

What Is Pedagogy? Series 2

Pedagogy (Pe-Da-Go-Jee) means the architecture and **the art of teaching and learning**. It also connotes the art and the science of delivering a meaningful teaching concept. It is an art because teaching requires exceptional skills, critical thinking and engineering of the mind. It is like cooking. The cook makes every exertion to make her food appetizing and distinctive. She uses skills and creativity to adjust all the necessary ingredients of the food. Therefore, the cook prepares the food in an artistic fashion. Similarly, in pedagogical teaching, the instructor uses exceptional skills of the mind to produce a feasible teaching plan, concept and contents.

Pedagogy is a science that deals with logic, hypothesis testing, and scientific experimentation. To assume that a teaching method is pedagogically sound it must pass through a meticulous investigation of **scientific methodologies** such as **sound theories, validity** such as *logical procedure in teaching and learning*. **Reliability** (*Quality of measurement in teaching and an empirical evidence of effectiveness of the pedagogical approach*) and finally, **unbiased conclusion** about contents (*truthful measures are taken to make sure that it is free from individual interests when preparing the contents: education for all*).

When preparing pedagogically sound teaching contents, you may find the following tips useful:

1. Your objectives, goals, specifications and requirements must be unambiguous. (**Purpose**)
2. Your illustrations, relevancy, activities, lessons must be appropriate to learners. (**Input**)
3. What do you expect from the learners to know? (**Output**)
4. How do you deliver your contents? Do you give more examples, use visual aids, provide hands on activities, brainstorming, use concepts, avoid facts and encourage learners to learn cooperatively. (**Presentation**)
5. How do you help a student who cannot finish a given skill on time? Do you create a Zone of Proximal Development (*a technique used by a teacher to assist a weak student to accomplish a task, and gradually shifting the responsibility to the student to continue learning without further assistance.*) or get irritated and scream? (**Help in times of need**)
6. What level of skills is included in your contents? How do you guide them to accomplish those skills? (**Skill level**)
7. How do your students participate in the class? Do you give them autonomy or use one nail hits all, method? (**Classroom Management**)
8. An imaginative instructor evaluates her students using formative assessment (*a process whereby, the teacher examines the class all the time in order to adjust teaching and learning conditions*) and summative assessment (*a periodical assessment to know what learners know or do not know*). (**Evaluation**)

Consequently, pedagogically sound contents, teaching and learning are goal-oriented instructions for an explicit purpose (**How to teach**). It is an educational experience, offers a meaningful and an engaged teaching and learning environment. "*If a child can't learn the way you teach, you must teach the way a child learns.*" Ignacio Estrada

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