

Be Willing to Pay the Price

Lesson Plans

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Based on The Success Principles for Teens: How to Get From Where You are to Where You Want to Be

Anticipatory Set: “Today I hoped you could help me in making a decision. I’ve been wanting to raise my “C” in science and math up to an “A.” I’m not sure what I can do. My teacher is boring, the books are boring, and I hate doing my homework. Please help me. Mom said I can get the new iPod Touch if, and only if, I raise my grades. I NEED THAT IPOD TOUCH!!! What can I do? (Allow students to answer. Answers will vary.)

Concept: “It’s not the will to win that matters – everyone has that. It’s the will to prepare to win that matters.”

Procedures:

- Begin the class with the Anticipatory Set allowing students to give various answers. (Examples of good answers: 1) regardless of how boring, listen to the teacher, 2) read the text books, 3) take time to complete all homework, 4) take notes, 5) make flash cards, etc)
- As students give answers give defenses: “I can do some of my homework, but the teachers always give me too much. I don’t have enough time to watch my favorite show and do my homework.” “I have basketball practice from 3pm – 7pm then I have to go home eat, check my computer, talk to my boyfriend, then take a shower. I don’t have enough time.” “I’ve tried to stay awake in her class, but I can’t be responsible for her being boring.” (Defensive statements can vary.)
- While students give you examples of how to raise your grades and you come back with a defensive statement some students will probably begin to get upset. You should begin to hear statements from students such as: “You don’t have to talk to your boyfriend every night.” “Maybe you should time yourself on the computer to give you enough time for homework.” “You should go to bed earlier if you can’t stay awake in class.”
- “What you’re saying is I have to make some sacrifices to raise my grades?” “Maybe after I get this pattern of doing my homework, listening to the teacher, and studying I can maintain my grades?” Explain how this is a common experience for many people regardless of their age. We have to be willing to pay the price to reach our dreams.
- “How many of you have heard of Michael Oher? (pronounced “oar) “Maybe you’ve heard of the movie “The Blind Side?”

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- Tell the story of Michael Oher:
 - *On a snowy November day in 2002, when the Tuohys spotted a 16-year-old Oher walking in 3 inches of snow wearing shorts, a T-shirt and tennis shoes they had no idea he was one of America's most gifted athletes. To them, he was a child in need. He was basically raising himself – his single-parent mother bounced in and out of his life because of a drug addiction – and hanging by a thread in his schoolwork.*
 - *Not until later did they discover Oher's athletic talent that would make him runner-up Player of the Year in Tennessee in basketball, land him a football scholarship to Ole Miss and eventually earn him millions of dollars as a first-round pick by the Baltimore Ravens in the 2009 NFL draft.*
 - *Oher went from having a 0.6 grade point average and missing over 50 days of school (obviously not doing any homework, studying, etc) to studying hours and hours, six days per week. He began his school day at 6am (taking an extra class), after school he had football practice, showered and began studying. He usually studied until at least 11pm each night. Upon graduation, he had a 2.65 grade point average and a scholarship to Ole Miss.*
- “Where do you think Michael Oher would be today without the Tuohy family? Where do you think he would be without the perseverance to study and raise his grades?”
- “ In order to achieve your dreams you must put in the time and effort. We all have the same amount of time. How we spend this time is what makes the greatest difference in the quality of someone's life.”
- “Just as Michael Oher, you are responsible for the type of person you are today and the type of life you will be living tomorrow. No excuses.”
- End the lesson with Paul “Bear” Bryant's quote.

Closure: “It's not the will to win that matters – everyone has that. It's the will to prepare to win that matters.” -

Paul “Bear” Bryant, College football's winningest coach, with 323 victories, including six national championships and thirteen Southeastern Conference titles