

Journal May 20th

I used to think that my students did not care if I went to classes or not, I thought that for them I was just another teacher and that's it. But I was wrong, I could not go to class last Tuesday because I was waiting in an office, I was surprised when one of my students messaged me and asked why I hadn't come to class and that they missed me. It was somehow rewarding to know that your students care about you as you care about your students. I am emotive once in a blue moon, but it is touching when your students tell you that they missed you even if you were absent only one day. I also learnt that you have to talk to your students as if you were good friends, however, you have to be serious at times, because they may get confused and start believing that you are another classmate.

When it came to checking tests (It was so boring and tiring!), but I talked to a retired teacher and he told me that I could do a "format" and set it upon the answer sheet, this format would have some holes according to the right answers, so you can check exams quickly. I think it is a good idea as you do not have to spend much time checking exams (when they are multiple choice tests). However, when students have to write, you must read everything carefully (it makes me think about how much a teacher works!). I had to check about 120 exams, so I asked my roommates to help me, they agreed happily and after we finished, they told me that they used to think that being a teacher was "easy", and that we did not have to work hard, but now, they know that we work harder than any other occupation (I know it is not related directly to the practicum but somehow when you are a teacher and you get to help people aware of how much a teacher works, they not only recognize that a teacher is valuable, but also that this job is not well-paid. I mean, a revolution is required, but "every journey starts with one step", a big revolution starts with smaller revolutions, one at a time).

Luis Mario Viaña Patrón