

Philosophy on Education

In my teaching statement, I'm going to discuss my philosophy on teaching and my role as a technical communication writing teacher. When it comes to teaching in general, I start with two key fundamental ideas. The first principle is that you must have someone's attention to teach new information. The second idea that drives my approach to teaching is that when people actively participate in the learning process, they learn faster and achieve greater mastery.

I believe that students learn best when they are in an environment that fosters their learning by pushing them to do their best work. Students may not remember everything they learn, but they will remember the teachers who showed them what they truly can be, by holding high expectations and pushing them to be their best. The teachers I remember from college were usually the toughest, and I remember them because I was proud to do well in their classes. I believe, when the bar is set high for students, the majority of them will reach it, and that it is the job of the teacher to help those who are struggling to do so.

I also believe that as a teacher, we should strive above everything else to create lifelong learners of our students. Lifelong learning cannot take place if all you do is simply give students facts. To become lifelong learners, students will have to be involved in the classroom and connect with the material being presented. Teaching should be about giving students the skills to apply what they learn in real life. It should be about teaching them to be critical thinkers and problem solvers, which are skills that will benefit them regardless of what path they take in life. It is important for teachers to be enthusiastic about what they teach. I know that it is important to create an atmosphere of mutual respect within a classroom, meaning that the teacher has to find a balance between being nurturing and being an authority figure. Teachers should provide opportunities for students to make mistakes, the bigger the better, because learning happens when they realize the mistakes and take the necessary steps to fix them. I believe meeting the individual learning needs of students is important to an extent, but at some point, you have to put them all in the same pool and see who sinks and who swims.

Yet, I feel my role as a teacher, is to take the time to get to recognize my students', learning styles, strengths, weakness, meta-cognitive skills, etc. You cannot teach someone unless you know how he or she learns. In my classroom, I believe in delivering the information I'm teaching in multiple ways, giving a slew of examples, and breaking the lessons down for my students.

In conclusion, my teaching philosophy, values the elements of language, learning, and writing practices. My goal for all my students is to recognize English in everyday life, whether it is through understanding and employing the rhetorical principles of technical communication, analyzing various audiences, including their expectations and attitudes, recognizing and addressing transnational audiences of technical documents, understanding the role of ethics in English, or recognizing how writing is limited by contexts and constraints. I hope to make students aware that writing in general will be the primary basis upon which their intelligence will be judged whether that be in college, on the job, or in the community.