

Josh Raftery

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Teaching Philosophy

As an instructor, I navigate students through the process of creating visual art while provoking critical thought, and an understanding of the medium's technical abilities. I accomplish this through problem solving, lectures, and introducing conceptual ideas through an open dialogue in a creative environment. I value giving my students more than the technical abilities of creating work by providing them thought provoking material in the form of documentaries, films, readings, creative writing, and group conversations.

I believe that my expertise in the field should act as a catalyst for the students' innovative endeavors, and creative expressions. This creative charge begins in the classroom through demonstrations, work sessions, individual meetings, critiques, readings and discussion, and artist presentations. I emphasize the importance of self-discipline, the uniqueness of ideas and individuality, and encourage my students to investigate their curiosities. Successful works are produced when the artist asserts their passion and dedication into the final product. It is important for the instructor to acknowledge these singular interests within the classroom, whether in medium or content, and introduce the student to traditional, contemporary, and alternative resources that may otherwise remain undiscovered. I value the importance for the young artist to explore the medium's foundations, technological advances, and interdisciplinary practices as they develop an understanding of critical discourse and contemporary theory. I encourage my students to produce meaningful work without complacency, and to experiment in interdisciplinary practices to resolve their curiosity. In addition to being an instructor, I dedicatedly contribute where needed in the facilities in efforts to provide my students with the necessary resources to manifest their creative vision into a physical reality.

In the classroom, I strive to create an environment where a collective of aspiring artists can learn from one another. I invite students to provide constructive criticism, to question, to share cultural and social differences, and to embrace the uniqueness of individuality in efforts that we may learn from one another and further appreciate our surroundings, and each other as expressive artists. Upon leaving my classroom, my objective is to provide each student with the confidence to produce meaningful and technically sound work, and with a vocabulary to articulate his or her work. Students are also encouraged to communicate their ideas to a wider audience by exhibiting work, and engaging with the community outside the classroom to examine new perspectives.

Throughout my experience as a student, I have studied with incredibly talented artists who have inspired my work, broadened my horizons, contributed supportive critical feedback, and shared technical skills that I continue to utilize today. I pursue to assert a similar level of influence, and inspiration on the next generation of artists.

Sincerely,
Josh Raftery