

Philosophy of Education

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(Role as a Teacher)

As a teacher, I feel it is my job to prepare students to make their own intelligent decisions as future leaders, citizens, employees, and consumers in society. It is impossible to teach the students how to solve every problem that they will be faced with, but I believe that it is possible to give them the universal tools or methods needed to analyze and troubleshoot any problem.

Each student has different needs, abilities, interests, personalities and experiences which make him/her a unique individual. I believe that as a teacher, I shouldn't ignore the fact that it is important for students to relate new knowledge to their own personal experiences and interests, which I feel relates to a progressive approach in my philosophy of education. My favorite tool for teaching is an analogy. With the use of an analogy, an idea or concept can be grasped from many different perspectives making it possible for any student to see the benefits of the knowledge being taught.

(Evaluation)

It has been said that if a student can apply a learned idea or concept in a new scenario, new knowledge has been learned. When a student adapts to a new situation using what he/she already knows, a mental connection occurs, which I feel relates to a cognitive approach in my philosophy of education. A learner's brain is like a computer. One must be able to receive, encode, store, retrieve, decode, and transmit knowledge. In order to perform these functions, a framework of knowledge needs to be organized in the brain. Knowledge that is stored with no connection or purpose will soon be forgotten.

I don't believe in behaviorism because punishment or reward only influences the desire to complete a specific objective regardless of whether the concept is fully understood, resulting in knowledge being stored without purpose. Having an answer to a problem doesn't prove to the teacher that knowledge has been retained. Even if the knowledge can be retained by memory, there is no guarantee that the student will be able to transfer the knowledge to a new situation. Many students can memorize chapters or books and be prepared for a test.

I don't believe that school work should come easy. I think students need challenging work that may take several days to complete. Easy-to-memorize assignments don't encourage good study habits or the reward of solving problems that reveal understanding. I would encourage students to get together as a group, but if they feel more comfortable working alone, they should have that option too.

I like doing demonstrations that keep students' interests in the topic. I want students to be able to look at every day technologies and understand what makes them work. I also believe that students should research the technologies that we cover in class and be able to share practical uses of the ones they learned about. I feel that there is a possibility that this might strike an interest in students' choice of professions.

History is also very important. I have found in my own research that new discoveries by famous inventors, thinkers and scientists explain the simplest explanations of the technologies that we take for granted today. The history lessons also help me to organize my content outlines.

(Classroom Environment)

I am strict with rules and expect mature behavior for the safety of the class. Some of my classrooms may have heavy and dangerous equipment, so my students will need to be aware of the reasons for my rules. Depending on the environment, I will ensure that the students are free of distraction with full concentration.

(Planning and Preparation)