

# My Teaching Philosophy

My philosophy of teaching evolved from many years of my teaching experience. As I reflect on my beliefs regarding teaching and learning, I found that my mission as a teacher is threefold: to promote positive learning, to spark learner enthusiasm for learning and to provide a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

As a teacher, I am open to new ideas and suggestion therefore I would like to be more involved in educational activities, attend education talks and participates in forums to further expand my knowledge. Moreover being up-to-date with the latest information, keeping in touch with global issues and getting my hand on the latest technology are some ways for me to improve myself.

Follows are four objectives by which I attempt to achieve the aspiration:

## **Objective 1 : Planning and Preparation**

An essential consideration for teachers pertains to overall curriculum and instructional planning. At least one day before class, I plan my teaching via structured lesson plans. The instructional approach is based either on a behavioral model (mastery learning), a cognitive model (presentation) or a constructional model (inquiry-based or cooperative learning). I plan to implement lessons that clearly identify the lesson objectives, anticipatory set, strategies for effective student engagement and assessment options to measure student mastery. This helps me to teach with both clarity and focus. I always prepare Powerpoint presentations with some videos of simulations or virtual environments which are related to the contents. The Powerpoint slides are made available before and after classes.

I try to maintain a comfortable atmosphere in the classroom to help alleviate some of my students' fears of class participation. I seek to build a good rapport with my students and take less time to get to know each of my students. I can best assist them if I know their goals, values, issues and a little about their lives. Moreover, I believe my students are more highly motivated

when they sense that their teacher cares about them.

### **Objective 2 : Classroom Environment**

Students should be actively engaged in the learning process. I have taken a degree course in chemistry education. I have learned many teaching and learning strategies such as cooperative learning, problem-based learning, inquiry-based learning, constructivism and so on. I incorporate these techniques into my teaching.

As a teacher, I want my students to have input into the subject content so that the issues we address are relevant to them. Projects are also one mean to accomplish this goal because they allow students to choose subject matter which they are most interested.

### **Objective 3 : Evaluation**

Proper evaluation of all activities must be undertaken to ensure that the desired educational goals are being met. In designing evaluation tools like tests, exams and lab reports, I again attempt to challenge my students to reach beyond the mere facts and to demonstrate critical thinking and a deeper understanding of the subject matter. For this purpose, I utilize structured questions and essays. After the exam, I provide the answers before posting the grades in the hopes that my students will review the exam as an added reinforcement. More recently, I have invited my students to use the answers to remember and “grade” their exam answers in advance of receiving the actual graded exam, including of how and where points would be taken off. I try to provide constructive criticism for all written work handed in, so that my students are not merely earning a grade on their assignments but can learn how to create an even better product and gaining from the assessment process.

### **Objective 4 : Professional Responsibilities**

I must adhere my professional responsibilities within the framework of the law fixed by

the Ministry of Education of Malaysia to meet the high standards of professional and ethical behavior required by the ministry, society, parents and the profession itself. I must

- be conscious of my special duty to take care of my students in all educational activities in and out of school;
- be conscious of the need for equitable treatment of all students;
- demonstrate the highest standard of professional behavior when interacting with my students, staff, parents or caregivers and society;
- collaborate in the development of school plans, policies and programs;
- devise and document teaching and learning programs;
- undertake appropriate ongoing professional development to promote competence;
- use public resources economically;
- perform my duties efficiently with honesty, integrity and fairness at all time.

I believe that my goal of becoming an outstanding teacher is a journey rather than a destination. I am excited to continue on the journey.