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# 3. **INTRODUCTION**

Being an expert teacher comprises of different skills that has been acquired throughout the years and experiences in the classroom, from the experiences of other teachers and outside of the school environment.

This essay clearly states my knowledge acquired on the topic and strategies and skills involved in becoming an expert teacher.

The essay below has three sections with different situations or approaches on the how to become an Expert Teacher, on how to tackle issues from the Elementary, Middle and High school settings.

Strategies used in developing to become an Expert Learner and a Teacher.

# **3.1 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

# **TYPES OF TEACHING KNOWLEDGE**

As a teacher in charge of a class of 18 first graders, I believe each of these three types of teaching knowledge are very important.

Let's take the content knowledge which is the knowledge of the subject matter to be taught. Having a detailed and thorough knowledge of the area I teach, I would be able to plan creative lessons that will motivate and bring more understanding to my students, and I'll be able to accurately answer all their questions.

Having the knowledge of Pedagogical knowledge, I will easily manage these young first graders, who are new in elementary school, with a lot of fears. Teaching in a fun way with a lot of activities to

capture their attention and make them feel very comfortable, to create a conducive atmosphere for learning and increase their motivation to learn. I will structure test and assignments that is age appropriate to be able to assess the progress of each learner.

On the other hand, how to teach a specific topic is very essential. I will use my knowledge of Pedagogical-Content Knowledge to thoroughly explain the subject for the understanding of my students and to teach each subject strategically for easy grasp.

In my view, all three-teaching knowledge is very essential but in the case of the first-graders, I will incorporate more of Pedagogical knowledge into my teaching, then to Content knowledge and Pedagogical-Content knowledge

# **AUTOMATIZATION SKILLS**

2. The first skills I will automatize in my fourth-grade class is the well-learned routines. This will help me to routinely deal with potential discipline issues for the students to stay focused on the lesson without losing attention.

The second skill I will automatize is the organized teaching Knowledge, I will use this knowledge to train my students to know what they are expected of immediately they get to class and to repetitively follow and I will constantly monitor whatever goes on in my class

# **INCREASING INTELLIGENCE**

3. No one was born Stupid, everyone is special and very unique in his own way,

and your intelligence can greatly increase. You can all do well, if you put your mind to it and belief it's possible, it's all start by believing you can. Do not think you cannot make it, don't give up, your mistakes are part of learning, and you can easily correct these mistakes by working hard and putting in the needed efforts to succeed.

You have all been amazing, and your intelligence can increase. Set a time each day to learn, go over the lessons over and over again, work hard in your studies and you'll all be amazed with the achievements you'll make.

# **HIGH ASPIRATIONS**

4. The steps I will take to encourage my students to have high aspirations is to first make them think of what they can become in life and what they wish to be in future, that is because beliefs on what you can become in life motivates you to work hard towards future accomplishments.

The path to success is full of obstacles that must to be overcome to be able to ripe the rewards of completing school, such as good job and a steady Income. Believe you can achieve highly in life and work towards it.

# **SELF-EFFICACY**

5. You cannot always look at external forces as the causes for your failures. You must always look to yourself and analyze your behavior and what actually caused your failure.

It is so easy to shift blames rather than taking responsibilities for your behavior and actions. You need to hold yourself accountable for your failures, this is because, you have to do the sitting, you have to do the reading, you have to put in all the effort to be successful.

Take control of a task, be diligent in your studies, be ready to criticize yourself when things don't go well and take pride in yourself when you make the grades, and when you succeed.

If you continue to think you have no flaws or an area to improve and you continue to blame outside event for your failures, your progress can come to a stop! Always remember that your success and failures is as a result of your own contribution.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **MEMORY STRATEGIES**

Mnemonic strategies also known as Memory strategies are systematic procedures for enhancing memory. It's use particularly to develop better ways to take in information so that it will be much easier to remember.

In the case of my eighth graders who complain of having poor memories, I would first and foremost work on their attentiveness in class. Students will not remember something they do not pay attention to in the first place. I will use more visual aids and activities; I will teach more enthusiastically to help students to be more focused and attentive in class. Using of Pictures or images can provide substantial memory advantage. Students remember information better if they have practice using it more frequently. I will incorporate more reviews in my teaching and always touch on previous topics before moving on to a new topic.

The Keyword method is a word that sounds like the new word and is easily pictured, this is used to create a picture of a key word and the definition doing something together. So, to help my students use the Keyword methods effectively, I’ll form an interactive image linking the sound and the meaning of a foreign word with the sound and meaning of a familiar word.

The Pegword Method can be used when numbered or ordered information needs to be retrieved or remembered. Pegwords are usually rhyming words for numbers and are substituted for numbers that needs to be remembered and associated with the other information.

Acronym also known as the Letter strategies involves using letter prompts to remember lists of things by creating abbreviations of words by using the first letter of each word.

Acrostic is when the first letters are reconstructed to represent the words in a sentence, this is to help one remember the sentence he or she wish to retrieve.

## **STEPS TO HELP IMPROVE YOUR STUDENTS**

2. To help a troubled boy in my ninth-grade class, I will first try to analyze the problem and know what exactly I'm dealing with.

I would like to know the whys! What his challenges are, his weaknesses, his strengths and why he thinks nothing he does will make a difference, and why he sees himself as doomed to fail.

Now that I have analyzed the situation, below are the practical steps I will take in helping him;

Firstly, it is very important to take your school work seriously, attend class regularly and on time, always pay attention in class and avoid distractions. I will encourage him to constantly practice whatever his been taught in class, revising and practicing other examples or exercises so he can have clear understanding of the topic and to routinely do his school homework.

I will advise him to constantly seek for further clarification from a friend or possibly come to me directly.

Getting extra tuition will be of great help too, I will speak to his guidance to organize an extra class for him, this will help him catch up quickly and he will also spend most of his time studying. Finally, I will encourage him to be self-motivated and to know the benefits of school and to practically work hard to improve his studies.

## **CHALLENGES OF A NEW TEACHER**

3. It always exciting to finally get to achieve your dream as a teacher and do want you've wished and hoped for in life. It's indeed a joyous moments filled with anxieties and pressure to create an impression in your students

The middle school class is within the adolescent age ranges and are in their developmental stages, therefore you cannot know what exactly to expect because of their behavioral impulses.

Some of the challenges I may face with students of this age will be my quest of getting to know each student by name and understanding the different learning styles of each learner. Other challenges I may face will be lack of, effective communication, behavior and classroom management.

To deal with these challenges, I will seek mentorship from experienced teachers for guidance, feedbacks, encouragement and resources to help improve my practices and to help me cope with the challenges and anxieties.

I will also develop a student teacher relationship by engaging the students more in the classroom and giving everyone the opportunity to participate.

## **IMPORTANCE OF INSIGHTS IN LEARNING**

4. Insight is to have a clear and deep understanding of a complicated problem or to see into a problem deeply. It's a type of learning that uses reason, especially to form conclusions, inferences or judgments to solve a problem.

To be able to solve a problem accurately, you have to be able to distinguish relevant information and irrelevant information and by combining both information to arrive at an insightful solution.

I will give my ninth-grade class a creative thinking activity to work on.

I will have them work and groups to come up with the solutions of each activity, this will help them work together as a team, share ideas and also ask candid questions.

The first activity is to figure out how to get a ball out of a deep hole. What will you need to help you solve this problem, what will you think about as your first instinct.

The second activity is to ask students to drop an egg from a certain height and think of creative ideas to save the egg from breaking.

## **CONTENT KNOWLEDGE VERSUS PEDAGOGICAL KNOWLEDGE**

5. Content Knowledge is the knowledge of the subject matter to be taught. It is developed by taking content-based courses and from experiences outside school. It is detailed and thorough.

The Content knowledge help the teacher to plan creative lessons that motivates and illuminate the subject matter, it also helps the teacher to answer students’ questions accurately and it helps the teacher to always be on top of the class.

Pedagogical Knowledge is basically the knowledge of how to teach, to enhance student motivation and to manage students in the classroom setting. This type of knowledge gives the teacher the ability to capture students’ attention, to motivate students to learn. It helps the teacher to know how to structure assignments and to assess students’ progress.

These concepts of teaching help students to grasp ideas in a transferrable way. It helps the students to take what they learn in class and apply it across domains. It is therefore very important to use Content and Pedagogical Knowledge of teaching in my middle-class teaching.

### **HIGH SCHOOL**

### **HOW TO DETERMINE IF A NEW TEACHING TECHNIQUE IS WORKING**

1. I would be able to know whether my new teaching techniques is working by how students contribute to the subject matter by participating in class discussions and asking questions.

I can also tell by assessing my students to know how they understand the topic, and how well they are retaining what is being taught and are actually applying it in other contexts.

Finally, I can know whether my teaching technique is working through the skills. Knowledge and confidence my students possess in the subject matter.

### **MASTERY-ORIENTED GOALS**

2. The Mastery-Oriented learner uses effective learning strategies in their school work, they are more open to challenging task and they have positive attitude that efforts are the key to improving in their performance. With Mastery-Oriented goals, making mistakes is part of learning and there is always room to correct mistakes.

It also focuses on efforts and hard work as a route to mastering material, as it is a hallmark of expert students and their achievements is based on intrapersonal standard of learning.

On the other hand, Students with Performance goals focuses on just the outcome rather than the process of learning, they believe only a few students can make it to the top, hence they don't want to make mistakes. They like to achieve success by any means, avoiding the appearance of incompetence. Performance goals use the normative standard of learning and their eyes are only on the grades.

### **ANALOGIES TO USE WHEN TEACHING**

3. Analogy is a comparison between one thing and typically for the purpose of explanation or clarification.

Below are analogies I can use to teach my ninth-grade biology class;

* I will use the macroscopic analogy to determine the biological concept of the human organism.

Example is the human organism in a puzzle form of analogy where students will be made to arrange and put the organs in the right positions. This is also a level of target concept analogy.

* I will use the Presentation format of analogy where I will use a pictorial-verbal way of explaining the cell system
* I will also use the symbolic analogy which involves formula and symbols. We can use this analogy to determine the formula for water (H2O) in any given situation

### **REFLECTIVE THINKING**

4. Reflective Thinking means considering why what you did or plan to do matters. It all about thinking about the thinking, think about it, mull over it and evaluate it.

The role of reflective thinking in the life of the high school teacher is to examine and think about choices, methods, experiences and other aspect of classroom life in order to uncover and understand what works, and perhaps identify patterns that hinders effective learning.

For instance, a situation where students perform poorly in their class work or assignments. The teacher has to critically reflect on the situation to know and understand what is causing the poor performance in his class.

### **VALUE OF DELAYED GRATIFICATION**

5. Delayed gratification is a long-term goal over an immediately achievable one. It's the ability to sacrifice or postpone immediate rewards in order to achieve something more rewarding in the future.

Delayed gratification will help improve self-control, which will help to resist temptation of immediate rewards. Students with self-control are able to focus on their studies and complete assignments on time, letting go of all pleasures such as parties or playing video games.

They are able to see a task through to completion because of their determination of a future goal.

A typical example of delayed gratification is the Marshmallow Test. In this test the experimenter gave the children a Marshmallow, they were instructed they can either eat the Marshmallow now or wait fifteen minutes until the experimenter gets back from doing a task and then they can have two Marshmallows. Other children couldn't resist the temptation, so they ate the Marshmallow. Those who were able to Delay gratification by waiting for the experimenter had an additional Marshmallow.

The children who managed to wait grew up to fare better in school, scored higher on teat and they generally succeed in life.

##### **CONCLUSION**

Being an expert teacher involves using of strategies and different set of knowledge. Knowing what to teach and how to teach is equally important as a teacher. Being able to be in control of the classroom and to motivate your learners to use different mnemonic strategies in their studies.It's far better to be an Expert Teacher than being a Novice

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