

## SIX PRINCIPLES OF TEACHING

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Teaching, just like other profession is guided by different principles. According to James Mursell, there are six Principles of teaching. First is Principle of Context. Principle of Context states that the effectiveness of learning depends on the conditions that sets the process of learning. As a teacher, it is necessary to situate or put in a background picture the lessons to be taught in a classroom in order for the learner to comprehend the whole representation and prevent misinterpretation of information. It is I important to take note that a meaning of an information depends on the context where it is coming from. This can be done in six levels, through textbook only, textbook w/ supplemental materials, non-academic and current materials, multi-sensory aids, demonstration and presentation by the experts, and field experiences. Next principle is the Principle of Focus. This principle states that a learner can easily or effectively grasp a lesson if there is only an area of concentration. In this principle, the teacher is giving the student a clear direction on lessons through providing a specific subject or topic to be studied in a particular time-frame. This can be done by giving page assignments on learners, announcing topics with chapter references, providing broad concepts or problems to be solved by learners, and developing a concept and acquiring a skill in the process.

In contrast to the abovementioned principles wherein the effectiveness of learning depends on how the teacher facilitates the classroom, the next principle focuses more on how other factors in learning such as the environment, social interaction and learners' behaviors and attitudes can be considered in classroom instruction. According to The Principle of Socialization, the quality and effectiveness of learning depends on the established classroom setting. The first level is Social pattern characterized by submission, wherein the activities in the classroom posits little or no group interaction at

all. Second level which is social pattern characterized by contribution, means that the classroom setting provides the learners a chance to participate in class discussions. The next level, Social pattern characterized by cooperation, gives learners a venue for group interaction and discussions. The fourth principle, Principle of Individualization, recognizes individual differences in classroom teaching. In this principle, in order to deliver effective instruction, the teacher modify his/her teaching strategies in order to cater the personal differences and needs of the learner. This can be done through giving different performance in uniform tasks, homogenous grouping, crafting a contract plan or individual plan of study for each learner, giving individual instruction, assigning activities in class groupings, and dividing task among group members. The fifth theory, Principle of Sequence, acknowledges the importance of establishing the level of difficulty of a concept in order to facilitate an easier understanding of the learner. In order for a learner to grasp a complex concept, it is necessary for the teacher to teach it from a simpler approach and establishing first the key concepts before proceeding to the complex subjects. Giving pre-test is also one way in order to identify the amount of knowledge the learner has in a particular subject. Then from the result of the pre-test, the teacher can craft his/her teaching content and the strategy to be done. Then finally, the last principle, Principle of Evaluation states that evaluation is an important part of teaching process in order to identify the effectiveness of teaching. Evaluation can be done at the beginning in order to know the competencies and knowledge of the learner regarding a topic, in-between and at the end of a class or grading period in order to know if the learner gained understanding of the lesson. The result of the evaluation will be the basis of the teacher if there's anything that needs improvement.

In summary, the principles of teaching suggest ways in order to deliver effective instruction in classrooms by situating the lessons or giving context, providing clear and specific subjects to be studied by the learners, considering the social setting in a classroom, acknowledging individual differences and level of difficulty of a lesson in

crafting a teaching strategy, and maximizing evaluation result in order to improve the teaching instruction.

*References:*

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