

Philosophy of Teaching
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As an educator, I strive to educate not only my students but myself every day. I believe as an educator, part of my job as well as responsibility, is to continually learn about my subject area and what the current methodologies and theories are in relation to the evolution of foreign language education, specifically French and Spanish. Throughout the majority of my academic career I have studied foreign languages specifically French and Spanish. In addition to my foreign language studies I completed studies in business, which I have found to be very valuable in my teaching career. As a professional and student, I use all life experiences to create a more authentic and meaning-bearing classroom experience. My teaching goals are to instruct my students in such a manner that they learn the fundamental concepts of the French and Spanish languages and Culture as well as using them in every day meaningful situations. In conjunction with my teaching goals, my personal, academic and professional goals are based in my desire to achieve my dual Ph.D. in French and Spanish.

The means by which I organize my classes and instruct my students create the foundation for successful implementation and assimilation of the material throughout the course. There are various different methods and theories of teaching one can use in the classroom; however no one methodology or theory is sufficient. I believe as an educator, it is imperative to utilize a combination of methodologies and theories as well as technology in order to target all learning styles found in the everyday classroom. As educators, we must work to find our personal teaching style, which allows us the best way to teach students. Once we find and own our strength we have the capacity to meaningfully instruct any type of learner. I have found my key teaching style is modeling and technology. I have learned to use modeling and technology in almost every aspect of teaching despite the specific concept being taught. I have seen in my own classroom the value of owning your strength by way of

my own students' achievements and increased desire to learn both French and Spanish vocabulary and grammar. It is necessary to find and explore your strength as a teacher and use it to the benefit of both the student and yourself.

Upon finding my strength as a teacher, I have begun to tailor my assessments to reflect the type of instruction used in the classroom. Measuring student achievement should always reflect the way in which the material was delivered. If assessments do not reflect the way in which material is taught, students will not be provided with the most congruent way to demonstrate their knowledge. When an assessment provides the students to provide their answers in a similar manner in which they learned you have provided an authentic assessment, which is the goal for every educator despite their area of the curriculum.

In conclusion, the goals of teaching are part of making a great teacher; however there is another possibly more important facet: the love of teaching. If a teacher does not love his or her content area then they will not provide for the most authentic and enjoyable educational experience for the students. I can say without a doubt I love my subject areas in French and Spanish and I believe my passion is successfully relayed to my students each and every day. I continually discuss with them the advantages afforded to them for learning French and/or Spanish not only in high school but also in their continued education. The ability to travel and converse with various peoples from different countries from around the world gives foreign language students opportunities not available to all other students. Through this passion and desire for my content area, I help students to see beyond the confines of the textbook and classroom and realize the potential for further education and experiences awaiting them throughout the French and/or Spanish-speaking world. I truly believe and demonstrate to my students how French and Spanish provide them with a

passport to see and learn things they have never before experienced through sharing my personal experiences and love of everything Spanish.