LISTENING AND NOT JUST HEARING: HOW TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO PAY ATTENTION

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For several times, many teachers encounter students who are not paying attention in class. They are either distracted or just simply hear what you are saying but not listening. By not listening to what the teacher is saying, it can affect their learning because they might miss important information during the discussion. If they are not attentive in class, they would not be able to keep the pace in the activities and lectures in class which leaves them clueless about what is happening in the classroom. The retention of the information being taught by the teacher will not be inculcated in their minds, thus, resulting in poor learning.

According to Oxford Learnings (2017), having active listening skills has many benefits for it gives better comprehension in the lessons that are discussed in the classroom. It also stated that active listeners tend to be better communicators and problem solvers, being an active listener indicates positive values, being committed and a potential for being a good leader. The teaching-learning process would also be more productive because if the students are attentive, there would be fewer distractions and interruption and there would be a smooth flow of discussion.

If the students actively listen in the class, there is a better retention of information and teachers will be able to achieve their learning objectives. There are also much better learning outcomes because their attentiveness gives them a better understanding of the lessons. Students will be able to cope and engage in the discussion which creates a good learning environment because there is an active participation among the students. Those attentive students are the ones who perform well in class and attain higher grades.
Chris Hakala (2015) said that is able to engage students in the classroom, a rapport between the students and teachers must be established and build a classroom climate where the students will be comfortable in sharing ideas. He also said to "have students respond to questions about readings or a previous class activity and bring those answers to foster peer discussion." Doing an action for the students to pay attention is very important because according to Hakala, "when attention wanes, learning decreases" because the less they listen, the more learnings they will be missed.

In addition to the tips given by Hakala, Janelle Cox also gave some strategies on how to help students listen. According to Cox, if teachers want their students to listen to them when they talk, then they must hold them accountable for listening. She said that "instead of giving them all of the notes or key concepts that they need to know, only give them half of them and the other half, they will have to listen to teachers." If the outline was the only thing provided by the teacher, there is a higher chance that students will listen to the teacher to know the other information provided by the teacher.

Teachers must address the dilemma regarding the inattentiveness of the students because it can put them into future problems in their studies once they reach the higher level of learning. If they missed a lot of things that were taught by the teachers, the students will struggle in coping with the lessons once they already progress in a new grade level. There is a possibility that they will be left behind because they were not to receive important ideas and information provided by the teacher during the times that they were not paying attention.

Thus, as long as the inattentiveness of the students is not yet getting worse, teachers must take an action beforehand and not let the students come to the point that they are not interested in going to class anymore. Teachers must always give and show reasons why students must go to class regularly and on time. With the effective application of strategies and techniques, these can save the students from being less productive and less effective not only in school but in the community as well.
References:

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