

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Students' attendance is an important thing in a learning process. Raymond J. Green says "it seems almost self-evident that increased attendance would positively impact learning" (par. 9). The more regularly the students attend the class, the more the students will learn. Moreover, students who attend classes regularly generally earn higher grades because "the time spent in the classroom had the greatest positive impact on overall student performance" (par. 3), as is stated by Ronald N. Cortright, et al.

Not only students' attendance at school but students' attendance at a learning center is also important. Richard C. Schiming states that "the most productive time in any course is the time actually spent in the classroom. That time has the greatest positive impact on overall student performance. The hour or two spent in class each day (for a particular course) does the most to improve the student's grade" (par. 1). Therefore, some parents send their children to a learning center with the purpose of improving their children's achievement at school by being

helped in any subjects in which the children need help, as Sarah Barrett Jen Grady says: “It is important for students to find a way that they can be helped whether in their own school or in an outside source. Learning centers have become a popular venue for students to attend to receive help in any subject area that they may need” (par. 1). Therefore, students’ attendance in the learning center is also important because it can help students in their lessons at school.

Amy Kestly says, “Students must understand that low attendance rates can have a negative impact on their grades and overall learning” (par. 1). When students miss the class, it will be difficult for them to keep up with the lessons given. As a result, it can make students get low grades in their lessons and hinder their academic success.

Teachers expect their students to achieve academic success, as Lisa Rosenthal states: “Great teachers set high expectations for all students. They expect that all students can and will achieve in their classroom” (par. 2). One of the ways to have academic success is to come to class regularly, as Colorin Colorado says: “One of the most important things your child can do to achieve academic success is also one of the most basic: going to school every day. In fact, research has shown that your child's attendance record may be the biggest factor influencing her academic success” (par. 2).

When I taught in Logic Learning Center (henceforth, LLC), I found a problem concerning students’ attendance in my class. I taught an English language class. On the first day I taught 15 students around 13 to 14

years of age, but after that a different number of students each day, which could be between two to ten students. The students' attendance in my class could not be predicted. Therefore, some students could not keep up with the lessons because they were not present in the previous meetings, whereas students' attendance in class is important to make students understand the lessons given. Besides, this will influence their academic success. Because of that, in this term paper I would like to analyze the problem concerning students' attendance and find the best solution to solve it.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on my experience during my internship program as a teacher at LLC, I would like to analyze:

1. Why did the students in LLC not come to my class regularly?
2. How could I make the students in LLC come to my class regularly?

C. Objectives and Benefits of the Study

The objectives of the study are to analyze why the students in LLC did not come to my class regularly and to find out some possible solutions to make them come to my class regularly. Moreover, I will also find the best solution to this problem.

By writing this term paper there are some benefits for me, for the institution and for the readers. For me, I can share my experience to the readers and find the best solution to the problem I found during my internship. I also expect this term paper can provide useful information for LLC and the teachers there. Moreover, I expect this term paper can make the readers know that students' attendance is a very important thing, and thus give the readers information how to make students come regularly to class.

D. Description of the Institution

LLC was founded at Kopo F8 Permai No. 7, Bandung on 22 July 2002. The owners are Herry Gunawan, Kuncoro Hadinata, Elizabeth Purawidjaya, and Santoso Tjahjadidjaja. LLC is a learning center that provides lessons for all subjects in schools, for example, Math, Science, History, Geography, English, Mandarin. The lessons are aimed at kindergarten, primary school, junior high school, and senior high school students.

LLC continues to develop over time to help students have good academic achievement at school. LLC has a vision to be a leading learning center in South Bandung, and the mission is to provide a good quality course for kindergarten to senior high school students.

E. Method of the Study

In this term paper, I analyze the problem that I faced during my internship at LLC. I did an observation during my internship from 25 July 2011 until 20 September 2011 of the Thomas Alva Edison class, which has fifteen (15) junior high school students around 13 to 14 years of age. I wrote down my observation notes in an internship journal. I collected the resources for solutions, theories that support my statement, and data from interviews, the Internet, and books.

F. Limitation of the Study

My term paper focuses on me, as a teacher of English language, who taught junior high school students in Thomas Alva Edison class at LLC. I taught between two (2) and fifteen (15) students around 13 to 14 years of age. The observation was conducted during my internship from 25 July 2011 to 20 September 2011.

G. Organization of the Term Paper

This term paper starts with the Abstract. It is a summary of the analysis of this term paper in Indonesian, which can help the readers know the contents of this term paper. The Abstract is followed by Declaration of Originality, which contains a statement of authenticity of this term paper. After that, there is Acknowledgements, which lists my gratitude to all

people involved in the process of writing this term paper. Afterwards, there is Table of Contents, followed by four chapters; Chapter I contains the introduction of my problem, Chapter II is the problem analysis, which covers the causes and effects of my problem, Chapter III contains three potential solutions, with two or three positive and negative effects for each solution. Chapter IV is the conclusion, which states the best solution to my problem. After that, there is Bibliography, which contains information about all the resources used from chapter I to chapter IV. The last part is Appendix, containing a flowchart and a list of interview questions.