



Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

I am sometimes asked about my philosophy of education. This began to evolve when I was a sixth-grade student. It was then that I had the first teacher I loved and revered. She was a mentor to me for several years afterward. From my experience in her class, where learning came alive, I saw that all lasting learning is grounded in love: love of teacher, love of subject, love of oneself as participant in the learning process, and love of one's peers who share in that process.

Already the following year, in seventh grade, I had my next remarkable teacher, and through him began to gather the experience necessary to comprehend the next part of my educational philosophy. His humor, wit, and understanding of the challenges we seventh graders were facing made learning fun and vulnerability possible. Enthusiasm flourished. I came to realize that true learning, learning that enlivens rather than deadens, must be accompanied by enthusiasm. If either fun or the willingness to be vulnerable are lacking in the experience of students, the breadth and depth of their potential learning will be correspondingly limited.

I grew up in a culturally-diverse community, and became aware of the implications of this especially in my high school years. Through this I realized that for education to be honest we must acknowledge the social and cultural foundations and context in which it is embedded, and which enable, enrich, and at the same time prescribe our learning opportunities and experiences. Diversity gives us the chance to break free of our cultural blind spots. In honor of this gift, genuine education doesn't just tolerate diversity, it celebrates it!

This is how my philosophy of education evolved up to the time of my becoming an adult. Next time I will share how my philosophy of education evolved in my adult years.

Hello Everyone,

Since I started my online ESL master's course, I have become an even bigger believer in the importance of technology in the classroom and e-learning as a platform. It has provided me with creative freedom, endless resources and learning materials, and the possibility to teach students from all backgrounds. Most of our students are using mobile devices (smart phones, laptops, and tablets) to connect to the web. My objective as an ESL teacher is to use this Internet contact time as an asset to improve my students' English acquisition. This may not be as straightforward as it seems. For instance, students may be browsing to find the best English learning websites on the net. However, Google usually brings to the top the same websites already seen countless times before, and maybe some high-quality English-learning websites won't be discovered. So it can be helpful to share the results with each other of more in-depth mining of web resources. Here are some very useful and handy English-learning websites: