

Educational Philosophy

I believe all students are unique individuals with specific strengths. It is important to help all students continue to excel in the areas in which they are strong and to encourage and support them as they grow in the areas in which they struggle. I want to build an atmosphere of positivity and encouragement where the students feel safe and supported while they are learning. I want to motivate my students to put forth effort and not give up. I want my students to engage in group discussions so that they will practice their skills of collaboration and teamwork as well as their ability to articulate their ideas. I also want my students to be able to tell that I genuinely enjoy teaching and am eager to be in class so that they might become engaged in our lessons.

I wrote this philosophy with the elements it includes because these are some of the elements of what I would expect to see in a successful classroom. Support and encouragement are hugely important to me and will be a huge part of my classroom environment. In my student teaching, I have implemented a lot of positive reinforcement. I make sure to tell students when they ask a good question or have a good idea. This method of using positive reinforcement helps my students to feel safe in the learning environment. I believe that people have unique strengths and these strengths should be encouraged. Every person also has weaknesses and it is important that students feel supported when they are working on something that they find difficult. In my field experience, my cooperating teacher and I have spent several days on the topic of thesis statements. Some of my students, however, still seemed to struggle with this concept. With a little extra support from me, they seemed to have a much better grasp on what to include in their thesis statements. During my fieldwork, I have made sure that my students know that they can ask me questions if they are struggling with something. Another concept that I believe is vital to a successful classroom is that my students will learn more if everyone puts in

effort and participates in class activities. I know that students often do not have the desire to participate in class activities, but I think that it is important that I set the tone for the students by modeling hard-working and positive behavior. I want to encourage all of my students to participate and to connect with their peers to build their teamwork skills.