

Teaching Philosophy
by Krystal Tucker

As a teacher entering the field of education, I want my students to not only understand and learn the content of the course but also begin to think critically of the world around them, to learn the skills necessary to survive in this technological age, to develop problem-solving skills, and to understand and appreciate their potential. To effectively teach a second language learner (SLL) all of the above concepts, I must utilize creative and innovative teaching techniques in my classroom. I must foster enthusiasm in my students to *want* to learn the content and skills that I think are important for their future. Students should feel freedom in my classroom to ask questions and explore their world by interacting with their surroundings.

As a teacher, I believe it is important to understand my student's background knowledge and where my students come from to be able to teach them effectively in content areas. Activity based learning is essential for SLL in acquiring language. It is important that students are able to use hands-on manipulatives to interact with the content being taught, e.g. pictures, small objects, field trips, etc. As the teacher I need to demonstrate and show students the most effective learning strategies to use in different situations. It is important that I scaffold my students to begin thinking critically of the world around them through group discussions. Depending upon what the lesson objects are for the day and how each student learns, this will effect what techniques I use to teach my students. There should be constant interaction between teacher and student such that the students are able to feel comfortable to ask questions if they do not understand what is being taught.

When evaluating the effectiveness of my teaching, different forms of assessments will be given to my students. I would utilize formal and informal assessments. Formal assessments would include timed test and quizzes as well as written assignments to assess how well a student understands the content being taught. Informal assessments would include group discussions, participation, eagerness to answer questions being asked, homework assignments, classwork, etc. When evaluating critical thinking and problem-solving skills, I would heavily rely upon classroom discussion as well as written assignments. Using different forms of assessments will best display a student's ability and knowledge in the area being tested. Some students do not test well on timed assessments but perform better when they are able to write a paper or discuss the topic in class verbally. Having a complete rounded view of a student, will show me (the teacher) how the student is understanding the ideas and content being taught in class.

I love to watch and teach children. I enjoy the way they question and interact with the world. No child is the same. They are all different and have different learning styles. I have seen how teachers do not always understand their students. Teachers sometimes label their students too easily. I want to teach and show students that they have something special and unique for the world. They have something special that no one else can give. Many times teachers emphasize what a student cannot do. When I teach, I want to emphasize the students' abilities. I want to show SLL who have difficulty speaking in English (or a foreign language) that they are able to do well in school. Inabilities do not define people, but their abilities define and shape them. All students have skills and knowledge that the world needs for a brighter tomorrow.