

Dave Demke

Statement of Teaching Philosophy

I believe great art is born out of three things: desire, freedom, and discipline. This belief guides all aspects of my teaching.

I reinforce curiosity and passion as the means for awakening desire in my students. I engage in their sense of play to free their imaginations and stimulate creativity. Discipline is taught by instilling specificity of focus and clarity of intention.

I employ exercises and games that engage visual, kinesthetic, and auditory learning patterns, engaging the full range of students' creative abilities. In-class presentations test the students' creative assumptions and provide growth assessments. Individual and group feedback is structured (and this structure is taught) so as to provide useful, positive information for improved outcomes. Team projects are assigned to enhance individual creativity through collaborative work methods. Reading and writing assignments are used to support in-class work, as well as provide reflection time for self-evaluation. Class discussions are used to address specific topics of technique and craft. In every exercise and every assignment, I guide, encourage, and challenge my students to work from their authentic selves.



My assessment tools are designed to measure a student's understanding of process. I define process as the constant balancing of freedom and structure, and I use student journals and presentations as primary assessment tools. Both serve formative and summative functions. They also provide invaluable information regarding the effectiveness of my teaching. I'm working on improving my ability to make adjustments based on my students' immediate needs, and journal assignments, in particular, have become a valuable tool in this regard.

My mission is to teach good artistic habits. This means identifying creative blocks and finding repeatable strategies that turn those blocks into opportunities. Most importantly, I want my students to believe in themselves. I want them to breathe, embrace risk, and perform with courageous generosity.
