

Amanda Gerard: Teaching Philosophy

My ultimate goal in teaching is to constantly evolve my approaches and methods. Governing this is the core belief that learning never ends. I hope to instill this belief in students so they may keep open minds, always making new connections. My expectations for myself and for the students will be flexible based on the overall goals of the specific class/individuals.

In order to foster growth and help students make their own language connections in and out of the classroom, I will utilize a mix of Communicative Language Teaching as well as content-based instruction. This will help students engage with topics they are already interested in, building a broader vocabulary as they go. They will communicate their interests to others, and ask questions to get more information. I hope to utilize many mediums of text, video, pictures, and Total Physical Response techniques to retain engagement across all learner-types. An eclectic approach will keep ideas fresh and help me to evolve as well.

I want to build a relationship of trust with my students based on mutual respect and kindness. I will make them feel heard. I will listen to them and respect them as fellow human beings with their own agency. I will be a servant leader to them and an important resource to help guide them in their educational journey. I want to be their language blacksmith—creating tools the students will use for the rest of their lives.

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ESL Teacher, 2023

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