

JOURNAL

From April 18th to April 22nd

The lessons I learned during this week are:

- If I tell students that I will lower their grades if they do not behave properly, they will actually listen to me and obey my commands. Students used to ignore my commands if the in-service teacher was not in the classroom. However, during this week this situation changed. Before checking attendance, I told them that whoever was not seated by the time I called their name would get a negative grade. Fortunately, this strategy was effective and by the time the teacher arrived they were already seated and working on the activity.
- It is okay to make deals with the students as long as they do their part. My students asked me to let them leave earlier because they needed to go to the school restaurant before the bell rang. After asking the in-service teacher if it was okay, I told my students that I would let them exit the classroom fifteen minutes earlier **IF** they completed the activity on time. Students agreed and worked hard on the activity, so by the time the bell rang, my students were already having lunch in the restaurant.
- My students are very absent-minded, or at least they claim to be so. Based on this, I decided that they cannot be relied on when it comes to planning my classes. For instance, for today's class I had planned to make an activity to check and reinforce the language presented in the previous class. However, most of them did not study and therefore, I had to change the activity.
- Students feel more motivated to work when they work in pairs, especially when I let them choose with whom they will work.