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Philosophy Statement

Learning is the process of consciously understanding the material being taught. Following the teaching process participants should be able to apply what they learned in that specific situation. In a learning situation participants should be seeking interaction with the teacher, this shows that they are engaged and want to learn. In my own experience participants should be actively involved in the learning process. In this process participants should be giving active feedback to the teacher showing that they understand the material being taught. Also through my own experience I believe that participants should be engaged in hands on activities, or something that inhibits more conscious learning.

As a teacher I should be actively involved with my participants. Knowing their strengths and weakness will allow me to shape the outcomes for an optimized teaching experience. Personally I believe that I employ best the Transtheoretical teaching model. As a teacher, understanding that participants may not realize learning will occur, and waiting for participants to realize that they will indeed learn. Then it's my duty as their teacher to step in and facilitate their learning. After initial learning I am there to maintain, help further comprehend, and answer questions related to the topic at hand until participants exit the learning process competent with the materials taught.

As a result of learning about the environment my goals for participants are set in more of a perspective setting and are intended to be educational. They are that participants would walk away from the experience with an awareness of the situation at hand, a more complex understanding of the topic/situation, and to gain an appreciation for the issue. During an environmental program to achieve my goals, I would need some form of display/prop/back-story in order to capture my audience only then will they want to gain that awareness, understanding, and appreciation. In my own experience learning by means of problem solving engages learners to share their experiences and make them feel involved in the learning process.

The way I plan to implement my style of teaching is dependent on the style of program and participants. If teaching about an environmental situation, I would prefer to use the problem and inquiry based method. While giving participants an environmental problem and letting them solve this problem through inquiry between each other while making myself available for questioning. Placed based learning is another model I feel that I would implement well. While structuring a

lesson to take place in a specific environment, it gives students the advantage to explore the natural resources in that particular setting.

In my future as an outdoor educator I want to achieve the goal of LNT master educator, in order for me to achieve this goal I feel that I need to place myself in positions where I can begin to actively teach participants. In my current situation as an outdoor educator I need to gain more experience teaching in settings with participants of all ages. When I began in the outdoor education program I was very nervous when it came to public speaking. Throughout my career I have been able to overcome this fear and improve my delivery methods tremendously. My challenge as an outdoor educator has been that I have not gained much experience in teaching to various age groups. Up to this point my teachings have been to either campers or fellow colleagues. I want to gain more experience with all ages but specifically in the area of the LNT principles to further my practice in my journey to accomplish LNT master educator.