

Teaching Philosophy

My objective as an educator is to develop students who have a sense of ownership of their learning and confidence in their ability to be the best oral health care providers they can be. One of the most important thought processes in my teaching are problem-solving skills. It is important that I foster students to look for, develop, and understand the information they need for their future careers as a dental hygienists'. I want students to be the center of their individual learning as opposed to me being the source of all their information. It is of upmost importance that my students uphold the dental hygiene code of ethics while pursuing their educational goals. I plan the objectives and the learning targets for the students. The learning objectives will be based on Bloom's taxonomy and his hierarchy models. Some lesson plans will be centered around the cognitive learning, while clinic will be centered around psychomotor. I also provide structure for them to gain information needed to succeed. It is important that they then take the time in class and out of class to develop deeper into those targets given. By providing the structure and fostering their independent problem-solving and learning the students take more ownership. This ownership then gives them a stronger sense of their learning and connection to the content.

In the classroom not only are students learning the content needed for their career, but they are also learning strategies to gain additional understanding of the concepts on their own. This will assist them when there are times in their dental hygiene career that they face unfamiliar obstacles or new practices. They will have a better understanding of how and where to locate more information. Class time will consist of providing a structured lesson but also have time for students to collaborate and discuss the content being taught. Time will also be allowed for the students to develop projects and or locate answers to questions. Many of these projects or

questions will be self-driven based on the interest and inquiry of the students. This additional time gives students the ability to develop a deeper understanding of the content as they discuss and possibly debate the pros and cons. Another advantage to this practice will allow the student to develop specific skills for areas that they are hoping to concentrate in. Many of the projects and or activities in my classroom will include varying forms of technology. These technologies will include but not limited to google forms, padlet collaboration, escape rooms, and PowerPoint. This will provide students with the opportunity to become familiar with manipulating technology as well as providing them times to collaborate. I will make every effort to see that my students are successful through my pedagogical theories in teaching.

Self- Reflection

Creating the teaching philosophy and CV, have made me really dig deep into my “why” I want to teach, specifically dental hygiene students. I love to help encourage others to always be there best and do their best. I have realized that being a teacher in a field I have loved for over 20 years will bring my “why” to light. My strengths that I see are organization in creating a positive classroom environment for the students to feel welcomed to learn. My weaknesses are in experience, community volunteer work, and getting involved with different memberships. My CV defiantly deflects the weaker areas but will grow with my career path.