

Amber Clark ~ Teaching Philosophy

Teaching is more than imparting knowledge; for me, teaching is about attempting to foster caring, thoughtful, and competent human beings. Because of my experiences, my philosophy of education might not be typical of a teacher. I spent 4 years teaching all subjects of middle years in Canada; in addition, I spent 3 years teaching Youth-at-Risk and HS English. From these experiences – 7 years in the Canadian Public System, and 6 years overseas, as well as an extensive coaching background – I have learned the following: teaching is about building relationships. My students know I genuinely and sincerely care about them. They might not always like what I teach, but because they know I want to help, they will often try in subjects that hold no appeal for them.

Teaching is also about being a role model; students often learn more from how you treat them, than what you teach them. I try to help my students become successful in life, not just successful in school, and I do that by consciously being aware of how I carry myself. I have invested extensively in my personal and professional development; I take courses and do a significant amount of reading and learning on my own to be the best person, and the best teacher I can be. Content is extremely important -- I love literature and I use it to foster all the values you espouse -- life long and transferable learning, being inquisitive and asking questions, creative problem solving, making connections and personal reflections. But ultimately, it is the relationships you build that make a difference as a teacher.