

JOURNAL WRITING

WEEK 8

(5 APRIL 2010 – 9 APRIL 2010)



1.0 PROBLEM

I planned to do a listening and speaking activity for my classes this week. I did not want to use the Ministry of Education's CD because I have done that in my previous lesson. Then I was thinking maybe I should start off the lesson with a reading activity and discuss a focused grammar item out of the text. However, I have done this kind of activity several times before. Students might get bored stiff if I continue to use the same method over and over again. Again, my aim in devising a lesson plan is to get students to enjoy the lesson so that it will be meaningful to them. I could not think of other interesting ideas that can be applied in my lesson.

2.0 ANALYSIS

My short of ideas in finding the best method to be implemented in my teaching and learning activity may be due to my lack of experience and creativity in planning an activity for my English lessons. I am also skeptical to apply the ideas that I found from the internet and the reference books which I referred to because I always think that the activities suggested are not suitable for my students' level and that they will not enjoy the activities.

3.0 SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

There are several ways that could be done to overcome the problem mentioned earlier:

- (a) I will continue to do more research from the reference books and the internet to find the best activities that can be applied in my lessons so that students will not get bored in learning English.

- (b) I need to seek help and support from my supervising lecturer, my cooperating teacher, the senior teachers or those who are more experienced, to discuss on the best way to overcome my difficulties.

4.0 DURATION

Planning an activity for students of different abilities and expectations is no easy tasks. However, I am sure that all these problems can be overcome if I continue to work hard to improve my lessons. To be honest, I need to give myself some time to enhance and develop my teaching skills as planning good lessons require a lot of trials and errors. I believe that my enthusiasm will help me be a great English teacher.

5.0 ASSESSMENT OF SUCCESS

I talked to my cooperating teacher, Mrs. Wan Rose Azian about my difficulties in teaching English. Apart from giving motivation, she gave a number of ideas which I think are interesting and could be used in my teaching and learning activity. She did mention about teaching using songs. I was telling myself, "Hey, this is a good idea." I have never done the teaching and learning activity using songs during practicum. I was positive that my students will enjoy the lesson using song. Mrs. Wan Rose Azian had kindly lent her trusty reference book, "Planning And Teaching: Practical Suggestions For English In The Classroom" written by Dulcie Abraham. I was excited and photocopied the book. I have yet to read and use the ideas suggested in the book but I will surely use the book as one of my references because the book is highly recommended by my cooperating teacher.

Besides talking to my cooperating teacher, I did countless research on the best way to use songs in the teaching and learning activity. I came across several interesting and mind-opening articles about teaching English through songs from the internet. Among the websites are:

- (1) <http://www.musicalspanish.com/>
- (2) <http://www.englishclub.com/teaching-tips/music-classroom.htm>
- (3) <http://www.eslbase.com/articles/pop-songs.asp>

I also gained some ideas on the activities that could be done with songs and grammar items from the following websites:

- (1) <http://edition.tefl.net/ideas/grammar/fun-activities-prepositions-of-time/>
- (2) http://www.azargrammar.com/materials/FWG_TOC.html
- (3) <http://www.musicalenglishlessons.org/music-queen1.htm>

I will surely recommend these pages to my other friends who are teaching English.

When I applied the activities using song to my students, I could see that most students were enjoying their time. I tried the “Timetable Running Dictation” game with the students. The aim of the game was to use the prepositions of time to complete a school timetable. However, I felt that the objective of this game was not achieved as students dictated the information in Bahasa Melayu. Nevertheless, they were excited with the “Tic Tac Toe” game that I introduced in order to get them used the prepositions of time. At the end of the game, most students said that they wanted to play the game again. I was glad. In my opinion, this week’s lesson was the most successful lesson that I have ever experienced and I felt proud of myself. I felt even happier when my lecturer, Dr. Sharmini took the song’s handout so that she could use it with her students in IPBA.

6.0 FURTHER ACTION

As mentioned earlier, it takes time to be a great teacher. I will continue to do more research from the reference books and the internet to find the best activities that can be applied in my lessons so that students will not get bored stiff in learning English. I will also continue to seek help and support from my supervising lecturer, my cooperating teacher, the senior teachers or those who are more experienced, to discuss on the activities that could be use in teaching English effectively.

7.0 CONCLUSION / REFLECTION

This week’s success has really boosted my confidence in teaching English. Some people said that teachers need to have a gift to teaching. Otherwise they will not succeed. But is that so? In my opinion, a good teacher enjoys teaching, carefully prepares his/her lessons, reflects and evaluates his/her own practices. According to Rohana Andaraweera, an ESL teacher, a teacher should adjust to learners’ level of proficiency and provides practical applications for the facts he/she is presenting. She added that, a teacher should have a high proficiency in English and works hard to

remain up to date in his/her subject. Good teachers therefore are hard working to be professional, creative, innovative and successful in his/her teaching.

Being gifted is not enough because a teacher should love teaching to succeed otherwise he/she will lose that gift when faced with the first classroom or administrative problem.



The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.

~William Arthur Ward