My life as a TESOL Certified English Communication’s Facilitator

KNT145 Final Essay Euna

For 8 weeks, I have learned valuable lessons in order to be an English teacher, and I strongly believe that through these lessons I have learned in class will be helpful for my teaching skills in the future and help me to be a teacher who is influential to students’ developing self-trust so that they can achieve their goal successfully.

One of the greatest lessons that I have had so far was how students gain English language skills in a natural environment, which was created by me as a teacher. I realized that the natural environment was very different from the environment that I had as a former student in the Korean education system. Additionally, Korea is an extremely competitive society. Based on this view of competition, what students have learned in class is not very practical. Many students in Korea have learned English in order to obtain certain test scores to get a job, or pass tests that they need to take. Accordingly, the result of these high test scores is not related to their English proficiency. Also, whenever I meet many students in Korea who have outstanding scores on the TOEIC or the TOEFL, they always tell me, “although my scores on these tests are high enough, I still do not know how to speak in English.”

I believe this issue concerns the learning versus the acquisition of English. Students often ask themselves, “Do I want to get high scores on the test, or do I want to become proficient enough in English to communicate in real life?” Korean education imposes language for testing purposes, not for actual communication. In order to reverse this trend, as a teacher, my target for students would be to teach those students who would like to improve their English proficiency for everyday communication. I believe that this is the sincerest way to empower students so that they might go abroad, where there are more plentiful resources available to enjoy their life and achieve their dream. Therefore, the most important aspect for my teaching in the future will be to empower students by providing the necessary environment where students can use English, without feeling pressured or overwhelmed by the competitive nature of the Korean testing system.

The second greatest lesson I have learned was how to organize my lesson as an actual plan. In the future, when I prepare the lesson, I am going to organize the lesson based on the lesson plan from the class, which will make my class to be more efficient for my students. I believe that this is one of the best practical resources that I have learned in class. When I made a lesson plan for speaking and listening, I closely followed the steps based on the given format. Interestingly, without seeing the lesson plan, I could teach the class and be confident during micro-teaching because all of the steps were organized and memorized in my mind naturally. I realized that this is the right way to teach a class, and the lesson plan is the most important thing for preparing a class. In the future, I will use this lesson planning method so that my classes are more efficient with the limited class time available.

The third greatest lesson in class was the micro-teaching. Based on the lesson plan that I made, I have taught Listening/Reading for my lesson so far. Of course, I was very nervous to teach in front of the class at first, but I became more confident and trusted myself more as a teacher because I kept to the lesson plan. I can lead the class more smoothly as time passed because of the valuable in class micro-teaching practice. Also, the feedback from Frank and peers were also very helpful to develop my teaching skills. For example, for my listening micro-teaching, I realized that I have good skills to manage the class and draw students’ attention very naturally. Also, by communicating with my students, I realized that it was very important to make the class atmosphere very comfortable for everyone. However, I still need to improve giving out specific instructions to the class. Sometimes, I observed that a few students read the instructions first and figured out what they needed to do for themselves. At that moment, I thought that I did not have to give the many specific instructions. Nevertheless, I cannot assume that students will understand all of the written instructions by themselves. As a result of this experience, I will never forget to give students specific instructions first.

Also, I had micro-teaching with my partner based on the reading lesson plan. From this group work, I learned how to do co-teaching with my co-teacher. It was a great experience because, by discussing the lesson plan, we could share what we thought about each step of the lesson as well as the teaching philosophy involved. Overall, with the group micro-teaching, I feel very satisfied and excited about teaching English in the future.

The fourth greatest lesson in class was learning how to teach English by making mistakes. For 8 weeks, I have learned teaching skills by making mistakes and observed my classmates’ mistakes as well. By this process, I have learned to not be afraid of making mistakes. Learning from my mistakes makes me more open and active in order to improve my teaching. Also, by observing various presentations and the micro teaching from my classmates, I have learned that there are many ways to teach English, and every teacher has a different type of teaching skill. It was quite interesting to observe my classmate’s presentation and micro-teaching.

In addition, the comments from Frank during the presentation were very helpful to learn what a teacher is supposed to be. For example, I cannot assume that all students will know what my lesson objective is or what I even plan to talk about, which is a very big mistake. I learned that I should lead with some questions and answers from the students, then I would ask a few guiding questions that would help guide students closer to my teaching objectives. In fact, I believe that it was a very brilliant way to lead students’ answers, so in the near future, I would like to use this skill for my future students.

In conclusion, I feel that 8 weeks was a bit short of a time to master how to teach English. However, by learning from practical resources which I can apply to my own teaching, I will become more confident about my teaching in the future. Most importantly, I have the greatest appreciation for Frank and my classmates. This 8 week course was very special in my life because of them. I will always remember what I have learned from this class and will never forget that “Communication” is the key to empowering students.

Thank you for your time for reading my personal essay.