Application of Theme Class Meetings in University & College Ideological and Political Education

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Abstract. Theme class meeting is one of the most common and effective education modes in university & college ideological and political education. It not only represents the demeanor of contemporary college students, but also is the main approach for class instructors to conduct effective management and the indispensable part in ideological and political education work. The development of theme meeting is beneficial for the formation of class cohesion, conducive for the improvement of class instructor’s work level, beneficial for the consolidation on teaching results of ideological and political theory courses, and conducive for enriching the form and contents of ideological and political education.

Introduction

Ministry of Education points out that “the ideological and political education work for contemporary college students should be based on classes regarding students as subject, thereby sufficiently exerting the role of collective in college students’ ideological and political education”. Therefore, universities & colleges should sufficiently exert the initiative of college students, and develop ideological and political education-centered diversified forms of class collective activities. Theme class meeting is the most common and effective ideological and political education mode regarding class as unit, certain specific theme as center and students as main participation subjects under the organization and guidance of instructor. In form, theme class meeting can be classified into categories of entertainment performance, conclusion and summarization, consultation and mentoring, experience exchange, and special report; in content, it can be classified into categories of political education, safety education, festival celebration; in time node, it can be classified into categories of education popularization on holidays and festivals, or the guidance and education on key emergency events.

Common theme class meeting often focuses on specific theme or certain social phenomenon for analysis, which encourages college students to express opinions and emphasizes on inspiring their language expression and organization abilities. It is different from traditional ideological and political education course as students are no longer passive listeners and receivers, while active participators and organizers. The organization and participation of theme class meetings can improve college students’ accomplishment and comprehensive quality, and guide the formation of their correct life view, world view and values.

Significance of Theme Class Meeting in College Students’ Ideological and Political Education

Beneficial for the Formation of Class Cohesion

Theme class meeting is the battle position of moral education, and it can achieve the cultivation and shaping on students’ collective value concept via equal, free and relaxed classroom or outdoor activities. Therefore, class cohesion is the foundation for forming excellent style of learning and class atmosphere, and its formation cannot do without the education of theme class meetings. In addition, diversified forms and novel contents of theme class meetings can more inspire college students’ profound interest, and facilitate them to actively plan, organize and participate in theme class meetings, thereby forming ownership consciousness.
By virtue of the development of multiple theme class meetings, college students can generate the impetus and confidence of learning, have self sense of identity and sense of belonging, timely and effectively correct erroneous ideas and behavioral deviation, gradually form class entity concept, and strengthen class cohesion and cohesiveness.

Conducive for the Improvement of Instructor’s Work Level

As the important organizers, workers and mentors for college students’ ideological and political education and management, instructors should not only execute school rules and systems, manage students learning and life, and develop ideological and political education work, but also purposefully resolve the problems and puzzles met by students in learning and life combining with social hotspot and current prominent contradictions in class. Thus it requires instructors to have strong executive force, excellent communication ability and astute observation.

As the majorities of instructors do not engage in teaching work on college students, theme class meetings have become the main carrier for them to implement and execute various rules and systems. Theme class meetings are the main stage of ideological and political education work. As the planner and mentor of theme class meetings, instructors need to select timely theme for class meeting as per grade and students’ characteristics. In addition, they should conduct summarization and content sublimation in final segment, and incessantly improve the guiding, participation, profoundness, pertinence, effectiveness and interestingness of theme class meetings. If things continue this way, the organization ability, communication ability, and language expression ability of instructors shall be improved to some extent, thereby constructing one specialized, professional and expert instructor team.

Beneficial for the Teaching on Ideological and Political Theory Courses

Currently, universities & colleges are opening ideological and political theory courses regarding Marxism, Mao Zedong’s Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, “three represents” and scientific outlook on development as main contents. These courses are difficult to trigger students’ learning interests due to strong political theoretical property. However, theme class meetings, as the practice segment of political theory courses, can effectively mobilize students’ initiative. The development of theme class meetings after learning ideological and political theory courses can enable students to consciously and actively apply knowledge learned in ideological and political theory class into real life, and use scientific method and positive attitude to think, analyze and resolve problems. It is the extension and development of ideological and political theory courses, and the touchstone for checking the teaching results of ideological and political theories.

By virtue of the development of theme class meetings, college students can consciously identify exterior modernism, and boycott the corrosion of wrong values of western countries and the penetration of hostile forces. It is the effective supplementation of ideological and political theory courses.

Conducive for Enriching the Form and Contents of Ideological and Political Education

The contents of theme class meetings are extensive, covering college students’ ideological problems, psychological problems, learning problems, safety problems and legal consciousness. Problems met by college students can be basically resolved by theme class meetings. Therefore, theme class meetings can purposefully resolve college students’ actual problems in learning and life.

In addition, the diversified and flexible form of theme class meetings can greatly improve the efficiency of ideological and political education. By virtue of theme class meetings, college students are able to expand communication scope, better adapt to university life and social intercourse, and more rationally treat own problems and social hotspot phenomena.
Development Status of Current University & College Theme Class Meetings

The Subject Consciousness and Participation of Students Are Not High

Currently, most students are reluctant to participate actively as the contents of theme class meetings in some universities & colleges are separated from their life. Compounded by that instructors apply mechanical expounding, explanation and instilling mode to develop ideological and political education, depriving the principal status and self-expression right of college students, it has resulted in that college students have weariness on theme class meetings.

Not Strong Activity Pertinence

Theme class meetings should focus on vested theme to develop ideological and political education activities. Therefore, the theme of theme class meeting must be novel and prominent, possessing certain attraction and pertinence. In universities & colleges, some instructors failed to consider students’ actual conditions when selecting theme, seeking perfection and completion while not refinement. It results in no body and spirit and not strong pertinence in theme class meeting, diluting its education significance.

Obsolete and Single Form

Rich content, novel form and students’ participation are the main distinction between theme class meeting and ideological and political theory course. These factors directly decide the education effect and students’ participation enthusiasm. However, the theme class meetings of lots of universities & colleges are not reformed and innovated, still following traditional development method, i.e. opening address by instructor, student representative speech and instructor conclusion. These obsolete routines have no novelty and attraction to students, which are unable to adapt to learning concept under new situation and meet students’ requirements, thus it can not achieve the objective of ideological and political education.

Strategy of Developing Theme Class Meetings

Topics Should Conform to the Theme of Era, Releasing Positive Energy

The theme of theme class meeting should be consistent with mainstream social trends, advocate state policies, laws and rules, so as to help college students to be clear of China’s national conditions and politics of current events. Therefore, instructors should select ingenious entry point, flexible and novel form when selecting topic, and then it can attract students’ attention and improve their participation initiative. For instance, when discussing the theme of “innovation-driven development”, instructors can select the best-selling of iPhone as entry point, thereby guiding students to profoundly discuss the important significance of technological innovation to social productivity and state comprehensive strength.

College students may inevitably encounter a series of problems when adapting to campus life. If theme class meetings can conduct discussion on the reality and contradiction conflict common to college students, it shall undoubtedly have more practical education significance.

Organization Form Should Be Flexible and Diversified

Flexible and diversified organization form is the peculiar feature of theme class meeting. Diversified organization form can improve the interestingness and initiative of students’ active participation. For improving college students’ ideological and political level, universities and colleges can develop diversified forms of theme class meetings, such as “bringing in” or “going out”. When students feel puzzled on certain problem, universities & colleges can organize students to go out for visiting warning education base or invite veteran experts or outstanding alumni to present at theme class meeting for providing face-to-face consultation to students.
In addition, instructors can also delegate the right of defining theme to students, so as to let them select interested themes and search relevant data for discussion independently. Moreover, instructors should also lay emphasis on the application of network resources, and search discussion materials of theme class meeting online, such as the unscrambling on social hotspot issues, policies, laws and rules.

Consolidation of Post-Results of Theme Class Meetings

After the finishing of theme class meetings, instructors need to adopt effective measures to solidify the education results of theme class meetings, further deepen its purport and practically improve the significance of ideological and political education. Instructors can encourage students to write reader response and impression of view to help them clear thinking and deepen understanding on theme. In addition, instructors should strengthen off-class communication with students. Due to time limitation, lots of problems cannot be discussed profoundly and conscientiously in theme class meetings. Moreover, students are difficult to thoroughly understand the principles discussed in a short period of time due to restriction in vision and knowledge. It requires instructors to exert mentoring role, have more communication and exchange with students after class, so as to continuously improve their ideological level and strengthen their cognition on state and society as well as self-cognition.

References


