

Selected Daily Reflections

Day 1 6/29

My first day in the Startalk program is just like everyone else's, very exciting and a little bit overwhelming (long working hours!!). When I did my self-check assessment, I noticed that my knowledge about national standard was very weak. All the items under that category were given a "2"(the goal that I need to achieve) by myself. But at the point when the day ended, I was quite confident I can reassess myself and change all those 2s into 1s, which is a great progress. I not just understood the indication of 5Cs, but its importance to serve as the guidance of the creation of curriculum and syllabus and even lesson planning.

With this core, I can reflect and re-evaluate my own teaching in a much more critical and productive way.

Day 2 6/30

Today Tseng Laoshi and Zhao Laoshi walked us through the development of the modern language teaching philosophy. This enables us to understand all the theoretical support of specific teaching methods and also help us to use them as guidance to explore more teaching techniques.

With rich illustration provided by teachers, I understand the different features of different classrooms and settings. Also, the communicative approach will be much better conducted in my future teaching, thanks to the checklist of a successful communicative class contributed by Zhao Laoshi😊

Day 3 7/1

By using the illustration of the brain structure, Zhao Laoshi explained to us how people are different and special in every way they are. Students may have different ways to process information input and the same teaching method may end up in totally different effects, which means language instructors should differentiate students and cater to their learning habits. That will be quite challenging for multi-level class, but still manageable if the teacher tries hard enough.

The demonstration of Helen Small was very inspiring. Being brand-new beginners of German, we personally experienced how TPR can accelerate students' acquisition. It's a total immersion class, but students can understand all instructions and what's more amazing is that I was able to produce a short story in German with the help of physical movement first and then without it within 40 minutes!

Now I believe that visual aid and physical movement can significantly improve the quality of language class. Not just knowing that, I just became a strong believer of TPR.

Day 4 7/2

Today's class is based more on first-hand experience and it's very refreshing after 3-day long theoretical learning. Zhao Laoshi and Tseng Laoshi's demonstration persuaded everyone in the program that total immersion is definitely possible. And meaningful context is crucial to convey messages to students.

We discussed the video-clip we watched yesterday as homework. I presented some of my critical thoughts and discussed with other teachers. Their response gave me a lot of inspirations.

Pinyin is always something causing headache for my teaching. The hints and websites Zhao Laoshi shared with us are simply **WUNDERBAR!** 😊

Day 5 7/3

We had our 10-minute teaching demo this morning. All five groups did fantastic job. All groups demonstrated their good grasp of understanding of the 5C standard in their performances. Various teaching approaches were adapted and well mingled in their teaching. Within ten minutes, all teaching goals were successfully achieved through teacher-fronted and student-centered activities.

I have learnt a lot from other teachers, ranging from their teaching philosophy, specific activities, classroom arrangement, and even just the passion and devotion.

This morning's demos are not only demonstrations, but also a great sample for us to analyze and discuss all the sparkles and spots that could be improved. I definitely can borrow a lot into my future teaching and I hope other teachers would not charge me for property right.

Day 12

I have observed several teachers' classes this week and I am amazed at how much I can learn simply from systematically observing classes. The article we read about how to effectively observe classes written by Professor Liang served as a great guideline. Based on what we've learnt in the article, we improved our skills and efficiency, what's more, we overcame the old problem of over-generalizing a class by our intuitive impressions. I've learnt to use specific standards to evaluate a language class in terms of 5Cs, teacher-fronted and student centered activity ratios, authenticity of teaching materials and the fulfillment of the teaching goals. I can also put much more critical thinking into the analysis of a successful class and then use those critical thinking to reflect upon my own teaching. My standard of a successful language class has been obviously enhanced, which will be my own standard to deliver a Chinese lesson too.