

CUHK Faculty of Science Learning by Engaging and Teaching (LET) Programme
Reflective Journal

Chung Tin Yuet SID: 1155033239 Department of Physics Contact no.:67313909

From May to August 2014, I was selected to join the Summer Teacher AppRenticeship (STAR , Department of Physics, CUHK) to work as teachers' aides in secondary school (SKH Li Ping Secondary School)(I will abbreviate it to "Li Ping" in the rest of this journal). My main duty is to prepare the teaching notes, teach the make-up class after school and teach Science, Maths and Physics classes. Sometimes, I led students to CUHK to listen to the popular science talk. From time to time, I led students to the Science Museum to have a visit and learn to have fun. During these three months, thanks to Mr. Chan Fu Shing (my advisor teacher in SKH Li Ping Secondary School), my lovely students and LET programme, I acquired a lot of teaching skills. I understand that teaching is not that easy. There is a saying goes: The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.

In May 2014, I just came to Li Ping. At that time, the summer holiday didn't start yet. And I assist Mr. Chan Fu Shing to teach the lesson. I was designated to teach the students who are below average standard. I wondered if I were not here, only Mr Chan or me alone wouldn't be able to take care of the learning diversity. These students are very active. Sometimes, they played with the rulers during SBA (School-based Assessment) experiment. It is difficult to keep the class in good order. Not only do a teacher keep the class in good order, but he or she also takes care of the learning diversity. I remembered in the midterm review of STAR programme, Dr Chan Man Ho suggested one way to alleviate the learning diversity. It is to widen the coverage of the curriculum so that the curriculum meets the needs of both high standard students and below-average students. A STAR apprentice said his approach to cope with learning diversity is to add some advanced level problem in the problem sets given to students so that some high standard students will not be left lying idle.

In June and July, I participated in Teaching and Learning series: Basic Training for New Science Teachers conducted by Independent Learning Centre, CUHK and Leadership Training Day Camp conducted by Natural Network Limited. These training courses offered by LET Programme are meaningful. Firstly, the teaching courses offered by ILC help me brush up my presentation skills and time management skills. I remembered the lecturer told me how to make a plan for the lesson. And the lecturer stressed the importance of effective and interactive teaching activities. A

good plan of the lesson is very important to let the students learn well. Time management in the lesson matters as well. For example, a teacher may want to teach his or her students a lot, but he or she has to make good use of the time in the lesson so that he or she can deliver the message well. The lecturer also told me the mode or interaction of the lesson, teacher to students, students to students or students to teacher and students, to name but a few. The interactive teaching plays a vital role in bringing students' attention to the lesson. If there is always one guy, the teacher speaking in front of the class, and there is no interaction between students and the teacher, students may be bored with just sitting there and listening to the teacher, and start not paying attention to the lesson. There are some ways to make lessons more interesting. In fact, playing videos in the lessons can be funny. In fact, I played a video about gases to my students in Li Ping. In the video, a foreigner explains the properties of gases such as the fact that gases occupy volume by doing experiment or demonstration.

I remembered that the lecturer in ILC asked me and other students in class to tell each other a concept in our own major by using paper or a board in a few minutes. It is really a challenge to me since teaching in limited time to a beginner is difficult. Physicist Albert Einstein said, if you can't explain it simply, you don't understand it well enough. Explaining something to someone in a short period of time is challenging ourselves as well. A teacher has to be well prepared and really understand the knowledge thoroughly in order to explain something simply to a student.

Barely sitting indoors won't let you learn how to teach. It is just like reading the Physics textbook won't teach you real Physics. One has to do the problems at the back of the textbook to master the knowledge of Physics. That's why Leadership Training Day Camp is useful to me in teaching. It helps build up my leadership skills that will be useful when teaching in front of class. Frankly speaking, it was a brand new experience for me to make a fire in wild using barely dry leaves, deadwood and matches under a light rain. The three participants including me were asked to collect dry leaves and deadwood to make a fire. We had to come up with a way to make the fire. It was about team work and communication. Also, someone had to be a leader to lead us to work effectively. Otherwise, the fire won't be made. We pick the driest leaves and deadwood and someone was holding an umbrella to cover the fire. Finally, we cook using the pots and pans on top of the fire we just made. It was amazing!

I treasure my time at Li Ping. And I learnt a lot from STAR and LET programme!

