



Personal Philosophy of Teaching

My teaching philosophy is based on helping a learner to view learning sessions as opportunities to uncover more connections between the different aspects of life. From my perspective, we mainly learn through associations, in the sense that the information we previously knew acts as a foundation on which we judge not only the relevance of a new piece of information but also the amount of effort we are willing to deliberately exert in the learning and retention of this new knowledge. Essentially, I believe that we label new information as relevant or irrelevant based on how relevant the associated information that we already know is. As such, I think that if the learner creates a connection between an irrelevant piece of information he previously learned and the new information, he is more likely to label the new information as irrelevant too, and therefore put little effort in trying to learn and remember the information. Nonetheless, I think that the nurse educator can determine the student's assessment of the relevance of a piece of information, for instance by helping the students to determine the connection between an aspect and its application in real life. This, in my view, will enhance the education systems currently in place.

In my opinion, the purpose of education is to expose us to the different options that exist regarding how to live. Although I grant that the formal education system has been crucial in teaching us various concepts, I believe that perhaps the largest default in the education system is the absence of a component that teaches us what proper learning entails. I believe that understanding the best ways of learning information could be a key factor in solving problems brought about by differences among students regarding learning preferences. As such, I believe that education in a formal setting is only a minor component of what true education entails since life is essentially a series of practical experiences. Furthermore, I tend to think that the type of education in our formal systems heavily encourages a passive intake of information which the students did not participate in

generating, and are sometimes not interested in, which may lead to the students believing that learning is a process to be endured instead of being enjoyed. For instance, this might apply where I am not interested in the more complex concepts of Mathematics that are not relevant in my daily life but I'm forced to learn them as part of the curriculum for everyone. As such, I also believe that student preference should be given more attention in schools to make them feel part of the learning processes that affect them.

To achieve my teaching objectives, I prefer specific teaching strategies and methods which I believe adequately encompass my teaching philosophy. From the outset, my objective as the teacher is to enhance student involvement while coming up with ways to relate the new information I teach to normal life. This is mainly to increase the students' perception of the relevance of the new information, which, in my opinion, promotes better learning and information retention. For instance, I predominantly employ the use of discussion during lessons through discussion groups and asking questions related to the topic at hand. Furthermore, I monitor these discussions to regulate the amount of domination by certain individuals and also ask the students how much the said discussions are helping them. Additionally, I allow the students to create their own discussion questions and only give a guideline to be followed in creating these questions. Moreover, I would assign routine assignments and projects to be accomplished by the students as part of increasing their involvement in the coursework.

In conclusion, I believe that most learning occurs through association with what we already know, and our initial assessment of the relevance of new information determines our effort in learning it. Additionally, I think that the current education systems should deliberately incorporate programs that teach students how to learn better. To achieve my teaching goals, I mostly use discussions and the delegation of duties to increase student participation. Nonetheless, I am open to trying new teaching methods because I believe that

having a flexible teaching philosophy is crucial amid the contemporary technological advancements that come with constantly new information regarding teaching. Also, I think that learning how to teach is a process in itself, and new teaching methods can be adopted to achieve my teaching objectives.