

Teaching Philosophy

Critical Thinking and Creativity

We live in an environment where information is abundant and easily accessible. Knowledge that has been constructed for centuries can be found and displayed by Google in a couple of seconds. In today's world, students do not need information, they can get it on their own; what they need are opportunities for developing the competences of critically consuming information and of creatively and productively using it: My first objective as a teacher is to create environments where students develop their critical thinking and their creativity.

Metacognition and Growth Mindset

The environment we live in is constantly changing, skills that are useful today can become obsolete tomorrow; our students need to be lifelong learners in order to continuously adapt to a changing world. To become lifelong learners, students should develop their metacognitive abilities and, in Carol Dweck's words, a 'growth mindset': My second objective as a teacher is to create environments where students develop the competence of thinking about thinking (metacognition), the competence to persist when facing challenges, and the competence to productively use their mistakes/failures as opportunities for learning.

A Sense of Community

Belongingness is a fundamental human need. In a community where we feel that we belong, we become more motivated to exert effort and take risks. Creating a sense of community in the classes that I teach has always been my main priority.

To create a sense of community, I try to always be attentive to the preferences and learning styles of my students and to always be responsive to their needs and wants. I create activities where students collaborate and develop a positive rapport with one another. I respect my students and I am always excited to collaborate with them: together we create the learning environment and together we reflect on the environment that we are creating and on how we could improve it.

I find that as a teacher I immensely benefit from creating a sense of community in the classroom: when my students and I create a sense of community, I find myself more passionate, more enthusiastic and more intrinsically motivated to teach.

In summary...

When I teach, I do not just share knowledge, I try to nurture my students' passion for learning and motivate them to become lifelong learners. I want students to leave my classroom more knowledgeable about the world and about themselves, I also want them to leave the classroom more motivated and more dedicated to learning. Before being a teacher, I try to be a model of a learner; I teach by modeling lifelong learning.