

Putting Our Heads Together to Create One Brain: My Philosophy on Education

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I discovered that if I use this philosophy in my classroom, then not only do I learn new skills on how to teach, but new ways my students can learn. I felt good about the new skills that I will be teaching my students, so that they can benefit in so many different ways. I now see that without progressivism in the classroom students are still able to learn but they won't get the privilege of learning different skills along the way.

According to Felisa Tibbitts, from the Human Rights Education Associates, “The advantage of small group work is that it promotes maximum participation from all students. In a small group situation, ideally all students are involved in both thinking and doing.” Working in groups can also help improve basic life skills that children need such as listening, communication skills, cooperative skills, problem solving and sharing of tasks. Group work is effective for all group members regardless of how skilled or unskilled individual members are. I want to use the progressivism philosophy in my education environment because I feel working in groups, focusing mainly on the student, and following the students interests is the most rewarding way to get my students to understand the curriculum. Students learn at their own paces and improve more than just their brain knowledge; they also their everyday skills to take with them into their educational futures.

Having my student’s physical touching the knowledge is a way I want my students to learn to tie progressivism philosophy into my classroom environment. My students will benefit by being able to be involved in the information to have the feeling that their right in the middle of what the class is learning and what is being taught. I will achieve this by doing group work, team building activities, and classroom presentations. Being more involved with the material, my students will have a better understanding of what is going on and can help improve their social skills during other group activities. For a sixth grade history project, students can improve social skills by having each group talk about the time frame they are assigned, where each member will be able to share their thoughts. After having a well thought out discussion in the groups, students will go up to the front of the classroom to present the knowledge they have. By being in front of the classroom speaking and presenting what they have learned can help boost the

students' confidence level with speaking in front of groups of people and also make them comfortable with the knowledge and the material they have acquired.

Focusing mainly on each of the students' learning, I would also incorporate progressivism into understanding the pace of the students in my classroom. Having a table in the back of my classroom will allow me to have that one on one time with my students, this will help me see the pace of their learning and how fast or slowly they understand the new material. This gives me the opportunity to know which students understand the new material then the students who need that extra time with me so they are able to understand everything at the pace that they are comfortable with. In a sixth grade classroom when my students are working on literature, I will be able to have that one on one time with the students who are learning or reading at a slower pace than the other students in the classroom. I will be able to focus more on what they don't understand or how we can find ways to make them become better learners. Spending one on one time with the students who are having difficulties will help the students feel more confident in their studies. Sometimes all students need is that extra little clarification to help them get a jump start. I will boost their confidence in knowing that they actually do understand the material which is being presented.

Students' interest in a subject is very important, because if the students' like what we are going to be learning then they would be more interested in it. However, there are some students in class that have a hard time staying focused on the subject. I can incorporate progressivism into many of my lessons if students are not interested in it. Following their interest is a way for the students to stay more focused on the subject. In a sixth grade class we were going to study one of the wars, such as World War II, and I know there had been many video game players in my class; I could use that to help me explain more about the great wars of the past. I could say how

in video games you always have an objective and in the wars each man always had an objective and had to complete some type of task. Just like in a video game and how in a game you're always fighting for an important reason. If I still have students who are drifting off and not really taking interest in the information, I would form questions for them to answer which could spike their interest and help them stay with the speed of the class.

“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision, the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.” (Anonymous) In the progressivism philosophy, experts like Felisa Tibbitts, talk about the students working in groups, the teacher forming questions, focusing mainly on the students, and following the interest of the student. I believe that all of this is correct in education. In order for all these characteristics to take place effectively in my classroom, the students all need to have one thing which was never mentioned at all, teamwork. I feel groups of students need to work as one and they need to come together as a team to complete the tasks they are given. When I use this philosophy, I know that not only are my students benefiting in the best way they can and getting the help they deserve, but they're also learning how to be a team and to work together to complete the work they are given so that everyone can learn a new piece of knowledge.