LISTENING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN SPEAKING

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The best way to understand our students is to listen carefully to them. They are more likely to listen to our lessons if they feel that their thoughts and feelings are important to you. Also, it is through listening that we will be able to adapt our lessons to fit their needs and interests.

As we try to listen and heed the ideas that may enter our minds as we are dealing with our students, we will understand what they are trying to express. This is very much applicable to those who are having a hard time speaking in class.

During recitations, we should avoid the possibility to think about what we are going to say. The secret is that we focus on what our students are saying rather than thinking what to say next. Listening is more significant than speaking. When we just talk and talk during our discussions, this is as if we are treating our students as lifeless objects. As teachers, we all know that they need what we have. We have to be true and sincere. Sometimes, it is applicable to ask them about the most important things in their lives. What makes them happy? What do they hold dear to their hearts? And then listen to them. When the mood is right, you might ask them about their fears and yearnings in life. Their answers will help you relate your lessons to them.

Also, there are non-verbal communications that we should be aware of. Sometimes, even just the way our students sit tells us a very important message. Their tone of voice and facial expressions are also helpful tools in distinguishing their feelings. These unspoken messages are very important to us so we can know how well they receive our lessons.
As listening to our students requires great effort and practice, it would be helpful to start doing it today. It will not be easy especially for those teachers with tough students. But if we really master the art of listening in teaching, it will be all worth it.

References: