

## Flipping our education: adapting my teaching to my students' contexts

Jhonatan Vásquez Guarnizo<sup>22</sup>

There have been times where we have been forced to change many things about ourselves, a new job position, an undergraduate or postgraduate program, a heart breaking moment in our lives such as the birth of a new life or the death of any loved one, and even a love breakup! However, today we all are going through a difficult situation which has made everyone stop everything we were used to do as we all are feeling this pandemic in diverse ways.

Since this virus impacted many teaching processes around the world, personally speaking I have not been an exception of it. My teaching definitely suffered that impact and therefore, I was pushed to transform the way I used to teach in class. At some point I was able to be aware of the fact that being present in the classroom was never enough for my students.

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<sup>22</sup> Magíster en Docencia de Idiomas de la Universidad Pedagógica y Tecnológica de Colombia.  
jhonatan.vasquez@uptc.edu.co

Sometimes we as professors hold on teaching content and avoid paying attention to what students actually might live, not only inside but also outside our classrooms. In this regard, I strongly believe that being an EFL professor, in my case, is not a matter of holding an academic title, but being there for THEM, instead; helping them improve their academic learning processes at the same time they are growing up as human beings.

Today, our education has flipped 180 degrees and it is time for us to adapt ourselves to our students' contexts. Unfortunately, there are many of them who are not able to have access to technological resources and it is tougher for them to be online. Being in our students' shoes and comprehend that this time is different, might turn out to be the answer to this crisis we are facing. Being flexible and responsible with their learning processes tackle many issues we have to deal with daily when teaching them. We are emotions; therefore, we are human beings who feel the same way students do and decolonizing our teaching positions is what this world is supplicating us currently.

Flipping our teaching to more comprehensible way has been tough, I admit it. Nonetheless, stopping students' learning processes is not a way out to solve this issue. Adapting, instead might be that path we all need to follow. For instance, I have been coherent with my thinking and done some contributions as a way of giving something back to them academically and emotionally speaking. I do not really pretend to brag, but I have supported

economically those students who actually are having a bad time throughout this pandemic. Professionally speaking, I feel I have actually worked more than when I was present in class as I have stayed up late checking their papers and trying my best to make them feel I am there for them with a constant feedback and support through our WhatsApp group.

Hence, my invitation in this new challenge we all have accepted is to be decolonized by our students' contexts and understand that laying so much work on them is not the best way to go. We all are learning how to deal with this challenging situation and right now our education cannot be in a position of teaching for a grade, but for life as it should always be.