing and analyzing my experiences about my past teachers. Then I will explain how I would adjust them into my future classroom management.

It was Intrax, ESL school, in San Diego, California where a strict English only policy was applied to all students. At the very first day, there was an orientation that explained about the policy. Students had to sign on an agreement regarding to the policy and punishments as well. It made students be aware that they agreed to speak English only by themselves. My teacher, Christine’s punishments were kinds of assignments related with improving our English skills in writing and reading. If someone used their native language, she gave essay homework not only to the student who broke the rule also to the rest of us. The student who spoke the native language had to write about what it was talked in his or her language, why he or she broke the rule and how he or she would discipline him or herself to speak only English. The rest of the students needed to write about how they would help each other speak only English. If the same student did it again, then, in that case, only he or she was provided a reading assignment with writing a book report. Every week, a student who broke the rule the most needed to present one of his or her assignment to all classmates.

The way Christen managed the attendance policy was imposing a fine. The class began on 9 o’clock and ended on 12 o’clock. A student who was late by 9:05 had to pay $ 1. After that it was imposed 25 cents per 5 minutes and 50 cents was imposed additionally per every hour. For example, if someone came to the class on 9:30, he or she was imposed $ 2.25, another one who attended on 10:05 needed to pay $ 4.5 and the other one who was shown on 11:00 had to pay $ 7.75. For the absence, it was $ 12.25 based on the tardy charge rule and required with additional $ 1 more. All the fines were saved on our class jar and every last day of the month we went out for class lunch which was paid by the money from the jar. If we did a better attendance compared to a last month, the teacher rewarded us as paying $ 10 for our class lunch. Meanwhile one of my friends class was very strict about the tardy. In her class case, on 9:05, the door was locked and no one could attend the class at all.

The way Christine managed the both policy worked really well. I think those are related with positive punishments which worked to decrease the likelihood of an undesirable behavior reoccurring by adding an unfavorable consequence. Another good thing about her implements was she made us understand why we were punished. For the essay assignment, when we all submitted it, she read them through and provided us feedbacks about the writing. If the reason that he or she spoke the native language was they did not know how to put them into English, she asked us to discuss how we could speak that into English so that all of us would practice and learn together. It was not a just punishment but more about a discipline and practicing English. And the reason that she asked the rest of the students to write an essay although they did not speak their native language was that she wanted the students who broke the rule to feel that the rest of his or her classmates suffered a disadvantage because of him or her. But, at the same time, she also wanted the rest of students to realize they should have helped the one who did speak a native language speak only English. Since she explained her purpose to all her students, no one complained about her punishment. I also want to adjust it to my class as explaining the reasons of the punishment in the beginning of class like her. I think it will encourage students to speak only in English. Also all students would be motivated to help each other speak in English as well. When it comes to the attendance, I liked her way of punishment and actually it run through well. If only the students were imposed for a fine, we might complain about it. However, since there was a reward from the teacher which we thought it could be a punishment to the teacher, we had a fun. Also we encouraged each other not to be late or absent for the class. I also want to apply it to my future class but the amount of fine might be reduced. I will explain to my students about the importance of the attendance first though. If someone is late for the class, it actually disturbs the others for the class and ruins the atmosphere of the learning. That is why the tardy has to feel sorry about his or her attitude as paying back with the fine for treating the rest of the classmates with a good lunch.

I think it is necessary to have some punishments. But it should not make any of students feel behind from the class. I want to study more about positive punishments which were addressed by B.F. Skinner and come up with better way for my students. Also I will think more about how reinforcements would work for the English only and the attendance policy to strengthen or increase a good behavior. Above all things, it is important to love and have empathy on my students whichever methods that I implement to my students as the quote of Mahatma Gandhi.