

Teaching Philosophy of Art Education

I want to teach art because I believe art is the best way to bring out the creativity and imagination that everyone has in them. I love expressing myself, and to teach and guide students to express themselves is what I'm excited for as a future educator. Art allows students to apply themselves and develop intelligences other classrooms do not allow them to do. I believe students, as well as everyone in general, need a creative outlet to let them explore their imagination and apply it with the materials given to them.

One leading educator in the student centered movement is Ellen Dissanayake. Dissanayake viewed art as a universal behavior, stating that art has been around since the earliest beginnings of our species. Human beings have used it to take ordinary things and make them "special", thus elevating those experiences and objects from the mundane or ordinary. To me, art cannot be skipped over when teaching students all of the fundamentals they will need as a functioning person in the "real world". (The Core of Art: Making Special, Journal Article)(Becoming an Art Teacher)

Another leading educator in this movement is Peter London, who believed much of the same. He defined art as "a category of human activity." I agree in the way he viewed art education. He promoted student centered learning in that they should be able to do whatever they wanted, as long as they are applying their creativity to the fullest. (No More Second Hand Art) This type of learning didn't involve the teacher, allowing the student to go off in their own direction. While this type of learning is agreeable at first, I think many students would find that they couldn't keep up with this. Many students need direction and instruction more than they think, finding that they work better doing an assignment when they have the guidance of the teacher. Especially when it comes to laying out the criteria and expectations of the assignment in order to get a good assessment. With art, freedom is necessary, but I believe too much freedom could be overwhelming.

As a future educator my goal will be to ensure that a fun, educational atmosphere is taking place in my classroom for each student, as well as allowing them to take their creativity to the next level, whatever that level may be. I hope to teach my students that art is more than just painting or creating projects, art is about using your imagination and innovative thoughts to further your understanding of the world around you.

Works Cited

London, Peter. No More Secondhand Art: Awakening the Artist within. Boston: Shambhala, 1989. Print.

Dissanayake, Ellen. 2003. "The Core of Art: Making Special." *Journal of Canadian Association for Curriculum Studies* 1 (2): 38.

Bates, Jane K. 2015. *Becoming an Art Teacher*. Wadsworth/Thomson Learning. Accessed September 28.