Essay Assignment

Title: My determination to be an effective English teacher.

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Over the years, as I look back on my experience of learning English as a second language, I believe that I have tried several different ways that the English teachers provided and have learned English from their own teaching techniques. In my youth, such as middle and high school student in Korea, most teachers that I have met were mainly focusing on grammar and the method of how to get a good grade on the exam. Since Korea is relatively small country with big population and very competitive society in every aspect, it is kind of understandable why the most teachers were so obsessive with their students’ academic excellence and sticking to that way of teaching. Due to that reason teachers often become explainers with ease. Their main concern is to lecture and convey the information to their students in one way. That system or technique can easily make students get bored and only a few students who have strong concentration power benefited from the lecture. Moreover this boring method contributed to produce lots of so-called English-phobic people who have fear of speaking or using English in front of native English speaker even though they have learned English for many years. Unfortunately, I was one of them. I studied English fairly hard only to get a good grade or to pass the exam. That led me to feel like I am not seeing the wood for the trees. That way of teaching helped me how to choose the right answers from the answers sheet but it gave me no confidence in using the language itself in real life. However, I have always believed that there must be more effective and fun way of learning English.

In 1997, I got a chance to go to high school in Vancouver, Canada and studied there for a little more than a year. First, of course, I had to take ESL courses to catch up the other classes. What I still vividly remember is not just the beautiful face of the teacher but the way she handled the ESL class. She was very kind, patient, and empathetic to everyone in her class. She made the vibe of the class very pleasant by encouraging her students to participate in the class freely. Students were able to ask any questions anytime and she was kind enough to answer all the questions. She also helped her students to have confident in speaking in English by practicing role play in different real life situations and gave compliments to their courage or effort even when they were not sure of the right answers to teachers’ question or they made some grammatical errors in speaking. After I finished the module one in TESOL class, now I see that she tried to become somewhere between involver and enabler and I am sure that she did a great job on that. She always had a specific goal for the class and made sure every student got the main point of the class and used lots of visual materials such as videos, props, and flashcards to enhance the students’ intelligences.

Of course, it is not an easy task to become an English teacher and it is a job with heavy responsibility. And I also have to admit that there is no perfect teacher or one teaching method fits all. We all have to try hard to get closer to it. Believing that every student have different intelligences and learner modes, as a good teacher it is my assignment to analyze our my students’ intelligences with empathy and keep developing my teaching method and trying to be an enabler teaching style teacher to not only to convey the information but also to maximize the student centered learning.