

## My Teaching Philosophy

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I consider my teaching very involved and relevant for student learning. I am a strong believer in establishing a strong classroom management plan. When the foundation is laid out students know what is expected of them and more time is available for actual student learning. Growing up on a ranch and being a biology education major I see the importance of making the content relatable and relevant. I plan to discuss the important components of classroom management, differentiated instruction, relevancy, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills within my teaching philosophy and how I will apply them in my classroom.

I will establish classroom management procedures the first day of school. By giving the students expectations they know what is expected and more time can be spend on learning. But, I do not believe in micromanaging the classroom. Students are encouraged to express themselves in a respectful manner by following classroom rules. The procedures I see important have to do with housekeeping tasks and promoting a positive classroom environment. Students will know to come into class with needed materials and start working on the bell ringer immediately. I will create a welcoming environment by greeting students at the door or talking with them before class. Classes will be color coded for organization therefore students know where to hand in homework, what their assignment is, and when it is due. By having a well-managed classroom, students can take responsibility of their work and attitudes and more time is focused on learning.

Another important component to my teaching philosophy is to make the content seem relevant and relatable to the real world. The world revolves around science, and my goal is to make my classroom very hands-on and interactive. As an educator I will prepare my students with the life skills they will need to go to college or be successful in the workforce. Instead of reading a lesson on weather, I will take my students out and conduct weather logs based on first

hand observations. Incorporating labs gives students the chance to not only build social skills but apply knowledge learned from lecture. Within my lesson plans I always am looking for ways to connect the standards to real life applications.

Differentiated instruction is also an important component in my teaching philosophy. I love the idea of being flexible when it comes to instructional strategies. First off, students all learn differently, and second students get sick of the same old PowerPoint lecture. As a biology education major I have the advantage of incorporating labs and classroom activities to get students out of their desks. Here they can work in small groups or partners. I also think technology is a great way to engage and assess students. I like incorporating constructivism or student-centered learning where students can decide on their method of research and the choice of assessment. Giving students the option of choice not only engages them, but they display more respect.

My teaching philosophy also ties into the idea of 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills which includes: incorporating communication, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration into the classroom. Students who can communicate their level of confusion is essential in helping them understand the content. Communication is also important among students in preparing them with the social skills they will use throughout their lives. In addition, creativity not only brings in new ideas to the classroom, but it also makes our classroom innovated. Introducing new projects and pushing students to think creatively expands their horizons. On the other hand, critical thinking gives students the background knowledge and skill set students can use to not only solve classroom problems but make lifelong decisions. Collaboration or working in groups is another skill that relates to real life. Sooner or later we all will be forced to work with someone who is hard to get

along with. But if we develop these skills earlier it will be much easier to adapt to these situations.

My philosophy exemplifies the importance of establishing a strong classroom management plan which acts as the foundation for my classroom. By establishing procedures first, students know what is expected of them and more classroom time can be used for learning rather than discipline. I love to involve tons of hands-on and authentic work. Not only will students come to understand multiple science subjects, but they will have the opportunity to go outside observe the weather, find sites of erosion, and dissect tree roots to observe the content first hand. Relevancy is key in my classroom. My goal is to provide a variety of instruction to meet the needs of all my students; and prepare students with the real-life skills they need for the future. By incorporating 21st century skills students will have a deeper understanding of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication. I also like the idea of giving the students the option of choice when it comes to selecting assignments and projects. Students who feel involved and are engaged will take away so much more.

