

# Teaching Philosophy

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Teaching is about sharing knowledge and helping widen a student's understanding of the world. In my mind, it is about helping a student connect how an abstract concept to something that is more relevant in their life. For my AHS capstone project, this means that I want to apply grammar, pronunciation and spelling rules to text, songs and examples that allow students to immediately use their knowledge in a practical environment.

When I was young, my mother spent a lot of time using various games and fun activities to introduce me to the basic concepts of mathematics and English. I had never really thought that any of this was actually learning, but instead found that although all I ever thought I did was play, I had learned a great amount of information. In addition to that, all of this information was relevant and applicable to me, so therefore I was able to have a better appreciation and understanding of this information so that I was better apt to build on my stronger background. This type of learning was continued in my Korean language education. By constantly hearing the language and being challenged to utilize my understanding of the language to better interact with the world around me, I was able to unofficially learn a lot about the language. This allowed me to maintain my motivation to learn more about the language and helped me to get to the place that I currently am.

This type of learning is something that I really wish to share with other students. I have found that it is really possible to go through ones education with only memorizing the correct answer. However, my experience is that there is a point where there is too much to memorize and therefore, an understanding the fundamentals is more important. A poor background can make it so that it is very difficult to catch up when the material becomes more difficult. If you think about the things that we know best, we know them because we apply them and they are integrated into our lives. For that reason, my teaching philosophy is to teach appreciation of knowledge through the application of said knowledge so that it becomes part of the student's background of understand more than just a part of the information that they can recite. This also reflects the idea of spiral learning because this type of learning requires that you visit a topic several times from different approaches so that the knowledge becomes intuitive and not memorized facts. For that reason, I have also subtly included topics that are spirally learned by the students. This is very important for me.