

# **My Teaching Philosophy**

*(Dr. Gianluca Corsi)*

I believe that education must be an integrated experience that originates from the perspective of the individual and moves out into society, not vice versa. This means that young people should be encouraged to choose their path of knowledge in an unbiased way, based on their personal interests. The construction of curriculum must serve the purpose of enlightenment and stimulate intellectual development among American youth, nurturing their imagination and critical thinking skills with an increasingly broad emphasis in subject contents.

General education in public school must be a vehicle for integrating disciplinary modules built on arts and sciences courses, directly correlated to contemporary trends and aimed at developing problem-solving skills. American public education must be able to address societal problems in schools through a well-defined methodology, linking theoretical analysis approaches to practical applications. Students must know how to solve problems to be leaders; they can only be in control of their environment if they have a solid theoretical knowledge as a foundation of their thinking principles.

Experience is a critical element that is still missing in most of the American public schools. Students should be able to go out and address real world problems drawn from the community. They should be encouraged to do this at higher levels. Schools should put greater emphasis on cultivating fundamental intellectual skills and dissuade every form of mere material gratification and sense of entitlement among the youth. Public education must also emphasize the importance of diversity of human communities in America, as well as in the world. There is a need to understand and accept cultural

diversity in a global society. Students should be encouraged to re-evaluate what they know about our traditions and open their mind to a wider and much more diverse world than the one they have been told about. That is why I believe that schools must exercise their faculty to make social investments in the development of general interest in moral and ethical problems of each field of life relevant to the community, and stress on scientific efforts to create an informed public.

Education must shift from teacher-centered to learner-centered. Students must be actively involved in the educational process, and we as educators should not expect them to just absorb and accept things preset and already decided for them. There must be a clear transfer of educational strategies from a discipline-based learning to a problem-solving learning, with a greater emphasis on cooperative learning.

My teaching philosophy in the classroom emerges in the following ways:

- I empower students through the development of intellectual skills, such as writing, reasoning, oral expression, research, moral reasoning, collaboration, acceptance of diversity, and adaptability
- I teach students multiple modes of inquiry and approaches to knowledge. In particular, I focus on helping students develop analytical criticism through interdependent studies
- I inform students and make them responsible for their own decisions, by developing historical connections between remote societies and contemporary societies, comparing historical efforts, causes and effects, to current scenarios and situations for which they are held accountable, through in-classroom simulations and real-life events

- I help students gain self-knowledge and grounded values
- I help students integrate knowledge
- I give students opportunities to lead and evaluate cause-effects and consequences of decision-making processes
- I listen to my students

All students are different; they come from various life experiences and attitudes toward learning. We cannot change their past; however, over the years, I have learned how acceptance is a powerful tool through which we gain focus and energy. Regardless of who they are or where they come from, our students come to us with the need and the right to learn. They seek guidance, leadership, direction, and want to be trusted. I personally find the greatest rewards in the natural joy expressed by my students when they realize that they can do it. Teaching how to learn is a gift that we can and should give every day. It is my goal as a teacher to assure that each student has opportunities to learn how to learn, and not to just understand topics and concepts. When I witness that inner growth in my students I become a better person, and I feel accomplished as a professional.

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