
My Teaching Philosophy by Diana Vlad

My name is Diana Vlad, and I have graduated with a bachelor's degree in International Studies in 2019. I am currently enrolled in the master's program for Strategic Communication and Leadership at the University of West Florida. This program is offering me great opportunities not only about how to communicate with others, but also allows me to learn more about teaching and effective methods of teaching and communication.

I believe that students often follow professors' examples and are highly influenced by the way an instructor acts and sticks to its values and beliefs.

- Making my values and beliefs clear is a priority.
- I believe in hard and honest work.
- I value dedication. I value when students approach me to help them face confusions or unclarities.
- I expect students to be honest and professional.

It is important to me for students to know that I am available to offer help to students as I am aware that everyone has different backgrounds and learns differently.

I believe in learning best when we feel that we are in a comfortable and non-judging environment.

- I highly value a warm and non-judgmental environment.
- I think that everyone should feel comfortable to speak up.
- I believe that I need to make students feel safe and accepted.
- It's important to me that students should be taught to embrace failure as part of the process → build on constructive criticism and feedback → which will lead to improvement.

I believe in showing equal respect and rights to everyone → this goes hand in hand with creating the right environment.

- I will not accept bullying, or ridiculing others.
- I will not speak down on students.
- I will not accept cheating.
- I will allow everyone to speak their mind, respectfully.
- I believe in creating a team atmosphere and working together.

The effect of the things that we teach in the classroom should reach students beyond the goal of earning a good grade.

- I believe in openly sharing my priorities for my students.
- I believe in a deeper way of learning.
- I believe in leaving students wanting to know more.
- Mostly, I believe in changing the way students think/ feel about a topic. What they learn should challenge them and their ways of thinking.

I do not believe in one form of testing, since everyone is different everyone has different ways of learning and storing information.

- I commit to allowing them the necessary time to store information properly.
- I believe on focusing on quality rather than quantity → my primary goal is not to covering as much content as possible.
- My goal for my students is to thoroughly understand information and be able to apply it further.
- I commit to using various methods of testing (e.g., exams, essays, short answer test, methods that focus in teaching others – which is proven to be one of the most successful methods of teaching).

Sharing my own experiences and making myself vulnerable as a teacher, will help me be a better teacher and it can help my students reach a higher level of learning.

- I believe in the development of a deeper bond between students and professors → shows them that I care, respect, and that I want them to succeed.
- I think that it helps them understand that I was once in the spot that they are in.
- I also believe that this is a constructive method of showing students that they are mature people who need to take responsibility for their actions.

I believe that learning can be a powerful and life changing process, and I believe that to be able to achieve that level of inspiration requires me to get as involved and as compassionate as one can get. I believe that instructors can have a powerful influence on others, because if I do my job right students will reach a point where they will recognize that and they will value my thoughts and opinions.

Furthermore, I also strongly believe in always learning, always evolving and becoming better at what I do. I do not believe that we ever reach a point in life when we do not have anything new to learn or to improve on.

Thank you for reading my teaching philosophy!