

# Teaching Philosophy

The importance of teachers...	<p>Since childhood, I have loved teachers. Part of this stems from the fact that my grandmother was a teacher and my mother is a teacher, so I have seen an inside view of what it actually means to teach. I always knew that my mom had a special job, and I relished the days I was allowed to help out in her 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom. Additionally, I have cultivated relationships with the educators she works with and understand the patience and skill they have in the classroom. This educational environment influenced the positive attitude towards school that I maintain today.</p> <p>Teaching is an essential vocation because it is teachers who shape and mold the minds of future generations and future teachers. The responsibility of teachers is great, but so is the reward. It is my job, along with the other teachers of the world, to impress upon students the importance of school and of my subject matter, Spanish. I have an obligation to share my knowledge of Spanish, as well as my passion for the language and culture, with my students in hopes of feeding their desire for knowledge. My hope is that my classroom will be a safe place where students feel respected because I know I have the power to be a positive influence in their lives.</p>
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Communicative language teaching...	<p>The Foreign Languages Department at Colorado State University teaches using the communicative method. The linguistic goal is to essentially eliminate L1, English, from our foreign language classrooms. This is how I have taught for the past year and a half, and I truly believe that the immersion method is useful and beneficial for learners at any skill level. I enjoy varying my lesson plans with TPR activities, multimedia presentations and interactive exercises so the students are constantly using, hearing and seeing the L2, Spanish. Through gestures, pictures and drawings, I am able to teach vocabulary as well as grammar points entirely in Spanish. I believe that this method should be implemented in foreign language classrooms throughout middle and high schools, as well as in college, in order to immerse students in the language much sooner. My future goal as a high school Spanish teacher is to bring my experience in communicative language teaching into my high school classroom to elicit more efficient, lasting language acquisition.</p>
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Why I want to teach...	<p>I want to teach Spanish at the high school level because students are impressionable. They are discovering what topics most interest them as individuals, and I hope to help shape their education and their minds. It is important to study language because it expands students' comfort zones, allowing them to familiarize themselves with diverse cultures while gaining respect and understanding. I believe that language is a bridge between countries, and thus, between people, and helps to demonstrate different ways of life to students. This knowledge can help students to embrace a global society and maintain respect for all people. Our country consists of various cultures and people, which are continually diversifying. Learning Spanish, a language that is widely spoken in the United States, can bring endless benefits to students whether they be linguistic, social or cultural.</p>
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