

## Reflection on teaching & learning experience

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*“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.”*

William Arthur Ward

As social workers, we were never taught how to teach. The teaching methods that I incorporate in my classroom stems from the way I was taught while attending university, some skills I developed along the way, other skills i incorporate to enhance student engagement. I believe that teaching styles need to change to meet the demands of students.

For me, teaching is a process of learning. When I enter the classroom I am equipped with the module outcomes, I understand the theory and link it with social work practice. However, during class discussions, new waves of information are added. Students enter the classroom with their share of thoughts and experiences and many times, I learn from them or share their examples with the next group of students. Communication is an effective tool in my classroom and due to sharing we learn from each other.

During the semester, a concerned student came to see me and explained that some students provide examples in Afrikaans and she does not understand Afrikaans. I thanked her for sharing her concerns and began translating examples from Afrikaans to English. I encourage students to come speak to me regarding any problems and uncertainties in the classroom.

Students feedback have always been positive, with the ITEA student feedback, I received a 95% rating. Even though I feel that it is good, I do have my weaknesses and in the future I would like to enhance learning by bringing in more of the social work context into the classroom, inviting practice supervisors from different organisations to engage with students.

I enjoy the engagement and interaction with the students; it’s my passion that takes teaching to the next level.