

My father always said, “One of the most valuable things a city can have is a university.” He may have been slightly biased as he and my mother are both English professors, but still, I have to agree. I recognize how fortunate I am to have been reared under the tutelage of people who understand the power of education, and I am dedicated to sharing that power with others. Some of the most influential people in my life have been my teachers, and it does not fall short on me the significance of my job.

As an educator, I believe it is my duty and privilege to foster a love of learning in my students and watch as they discover themselves along the way. During the undergraduate level, young students are in the middle of the most formative years of their lives and they have a right to an instructor who will honor that. To fulfill this notion, I believe it to be imperative when teaching my courses, to cater to the group I have in the current moment. Each student has a unique way of learning, and it would be foolish of me to simply copy and paste my methods from one semester to the next. Watching my mother craft her assignments depending on the group she has each semester has shown me that teaching can and should be a creative process much like our art form. Using a blend of auditory, visual, and kinesthetic learning, I provide a diverse learning experience with each student in mind. At the risk of sounding cliché, I truly am of the belief that I have as much to learn from my students as they do from me. It is my job to guide them as they access their individual potential, so we can learn together.

I am committed to using my class time to cultivate self awareness, collaboration, connection, critical thinking, empathy, ego abandon, and failure. My job is not to simply lecture but to create an environment in which my students can more deeply understand themselves, have greater access to empathy, and exhibit compassion so they can fully and wholeheartedly explore the curriculum. In my space, judgment is not welcome, failure is invited, and differences are celebrated. Art is connected to everything, so in my class, alongside the methodologies of Stanislavski, Hagen, Meisner, Adler and more, we will use the works of Dr. Brené Brown, the Enneagram, *The Artist's Way*, and mindfulness practices to have a deeper understanding of our art. Our characters are extensions of us, but we can only know our characters as deeply as we know ourselves, so it is necessary to know who we are as best we can, in order to create more truthful, authentic stories. We must also remember that each person who pursues this craft was **chosen** by this craft, but to honor the gift creativity has given us, we must be willing to put in the work and get down in mud to be the absolute best we can be.

Much of my teaching principles come from the instructors in my past who served as exceptional role models, and as the torch is passed to me, I hope to do all I can to keep that flame alight.