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Teaching Philosophy
SPAN395

 The foundation of my teaching initiative was founded by the desire to create connections among students as they undertake the challenge of learning a language. It is my belief that language learning goes beyond vocabulary and role-play lessons, it delves into the culture and identity of others. To effectively be an instructor of language, it is absolutely dire to consider the differences in perspective, culture and background of these languages in order to give the language and its people the respect and dedication they deserve.

 My philosophy is based on the simple idea that students deserve to be taught in a manner with which they learn best, for each student. Given that each student learns in their own way, it is important for me to establish connections with each learner to be able to teach them to the best of my ability. In order to achieve this I believe there are certain basic elements that need to be had in the learning environment. These are: 1)To serve as a guide in their learning, 2)Give accessibility to opportunities for students to learn, 3)Provide availability of resources to view and learn about linguistic differences and the appreciation of them, and 4)Incorporate helpful learning technology into the learning environment. These elements help me create an effective learning process for students to best perform their learned abilities in the acquisition of the Spanish Language.

 Of course, to utilize these principals in a classroom environment will require creativity and adaptation from class to class, which I believe I am fully capable of providing. By placing myself not only as an instructor, but as a guide, I believe it allows students the creativity and openness to learn about the way they learn best themselves while also keeping myself in a position to offer advice and the push to keep them on track and attentive to the material in the course. It is my hope that with this push and by offering this liberty that the burdens of grades and percentages will be alleviated by their ability to dialogue with me as their educator in the search for improvement.

 In order to facilitate their improvement, the opportunities that I can provide for them to learn and to display their knowledge are essential. This not only helps in augmenting the material they are taking in, but it serves to put on display the knowledge and ability they have gained for their own consideration.

 One of the most impactful lessons for me in my learning experience was the importance of respect and appreciation for differences in others. Given that there are millions of spanish speakers in the world, coming from a vast array of backgrounds, it is to be expected that there are massive amounts of variances in the language and cultures. After learning of the importance of language in the identity of the individual, it became obvious to me that it was impossible to be a language educator without imbuing the awareness necessary to appreciate these differences with respect in order for students to become an accomplished language speaker.

 It is glaringly obvious in this modern world, there is no way to run from technology. As such, it is best to simply put it to the best use in the classroom. Providing students with the web sources to view interactions through tv shows and movies allows insight into social interaction and norms in the language. Online material for them to choose from gives students the opportunity and accessibility to remain attentive to a variety of sources to facilitate their learning.

With these elements, it is my mission to educate spanish language learners as they best learn and deserve to be taught. It is with these ideas that I strive to create a learning environment for students to enter and explore the learning process of the spanish language. This philosophy allows me to not only expect the best of myself as an instructor but to expect the best efforts from every single student, as I believe they all have the ability to become effective learners given the tools and opportunity to do so.