

Philosophy of Adult Education

I believe students of all ages are capable of taking more purposeful responsibility for their own educations. Learners should be allowed to make their own decisions; they should be taught how to think not what to think. It is important to teach students how to think for themselves, so that they are capable of changing creatively and carefully the society in which they live in, and at the same time be able to grow in a critical, careful and creative way. Education should allow students to develop the instruments they need in order to analyze their society based on their everyday experiences, and the student should be encouraged to think critically about the world and their role in it. Education must develop individuals capable of evaluating the world and oneself, as well as expressing themselves fluently and creatively besides caring for others. In addition, I feel students need to learn from the consequences of the decisions they make and to take responsibility for their actions.

Informed students have the ability to address problems through the classroom. Instructors and learners should be brought together, not through certification and examination, but on the basis of their common attraction to an exciting social goal. Students need to know what the education process is all about so they can analyze and be critical of their learning experience. Learning how to analyze and be critical of one's everyday experiences should be a fundamental goal of education. Students who learn critical thinking will be able to question the instructor about things. By simply asking the instructor questions students can expose the curriculum to their fellow students and encourage them to ask questions as well. Critical students could also use supplemental readings to aid them in changing the learning experience.

Students should be treated equally and have the freedom to express themselves to help encourage individuality among themselves. I believe it is equally important to educate them in academia and social skills, as well as teaching them to be supportive of one another. The classroom should be one of open communication between the learner and the instructor. The students must have a say in how their learning experience is organized, what they study beyond the required curriculum, and feel free to bring any concerns to the instructor's attention. By making the students actively involved in choosing what they learn, I believe they will become more excited about education as a whole because they will feel the amount of control over their lives necessary to help them achieve autonomy.

I believe in educating so that all may share in a common life, and every student has the ability to learn and deserves an equal and free opportunity to do so. The student's best effort on any endeavor should be expected at all times, and their best should be good enough. Overall, I feel learners and instructors are equal and should treat each other as they wish to be treated themselves. The educational process should teach students the creativity and individuality necessary to achieve autonomy, and will prepare them to respond creatively and carefully to changes within the society in which they live.