**Teaching Philosophy**

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At this point in my life with a lack of teaching experience, I would have to say that I agree and support the humanism philosophy within teaching, along with basic skills, technical skills, and social reconstructionism. Out of these, I think I tend to lean more towards social reconstructionism because it is so critical for students to be educated enough to know how to make their own decisions, without allowing the world to tempt them into their decisions without thought.

I have been affected by many great teachers, however, I would like to emphasize three throughout my paper, including: Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Bailey, and my Savior Jesus Christ, which is the master teacher. I have grew and learned from these teachers while having them as my teacher temporarily, but the affect they have had on me has followed me throughout my life. Of course I continue to learn from Christ’s teachings and I will forever be a student in his class, per say. I am constantly learning more from the example he set for us and all of the knowledge of the gospel he has provided for us to learn and grow from. I want to emulate some of the same characteristics that my teachers in the past have, and hope to become a master teacher of my own.

Mrs. Reed

Mrs. Reed was my fourth and sixth grade teacher when I was in elementary school. She is a very enthusiastic, energetic, cheerful, go-getter that would go above and beyond for her students. I learned a lot from her about how you can allow your students to have fun while learning. Mrs. Reed definitely practices progressivism and existentialism within her teaching. Within a previous textbook I used, titled, “Creating Mighty Oaks,” it includes some great insight on progressivism. “In an article titled “Humor in the Classroom: Cultivating Camaraderie to Maximize Learning” the authors, Abbott and Lewis, discuss the value of establishing a fun environment in the classroom. They suggest making it clear to the students that the class is a place to have fun and to give students plenty of leeway for infusing class activities with vigorous excitement. They believe that when students are excited, they will learn faster and retain information more fully. They also state, "When humor and good will lead to camaraderie in the classroom, students can discover their talent and capitalize on their potential more than at any other time. When students are having fun while feeling safe and supported, they break through existing boundaries and self- perceived limitations. This is when real learning takes place.” In this way, Mrs. Reed definitely expressed a humanism philosophy within the classroom striving to, “maximize the potential of each individual,” as discussed within., “Communicating Family and Consumer Sciences: A Guidebook for Professionals.” Mrs. Reed taught us by creating a cheerful, fun environment that made learning fun, rather than, dull and boring. She would practice existialism by letting us “act” in plays pertaining to the lesson we were going over, but she would give us some freedom. She would hand out the scripts and then have the students decide what we wanted to keep the same or change. She told us that we had to keep the play pertaining to the lesson though, so we wouldn’t make the whole thing “funny-business.” It really made us think outside of the box and we loved that we could have a say in things. In this way, she practiced the technical skills philosophy as we were able to put together the information taught to us to achieve the necessary tasks for a particular role. This also expressed the Tell, Show, Do model where she was able to lecture, show us videos over the material, and then have us reenact events from history through skits. I really enjoyed having her as a teacher and I hope to have the ability to engage students in learning as well as she did.

Mrs. Bailey

Mrs. Bailey was my World History and American History teacher in high school. She was much different than Mrs. Reed, however, the impact she had on me was no less than the impact Mrs. Reed had on me. Mrs. Bailey practiced social reconstructurism in her classroom. Every single day when we went to class the first thing that would be discussed was what was on the news and what was going on in the world and the United States. At the time, I didn’t quite understand why she would always make sure we understood what was going on, but after taking this class I have a better understanding. She wanted us to know what was going on in the world and prepare us for the future. In this way, she was expressing the technical skills philosophy as we were able to connect what we had been learning in class about the past to the future. We would always discuss our opinions on the matters and in this way I believe she was helping prepare us to make our own educated decisions, as is emphasized within the social reconstructionism approach of teaching. I learned a lot from her class, not only from the material we covered in class, but also the material that we covered about the world today. It was very eye-opening to me because her perspective and knowledge on things were things I had never even considered or thought of. I think that being a social reconstructionsit can be a very positive thing, as long as you don’t get too drastic with it. Social Reconstuctionists are so passionate about sharing what is going on in the world and preparing their students for the future. I want to prepare my students for the future as well, because ultimately if they aren’t prepared for the future they aren’t going to be successful, regardless of their knowledge. She was a teacher that was very much in control of her classroom and there was organization in everything we did. I want to implement her characteristics into my own teaching to better myself and allow the students to learn in a good atmosphere where they will be prepared to make their own decisions in the future based off of the subject matter.

Christ the Master Teacher

President Thomas S. Monson said, “In the home, the school, or the house of God, there is one teacher whose life overshadows all others. He taught of life and death, of duty and destiny. He lived not to be served, but to serve; not to receive, but to give; not to save his life, but to sacrifice it for others. He described a love more beautiful than lust, a poverty richer than treasure. It was said of this teacher that he taught with authority and not as did the scribes. I speak of the Master Teacher, even Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Savior and Redeemer of all mankind. When dedicated teachers respond to his gentle invitation, ‘Come learn of me,’ they learn, but they also become partakers of his divine power” (Jesus Christ, Monson). If we could ever become even 10 percent of the teacher that he was the world would be amazed by us. Jesus Christ is our ultimate, perfect example. He lights the way for true happiness and the path to great learning and growth. I know that as we strive to follow his perfect example and in line our will with his will we will become better teachers. My mother is also a teacher and there have been many instances that she has been prompted by the spirit to do something, or has read her scriptures and has been inspired of a way to help a child. I believe that moments like those are gifts from our Savior. As we are doing all we can to help his children, and we reach out to him, he will bless us for our efforts and the ways will be opened unto us to help our students. The Savior treated everyone equal and taught with the Spirit of God. In our classrooms I think this is so important to implement. We must treat every single one of our students equally and strive to involve the Spirit in our teaching if at all possible. Jesus Christ taught us what true service, charity, and love is and we must do all that we can to keep these attributes alive in the classroom.

Becoming a Master Teacher

As I have contemplated all of the many characteristics of a master teacher and the wonderful attributes of the teachers that have impacted my life, I feel a bit overwhelmed with the task at hand. In order to become a master teacher I will forever need to continue gaining further education, learning from my experiences, and putting into practice those things that I have learned. I want to be a teacher with charity, kindness, love, service, fun, enthusiastic, energetic, organized, in control, and most importantly reflecting the Savior. To attain all of these characteristics I will have to work hard and try to become a little better each and every day. I am aware that I will never be perfect, but if one does not strive to become the best they can possibly be, they are quite simply failing themselves. I have much to learn and I am so excited to continue learning and growing from the classes that will prepare me to become a master teacher. I think I would like to spend some time tutoring and practicing with the students to help me gain more experience and become the best I can be. I know that if I truly want to attain these characteristics than I need to be implementing them in my life now. Here’s to the teachers that I will forever be grateful for, the ones I have yet to learn from, and the teacher that I will become.