

My Teaching Credo:

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Introduction to Teaching 111

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### Abstract

Teaching was something that I found at a young age and ever since then I knew that I was destined to be a teacher. Destiny is what some have ease finding and others have a little more trouble but in the end we all have our own destinies. Mine came from the influence of my teachers as well as the pretend classroom we had down in our basement. Teaching is something I always knew that I would be doing someday and when looking at what influenced my views, a lot of things have been factors. Also the philosophical views, perennialism and progressivism, along with a couple others we have learned, play in big role in my teaching styles when I finally achieve success and my own classroom.

## My Teaching Credo

Amanda Dickman

Destiny. We all have one. Some find it earlier than others but everyone eventually finds it in the end. Destiny is different for everyone. Some find out they were meant to be a missionary or even a plumber. I knew from a young age that I was destined to be a teacher but the principles of how I wanted to run my classroom, how I felt about discipline, and other ideas never really crossed my mind. Like everyone else, I thought I would just learn from experience when the time came. But as I know now, from classes and observations I need a set structure of how I feel about students' learning and behavior in my classroom.

My destiny came into play when I was little. My sister and I were very active as children and we always were up doing something. Our favorite was playing town and school. I of course, being the youngest, was always the student and never able to be the teacher. But then when my younger sister was born I was able to take charge and be the teacher when I played with her and her friends. From the first moment of that pretend school day, I knew exactly what my destiny was. I loved being up in front of the "class" and being able to teach them, even if they were not really taking it seriously. From that point on, I tried to think of good ideas for lesson plans and fun things to do in our basement classroom, even if that only consisted of two desks and a chalkboard. It was fun to realize that my destiny had been found.

I believe that teaching should be about the students just as much as it is about the content students are going to be learning. I want to be able to influence the future leaders of our country. By finding out what I wanted my career path to be so early I was able to use my everyday life to my advantage. Going to school every day for around thirteen years of my life, allowed me to see different styles of teaching and I, as that student, got a firsthand experience of what I enjoyed

doing, and what was efficient. I learned that as a student when a teacher lets the students be involved more and up and out of the desks as much as possible it was more fun to learn and it did not even feel like it was learning. My favorite thing I remember was when my middle school math teacher would teach a lesson and then say, "Go to the board." We would take what we had just learned and practice up at the chalk board. At the time it was just fun to be writing on the chalk board but now I see that it helped her see that everyone was getting the concept and doing things right. I got to see what fun exercises each of my teachers incorporated into the lessons and got some really great ideas that would be excellent for me to incorporate into my class someday.

Student independence, I believe, is a very important aspect of learning. If a student cannot be independent from an early stand point, I believe, they will not be able to grasp things when learning is all about independence, like it is in the higher levels of learning. Teacher interaction is also a big part in student independence. I believe that if the teacher is able to explain things well enough then the students should be able to comprehend and then do the work that needs to be done on their own and ask for help from the teacher if needed. Students should feel comfortable enough with the teacher to be able to come to them whenever they have a question or even just a comment about things.

I also believe that school, aside from teaching independence, needs to teach the students how to work with others. They should be able to work well in a group setting and use the independency that they have acquired and use it toward group involvement. Since another aspect of school is the social aspect, being able to adapt their independent thinking toward a group setting is something that is important since most of the careers out in the world now usually have some involvement with other people. I believe that students need to learn independency as well as learning how to use the independency in a groups setting.

Grades have become a lot more of an issue over the past couple of years. I believe that grades are an important part of schooling. Students should strive to get good grades and therefore I believe that grades are the reward that the student receives upon putting forth good effort on an assignment or their work. Grades, I feel, are the one factor that is able to chart the growth and progress that the student has made over time. Grades are what students strive for in school and what gives them the satisfaction of a job well done.

As for my philosophical views, I tend to be a mixture of three and four. The first of the views is progressivism, which focuses on the child rather than on content matter and also puts the importance on thinking, doing, and feeling. I agree with progressivism in the fact that emphasis is placed on the child and that learning helps students develop their own personal and social values. The next philosophical view that fits into my thinking is perennialism. Perennialism aims to make cultivation of intellect the highest priority of education. It focuses on students gaining the knowledge of ideas of western culture. The next few philosophical views I like only certain aspects of each of the views. Essentialism, I like that the focus is on moral and intellectual standards. I also like that students are taught discipline, hard work, and respect for authority, which I believe all three are important for children to learn early and get comfortable with practicing these things. Existentialism comes next; it stresses individuality, which is one of my main focuses when I get to teaching because I feel that it is that important because I want to be able to instill certain values that the parents haven't or reiterate the same virtues. Overall my philosophical views tend to either stress the students behavior or the factors that pertain to learning.

My teaching philosophies are an accumulation of what I have seen as a student and what other teachers have used in their lesson plans. I tend to emphasize independency of each student

and just make the classroom environment a fun learning place where children are learning but do not think they are learning because they are so much fun. I want students to enjoy coming to school and especially being in my classroom one day. I want students to learn how to be independent learners but also be inquisitive as well. Students also need to learn basic values such as hard work, discipline, and respect for authority as well as being taught moral and social standards. In general I want to help students find their destinies at a young age like I did so it is easier for them to know their career path. I want to be a positive influence like my teachers were on me. I just want it to be fun for children to go to school because as long as they are in school they should at least have some fun while they are there.