



TEACHER'S PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

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Khurshida Ashurova

Central Asian Medical University,

Assistant Professor on subject "English in Medicine".

Ferghana, Uzbekistan.

ABSTRACT

This article mainly talks about the importance of teacher's philosophy statement and what kind of approaches and methods are applied in teaching process. It is obvious that every teacher has their own way of teaching for making the learning environment engaging and fun.

Key words

student-centered approach, collaborative professional development, classroom organization, students' backgrounds, native language, critical discussions, dialogic engagement.

Introduction. Every teacher has their own teaching philosophy with different approaches for implementing during the lesson. Teaching is the most essential profession since it is defined as the main foundation of each profession. The organization of my classroom layout is tremendously important for me as the first stage of diving into the teaching world. Drawing attention to the location of desks is the primary stage, where placing the teacher's desk in the front of the class provides an opportunity for good viewing of the student's faces which is much preferable for me. As for students, placing two of them together by organizing rows affords me to walk down between the rows to assist students, where one of them with higher and the other with lower levels to build collaboration and mutual support. According to Bloome (2012), "the way teachers organize their classroom furniture is a reflection of their conscious attention or a lack of attention". At the beginning of the first lesson, I observe students' backgrounds, preferences, and interests and it is highly crucial to touch on their ambitions for pushing them to learn the language and revealing the problems that should be fixed during the learning process. They are encouraged to share with ethnic backgrounds to raise cultural awareness since having students from various nations and languages is a norm for teachers during the lesson. Relying on their native language for providing clear, broadened explanations, and showing differences between languages is acceptable to me. Moreover, I try to be friendly to my students in order to create a



friendly atmosphere among us. I can listen to their not only educational problems, but also some private issues and try to give proper advice so that to make them reliable on me. Because there are some learners who are very introverted and even do not talk about their troubles with parents.

Furthermore, since my most students want to improve their speaking skill, I often organize group discussions, making ppts and debates. Those tasks are really helpful in terms of creating an environment where students can work on themselves independently and practicing background knowledge. Giving feedback afterwards, talking about weak points of each learner and working according to individual peculiarity are teacher's responsibility. In addition to them, I always try to work on myself gaining new knowledge every day, being aware of news, reading more books and so on. I know that one particular method or approach is not suitable for all learners. As Pennycook & Duff (2012) backed up, using students' native languages in the classroom is pivotal, due to the fact that "our students do not just come to us to learn a new language, forgetting their home country and language in the process; rather they are still developing and being socialized into their home language". I follow a student-centered approach by maximizing teacher's participation as by passively listening and making notes students will not be able to achieve effective learning growth. Organizing group discussions, debates, and pair works can create an environment where students not only intake information, but also output and practice existing knowledge. The teacher's role is to interfere with the process by correcting mistakes and facilitating the process of conveying information. I tend to create classrooms where both exploration and discovery will be implemented. One important view which was highlighted by Beaumont (2010) is "these critical discussions also allow for dialogic engagement among the students and between the teacher and the students because they are focusing on real-world topics". To enhance my professional development, I am inclined to invite professional teachers to my lesson and ask them to observe my lesson by pointing out strengths and weaknesses which will be fixed later during the teaching process. Getting feedback from colleagues and keeping a record of them is the best method for me to improve my teaching skill. In addition, attending pedagogical meetings and trainings assist me to enrich my methods and fix flaws. Hawkins & Norton (2009) noted, "in the spirit of fostering collaborative professional development, teachers can be observed by more experienced teachers". I distribute flash cards to students and ask them both at the beginning and the end of the lesson to write what they learned, what they would like to include in the lesson, and what they didn't like about the lesson. With the help of this feedback from students, improvements will be implemented in future lessons.



To briefly summarize, both students and professional colleagues take part in my reflective teaching skills.

What I have revealed during teacher trainings, I tend to compile into lessons. A wide range of methods are taught during trainings; however, which method is more suitable to my learners, I decide while conducting the lesson by paying attention to how students interpret them. “Methods used to teach English will vary and this is not to say that one method is better than another” (Kumaravadivelu, 2011). We should be ready to pick up the most applicable for our learners. I focus on encouraging students’ motivation by making real – experiences and lessons. It is obvious that teachers should cover not only cognitive side, but also psychological to raise students’ self-confidence. During the teaching process, this part is affected by me mostly because students’ progress and growth are combined into it. I aim to teach learners to become great communicators and allow them to express their choice and voice effortlessly.

My teaching philosophy is strongly focused on responding to students’ basic needs and giving them a chance to show enough progress in personal development. To put it simply, a teacher is a person who invests in students’ knowledge and growth and in the same way, benefits from being a lifelong learner.

Another point to cover is that setting specific plan for reaching learning goals since it assists in making the process organized and raising teachers’ confidence. On top of that, I try to pose following questions to myself while thinking deeply about my teaching philosophy:

1. What is the main purpose of teaching this particular group of students?
2. What kind of methods and approaches are applicable for this group of students?
3. What is their language background?
4. What is my role as a teacher?
5. What will be the main learning outcomes?
6. Is my differentiation plan ready?
7. How can I motivate my learners who are not willing to study?

Conclusion. It is essential to mention that there is no one particular best method as various methods and approaches are available. The most important thing to consider is that teacher should be able to apply suitable methods for specific group of students. Learners might differ based on social status, language background, interests, identity, motivation and investment. Considering all factors while choosing methods or approaches plays an indispensable role for reaching efficacy in the learning process. So, I want to use different methods for different purposes and to use them properly and wisely. In conclusion, I believe that



teachers are lifelong learners and they should never stop exploring the world and I want to be one of the best teachers as well.

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