

Doug Lemov Strategies: Taking teaching to the next level by Yutaka Tamura, Relay Graduate School

It is extremely important to be conscious about everything you say to a student and to a class as a teacher. The students are very receptive and sensitive to everything they perceive. So what are the guidelines that we can follow to make sure teachers are getting across the right message to the students at all times?

Concrete strategies I walked away with:

Strong voice and *Positive Framing* are small but strong techniques that are used by effective teachers to maximize learning in their classroom?

The Strong voice method helps the teacher establish the control, command and benign authority in the classroom. It combines the following concrete techniques.

- **Economy of language:** The language used by the teacher should be as clear and precise as possible. Using fewer (if any) words per sentence helps in maintaining the clarity.
- **Do not talk over:** Every student, irrespective of his behavior, should have an equal chance to listen when the teacher is speaking. Waiting for the class to settle down and be ready to pay attention makes a lot of positive difference towards the same.
- **Do not engage:** The discussion in the class should be focused on the topic presented by the teacher. Deviations from this topic can lead to wasting time and losing track. Also when a rule is broken and a consequence needs to be given, engaging in a potential disagreement with a student should be avoided.
- **Square up/stand still:** Use your body language to the fullest. This also helps in maintaining economy of words. Model what you want your students to behave like.
- **Quiet power:** When you are nervous and out of words, use your silence to exude calm and poise.

Positive Framing motivates students far more than negative framing does. When your goal for your students is a positive outcome, the framing should be positive as well.

- **Live in the now:** When you are trying to correct a student, tell him/her what you want him/her to change at that moment only.

- Assume the best: Do not assume that you know the cause for a student's negative behavior. Give the student the benefit of doubt and allow the student to explain.
- Narrate the Positive: Express your appreciation for any positive changes you see in a student's behavior. This helps in building momentum.
- Challenge: Students make an effort to perform better when they are challenged and provided with motivation and encouragement.
- Talk Expectations and Aspirations: Generously appreciate students for what they are growing up every day to be. Provide constant reminders of the reward they will earn for themselves for the same.