

My Philosophy on Teaching

The ultimate goal of education to me is fairly simple, I believe the goal is to teach people how to learn and think for themselves. Possessing those tools and understanding how to use them will serve a person better than a head crammed full of information. If students go through the public education process and simply learn what they are instructed to learn without a chance to learn how to think for themselves, the progression and advancement of knowledge grinds to a halt. People should be educated in order to put reasoning behind creativity. If a person has an ingenious idea for a new product or cure for something but has no means of generating a way to produce it, then the idea is useless. In terms of science, I am a huge fan of the soon-to-be adopted Next Generation Science Standards because they are centered around creation and engineering.

The role of the teacher is to be a motivator. If a teacher does not have the ability to motivate their students, no matter how good the material is, the students will not learn how to learn. I think the key to gaining ground in order to motivate students is to gain their respect. If the teacher genuinely treats all students fairly and is willing to give students the benefit of the doubt more often than getting them in trouble they will really respect you. Most of the students I work with see adults and teachers as difficult people they do not want to deal with. In order to motivate your students, you must start by gaining their respect.

I believe that all students want to learn but most are really uncomfortable in the classroom because they have either not been taught, or unsuccessfully been taught, the skills to learn and think for themselves. I genuinely believe that nearly all

students possess the ability to learn the same quantity of material but their capacities to do so are widely different. I also genuinely believe that nearly all students possess different ways they will most efficiently absorb learning material and useful information. The ways people learn most efficiently is as diverse as most modern classrooms are and diversifying the way information is presented should be considered by teachers to be vital for overall student success.

My experience in my credential program has really changed my perspective on what the teacher's role in the classroom is and what the purpose of education is. I think these are both natural changes and progressions in the career of a teacher because both can only be realized through experiences. Originally I felt the role of the teacher was to convey information to students, which definitely is a responsibility of the teacher, but I have learned through my experiences that the role of the teacher is to properly motivate all of their students. Based on my experiences during my own education in a public school system, I thought the purpose of education was to learn as much information as possible in order to become as intelligent as possible. Throughout the duration of my credential program, I have come to realize that not all students have the same capacities for learning. Consequently, during my experiences in my credential program I have developed a different philosophy on what the purpose of education is. If a teacher can properly motivate their students and teach them how to learn while encouraging them to be inventive and insightful, then their role in the classroom has served the purpose of what a quality education should be.