

English 1A

Prof. Watnik

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### My Economic Professor

All my life from elementary school to college, I have had a lot of teachers. From my fourteen years of education, there were many different teachers; some left me with awful memories, and some other teachers left me with joyful memories. Nevertheless, all of them taught me things that make me who I am today. When I was a kid, I preferred to read the explanation in the book than listening to the teacher's lectures, but as I grew up, I found out that listening to the teacher is much more useful than spending many hours reading the book. From that moment, I realized that the materials that were covered in the class would most likely appear on the exams. Then, I have always listened and paid attention to what the teachers say because I would never know whether something is important. In fact, there are much more important things than "to be able to answer every question on the exam". The importance of teacher is teacher would be able to answer question from student and they could passed their experience because they are the ones that know the particular field. Therefore, teacher play essential role in education. During spring 2010 semester, I had a macroeconomics professor named "Randall". She was very passionate about economy, friendly, and very helpful to students. The class focused on the economy in a larger scope, for example, how countries control the economy nationally, regionally, and globally. At first, I did not know who she was, and I chose her because my brother recommended her to me. He said that she would make me discipline and diligent. Throughout that semester, I found out that Prof. Randall was discipline, helpful, cared about students, and enthusiastic about teaching the subject to students.

First of all, Prof. Randall is very discipline and strict. She applied it to students as well. Her ECON-2 class started at 3:30PM, and she was strict on class attendance. She was always there on time even before 3.30PM, looking at the watch waiting for 3.30PM. Everyone does not have the same exact time with the class time so, to anticipate students' complaints and arguments about the time difference, she wore an atomic watch which was extremely accurate. For example, when a person came to class on 3.31 PM on the class time and it showed 3.30PM on their watch, she would consider it as late and the person got an F for the participation points of the day. She treated everyone that come in late the same, no matter the person come in at 3.31PM or 4.30PM. They were laggards in Prof. Randall's eye. She stated that a person who comes to class late will distract other students and cause other students to lose their concentration during lecture (Randall). She was very strict on class behavior, no tolerance for things other than her class. While she was lecturing, she forbade students from talking to other students; she would not hesitate to call out the students and told them to stop talking. Also, if someone misses a class, the next week she would not waver to ask the person why he missed the class. Besides, she was on time with the homework collections. By 3.30PM, she would take the stack of homework from the front desk and put it in her bag. So students who did not submit the homework on time could still submit it, but the homework will be considered late and receive some points deduction. Her homework also had to be done in her way according to the homework hints. It contained formulas and steps to solve difficult problems; it also gave check figures, so student knows where to aim. Occasionally, when she collected assignment or exam, she wanted students to make a line because she wanted to check our works. If the answers were terrible or something was not up to her standards, she passed it back to us and told us to put the some more effort. Nevertheless, more than half of my class found that Prof. Randall's strictness and discipline was irrational and then dropped the class. The class kept getting smaller and there were only

eight students during the final exam. However, prof. Randall strictness and discipline was a right thing to do because after a few weeks, students get used to with her method. She was very annoyed with students that skipped steps or use shortcuts. She stated that when someone was learning something, it is important that the person learns the appropriate method. Because when they learnt with the correct method, they would not be confused when looking at others' work. On the other hand, if someone prefers to learn the shortcuts than the appropriate method, they would be very easily confused when looking at the same problem with a slight difference step. The purpose is because when we do something, we want the person who read it to be able to understand or at least know what is going on. Prof. Randall strictness and discipline helps student build their foundation and create a habit to be discipline with our works and behavior. When people discipline, good things start to happen.

The second evaluation of Prof. Randall is her helpfulness to students. She arranged the class in a way that student would learn and understand economy. On the course objectives in the syllabus, she wrote that students are expected to be able to understand and know how to read financial and economy section on newspaper; not just articles, but graph and statistics as well.(Randall) Moreover, she put a very strong emphasis on the syllabus; in the first few weeks of the semester, she went over the syllabus and made sure that every student knows and understands what the course is all about, what students should expect from her, and what she expects from the students. Furthermore, in the early weeks the pace of the class was slower. The reason is Prof. Randall wanted to put the students in the same level of knowledge and basics because not every student has the same level of knowledge. It was a wise thing to do, economy is a difficult subject. She mentioned that from the first two homework, she could tell which students lack foundation on math calculation. In her class, she gives out homework that are assigned every weeks, three news article, a quiz, two midterms exam, and final exams. In addition to make us familiar with stocks and financial data, she handed out a

sheet of paper and assigned each student a company to follow. She told us to watch for the stocks prices every week and submit it every week along with the weekly homework. For the homework, she assigned us homework from a chapter that she had not gone over. She expects students to read in advance and try their best to understand the chapter because students would need to understand the chapter to do the homework. Prof. Randall's idea was brilliant, it might be difficult for students, but it was very useful and helpful. In fact, it would make students come to class prepared with the new concepts from that chapter which actually enriched them with knowledge and let them come prepared to the class. During the semester, she also gave an extra credit about learning styles and asked students to take the test on Diablo Valley College Website (DVC). That learning style assignment let students figure out their learning styles. By the time she collected the assignment, she told the students to try studying like their suggested learning style from the assignment. She was trying to help students in every way, and she gave recommendations for good students in her class. Therefore, Prof. Randall teaching method, information that she shared, and assignments has been very helpful to me.

Thirdly, Prof. Randall was enthusiastic about teaching and passing her knowledge to students. All of the students who had taken her class would know that she would never miss a class or come in late except, for emergency. In the class, Prof. Randall was always excited when explaining something about economic, and she welcomed every question from the students. Furthermore, when students asked her questions, she answered it very detailed with examples, often she presented a story that relates to the answer. Likewise, before explaining a new concepts or chapter, she normally used an illustration or story to catch students' attention which was a good idea because stories and illustration are usually something interesting using daily words, not some difficult vocabularies. The stories she used were familiar and easy to recognize, for example, when she was explaining about inflation, which

means “a sustained increase in the aggregate or general price level in an economy.” (Inflation par. 1). She told us when she was a little girl; she could use a dime to buy a chocolate nut bar. At that time, it contained a reasonable piece of nut inside the chocolate. Compared to now, a dime cannot buy a chocolate bar. Nowadays, the same chocolate bar cost around ninety nine cents, but even that it cost more; the chocolate bar contains less material than it used to have. It means that we pay more for something less. Therefore, Prof. Randall is a teacher who is very excited to teach and pass her knowledge to students.

Lastly, Prof. Randall cared about her students. She never had any preferences, she treated everyone in the class equally. One of my classmates had almost left the class when the exam had just started for fifteen minutes, but Prof. Randall checked his answers before he left. Predictably, she pointed out a lot of things, such as unanswered questions, wrong graph, and things like he should have sharpened his pencil. So, she cared and wanted the students to learn and achieve good grades in the class.

In the beginning of fall 2010 semester, I went to [ratemyprofessor.com](http://ratemyprofessor.com) to check on the instructors that I was going to take. Suddenly, I thought of Prof. Randall. I checked her ratings, and the ratings were terrible. If I looked at her ratings before I took her class, I might not have taken her class. Students were complaining that her teaching was like a primary school, and a student wrote that she did not respect her students. However, I believe that she did the right things. In order to discipline students, those were the only things that would work. If the students are disciplined, such as come to class on time, do the homework, etc, then the class would move on smoothly. This is hard to do but, students will definitely learn something. In the final week, there were only eight students. Those students were strong. The students who commented and reviewed bad things for her were the lazy students who came in late, and halfheartedly coming to class, or in other words, those are the people who want to learn in the least painful way. Learning is not as easy as that, difficulties and challenges are

there for students to pass, not to avoid. When students pass the challenges, they will realize that they have learned something. I took the microeconomics class with other Professor. Compared to Prof. Randall, the class was loose, no homework assigned, no calculation, no books needed, attendance was not count. There were three essay format exams, one 8-pages research paper, and final exam. There was not much work in class, and no assignments for students to practice. The problem for the students is that they would not know how they were doing in class. On the other hand, students in Prof. Randall's class complained about how much work they had to do. In addition, the homework only worth very small points. The maximum point for homework assigned every week is 1.2 point. Most students earn 0.7 to 1.0 points. They complaint that they worked hard to understand the uncovered chapters and do the problems. Yet, it only worth 1.2 points. In the end of the semester, Prof. Randall told us that there is a purpose why she assigned the homework, and its point is small. Prof. Randall knew that it was a difficult thing to do, but it is her way to force and make students study and read ahead. If she did not assign that, students would not study and read the book. So, she gave small percentage on the homework because she did not expect students to do well, instead she used the homework as her means for students to practice and work hard.

Overall, as a student in her class, I have never seen a teacher who would motivate students to study as hard as Prof. Randall. She showed some good examples to students on how to be discipline with works and behavior. Her information, assignment, and way of teaching are very helpful to students in understanding the concept of Economic. Prof. Randall is a teacher who has great passion of passing her knowledge to students.

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