

My teaching principles begin with fostering trust with my students in the learning environment. I believe in using kinesthetic learning through active learning strategies; primarily project-based learning and experimental learning. Promoting a growth mindset and a pedagogy of collaboration.

In classes I start with fostering public trust. If that is built with the students, they are more likely to develop a growth mindset. Fostering that growth mindset makes all other teaching principles have maximum effect. I create a balance between lectures and projects. Giving students theoretical projects promote creativity and gives them a creative outlet. While working on theoretical projects they are given a chance for experimentation and kinesthetic learning. Which will allow students to experience another teaching style that supports the content given during lectures.

I am a proponent of having students participate in practicum. This allows the students to be hands on during show process promoting more kinesthetic learning. This passively teaches collaboration. The students often need to work together to complete a task. They also have the opportunity to see how we use collaboration in every step of the process.

When mentoring student designers, I ask them to justify their choices. This leads them to think critically about their design. Making choices that are made with intention leads to better design choices. These intentional design choices allow the students to better express individual aesthetic and foster a sophisticated understanding of design and storytelling in their work on stage. Before students get to design on stage I will have created public trust with them and promoted a growth mindset. This allows the students to make mistakes. They will feel more comfortable being more experimental in their design work. The students also learn not to be overly invested in any choice and how to quickly fix something that is not working.

Our industry attracts creatives and requires active participation these teaching principles support the students as they arrive and prepare them for success as they enter the professional realm of our industry.