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**Philosophy of Education, Abstract Paper**

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Teaching is one of the most important professions anyone could ever have. Teachers have the opportunity to influence many lives over many years or several lives over just a few years. Teachers have the capabilities to inspire someone for greatness like becoming president or for servanthood like becoming a doctor. Society needs good leaders and teachers can build the next generation up to become successful citizens. I want to be one of these teachers. I want to influence students to make a difference in our world.

I believe anyone can learn and progress. It is easier for some students to learn than others but ultimately I think everyone can progress in one way or another. I can’t make someone learn, but I can give them the tools to learn. One way is for teachers to take advantage of what individual students are interested in an incorporate it into the lesson someway.

Education is a broad word and does not only imply the accumulation of knowledge. I believe the school system should educate the whole person. In order to do this, teachers need to form relationships with students. It’s not enough for teachers to teach to the mind through lectures and tests. They need to motivate students to lead moral lives in and outside the classroom. Decision making is a big thing that teachers should stress.

The goal of the school and its administration is to educate students. Teachers should do all they can to find ways to help students learn. In this way, classrooms should be student centered instead of teacher centered. The purpose is not for the teacher to talk endlessly, but for the children to learn. Children are active learners and need opportunities to engage with what they are learning. Most children and adults don’t enjoy sitting in an uncomfortable desk all day, week after week. Teachers should be sensitive to this and plan lessons that are hands on or require movement of some kind. Sometimes it is necessary to have instruction through a lecture format but there are other times when it is better to teach using other methods.

It is essential that teachers be educated themselves before they attempt to teach others. Before getting a teaching job, people should have prior education. During the career, teachers should also engage in professional development. Teacher In Service Days are beneficial to strive to be a better school. Teachers and students need to be learning in the classroom and be lifelong learners.

Teachers should initiate conversation and genuine interest in their students. People of all ages want someone to appreciate them and love them. Of course teachers have boundaries that they must watch when interacting with their students but the point is to have a relationship. Students should see their teacher as someone who cares about them and not a dictatorial figure. I think it would be even better if teachers would interact with their pupil’s families. Getting to know someone’s family will give the teacher more of an insight into the student’s life.

If I take up the teaching profession I will exhibit all the successful qualities of a teacher. I will work hard and encourage my students to do the same. I will participate in lifelong learning and will give my students the means to do that also. I will take a genuine interest in each of my students and give them opportunities to rise out of their circumstances and become great citizens. I will strive to do my very best in all areas of the teaching profession and work hard to give my students the opportunity to excel as well.