Personal Essay

1 Self Introduction

This is Ihn Joon. I am a Korean American and was born and raised in Korea.

I moved to America when I was around 10 and first I meet some cultural

differences but I learned that I had to overcome such differences and I made it.

While I am studying and living my new life here, I also began thinking

'Who I am?' and what is my identity. I finally concluded that I am a proud

American with Korean heritage ,background and blood. I love both Korea

and America. There are many people who are my friends, relatives and others

living in Korea, Korea is where I was born and it is also where my ancestors

lived for centuries. I love Korea. I love it's culture and food and people.

Are there anybody who loves Korea more than me?

Teaching is the greatest job I think because to educate others is not easy but it is also

the most important and precious thing to do. These days, English is very important

because it is the language of the world. There are numerous reasons for learning English.

Many are learning for communication with foreigners. Some are studying English to

get a better job or go to a better university and some are doing so to move to another

country. I am very proud of teaching English because English education is so important and

thus many people are still interested learning English.

There are reasons why I want to teach English in Korea. As I already said, English

is very worth and people need to learn that and I love Korea because I have Korean origin

and I want strong relationship and friendship between two countries. I also have experiences

and I am a very passionate teacher. These are the reasons why I want to teach ESL in Korea.

2 Teaching Philosophy

My opinion of teaching evolved from years of teaching experience.

As I reflect on my beliefs regarding teaching and learning, I conclude that my mission

as a teacher is :

•to promote positive learning;

•to spark learner enthusiasm .

•and to provide a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

I am applying several strategies based on educational principles and cognitive functioning, learning philosophy, assessment and instructional planning .There are various ideas of learning philosophy.

Behavioral theory offers great principles that, when used appropriately, can benefit learning and management at all levels. Interactive lecture is also helpful.

Considering the cognitive functioning is essential in order to implement and that are appropriate for concrete operational or others. I always plan activities, such as writings in detail that can help to determine the cognitive levels of my students. Without this, I would risk the possibility of my students experiencing ‘ miss’ learning.

Of course there are more to say. Using these methods helped me to feel that I am a great enthusiastic teacher. So teaching with sincere enthusiasm strongly impacts students and finally connecting them to their learning forever. This is what I think about teaching and studying.

Here what is happening in Korea. Some parents send their sons and daughters to another country to improve their English ability. This is why they need to learn correct English to communicate with foreigners. To make them to understand that English is not just a tool to get the admission to the university or go to another country. It is the way of understanding the broader world and culture and building a strong connection to the people throughout the world. So Not only the students but the teachers too need to learn and search more.

3 About Cultural Differences

There are many cultural differences across the world. The differences are

varying, such as food and appetite, way of living, using rooms, kitchens and

even toilets. Going another country to live or work there requires a lot

of things. The most important factor is to encounter a different culture.

So you are required to learn the cultural differences and the most important thing

is to learn how to get used to. If you want to avoid or deny the differences

and try to reject accepting the culture of another country where

you are going to, then you can't stay there and must not go there. So accept

the cultural differences.

Now, some people think western culture is superior to Asian's.

But that is not true. We must respect all of different cultures without

disparaging any. for exam: Most Asians do not wear shoes inside

the house since it is considered as unhealthy. I strongly agree with that.

Another case, Asia has two different kinds of toilets in schools and

public restrooms. One is a chair shape that is same as those in West.

It is also called the Western style. The other is squat type also called the

Eastern style. Although Western style is very common but still you may

encounter Eastern style since many Korean people consider it is more sanitary

as no part of body directly contacted to the toilet. I agree. Unfortunately some people

demand Western toilets or replace to them. But unless you respect and accept

the original Korean culture(even with toilets),then you must not go there.

People want to embrace different cultures but not the cultural imperialism.

Therefore I hope this can really help people planning to work in Asia.

Do not upset when you see a strange thing or culture. Accept it.

Never to forget this. This is my experience. Thank you.