INTO TEACHING: DEVELOPING CONFIDENCE IN TEACHING MILLENNIAL LEARNERS

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Confidence starts by presenting yourself and doing the best way you can. Every person no matter what profession he/she may have need to be confident in the nature of work entrusted by the appointing body either in the government service or private entities. But it cannot be denied that sometimes one losses confidence, however it is very important that one should develop or boast confidence when facing people particularly the students in the teaching profession. Teachers nowadays do not only deal in one single group of learners with common characteristics. They deal with varied learners with different needs, and learners that are called millennial or the 21st century learners.

Who are millennial learners?

In today’s perspective, millennial as described by Sanchez (2016) are learners who have a shorter span, interactive and collaborative, comfortable with technology, do multitask, driven by instant gratification, like informal and stimulating environments, prefer casual and friendly relationships with teachers and often well-rounded. With these kind of learners, there is a need for the teachers to develop confidence in the classroom in order to bridge himself/herself with gaps of the new generation of learners and this makes teaching challenging.

It is not an easy task to deal with millennial learners. Sharing some insights gained from previous seminars and trainings might be useful in understanding the learner’s attitude and behaviors towards learning, Martin (2017). Updating one’s professional knowledge on content and skills in technology will do since traditional methods of
teaching won’t work anymore because millennial learners have a short span to focus on the lesson and does the teacher needs innovative activities that is confidently addressed to learners.

The need to have a confident teacher does not only mean it is the demand of today’s new generation of learners, even in the past teacher’s confidence in the classroom was very important. In fact, Eison (1990) suggested that there are some ways how a new teacher can be both professionally effective and personally self-confident:

To feel confident, act confident. Show and begin acting confidently to students. This could only be done if you are totally equipped before you face with your students.

Enter each class with specific educational goals and objectives. Students are motivated to learn something new to them, so plan a lesson with specific, and attainable objectives that would hooked their interest towards learning by providing varied activities to be done based on their needs and interests. Most importantly, relate lessons to current events cultures and life experience in their context.

Learn the characteristics associated with effective teaching. A teacher can adopt effective teaching methods and strategies as models in their teaching practice. But one should remember that there is no single perfect strategy that suites to all lessons.

Use active learning strategies regularly. Some research stressed that active learning is carried out when a teacher involve students in doing things and think about what they are doing. K 12 curriculum is a student centered, teachers may provide activities like, laboratory experiments, investigatory projects, research, role playing, and group presentations, practical test, oral presentations like debate and the like should be incorporated in the lesson. Have a wise use collaborative activities in social platforms like facebook, Google classroom and etc.
Be relaxed about admitting it when you don’t know something. Students are thirsty for knowledge, they have a lot of questions in mind that needs answers and solutions. When a student asks, it’s a good indication of instructional effectiveness. However, when a teacher doesn’t know the answer don’t be afraid to admit to your students that there is something you don’t know, and in the latter try to do research about it.

Remember that enthusiasm and energy can carry the day. In a classroom instruction, a sense of humor and enthusiasm on the part of the teacher is contagious it turns to end up a student’s learning with energy and vitality. This is better than starting a lesson with a frowning teacher.

There is nothing more confident to a teacher who possesses professional skills, content mastery of the subject, abreast on technology needed for classroom instruction, understand and develop rapport on the nature of the millennial learners, with all of these, then a teacher can say “I am a Millennial Teacher.” of the 21st century learners.

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