How to make a connection with Korean Students

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While working in Seoul, I have encountered many cultural differences, but overcoming them has not been an overwhelming task for me. I have had a wonderful support team to help me with these cultural changes.   They have helped me set up my new life here while I am teaching ESOL.   I owe so much thanks to them for their hard work and dedication to making sure that I have everything that I need to help me prepare for classes and helping with my out-of-school tasks too.   When I first moved to Korea, I was not sure about my surroundings or this new world that I had thrown myself into.   My insecurities quickly waivered with the help of my cooperating teachers giving me support.

I have always been a person that can take on many challenges and jump into the unknown.   I always land on my feet eventually.   I think that is mostly possible because of my ability to plan and organize my thoughts well.   During my experience in America, I knew that students and even adults can communicate easier if they have something in common. Before I came to Seoul, I researched and made a plan of attack for my new teaching assignment.   I learned, during my research, that Seoul has one the fastest internet connections in the world.   I used this fact to make sure that I introduced my knowledge of technology to my students and teachers.   I also learned during my research that **Apple Inc.** as not as popular in Korea as it is in America.   I own only Apple products so the students were very excited when they saw my MacBook Air and my new iPad in the classroom. They were even more excited when I told them that they were going to be able to use my Mac and iPad in the classroom.   Students immediately had a connection with me because they wanted to be able to explore the Apple software. I have been able to introduce many different apps in the classroom. The **Random Number Generator** enables me to call on students but be able to make sure everyone is participating. **Tap Roulette** has been a great app for playing games.   It keeps the class on edge because the students are able to place their fingers on the screen and it will choose which team goes first. I have introduced many ways of using technology in the classroom to my co-teachers.   My ability to show them these new things has helped me to get closer to them and develop tighter relationship that will last a long time.

I have always been a very unique individual because I refuse to adapt to stereotypes or follow the crowd.   I have always been a leader.   This shows a lot in my personality and my preference for many things.   One of my preferences that has assisted me well in my mission to adapt to Korean life is my choice of music genre.   I have been a Korean Pop Music Fan for three years now.   I have listened to many bands and have a decent knowledge of the groups (**Big Bang and 2pm**), popular songs (**Monster and Baby, I'm Sorry**), and the members' names (**T.O.P. and Nichkhun**).   The students thought that an American that knows KPop was amazing.   They immediately started quizzing me on what were my favorite bands, who I liked/ didn't like, and my favorite songs.

My ability to be organized and to devise a plan for developing the relationships that I

know are vitally significant have contributed to my success of being a Native English Teacher. I have used my knowledge of technology to make a connection with my students and teachers. I have used my love of **Apple Inc.** to secure that relationship with my students. And my preference for Korean Pop music has also aided me in making all these relationships concrete. I know I have the trust of the students and my teachers so that I am able to teach English which is the reason I was hired. I strive to do the best job that I am able to do because that exactly what every Native English Teacher should aspire to anyway.