

Language Arts Philosophy Paper

I believe that the most effective way to teach language arts is through hands-on learning, relatability, and finding students' prior knowledge. Recognizing a student's prior knowledge helps build new knowledge, motivation, and interest. "It is well known that students build on what they already know and have come to understand through formal and informal experiences. People develop attitudes and beliefs as they progress through life. For the instructor, it is important to assess such prior knowledge or attitudes and beliefs very early in the semester since the knowledge students possess may either promote or hinder their learning (Gee, 2013)." I want my lessons to be interactive and relatable to my students' lives. "Relevant, meaningful activities that both engage students emotionally and connect with what they already know are what help build neural connections and long-term memory storage (Bernard, 2010)." Before I can relate my language arts lesson to my students, I must build relationships with my students. For instance, in teaching a lesson about opinions to younger students, it would be helpful to know the students. This way you could help them jumpstart their ideas. In a Scholastics article I read, "As students put projects together, create crafts, or use familiar materials in new ways, they're constructing meaning. "Kids learn through all their senses," says Ben Mardell, PhD, a researcher with Project Zero at Harvard University, "and they like to touch and manipulate things." But more than simply moving materials around, hands-on activities activate kids' brains (Clever)." The more ways students can be involved in language arts, the better these topics will be remembered in their minds. Hands-on learning can engage the whole body and mind which makes it a more effective way of teaching and learning. These citations and reasonings support my reasoning as to why I will teach language arts through by having relatable content, knowing my student's prior knowledge, and by teaching my lessons through hands-on learning.

References:

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