

## **TUF Special Speakers Series – Summary Note**

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

**Speaker: Mr. Sung Li Young**

**Objective: Art of Public Speaking**

### **About the Speaker**

Mr. Sung Li Young holds a master's degree in Education at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is the Vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Schools Music and Speech Association. Mr. Sung was once a vice-principal of a secondary school, Guest Lecturer at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Productivity Council, and the Hong Kong Arts Center. Mr. Sung is frequently invited as a consultant and trainer to give courses in speech and public speaking skills. With his extensive experiences in public speaking and speech training, Mr. Sung was the TV host of education programmes both in Shanghai and Hong Kong. He is also the curriculum advisor of public speaking and leadership training of the Programme for the Gifted and Talented.

### **What is Education?**

The essence of education is 'life influences life'. Education is a form of life full of challenges. Its core principle is sharing positive values, attitudes and effective ways of constructing knowledge with students so that they may grow as both good learners and citizens.

### **Factors that affect students in class**

There are a lot of factors that affect students' behavior in a classroom, such as the physical environment, the classroom atmosphere and individual differences, etc. However, a teacher himself/herself is in fact the most important influencer. His/her attitude towards education and students determines the teacher-student interaction and in turn greatly influences the outcome of students' learning. Although teachers have strong influence on students, students themselves are actually masters of their own learning. In many occasions, teachers' tone and eye contact have direct impact on students. In reality, some students like to challenge the authority of teachers in class. These students are not bad in nature but they are hoping to connect or establish relationship with their teachers.

Teachers should learn to observe changes, however minute changes, in their students and offer recognition and guidance. Students' behavior and academic results will gradually change if they feel the genuine love and care from their teachers.

### **Seeking help from the right person**

A teacher is taking lots of aspirations from various parties, including students, parents, society, government, and school. These expectations are different and might even contradict with each other.

Education is teamwork. TU Program Mentors should find out and appreciate who are the people that can offer help in school when encountering problems on teaching. Mentors should know the ones s/he are teaching and teach them with love and care. Once a positive teacher-student relationship has been established, Mentors are able to work productively with students. We should give every student individual attention and care.

### **The relationship with students**

A teacher should do his/her best to be fair to all students. This is moral as well as conducive to good teacher-student relationship. S/he should also have self-awareness and be reflective on her/his teaching practice.

For instance, s/he should be aware that why s/he is in favor of certain students? Teachers should always remind themselves to treat students fairly and love their students even if some of them do not appear amiable. By 'love', it means to care, forgive, and support their students. The main driver of love is 'responsibility'. Some teachers wish to make friend with their students but they should not forget that there is always a boundary between teachers and students. The boundary is not to keep teachers away from students but to help teachers fulfill their duties effectively. Teachers have many roles to take. Occasionally they have to reprimand and punish students in accordance with school rules and regulations. The boundary helps students understand that teachers are teachers, no matter how friendly and closely they are. Some teachers are stricter but some are less. The advantage of setting a boundary is to facilitate teachers' flexibility in educating students.

### **Concentration span of students**

Like all living creatures, students are sensitive to stimuli in the surrounding environment. It is difficult to expect students to maintain a constantly high concentration in a 45-minute class. Level of concentration depends on the attractiveness of teaching and students' individual needs.

### **The way to teach students**

To most Form one or two students, the objective of going to school is to make friends. Learning is not their first priority. Teachers should think about how to ask questions in a class to draw students' attention, create opportunity for students to participate in class and give a conclusion at the end. Praise students when they perform well and let them know clearly what they are expected to do on a certain task. Let students

know that teachers love them and appreciate their effort made in the learning process.

### **Classroom management**

Set up ground rules and routine in the first lesson. Let students understand teachers' expectations.

*How to deal with students when...*

1. they speak foul language in class?

Gather facts from the class before giving value judgment. Ask the students sitting nearby about the fact. If circumstances allow, teacher should resume class and ask the student to see him/her after class. If not, teacher needs to handle the issue immediately.

2. they throw chalk at teacher?

If circumstances allow, teacher needs to resume teaching as soon as possible. Try to determine if the action is a plot or an individual act. Tell the class firmly that you do not want to see the piece of chalk being thrown the second time. You will continue the class and handle the case after class.

*Should a teacher apologise to a student?*

Not advisable to apologise at once. When the emotions of both the teacher and student are calmed down, teacher can talk to the student and explain the case.

Education is holistic in nature. Expression of emotion is acceptable but not to be taken as the opportunity to vent negative emotions. If a teacher breaks into tears before students, the teacher need to debrief the class after calming down and explain to them how their behaviours have upset the teacher. However, the teacher should resume class afterwards.

## **Inspiring quotes from Mr. Sung:**

教育千古不變的道理 - 教育是生命影響生命。

教育其實是生活的一個部分，教師分享自己成長的經驗並與學生共同建構知識。

教育的成效往往不在即時的教學之中。家庭、學校和社會都在教育學生。教育的理念是相信人是可以改變的而且是向善的。

教育的美妙在於可重覆進行，去年做得不夠好，今年可以做得更好。老師的成長要感謝學生。若果老師所教的都是好學生，不會令教學有進步，反而會是一個最笨拙的老師。

老師與學生保持一定的距離對教學有好處，因為它能让教師發揮不同的職能。

不論老師有心或無意，在與學生的互動過程中都在教育着學生，因為老師是學生的榜樣（role model）。

老師無論做甚麼，學生都從他身上學習。老師和學生接觸就是教育，

老師無論做甚什麼，學生都在不知不覺中從他／她身上學習。教育發生於老師與學生接觸的過程中。

老師應設法聆聽學生的心聲，努力明白學生，關心他們的生活（不要只關心他們的學業），讓學生覺得原來有些成年人是可信賴的。

*\*Remark: The seminar was conducted in Chinese. The synopsis is summarised by TUF who is responsible for the accuracy of the content.*