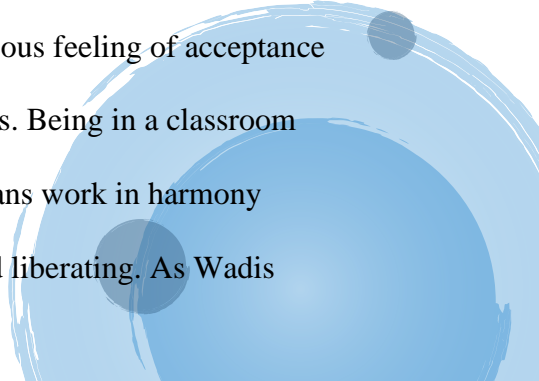


My Teaching Philosophy

My passion for education started when I was at a very young age, and I used to see my mom grading papers and sharing stories about her students. Then, my second interest was born as English songs proliferated in radio stations across Brazil, and I had the desire to know the meaning of every single word. Those two passions, the love for teaching and the English language, continued throughout my adolescence and adulthood, and ultimately, I became an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher. The fact that I could impact lives, help people discover themselves, shape concepts, and inspire them to reach their full potential and be the best version of themselves has been extremely gratifying and rewarding.

After teaching for twenty-six years, I am as excited about teaching as I used to be when I first started. Indeed, the expectations have changed, I have matured as a human being and as a well-rounded educator. I am particularly fascinated by the ESL world and its intricacies and complexity of the diversity of cultures, languages, and customs blending. As Lorde said, “It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.” I love getting to learn new costumes and points of view that I would have never learned otherwise. It is fascinating when one student shares a part of his or her culture, and it amazes the other students which cultures are entirely different from theirs. I see myself as an ambassador of bridging the gap between cultures, transcending preconceptions, embracing cultural differences, breaking barriers, extinguishing misconceptions, and overthrowing taboos. Furthermore, it gets everyone involved in a natural way, and an infectious feeling of acceptance spreads like fire within every single student participating in the process. Being in a classroom where Arabs, Israelis, Africans, Europeans, Asians and South Americans work in harmony leaving all the racism, history, and prejudice aside is indescribable and liberating. As Wadis





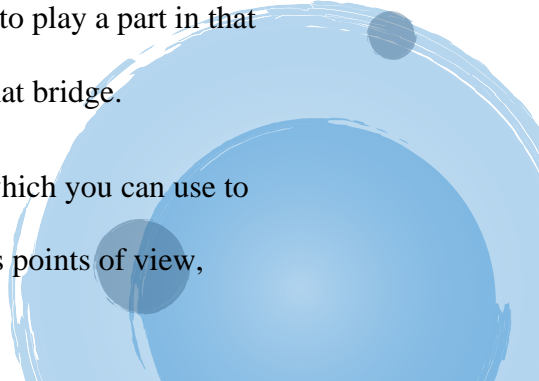
Andrea Evans

stated, my belief is that “The world in which you were born is just one model of reality. Other cultures are not failed attempts at being like you. They are unique manifestations of the human spirit.”

My teaching philosophy has evolved throughout the years and by every time I was challenged by a new aspect of different points of view which were dictated by different cultures. Our students are unique, they come from different backgrounds, and they have different needs. We, as educators, need to celebrate their uniqueness and cater to their individual potential promoting an environment conducive to learning where it is inclusive regardless of their mental, psychological, or intellectual abilities or shortcomings. Once students feel that they are cared for, that their voices are heard, and that they have built a great relationship with their peers and teachers, classroom motivation, classroom management, student engagement, and many other classroom grievances will be consequently resolved. Then, we can focus on what really matters: their academic education, their intellectual knowledge, their civic responsibilities, and their well-rounded citizenry.

In the classroom, I like to concentrate on student-centered activities where they can explore their own creativity and discover new concepts and ideas by sharing, interacting, cooperating, and collaborating with each other. In the community, I feel that we are all part of an intricate puzzle and need to work together in order to accomplish one goal: to instruct, educate, and emancipate our children to become great citizens and contribute to society. As an African proverb has pointed out, revitalized by Hillary Clinton’s book, “It takes a village to raise a child.” It is detrimental to get everyone involved. The community has to play a part in that process, the parents need to get involved, and teachers need to build that bridge.

As Mandela stated, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Education changes lives, molds concepts, broadens points of view,





Andrea Evans

conceptualizes ideas, realizes goals, and shapes our nation's future. Perhaps I might not change the world's education, I might not even be part of the latest national education reform, but I do have the power and ability to modify the lives of every single student that crosses my path and enters my classroom regardless of their religion, race, gender, social status, background, culture, political inclinations, or points of views. And whatever they have, or don't, I will make sure it will be catered to in a way or another to make a difference in their lives. And even if the system is not set up that way or the circumstances are not favorable, we, as conscientious educators, have to "show up" and "make it happen". According to Plato, "Do not train a child to learn by force or harshness; but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each."

