

My Professional Teaching Credo:

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Introduction to Teaching 111

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Abstract

In the past eighteen years, several teachers have helped me develop into the person I am today. The teachers I have had showed me the importance of the field of education. These teachers have helped me develop my thoughts on teachers and how they teach. They have also helped me develop my thoughts on learners and how they learn in a classroom. Learning from all different teachers has enabled me to see the big responsibility teachers have in preparing their students for the future. My goal is to prepare students for the future so that they can further their education and succeed in life.

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Teachers encourage their students to learn so that they can succeed within the classroom and the community. During my eighteen years of schooling, many teachers have encouraged me to succeed within the classroom and further my education by going to college. These teachers have helped me make the decision of becoming a teacher. Teachers have influenced me so much because they all care about their students on an individual basis. They ensure their students that all of them will understand the material being presented. The teachers over my past eighteen years have moved me by how much they ensure that everyone in their classrooms is going to succeed. I believe that teachers are at school to assist students in succeeding in the classroom and in their future. Teachers have a large responsibility in getting students ready to enter into adulthood and become responsible community members. As a teacher, I will prepare my students for success in the classroom and throughout their lives.

I realized I wanted to become a teacher when I was sitting in my eleventh grade Physics class with Mr. Rod Hamman. He was one of those teachers who cared about his students succeeding in the classroom and in life. He helped me realize that I wanted to teach when he would come in early or stay late anytime any of his students needed help. He would never tell a student that he did not have the time to help them even if he was in a hurry to get somewhere. Also, Mr. Hamman would never move on to a different subject until he was sure that everyone in his classroom understood what he was teaching. He is one of my biggest role models because he is willing to do anything for anyone. Mr. Hamman changed my views on teachers and learners because he is passionate about his job and respects everyone.

As a teacher, I will make sure that I make time for all my students to ensure that they are able to succeed in my classroom. I will let my students know that they can talk to me about any problems or questions they may have. I will ask my students for feedback to ensure that I am teaching them to the best of my ability, and that they are learning what I am teaching. I believe that students and teachers should talk to one another. By communicating, teachers and students can learn from each other. Good communication between teachers and students will enable the classroom to run smoothly. A smoothly ran classroom will enable a teacher to present material in a way that his/her students will be able to grasp. To ensure that students are learning the material, I will conduct hands on activities since some students learn better by using manipulatives. As a final measure of the students' knowledge I will either have a test or assign a project dealing with the information that I have presented. I believe that a test or a project can show if the students understand the material presented. After grading my students' tests or projects, I will be able to realize what the students have learned. If the results show that the students did not comprehend the material, I will know to present the material in a different way so that my students are able to grasp the difference concepts I am trying to teach. I will not solely depend on grades because I do not believe that grades are the most important thing within the classroom. The students succeeding in my classroom and in life are more important to me than grades. As, an educator I will use combinations of philosophical orientations to teach my students.

The two philosophical orientations that fit me that best are Progressivism and Existentialism. I will use my philosophical orientations to teach my students in a way that will enable me to teach the best of my ability. *Becoming A Teacher* defines Progressivism as a philosophical orientation that focuses on the child rather than the subject. It also defines

Existentialism as a philosophical orientation that stresses the importance of the individual and emotional commitment to living authentically. The biggest part of my philosophical orientation will be progressivism.

Progressivism is a big chunk of my philosophical orientation because I will make sure the students are focused on before the subject matters. I believe that both the students and subject matters are important, but the students should come first. My students will be my main concern because I want to ensure that I will always be there for them and they can talk to me as needed. I want to make sure my students understand the material that I am teaching them. If I put my students first, then I will be sure my students are learning the key material they need to succeed in life. I will assist my students in developing their social and personal value, but I will not force my individual values onto my students. I will help my students through their problems, but I will also help them develop skills in order for each of them to start solving their own problems. Helping my students develop skills to solve their own problems will also help them make choices about what helps them learn the best.

My students will be able to make different choices in my class. I will have different activities to help my students learn. I will make sure that they will be able to make their own choices about what helps them learn and what they can do to improve their knowledge on different subjects that are presented in class. Students need to learn to make good choices throughout their lives. I will help my students develop skills to make important decisions during their lives. I will teach my students about drugs and alcohol to ensure that they make smart choices when they face situations involving drugs and alcohol. As I teach my students, I will also use psychological orientations that will enable me to teach to the best of my ability.

Humanistic psychology emphasizes personal freedom, choices, awareness, and personal responsibilities as defined by *Becoming A Teacher*. I will give my students enough freedom in my classroom to ensure that they feel comfortable being there. I believe that if the students have freedom, their school work will be better than that of students that do not have any freedom at all. I also want my students to be aware of what is expected of them as students, and as well as what they should expected of me as a classroom teacher. I will make my students take responsibility for their homework and other things. I will help my students develop into responsible students that way; they can succeed throughout their school career and their lives.

As an educator, I will fill my students with knowledge and wisdom they will need to succeed in the classroom and throughout their lives. I will help my students become responsible individuals and help lead them in the right direction so they do not make poor choices. Students will have more freedom within my class because I will use an active lesson plan to help them grasp the information being presented. As an educator, I will ensure that all my students will leave my classroom educated and ready to succeed in life.

References

Parkay, F., & Stanford, B. (2007). *Becoming a teacher*. (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.