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Title: _____

Dictator!



I: Most Significant Experiences

I've been feeling overwhelmed these days as the requirements keep piling up, but my interactions with the students have filled me with such joy.

While walking through the school canteen, I noticed a group of students whispering and pointing at me. I initially believed they were discussing something unrelated. However, I soon understood they were recognizing me. They bowed and smiled, indicating they not only knew who I was but also respected me as a teacher. It was a joyous moment for me. I've only been here for a short time, but the students have already started to see me in that role.

After the recollection, as I was heading home on the jeepney in Centermall, I couldn't help but smile. I was walking towards the queue at the back when I met a group of students who suddenly stopped to wave at me. As they were leaving, I heard them saying things like, "Si Ma'am Kim iyon" and "Dapat kailangang nating siyang batihin." I was so touched that they saw me as a respected member of the school community.

Moments like this remind me of why I dedicated myself to this profession. The feeling of establishing connections with the students, igniting their curiosity, and watching them grow and flourish is indescribable. It's a roller-coaster of emotions that fills me with a sense of purpose. I can't wait to witness the incredible journeys these students will embark on, knowing that I played a small part in shaping their future."

II: Obstacles Encountered

I mentioned above the positive interactions I had with the students, but of course, it's not always rainbows and butterflies.

During their Culminating Performance Task (CPT) week, we were tasked to be vigilant about academic dishonesty, as Ma'am Juantala constantly reiterated before letting the students continue their activity. However, not long after that, when I witnessed a student cheating. I was initially hesitant to confront him, as I didn't want him to think I was overly authoritative. However, I felt a responsibility to address the issue. I approached him privately and explained the importance of academic integrity and the consequences of cheating.

To my disappointment, he seemed like he didn't care about my warning. In fact, he was even brave enough to continue cheating right in front of me. It was as if he was daring me to do something about it. I felt a wave of frustration and disappointment wash over me. I began to question my role as a student teacher. Was I truly making a difference? Or I was just supposed to be an observer and a student, not a teacher.

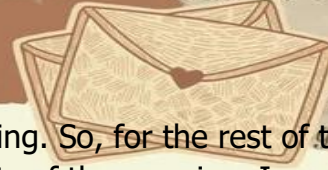
Ever since that incident with one of the classes, I've been reflecting on it. My failure to effectively discipline him has left me feeling defeated, and I questioned my authority. Perhaps he didn't perceive me as a teacher because, in reality, I'm not. I'm still a student teacher, a temporary figure in his educational journey.

III: Obstacles Hurdled

The cheating incident happened on the first class in the morning. So, for the rest of the day, I found myself distracted and preoccupied with the events of the morning. I couldn't focus on my task or engage with the students properly.

Towards the end of the day, I discussed the incident with my Cooperating Teacher (CT). She listened patiently and offered some valuable advice. She said something that made it all clear about the matter. She exactly said, "dapat kinuha mo iyong phone niya." It was likely the device he used to cheat.

I realized that the problem wasn't my inability to discipline the student, but rather the student's disregard for the rules. It's a reminder that even as a student teacher, I have an important role to play in maintaining classroom order and ensuring academic integrity. While I may not have the same authority as a full-time teacher, I can still take steps to address inappropriate behavior and help my CT create a positive learning environment.



IV: Impact on Your Chosen Field

Because of the cheating incident, I have been reflecting on the importance of authority and my role as a teacher. While I may be a student teacher, I have come to realize that even in this limited role, I have a responsibility to maintain order and discipline in the classroom.

Authority is not about being dictatorial or oppressive. It's about establishing clear expectations, creating a safe and respectful learning environment, and ensuring all students have an equal opportunity to succeed. When students understand their teacher has authority, they are more likely to behave appropriately and take their studies seriously.

As a teacher, my role is to guide and support my students, but I must also be firm when necessary. While it may seem harsh, being firm is ultimately for the student's own good. By allowing cheating to go unpunished, we are setting students up for failure in the coming times. Even with my current role, I still want the best for the students. I specifically wish that student to look back someday and realize that I did it for him for his **success** in the future.

