**TESL 3050-George Schooley- Developing Reading Skills-Birth Order**

This class was the highest level of TESL. The teacher central teaching point, or perhaps his starting point was to ask the students to start free writing on the topic of their family and birth order. Not only did this help the students increase their creative juices, but also prepare them for their activity, of birth order. Next or after the time of free writing, the teacher got the students to discuss their current families, asking questions, what birth order are you, do you think first born get more privileges? Etc. In addition, the teacher asked the students to point out their different traits, based on their opinion, given their experience within their birth order.

To complement this, the teacher asked the students to read on birth orders, and then compare it with their predictions. Then he started using the Jigsaw method, whereby all the students based on their birth order had to gather information from other students. As such,

The students where then asked to combine their information with other students. In addition, they were given a tree diagram to fill out, in relations to the previously mentioned, whereby they gathered the facts, categorized the main idea with supporting facts.

He then moved on to categorizing adjectives traits of birth orders, as this is high level thinking skill for academic success. This was done within group work, within the same birth order. In addition, the students had to justify their answers as it developed analytical and reasoning skills. Then the teacher would ask each birth order group, why each of these adjective’s words where either positive, negative or both. He then got the students to get up in front of the class to explain their reasoning.

The teacher also mentioned something very important that resonated with me, which was when he said, “half the battle is establishing rapport with the students.” In addition, he stresses about sharing your own personal story and using humour excites the students and makes a great learning experience for everyone.