

Sample Educational Philosophy

A teacher's educational philosophy is an essential element if he or she hopes to become an effective teacher who undertakes the responsibility of guiding students along the path to knowledge and enlightenment. It is an individual's belief about the teaching and learning process that helps them remain focused on their teaching goals. **The three principles** I believe that work hand-in-hand with my educational philosophy are that education should promote character development, it should encourage good morals and values, and it should support individuality. **The philosophers** who contributed to the principles that support my educational philosophy are: - Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Emile Durkheim, and Lisa Delpit.

My first principle in support of my educational philosophy is that education should promote character development. It is important that students make mistakes, especially as they are learning, in order for them to know the consequences. I will not only be there to help them make sense of their mistakes, but also help them develop learning from their errors through being positive. In this way, students will learn early on in their academic careers what they should or should not do, and not commit the same in judgment. They will be able to recognize, in advance, the effects of their actions and its impact on their lives, and they will learn their own limitations. This will build their confidence, based on their personal experience, thus promoting character development.

However, a possible criticism against promoting character development would be that teachers should not let students do anything and everything they want to do. Teachers are supposed to have a structured plan and students should not deviate from this plan. They are also supposed to teach students specific topics and subjects at certain times, not let students learn whenever and whatever they want to learn. Students are sent to school for a specific reason, which is to learn academia, not to learn

from their own mistakes. **However, despite this criticism**, I still believe that students must learn from their own mistakes, not vicariously, in order to learn responsibility and self-control to build character.

A philosopher who wrote in great detail about children learning from their mistakes and knowing their limits based on experience was Jean-Jacques Rousseau. **According to Rousseau**, “If you let children suffer; you expose their health, their life. You make them miserable in the present... the freedom I give my pupil amply compensates him for the slight discomfort to which I leave him exposed...I maintain that to feel the great goods he must know the little ills” (p.144). Rousseau allowed his ideal student, Emile, to do anything he wanted as a child because children needed to learn firsthand the consequences of their actions. This is the only way Emile learned, based on his own experience, which would also make him wiser and aware to life’s tribulations.

Sample conclusion

Thus, these three principles will be the basis of my teaching methodology when I am a teacher. I believe this will help improve society because the education students will receive will be equal regardless of where they come from. They will also receive the right information at the right time so they will actually retain it better and their overall view of education and school will be a more positive one. I hope that in the future the way teachers teach will change and students will be happier about getting an education. There are many teachers who do not genuinely care about their students and their success outside of the classroom and it affects the way students perform inside the classroom. I would recommend that teachers remember the reason why they wanted to become teacher in the first place and remember those reasons when they are faced with difficult students or situations.