

Frame of Reference- Denae Edwards

Teaching is a complex career in that we are able to create a classroom that fosters our own beliefs and passions, while teaching for the collective interests of the class. Teachers can create an environment that supports student's personal learning while building a classroom community at the same time. While attending school as a learner and transitioning into a teacher, I have been able to reflect on my experiences and have gathered new insights as a professional educator. In the past three years specifically, I have learned who I am as a person, what my passions are, and what motivates me as a teacher. Through careful reflection, analysis, and peer support, I have created the following frame of reference to reflect; my vision for student's learning, my goal as a teacher, my ideal assessment strategies, and the type of classroom culture I would like to create. With that being said, I know that throughout my teaching career, I will continue to change and adapt my philosophy of teaching through my classroom challenges, successes, and knowledge.

To start off, I believe it is important to consider the importance of education, and what role it has to play in our changing, modernized society. Education has shifted enormously in the last 100 years, transitioning from the single school house in the country, to an industrialized factory style system, to finally an individualized, holistic, and inclusive approach to education. We are on the cusp of a transformation to the BC's New Curriculum, which focuses on the individual students' educational goals and passions. This shift is designed for students to be successful in our current and future growing social climate. Students must learn how to process, analyze, and assess information as well as to be educated viewers, consumers, and socially responsible people.

My vision for students learning fits perfectly in with the new curriculum changes because I can focus on each individual student and foster their **Spark or Passion**. By instilling a desire to learn and curiosity of our world, I believe I will create lifelong learners in my class. Teaching students how to be thoughtful, respectful, and socially responsible are three main elements of today's education that are very important to me. I believe the new curriculum allows teachers to meaningfully think about not only what to teach, but also how to teach. Focusing on what students are interested in learning about will allow students to meaningfully interact with material and allow for authentic learning to take place.

I think students learn best when teachers are able to incorporate the seven learning styles into their lessons, and allow for accommodations as necessary. By allowing for the following learning styles to be used in creating a lesson, students with learning differences may be more successful and feel empowered through their own learning. I will use a variety of tools in my lesson for the **visual, auditory, verbal, kinesthetic, and mathematical learners**. On more of a structure side of learning, I believe there are students who are **solitary and social learners**. Students who either like to learn independently or in a group environment are also important to note because how a lesson is structured may have great effect on the students learning. Although

students may prefer one learning style over the other, I would like to mention that I believe it is important that students experience a wide range of teaching. Students will be faced with a range of experiences as they get older, and it is my job to teach students how to adapt to these different settings and have the tools necessary to be successful.

I think assessment is vital in tracking the progress of students, but I do not feel that testing in a generalized way truly assesses how much information is retained. Thus, I believe there should be options in testing, which will allow for students to show their growth in an individualized way. Testing can be done using two methods: **formative and summative assessment**. Formative assessment can be used in a very beneficial way for both students and teacher. By giving check-ins to see how each student is progressing, I will be able to see which students understand the material, which students may need extra support, or if I need to adjust my teaching for that individual student. Summative assessment must be changed to adapt to the needs of the student and cater to their test taking styles. By allowing students to choose the type of test they want, students have power in their own learning.

Classroom management is a huge issue for most new teachers, and I have thought very carefully about the structural aspects and daily run of a class. One main concept that I continue to revisit is **mutual respect**. I think mutual respect is very powerful and can be applied to many situations in a classroom, school, and community. Our goal as teachers is to teach students to be good citizens with the knowledge needed to be successful in today and tomorrow's world. By creating a classroom community around the notion of mutual respect, we are able to practice how to be good to one another. If students are able to be respectful in their actions, students will have the freedom to ask questions, discuss emotions, and become aware of other students' feelings as well as their own.

Building relationships with not only students but also parents and guardians is also of vital importance for me as a teacher. The classroom is only a portion of the child's daily experiences, and thus I think by opening my classroom up to the family, I will gain a deeper insight into my student's lives, experiences, struggles, and goals. Finally, I cannot end my classroom management ideas without discussing discipline. It is my job as a teacher to have clear expectations of my students, clear consequences, and be firm but fair. My hope is that through routine and clear instruction, students will understand that they have choices, and my hope is that each and every student will make the right choice.

I would like to end my frame of reference with telling you my hopes as a future educator. I hope to be a good role model for my students while instilling in them a lifelong desire for learning about themselves, their passions, and the world. I hope to see my students take an interest in their own learning, what motivates them, and to see each and every student prosper.

Sincerely,

Denae Edwards