

## **My Philosophy of Education, Learning and Teaching**

*Your students may not remember anything you tried to teach them, but they will never forget how you made them feel.*

I'm not sure exactly where I heard that from nor from whom, however, it has stuck with me over my many years in a classroom. This is not to say that I am flippant about the role a teacher should and must play in the classroom but only that in my experience, when my efforts to "teach" seem to falter and the student fails to "learn", the emotional and personal rapport can always salvage the day.

Teaching and learning are both struggles; neither are easy or guaranteed and in fact, they shouldn't be. Teaching and learning require effort, they require energy and they are laborious. I always try to convey that perspective to my students by being honest about the work to come and remind them that it's a struggle for both of us. I believe that letting my students know that I will toil alongside them and stress to them that I do not, and will not, always have "the answer" goes a tremendously long way in sustaining a mutual, teacher-learner agreement.

I believe that education should be a link between individual potential and civic contribution. Given my research interests are tied to technology and digital literacy, I believe that university learners must be equipped with tools to navigate an increasingly complex information landscape. This requires a commitment to developing multi-dimensional literacy - not only in linguistic mastery but also in the critical analysis of news, media, and global events.

Ultimately, the goal of education is to produce individuals who are not only capable of professional success but are also compassionate, ethical participants in a global dialogue. Through the synthesis of critical thinking and practical skill, learners should be empowered to decode their world and contribute meaningfully to its progress.