

Teaching Philosophy

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Out of all the skills every student learns in all the subjects in school, reading and writing are used in every single one of them. No matter if they are freshmen just truly learning how to construct sentences and essays or seniors who are writing everything from history papers to science lab reports, they have to use their knowledge of English and Language Arts to pass their classes and graduate. Whether they enter college or the work world, they will still have to use these skills to write business reports and e-mails or ten page term papers and extensive lab reports. As a teacher, I want to teach this concept to my students so that they do not just shrug off their English classes as not important because they do not like to have to write papers and read books. I want them to appreciate both the spoken and written English language, and I want them to be able to apply the skills and knowledge they acquire in my class to their other classes, and their future uses of reading and writing.

I want to emphasize to my students that literature can be used in so many ways: as a guide, for pleasure/leisure, to educate, to warn, to exemplify. I want my students to be able to connect literature with their lives and current times; showing that literature is not only a living thing but also show that what makes literature "Literature" is that the subject matter, content, or morals are applicable to everyday life. When they start thinking of literature as something that is alive and changing yet staying the same, I believe they will gain a better understanding of the literature by applying it to the present and other literature like it, and analyzing both from a perspective of someone who is reading the piece in the time that it was written and from their own point of view. I want to instill a passion for reading and/or writing in my students, for so many people do not want to read a book or write a poem nor do they care to. We need a new generation of readers and writers that have that spark of imagination to do both.

During the fall semester of 2012, I did my student teaching at Boonville High School. I taught and planned for regular English 9 classes and Advanced English 9 classes as well as regular English 12 classes and Expository Writing (English 12 CAP) classes. Those sixteen weeks helped me truly see how students interacted with one another in a classroom environment, how each student learned the material differently, and how each viewed the material. I had to adapt the material for all levels of students, from those who had IEPs to those who wanted extra work. I had to develop my own classroom management plan, and implement it appropriately when I had to handle behavioral and educational issues. I communicated with parents regarding their children's progress/status in the classroom. By the end of those sixteen weeks, I felt comfortable and able to take on a classroom of my own and be able to succeed.

As for my past teaching and instructing experience, which I consider myself lucky to have had the opportunities to have, I have worked with Girl Scouts ranging in age from Kindergarten to seniors in high school, both in a work environment and as a volunteer. I was an assistant color guard instructor, and not only got the chance to work with forty freshmen through senior girls, but also with all the students, around 200, in the marching band. I am a National Archery in the Schools certified coach, and I have applied this certification when I instruct Girl Scouts at Day Camp.

I look forward to applying my experiences and the knowledge I have gained from my classes and student teaching to my future teaching. I hope to live up to my expectations and the expectations of my students, and accomplish the goals I set for myself and my students. I hope to learn even more between now and then, and look forward to acquiring more knowledge from the future teachers and students I work with.