

Teaching Philosophy

Being exposed to a variety of languages at a young age has made me appreciate the power that language has amongst everybody. Not only can it open a window of opportunities for the future generations, but it can also bring people from all over the world into a community. Growing up in Texas I was required to learn Spanish starting from the second grade but I also spoke Japanese and Korean at home. Because of this I am aware of the challenges students face when it comes to learning a new language and the different teaching styles they may come across. As a student and teacher, I want to take my personal experiences with language and be able to use that as a guide in motivating my students, creating a solid relationship, and create effective teaching methods.

An important aspect of being an effective teacher is the ability to motivate our students. Some of the most influential teachers I have encountered in the past were the ones who saw me differently from how I saw myself. They pushed me to do my best even if I didn't have the courage to do so and this lasting impact is what I want to pass onto my students. As a future role model want my students to gain confidence in their abilities and take it beyond what they think their limitations are. I believe that when you encourage students to challenge themselves it will make them realize that they are capable of accomplishing anything. Being a language learner myself, I understand that there are times when you just want to give up but I have come to realize that with a motivational push you can guide students to take something they are already interested in and use that as a stepping stone to learning a language. An example of how I would go about motivating my students is that there is nothing wrong with making mistakes. By making mistakes you are able to see how you can improve and should not be something to look down upon. A motivated student can go beyond what is required in order to pursue their interests in relation to the language, but creating a relationship with the students is also crucial in motivating students

What I find important inside and outside the classroom setting is the relationship between students and their teacher. I want students to know they should not hesitate to talk to me if they have any questions or just need someone to talk to. By having a good student-teacher relationship it will not only give me the chance to understand my students better but give them comfort in knowing that I care about each one of them as individuals. I also believe that meeting with students and consistently communicating with them is crucial because it lets them know that I care about how they are doing inside and outside the classroom. The teachers who constantly checked up on how I was doing and how I could improve myself were the ones who helped me realize that I was capable of pushing myself. I find that having a good relationship with the students and communicating between them can help me better my teaching skills and lead to creating an effective teaching environment.

Every student has different learning styles, interests, and needs. I intend to take that and create an effective teaching and learning environment that will lead students to successfully learning their second language. When I was learning Korean at a Sunday school program, it was hard for me to take interest in it because of the teaching methods being used. The teacher only taught us vocabulary and would make us repeat after them. Fortunately as I went into my teen years I took an interest in my Korean culture, especially music. With the help of listening to the music and reading the lyrics, I was able to teach myself how to read and write in Korean. Based on my own personal experience I will introduce activities that appeal to students' personalities and interests. For example, I would let my students pick a topic that they have interests in, after checking with me they would present it to the rest of the class. Not only are they able to share their interest to their classmates since it is something they already enjoy then I believe it encourages them to do their best. I want my students to understand that not everybody learns the same way but with my help they are able to recognize their own learning styles and what is most effective for them.

Based on Socrates quote, "*I cannot teach anybody anything, I can only make them think.*", easily describes the motivation, student- teacher relationship, and effective teaching environment I would want to bring into my classroom. The importance of motivation can help my students do their best. While a solid student-teacher relationship can assure them that I care for them and their wellbeing, inside and outside the classroom. Also by creating an effective teaching and learning environment, I am able to see what methods are most effective and how I can help my students be aware of their own learning styles. I am merely a guide for students to make that connection between them as individuals and to their second or new language. All of them come from teachers whose own dedications have inspired me to do the same for future generations. Throughout my years as a student I have come across many personalities and teaching methods but all of them have influenced me into becoming the teacher I want to be. Both language and being a teacher are ever changing and a constant learning process but combining the two, you can inspire generations to come.