

Kate Schwartz

### My Teaching Philosophy

I believe that as a teacher my job is to inspire students to want to learn.

**I have always wanted to create a classroom climate that promotes kindness and respect towards all other things. Smith and Siegel's article is quite relevant here because it discusses the difference between belief and knowledge. If I wish to promote respect and, though I dislike the word, tolerance, then I must model it. Students need to know that their teacher values their beliefs and that other students are able to be respectful when faced with disagreement. As a teacher I see that I must model respect while teaching all topics. Students want to know that their teacher cares for them. I want to instill a sense of empathy in my students and teach them the value of caring for other people as well as other creatures. This includes mindfulness. Not all students learn the same way. I want to create an atmosphere that support all students, including those, like me, who need to retreat into themselves to think and absorb. I want to teach the curriculum and use the various PLO's to teach my students about their community and the world around them. I hope to do this in a way that ensure that students feel safe and empowered to create positive change in their environments. I want them to believe that they can make a difference through their knowledge acquisition. Knowledge can be a springboard for action but learning must be meaningful. Parsons and Beauchamp discussed how learning was best achieved when the material was relevant. I hope to create a positive space that promotes thoughtfulness, creativity, and fun. I believe that education should be fun but also that every lesson should have a purpose in and out of the classroom.**

I see the importance of technology in the classroom but I have always loved reading books and putting pen to paper. I see that we are becoming more dependent on technology and this dependence scares me because, although they suddenly have a world of knowledge at their fingertips, technology is all consuming to students. **I believe that education involves going outside, being in the fresh air, and involved being actively engaged in the environment. I learned about embodied knowledge and I think that the more children can use their senses and their bodies then the more they learn. Active learning ensure that data is transformed into knowledge, and knowledge provides opportunity to act.**

