K131N-WK Essay Jessica

My Dream as a Teacher of English Learners

 I started this course of TESOL at first to gain techniques of teaching English. It was obvious for me that courses just give information and knowledge. However after only 16 hours of learning, I realized that I am able to learn far more than techniques. Talking and listening in English will improve my English skills, working together will teach me cooperation, and presentations will give me confidence. Also, I have already gained thirteen friends and a mentor. By keeping up the work, I hope to achieve all these including the techniques which are the most important.

 With all that I have gained from this class, I wish to teach children and grown-ups in the future. When teaching children, I personally think that making a situation where they can use English fluently is the crucial part of teaching. The education of English today in South Korea is not done in a right way and should be changed. Learning English as if it is a formula will not help students to use it well. For instance, if the students learn past and present tense of verbs by heart rather than learning naturally through situations, they will have to think of the verb they should use before saying a sentence. However, we do not think of which verb to use before we speak in our native language. Therefore, I would like to teach English to children who are at the age of learning everything fast and accurate as if it is their native language. Also, my first priority will be giving them a good impression of learning languages and that it is an exciting thing to learn English. On the other hand, teaching adults will be somewhat different. As they already have a lot of knowledge on English, I think the focus should be on how well they communicate. Most adults of South Korea find it hard to talk and write in English despite their knowledge and standing in front of foreigners stiffens them. So making them confident will be the main goal and I will do my best to draw out all their capabilities.

The classroom is a microcosm of society. There is a teacher who leads the class and observes the rules and there are the students who cooperate and propose their thoughts and opinions. All of this cannot be done if there is no communication between the students and the teacher. It should also be a two way conversation. The teacher should not just talk all day while the students listen or just leave the students to talk just by themselves. Teacher and students should each have the same proportion of speaking out loud. This is not done right in classrooms nowadays in South Korea, so making students to participate equally will be needed in my classroom.

Furthermore, like society does not say to all of us to, for example, “Be a doctor!” it is important not to tell the students to follow a single way. Each of their strong points and weaknesses should be figured out and understood. All children have what they do greatly and poorly. In my class, I will complement their strong points and ask them to share their knowledge with the rest of the class. This way, they will gain confidence and modesty. Also for weaknesses, I think that scolding them in front of the class for getting something wrong is not a good way of teaching. It will lead to low morale and sneers. For things that need more attention, I will go over it again and again slowly until the student can fully understand.

Other than techniques, communication, and observation, there are a few more essential things to remember while teaching. First of all, there is the smiley face. I once saw a research about babies’ actions according to the mothers’ expressions. The experiment was about how the mothers’ expressions influence the babies’ confidence. They set up a big glass table where the babies can crawl and on either side of the table they seated the mum and the baby. The mother was to beckon the baby twice, once with a frown and once with a smile. When the mothers beckoned the baby with a frown, none of the babies crawled forward to the scary glass table where they could see the bottom. However, when the mothers put on a smile the babies did not hesitate to crawl over. Like this, smiling and making a positive situation allows people to pull out courage. In conclusion, I will always have a warm smile so that the students may approach me without repulsion. Secondly, there should always be order in a classroom. Just like society, the classroom will not be able to function well enough if there aren’t rules. I should make the rules clear so that there are no misunderstandings and I should be the one to follow them first. Lastly, everyone should get a chance.

After reading *A Teacher’s Story*, I understood that teaching is not just about passing knowledge, but also about getting to know the students fully. What if Mrs. Thompson did a bad job on reviewing each child’s past records? What if she never knew what happened to Teddy and scolded him for bringing her the bracelet and the perfume that was only a quarter full? Mrs. Thompson could have just dealt with Teddy for a year and could have sent him off to the next teacher, but she didn’t. She thought of his difficulties as if it were her own. She was open minded and ready to say that she was not teaching in a right way. This is what I will keep in mind while I teach. The fact that not only the students but also the teacher has something to learn from the students should always be remembered. And like Mrs. Thompson, a true teacher should put him or herself in the position of each student and try to understand their situations.