

We place our faith and trust in people every day. We trust teachers to be knowledgeable enough to impart information and wisdom onto their students to create a generation of intelligent individuals who will create a legacy for themselves. It is my belief teachers are tasked with providing the fundamental elements of learning and understanding to students. These learning and reasoning skills instilled in students in the classroom should set the foundation for the way in which they approach life; to live a life with an intense need to understand the world around them with a set of skills to interact with society and create a world they are proud to engage in. It is my goal to share with students my love for learning and encourage them to learn even outside of the classroom.

Creating thoughtful individuals, who are curious and interested in the world around them, is my primary goal when teaching. I encourage my students to question the world they live in, to enhance their understanding and connection with society; not to just accept information presented to them as truth. I aim to teach students how to research and find information to justify their thoughts and opinions about the world they live in. By allowing students to practice questioning, researching, and verifying information in my classroom, I hope they will use these learned skills in their adult life to enhance who they are as individuals in society. I hone these skills in my students by giving them opportunities to research areas of interest to them. I encourage my students to learn more about their field of interest by asking them to write papers related to a topic in their field, create projects and designs that push them outside their predetermined level of comfort. In writing, I create assignments that require them to learn and research a topic, and then reveal their thoughts on the issue using credible research to substantiate their thoughts. In design, I utilize creative designs that allow students to try new techniques and approaches. With these assignments, I want to tap into what interests my students in their chosen career field to encourage their curiosity about a topic.

I want my classroom to be a safety net. I tell my students it is okay for them to fail. My classroom is a safe place to fail or have imperfections. They can try something outside of their comfort level and if they didn't execute it perfectly, I am there to help them analyze and evaluate how they can improve next time. I hope their experience in my classroom prepares them for the real world. Too many times students are not allowed to problem solve, critically evaluate a situation, or face adversity prior to working in industry.

I have witnessed a sense of empowerment, the creation of justifiable opinions, being instilled in students who are equipped with these questioning, researching, and reasoning skills in my own classroom. Within the confines of the classroom, I believe students should be given positive feedback, as well as feedback that questions their work. When questions are raised about their work, they should either modify their thoughts on the work, or be able to skillfully justify their work. Students should also be given the opportunity to improve their work and show what they learned from the feedback through the use of resubmissions and revisions. These methods give students the opportunity to be successful with their work. When the students are successful in the classroom, I have seen the empowerment carried over to my past students' professional careers. Thus, creating a confident professional, who can positively impact their field and society because of their experiences and successes in the classroom.