

Teaching Philosophy

I could begin with the beliefs that I believe are important in life and in education, but instead, I want to begin with what is important to the student; purpose. It took me a considerable amount of time to figure out what it was that adolescent students might be interested in. Then I remembered that I too was once an adolescent; looking for myself, a purpose in life, and an identity. It is my philosophy that with purpose, a student is energized to follow a path; and this is what I intend to give to the future generation that will be sitting before me with contemporary ideas and learning styles. Thus, my teaching philosophy is simple: teach with a purpose and give the opportunity of purpose. Yet, the purpose is but a mere scratch on the surface of the teaching methods I plan to implement to give purpose.

What is my teaching purpose? This is but a simple question with a simple answer. My purpose for teaching is to provide opportunities and various learning styles for students so that they may learn how to use literacy as a powerful tool in any subject area academically and in life. Well, that was not as simple as I planned it to be. This is because teaching is more than standing up in front of a classroom and lecturing students. To me, teaching involves zones of proximation, tutoring on demand, expressing enthusiasm for content knowledge and activities, and making opportunities for students to learn in different ways that awaken their senses and stimulates their cognition.

How will I give purpose to my students? If I could write a twenty-page essay just to expand on the many significant ways that anyone could give purpose to a student, I would. Unfortunately for you, I am short of pages to go on about this. However, I will share with you that giving purpose to students is not just about giving them something to do. Instead, it starts in the beginning of the first days of school when you give your students a lesson about self-worth. Establishing with my students that their thoughts, opinions, and their entire being is valuable and worth more than what they believe despite the many obstacles and downfalls in life, will ensure that they will be reading, writing, and learning with

a purpose. This is because if students realize that their voice is important, they will be motivated to utilize literacy as a powerful tool in life and in a school setting to make a change that they want to see in the world or in their lives.

After establishing worth and purpose in students, I will have to give time to time in my own teaching. Every beautiful and successful thing in life takes time to mature. A seed is not planted one day to bloom a gorgeous rose the next. This is why I will be relying on my handy dandy AVID booklets, the teaching texts that I have utilized for college, online sources, and co-worker partnerships to continue learning about how to improve my methods of teaching. I believe that as a teacher in a time where things are changing at a rapid pace, a teacher should continually consider herself a student for life where she seeks to improve, learn, and apply teaching methods. Fortunately, I have been given opportunities to apply some teaching methods during observation sessions throughout my teaching track career. I have been able to see what worked and what did not work. I have also been able to see what areas of my teaching need improvement and what I can do really well.