Hermeneutics and Communication

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As a teacher, I have realized that my past experiences and societal conditioning often influence my interpretations and interactions in my classroom. I remember a time when my preconceived ideas and thoughts about certain students affected my expectations of their performance and behavior. Initially, I interacted with them differently, not giving them the same level of encouragement or attention as others.

However, this experience became a pivotal moment of learning and growth, comparable to what Hans-Georg Gadamer describes as a "fusion of horizons." This concept surrounds the blending of viewpoints and understandings to form a more comprehensive perspective. Throughout the academic year, I made a bigger effort to connect and communicate with the students I had pre-judged, striving to understand their individual contexts and learning styles. This effort to connect and communicate led to a profound shift in my perception and a deeper understanding of the uniqueness and differences of each student. I’m happy to report that many of my prejudices were wrong and some of these students I now prefer to be around.

This experience has transformed my teaching career, emphasizing the importance of approaching each student without preconceived notions which I find hard to do at times and fostering an inclusive and understanding learning environment. I now embrace the philosophy that effective teaching is not just about imparting knowledge but also about personal growth and empathy towards students. This journey has made me a more adaptable, empathetic, and effective educator.