

Journal (March 29th- April 1st)

This week I learnt that the attitude the teacher assumes towards students mistakes will influence the way students perform. In other words, if I let my students know that they can make mistakes, they will probably feel more confident to talk and participate during the class, but not only that, they can also perform better as anxiety is reduced to some extent. How did I get to draw that conclusion? Because there were some students who were afraid to talk, but I told them that it was ok to make mistakes, and that I made mistakes sometimes, too. It is included in learning, but that what matter the most is being able to recognize our own mistakes and learn from them. Then, some students started asking me questions about words, and showing me their work, what they were doing, and when they had doubts.

I really like when a student asks me questions about their work and the topic, it makes me feel that they are interested in what I am teaching, and also that they feel comfortable enough with their new teacher to let him see what they do. I also learn that most of the time I have to grade the activities as some students are not willing to do the activities unless they get a grade or some point. I understand that it is because of our educational system, students are used to being tested, and when they have a teacher who is not always testing them, they think that the activities proposed are not needed, I am not talking about all the students, but about half of the class. Tomorrow, we are having a “bingo” activity just to practice the numbers, I hope they like it. I am not grading them, but of course I will assess them. Students tend to believe that the only way to assess them is through tests. So, I will work on a strategy to let them know that not everything should be graded.

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