YOU ARE CONNECTED

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How do you intend to give solution when you start feeling the generation gap between you and your students? In situations where you feel it, take it personal.

In this age, students are into different things that you might never learn to like. Such might be a Korean Pop Band (KPop) who sings songs which meaning you cannot seem to grasp, a viral line like “Qiqil moe si acoe” which counters your lesson on correct spelling and structure, or a famous dance steps done while walking at the road not minding the risks. When these seem out of your league and the connection between a teacher and a student is crucial in the teaching-learning process. However, this will only happen if the students are in to you. As cited by Pandolpho (2018), there’s a chance for teachers to bridge the divide between the adults who seem to have all the answers and the students who are still figuring things out. In this sense, students must know the teacher on a personal level (do not divulge everything like an autobiography, though) to become actively engaged and reach out for help. Showing vulnerabilities and sharing stories can be a key to this connection issue between you and your student.

As teachers, we deem ourselves to be the authority in the classroom and impose all kinds of rules. Nevertheless, there are a few who would challenge our authority and refuse to follow. Instead of shouting and nagging students, which become less effective in these situations, try talking to them personally and calmly. Make them know the vulnerabilities you also experienced when you were younger or maybe until today that lead you to learning life-lessons. Allow the student to understand that committing slips happen but it should not be tolerated once you learn it’s not good.

Also, tell them personal stories that are short but meaningful which you think can make them think about things going on in their life. Let them ponder. Make them
feel that their stories are as important as yours so it should be heard so others can learn from them too.

Stories are powerful. We can use it connect with our students and build the trust and respect at the same time.

References: