

Madeleine Fink: Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is influenced by humanism learning theory and constructivism learning theory. I believe each student is an individual who has different needs that must be met in order to succeed. I believe it is the job of myself as an educator to be able to give students the tools they need in order for success both in the discipline of English and in their lives. I believe a lot of success comes from adolescents being able to view themselves as competent. In my classroom, students will be able to assume the identities of readers and writers. I will refer to students as readers and writers and will ask them to approach questions with the mindset of those identities. After a bit of time getting used to putting on the identity of a reader or writer, my hope is students will be able to see themselves in those identities without needing the prompting “as a reader/writer...”. If students are able to assume the identity of a reader and writer, then they can apply that knowledge and identity to their other classes and beyond the classroom. I want my students to cultivate a life-long love of reading and writing. If students cannot get to that love stage, then at least an appreciation for literature and writing.

There is reading and writing everywhere in our society so it is imperative that I teach my students how to read and write. This is not solely the acts of reading and writing (although I am prepared to help students who may be struggling with basic reading and writing skills) it is teaching them *how* to read and write using critical thinking skills. In this constantly changing world, it is important for students to learn how they think and how they best can learn. In the constructivism learning theory, students learn to construct their own understanding and knowledge through their connections to prior learning and experiences. It is so important that student learn how to question, understand and learn how they learn as this knowledge of self sets them up to be successful in whatever they wish to accomplish.

I will always work hard to make my classroom a safe environment for students to learn and grow as well as to foster students' natural curiosity. I believe teachers should be understanding and care for their students. I believe that all students need a teacher who is willing to invest in them as a person and will take an interest in them and their lives. I want to be one of these teachers. I will work hard to create a classroom based on respect and relationships where students can express their ideas and self in a safe environment.