Planning My Growth

John Sargent
Educational Technology's Ph.D. program
Graduate Studies, New Jersey City University

What is one of the best ways to make changes in America? Why is Educating America's youth so important? Young people who grow up in the confines of bad and dangerous environments must be taught by instructors who feel their pain. Having the opportunity to have a higher education while enjoying life on your terms, makes it gratifying to teach disadvantaged youth.

Education Technology Goal

My goal is to utilize what I'm learning from the Education Technology program to help mold America's youth into productive critical thinkers. I'm working in the field of higher education at Orange County Community College, and I'm helping young people get their GED. Most of the students I teach are underprivileged with acquired disadvantages.

Educational Philosophy

My philosophy on educational technology is a shared experience generated through knowledge, vision, and cooperation. Understanding your destiny through insights and vocalizations, while grasping the unknown with eagerness and willingness to pound other people's thoughts and perceptions.

Leadership Approach

My intrapersonal connection with my students allows me to have relationships that stem beyond the classroom. Our understanding and like-mindedness about life in the inner-city bond us emotionally. The sociological connection with my students permits me to have an intimate relationship of a high degree. Being a professional educator at OCCC, I must be careful and aware of my communications with students. Nonetheless, the students linked to my

thinking and feeling helps me understand myself. Having a mental alliance with my students allows me to be an Authentic Leader. My self-reflections of my youth create memories to help me understand my students' plans, drawbacks, and strong points.

Draw Backs

1) When I entered the ET program, I was very concerned about articulating with the written word.
2) The fear of expressing myself overwhelmed me.
3) Not being able to express how I feel professionally.
4) Not being able to understand my students when they struggle with learning.
5) Not being able to put a finger on the needs of my students.
6) Not being able to identify learning styles.

Accomplishments

1) My writing skills have improved.
2) I understand how to express myself intellectually.
3) Professional situations don't matter, I have the confidence to express myself.
4) Get to know my students personally as I direct their studies.
5) I have gotten better at understanding my student's educational struggles.
6) I can teach toward individual learning styles.

Conclusion

My experience teaching at OCCC allows me to communicate with my students outside the classroom. For example, I taught a math class in the City of Newburgh, NY, one of the most dangerous cities in America per capita. Being in my student's living environment gives me an advantage in leading them authentically. Since

OCCC has a campus in Newburgh, I have an ample opportunity to become the Director of adult education. Pursuing this position is my long-term goal and receiving my Ph.D. in Educational Technology makes it gratifying to continue leading America's youth.