

Mehdi Mtimet

1. Think about your favorite course you've had so far, how would you describe it to a friend at home?

The perfect class, will be the one in which I feel I'm among friends and a team who Share the same interests, and make me forget about the traditional class Environment that is limited to following the slides, or just following the professor, without offering the student the opportunity to be involved and be part of the learning process.

2. How important is class participation it to you?

Class participation is very important to me, since it help me not only to understand the materiel by clarifying some confusing points ,but also it help me memorize the important points .Also for an international student ,it's the perfect occasion to practice English among friends and professors who are here to help us improve .

3. Do you feel that instructors place too much emphasis on language in courses with international students?

I strongly believe that practicing language is very important and helpful for the student to understand the materiel. At the same time it is important to find the right technique to help the international student improve his language skills, since repetition can have a negative consequences, and lead to a demotivation of the student.

4. Have you used the International Tutoring Center or Writing Center for language support? If so, how was it? If not, why not?

I honestly never used the international Tutoring Center since i always been satisfied with the help offered by the professors. But sure if I needed help in the future, I believe it's a great opportunity to improve my writing skills and learn new techniques.

5. Why do you think so many international students are resistant to seeking language tutoring help? Too busy? Don't believe grades should be based on language proficiency? Other reasons?

I strongly believe that there is two main reasons that an international student don't seek help through the tutoring centers .First students are not

familiar with this service , and as anything new we tend to avoid it ,and don't take the step to discovered it .The second main reason will be time .English homework's are very quantity focused. Most of the exercises do require a certain number of pages if it is an essay, and this can lead to negative effects .Sometimes as students we have multiple papers to work on a short time , which will lead to seeking to the fastest way just to guarantee a good grade ,and not focus on the quality of the writing ,and seek help to always find a way to improve .

6. What are your opinions on online discussion boards? Are they effective at promoting learning, or do you find it just "busy work?"

I honestly concenter discussion board are not that beneficial for the student ,and not that important for the professors which is reflected through their use of discussion board .most of the professor I believe do use discussion board because they have to .From a student point of view ,I find some discussion are very interesting ,but I prefer having this discussion in class face to face ,instead of doing it online ,and probably the professor would not even look at it .

7. Has it been difficult for you to meet or interact with American students on campus?

Interacting with American students can be challenging .Since we are part of CPS program this can create a certain distance with the other American students, since there is no opportunities to meet them and interact with them .A student can of course make the effort and join clubs and initiate conversation with other, which I chose to do, and its working for me.

8. Have you joined any clubs or activity groups on campus? If so, how did you find out about them? If not, why not?

Yes I did join a couple of clubs that I found interesting and can be beneficial for me, like the entrepreneurship club ... An opportunity to meet new friends ,practice English and networking .internet can be very helpful to find clubs that interest the student ,and also discover the clubs when they do meeting on campus .

9. What do you think instructors could do to encourage discussion/participation among shy, or quiet students in the class?

After spending some time with the other students, and had the opportunity to be close to them. I strongly believe that group discussions can be very

helpful to encourage shy students to participate, since they will feel comfortable when they see other students in their team participating, which will create a friendly environment and help them be involved .Group work is very helpful to inspire some who are uncomfortable to participate .

Racha Ladhari
CPS program

1. Think about your favorite course you've had so far, how would you describe it to a friend at home?

Favorite course: Intercultural communication

About the lecture:

- Deep analysis of a case study related to the impact of diversity and cultural difference
- Teamwork
- Watching videos

My opinion:

- It was interesting
- Each time, I was eager to discover the next part of the case study and the course of event.
- A good opportunity to discover others' thoughts
- Faviana was challenging our ideas
- An opportunity to develop a critical thinking
- A case study that has clarified and made me aware about some important aspects and that has taught me a lot.

2. How important is class participation it to you?

Class participation was a key player in:

- making me comfortable speaking English and speaking in public
- making my voice heard
- facing the fear of being judged or sounding ridiculous
- learning from others (I have discovered different ways of thinking and experiences)
- showing ambition, curiosity and interest in learning
- exchanging ideas that can lead to interesting debate

3. Do you feel that instructors place too much emphasis on language in courses with international students?

It depends on the course. For instance, for English classes it is important to have the right spelling, grammar... and some other classes do not penalize the student for this type of mistake as they focus more on the content and the idea.

4. Have you used the International Tutoring Center or Writing Center for language support? If so, how was it? If not, why not?

I've never used these services, because I am satisfied with the available outside resources (my social life: interacting with people, meeting new people wherever I am/ reading articles/ watching the news and movies/ reading books and highlight the words that I am not familiar with to check on the dictionary) In other word, I am using the old fashioned way.

5. Why do you think so many international students are resistant to seeking language tutoring help? Too busy? Don't believe grades should be based on language proficiency? Other reasons?

I think some students are just afraid to be labeled as weak and so they prefer not to benefit with these services. So this is more related to their personality traits and their big concern about others' opinions. Others prefer to believe that the TOEFL score is enough to prove their level in English. Also, the simple fact that they are not familiar with the tutoring service and its contents, they prefer not to "take the risk" and discover the "unknown". Finally, to be honest I just have the feeling that some students do not care and are just satisfied with their level.

However, I believe that it will be great to take advantage of these services. There is no doubt that some people need to be motivated, that's why a professor should suggest these tutoring help to a student when he/she feels that there is a need of improvement from the student's writing. And of course the best way to do it is to take the student apart, congratulate him first for his work and then advice him.

6. What are your opinions on online discussion boards? Are they effective at promoting learning, or do you find it just "busy work?"

It depends on the question and the topic. To be honest, sometimes I found it exciting and interesting and sometimes it is just busy work.

7. Has it been difficult for you to meet or interact with American students on campus?

It wasn't difficult. It depends on whether a person will like or not, whether you are an interesting person or not and vice versa.

8. Have you joined any clubs or activity groups on campus? If so, how did you find out about them? If not, why not?

I didn't join any clubs, however I am really curious about it and I really want to get more information to be part of one.
I have attended some meetings and events and I've never been disappointed.
The simple fact of listening to others' ideas was beneficial.

9. What do you think instructors could do to encourage discussion/participation among shy, or quiet students in the class?

The instructor should provide a safe and warm environment to the shy/quiet students. For instance:

- by reassuring the student that he/ she is open to any ideas
- by telling that he/she is here to help
- by telling that it is a win-win relationship between the two parts , in other word, learning from each other (to show his/her interest in students' ideas)
- by avoiding being strict or lenient. Once in a while, it won't harm to make jokes.
- Asking a student to reply to a particular question. In case he is having difficulties in answering, the instructor should use the baby steps methods and start building short questions that will push the student to find the conclusion.
- Showing interest in the student's culture/ story
- By including exercises to control anxiety, stress in the speaking classes
- By making the student aware that his future lies in his hand and that this is a unique opportunity to grow and challenge himself. To go deeper, it is time to stop fearing his own person and others' judgments.

Tomi Druyan

1. Think about your favorite course you've had so far, how would you describe it to a friend at home?
 - Warm and accepting environment that promoted the students engagement
 - Interesting class material that was relevant and applicable to the a real world professional situation (reviewing case studies of real businesses)
 - A lot of class discussion/ verity of different views and cultures
 - The professor challenged us in a positive way to think critically and advance

2. How important is class participation it to you?
 - Really important, helps to understand, remember and apply the material
 - Keeps me engaged and involved in class
 - Brings up different perspectives and points of view

3. Do you feel that instructors place too much emphasis on language in courses with international students?
 - Some professors place high importance on proper spelling and grammar
 - Some look beyond and focus on the ideas more

4. Have you used the International Tutoring Center or Writing Center for language support? If so, how was it? If not, why not?
 - I did not
 - I feel pretty comfortable with my English
 - I work independently, investing a lot of time on editing and improving drafts/papers in order to produce my best
 - So far have had really good results.

5. Why do you think so many international students are resistant to seeking language tutoring help? Too busy? Don't believe grades should be based on language proficiency? Other reasons?
 - Some people might not feel comfortable to go and get help
 - Maybe some are not rally aware of what's offered/ where is it offered

- We do have an intensive course load and a lot of homework as well, so time is probably a factor
6. What are your opinions on online discussion boards? Are they effective at promoting learning, or do you find it just “busy work?”
- I am not sure the discussion boards are really effective, sometimes it feels like we are forced to comment rather than comment when we have something to say
 - When the discussion questions are interesting or related to assignments that we have to complete they can be beneficial
7. Has it been difficult for you to meet or interact with American students on campus?
- Most of our classes do not have American students in them
 - I have no problem interacting with American students when we share a class or in general
8. Have you joined any clubs or activity groups on campus? If so, how did you find out about them? If not, why not?
- No
 - The club fair was overwhelmingly full of people and it was hard to access what was presented to get information
9. What do you think instructors could do to encourage discussion/participation among shy, or quiet students in the class?
- Create a feeling of a safe environment
 - Encourage and engage students even if they seem a little unwilling, I think that once you do participate it becomes easier and you feel more and more comfortable doing it