

Educators have a unique role to play in society because their decisions in the classroom have the potential to carry significance that lasts decades beyond the teacher's career. For this reason, it is crucial that teachers never develop complacency. As time proceeds, society and students change which is why teachers must keep up with literature about the most effective teaching methods. For example, the way that intelligence was viewed in the past has changed greatly as evidenced by how modern definitions seek to account for cultural differences in different models of quantifying intelligence. As these models changed, so did methods of assessing students. As an educator, I would employ personalized measures of student progress through tests with low weight in overall course grade, as well as assign summative projects that emphasize application so students can demonstrate comprehensive understanding with less pressure. I would do so since I believe that students learn best when the objective of the course is to learn, instead of GPA maintenance. I have noticed that when grades are overemphasized, students often turn to cheating, and forget the importance and real world relevance of the material they are learning in their future careers. Furthermore, this is why it is important to teach students how to think for themselves, and be able to understand the material in the future as well because it is not realistic to expect students to remember all the details of every course, but if they thoroughly understand the material, they will always be able to solve related problems in the real world.

As globalization has occurred, people from different cultures and backgrounds have increasingly had the opportunity to attend the same learning institutions. This change, although a positive one, is similarly crucial for teachers to acknowledge and respond to, but at times it can be challenging. Creating safe spaces for students of all backgrounds can be achieved to a certain extent through universal design, but compromises must be made as well, as evidenced by a class discussion regarding multilingual classrooms. Finding a balance between classroom integration, and celebrating students as an individual is difficult, but necessary for all students to be able to share ideas and participate openly in class without compromising instructional quality.

Being up to date on modern theory is beneficial, but intrinsic values that have withstood time should not be forsaken either. Many modern theories rely on the same core values as ancient philosophy. Respect has been valued around the world, and for much of history, as evidenced by derivatives of languages specifically to designate respect, such as in the German and Japanese languages. Models of learning that require collaboration, such as Vygotsky's zone of proximal development and Piaget's constructivism, also require respect, particularly towards peers, thus demonstrating the timelessness and universality of certain virtues.

Perfection is impossible as there is no solution that will satisfy everyone and their needs which is elucidated by the innumerable theories that philosophers have constructed over the course of time debating what the best course of action would be in a variety of scenarios. All one can do is always strive to do better which is achieved by rejecting complacency despite the comfort and familiarity of the status quo. Change is inherently disruptive, sometimes to the extent that it is painful, but as educators we are responsible for laying the foundation for the next

generation to combat new and old problems alike by providing them with the tools, knowledge, and skills necessary to navigate the world.

- Meeting students where they are at
- Seeing students as human before students
 - Context of what is going on at home
 - Capacity to participate not always the same
 - Checking in on students