

My Philosophy of Education

Raphael Gisstand1363506

Educational Foundations and Leadership 5100:604 Topical Seminar

Cultural Foundations of Education

University of Akron

Instructor Janet L. Keyser

April 17, 2012

My Philosophy of Education

In today's society, it is important that teachers foster a philosophy of education that aligns with the ever-changing world of technological advancement, the diversity of student populations, and the required state mandated learning outcomes in school districts. The philosophy of education must address the individual students, their innate abilities and their potential to learn. A philosophy of education must also promote the transfer of knowledge from teacher to student in various ways thereby influencing the student competency. It is essential that teacher create levels of awareness with the learning process for the students that they may encounter in their classrooms. A philosophy of education must effectively promote the students to adopt a worldview that strengthens their ability to grow and develop as great thinkers. It is most important that teachers have a personalized philosophy of education that acknowledges student diversity and allows for creative expression. A teacher's philosophy of education must advocate for equality on behalf of each of their students. The philosophy of education must also impart a system of values to impart to the students that helps to construct a well-rounded learner. My educational philosophy is based on the behaviorist approach used by B.F. Skinner. Behaviorism, as promoted by Skinner, focuses on influencing classroom performance of students by the use of operant conditioning to promote desired outcomes. By adopting this educational philosophy, my contribution will be to predict and direct learning outcomes and design a learning environment that elicits desired behavior of learners. This philosophy is important due to the essential need of teachers to focus on the delivering of lessons (planning and instruction) and having the students to achieve desired results (assessment).

Curricular and Instructional Practice

As a teacher in this new century, I will make teaching and learning meaningful for students in U.S. schools by way of creating innovative strategies and incorporating a set of teaching techniques that will help to influence student learning. In this new century, it is my goal (as an educator) to create lessons that blend effective styles and techniques of teaching to provide a stimulating learning environment. Learning is meaningful when students are capable of applying what they have learned. Learning is also meaningful when students understand the value in the lessons that are being imparted to them and are willing participants in their own education. Making teaching and learning meaningful in this new century means that the teacher must focus on the planning of lessons that blend effective styles and techniques of teaching. This also means that teachers must focus on instruction and selection of the appropriate approach to use that delivers intended objectives in a manner that conveys understanding and comprehension. Teachers must also properly assess and evaluate student comprehension whereby students are able to retrieve information from their stored memory and can apply what they have been taught. The use of the professional communicative technique of collaborative learning allows teachers to engage students with their peers in the learning process. A classroom that focuses on collaborative learning allows students to learn from one another engaging in small groups. In this classroom, the teacher is the facilitator. The students in this educational setting practice new behaviors and receive feedback from their peers and the teacher. In this capacity, the environment is a strong influence of learning for the students. Another professional communicative technique that the teachers may use is differentiated instruction. Differentiated instruction provides multiple options for the students to learn. Differentiated instruction allows

teachers to use a variety of ways to instruct. Teacher instruction is based on concepts and driven by the principles. Teachers are able to assess student growth and readiness. Students are allowed to work independently, paired with one another student, and in groups. Students in differentiated instruction classrooms explore the content and are guided by the teachers. With differentiated instruction, teachers are able to assess each student and their individual success.

Diversity of Learners

Students come from all walks of life and from different socioeconomic status. Each student is valuable, and the diversity of students is welcoming to a classroom environment. Each student deserves an opportunity to learn in every school. The students have different educational needs and one may differ from another. There is strength in diversity that brings about the combination of culture and allows for students to contribute their differences in a constructive way to enhance the overall learning experience of all students. Understanding that diversity is of value, teachers must demonstrate an awareness of each individual contribution. Teachers must be sensitive to the differing cultural qualities and utilize and embrace them to create an atmosphere that is conducive to learning for all students. Teachers must focus on the development of culturally appropriate lessons that allow students to exchange information about other cultures. Teachers must utilize cooperative learning groups that will promote the ideal of working together to achieve results. Within every classroom, teachers must focus on cultural sensitivity and not exclude students in any way. As a teacher, I will develop lessons that combine topics relating to cultural diversity. Teaching students how the world connects is a method that I will use to bridge the gap in differences. Developing lessons that acknowledge cultural differences is a way whereby students can engage with one another while learning about cultural accomplishments of other cultural groups.

Democratic Issues

My ethical commitment is to educate all students. Promoting access to schooling is essential for teachers. With the ever-changing technological advancements that exist, it is important for students to have access to tools that will enrich their learning experience. In the face of great diversity, students must be able access all that is available for their usage. Using computer assisted instruction, web based technology, and electronic resources are ways student learning can be improved. Access to library resources is another way that students can learn. When students are exposed to the different resources, they can compound classroom instruction with outside resources. Students must be made aware of the resources that are offered and be taught how to use them in an effective manner. Students can apply what they have learned in the classroom with these resources to investigate phenomenon on their own. Allowing students to learn beyond what it is in the classroom helps to intrinsically motivate the students. The outside resources (computer assisted instruction, web based technology, and electronic resources) can be extrinsic motivational tools that students must have the opportunity to learn, use, and master. Students can become equipped with skills that will become useful in their future. Teachers must blend classroom instruction with knowledge of resources to help students develop critical thinking skills and apply what they have learned outside of the traditional classroom environment.

Professional Standards & Educational Reform

As an educator, I will continue to prepare myself for the ever-changing future as it relates to changes in education and technology. With a changing face of education, teachers must be able to adapt to the changes. Teachers must stay aware of state mandates in education and required changes to curriculums. As an educator, I will continue to improve upon my skills and

take courses to strengthen my understanding of educational research. I will continue to learn about new and innovative strategies and techniques that teachers can use to improve student learning. By enrolling in professional courses that enhance my teaching skills, I can contribute to the learning process and impart that knowledge to my students. Teaching standards constantly change, and the requirements of teachers must flow with those changes. By learning how to develop lessons that are appropriate and effective, I will become a teacher that is both knowledgeable and prepared. By doing so, I will contribute to the ideal that excellence is for all students. By understanding the basic premise that all students can learn, I will search to find ways that I will be able to reach students where they are. By using a variety of strategies, students will receive information and have an active role in their education. Students in my classroom will practice new behaviors based on lessons that are catered to the variety of learning styles that exist. As a teacher, I will promote behavioral changes by managing the classroom, encouraging participation, and consistently providing students with lessons that blend effective styles and techniques of teaching. As a teacher, I plan on contributing ideas to educational stakeholders that have the ability to create changes in curriculum based on new research and the variety of student needs. In the climate of educational reform, I plan to be an advocate for change. By doing so, I will apply my philosophy of education to help students enjoy their learning experience and develop a desire to learn by way of promoting intrinsic motivation.