

Teaching Philosophy

A successful teacher uses effective pedagogy that consists of complex instruction while fostering a growth mindset among their students. Constructivism has proven to be the best and most effective way to have a worthwhile impact on student learning and development. By encouraging students to take an active role in their learning by making discoveries for themselves while working cooperatively they can take greater ownership of their own learning. Inquiry-based learning where students make observations before knowing the basis for the phenomena can better facilitate critical thinking and discussion among the class. In this case the teacher works primarily as a facilitator and motivator while clearing up misconceptions that arise along the way. Introducing concepts and vocabulary after students have had a chance to discover more about the topic will help further understanding and better instill concepts than the rote techniques employed in traditional classrooms. It is also important for teachers to incorporate complex instruction into their lessons. This ensures students can find where their strengths lie while amplifying the voices of students that may be shy or suppressed by others in the class. The teacher should organize diverse groups of students and assign student roles to both increase participation and responsibility among the students. If students realize they must work together as a team to help one another understand new concepts this will give students the opportunity to teach for themselves, which is a great formative assessment in itself. A teacher that enables cooperative learning in the classroom is also a teacher that is fostering communication among students, which is essential for group projects in the future. A successful teacher will also promote a growth mindset in the classroom that works to show intelligence is not innate or fixed, but rather exists along a spectrum. Students will show intelligence in many different forms in the classroom that can often be overshadowed by the naturalist and behaviorist approaches seen in a traditional learning environment. If teachers can show students that they can build upon their intelligence throughout schooling it can work to go against hostile ideas such as stereotype threat. Students will simply be able to achieve higher and go farther if they eliminate the idea that one is either a genius or not. If a teacher can incorporate these major ideas into the classroom effectively it will not only result in students that are more prepared for the next level but also students that are better able to tackle the challenges that arise in their day-to-day lives.