

# ISSUE 484

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## Best way to Teach!

Dear Penfabricans,

Perhaps the best way to teach is to first become a good teacher. I remember that I used to loathe history lessons during my early secondary school days. History lessons were sleepy or sleeping time. The subject matters were so dull. After all, these were bygone events long past. Old Stories. What could be exciting or interesting about such long-winded old grandmother tales?

Then, during my Form 3 year, I was fortunate to be blessed with a gifted history teacher. He was very well versed in the subject and taught us with enthusiasm and passion. History lessons turned into story time with past events unfolding vividly before our eyes, with oohs and aahs in appreciation of the historical events and lessons from the past. It changed my perspective of history forever. Notes on the black board were just few words of the main occurrences, years, dates and names of the main characters, but the events were ingrained in our minds. There was no need for lengthy and boring notes. I could see how important history is in our daily lives and how we had transited from then to now! Politics, for instance, is also an indivisible part and parcel of the transformation brought about by history. Hence, I surmised that the best way to teach is to become a great teacher ourself! But that was for history lessons.

In daily real life situations, perhaps the best way to teach is to become an example ourselves. No amount of words, deeds or posturing would convince the audience of our message and intention other than living up to the example. All people are willing and ready to learn but they need to see a real live example at work, walking the talk. They would then follow the footsteps of these live examples. As such, instead of just telling and teaching and conjuring others to think in the way we wish, the better way is to lead by example. Not only will we be better off by setting good examples to get things done in the proper manner, we will also contribute positively to the people around us. When we lead by example and walk the talk, we will avoid ill feelings from others.

At the initial stage, we may ask ourselves: what do we wish to teach or to change? After we think of some subject matters that we wish to teach or change, let us check if we need to learn, relearn or change something in our lives beforehand. We should first work on ourselves for the change or learn about the subject matter. Only then, do we qualify to teach and inspire others to do the same. When there is the feeling that we have to tolerate a great deal, then it will be manifested upon us that we are not being tolerable or tolerating at all! To be tolerant is the first prerequisite to find the best way to teach. At the same time, do not allow any obstacles along the way to slow us down. See them as stepping stones to become a great teacher.

Dear Penfabricans, many of us like to teach others as we think that we are learned and knowledgeable. First, let us walk the walk. Learn the ropes first. Have a good weekend mulling the best way to teach so as to make changes possible in our lives. Then and only then, impart this knowledge to others to change the world. Thank you.  
With kind regards,  
HSTeh.