

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

Information makes a difference in the lives of people and of society.

Vision statement, Rutgers Department of Library and Information Science

Perhaps the most basic element of good teaching is the preparedness of the teacher. A good teacher is not only knowledgeable and passionate about their subject, but they should be physically and mentally present, ready to enter the classroom, and ready to engage with learners and co-create a safe and effective learning community. When a teacher has these elements in place, then they can prime the learning environment and strive to make the learning environment *Simple, Active and Fresh*.

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Whenever possible, learning should be relevant and accessible to learners. Content should be manageable and digestible, and hopefully learners will be able to recognize the applicability of the course content to their lives and work.

KEEP IT ACTIVE

Learners apply information best if they can hear, see and DO. Learning that is active, participatory and hands-on not only makes the learning environment more interesting and enjoyable, it is more effective and more likely to be retained, and becomes more relevant to the learner.

KEEP IT FRESH

Content without reflection and consideration prevents the formation of knowledge. Learners should be prodded to really think about the content and why it's appropriate to their lives – this can be hopefully be accomplished through thoughtful and engaging assignments.

Teachers should also be engaging in reflection – there is always more learning that can occur, about the content we are providing and the ways in which we interact and challenge our learners.