

### Essentialism

Training the mind with what are essential

**Why teach?** To instill students with the "essentials" of academic knowledge, enacting a back-to-basic approach.

**What to teach?** Basic skills or the fundamental R's such as reading, writing, arithmetic and right conduct.

**How to teach?** Emphasis on mastery of subject matter. Observance of core requirements and longer academic year.

Essentialism focuses primarily or entirely on the teaching and mastery of core basic subjects and skills. In an essentialist approach, the topics and competencies covered are commensurate with the learners' level of development. A student at the earliest stage of learning practices simple skills and concepts, which increase in complexity as the student advances in their learning trajectory. Typically, the subjects or skills that essentialists emphasize are reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, art, music and foreign languages, with technology being a common modern addition to the repertoire. Essentialist teaching methods often rely on rote practice and standardized assessment.

### Perennialism

Teaching ideas that are everlasting.

**Why teach?** to teach students to think rationally and develop minds that can think critically.

**What to teach?** Lessons are lifted from classic and great books.

**How to teach?** Classroom are teacher-centered. Students engaged in socratic dialogue.

The perennialist teaching philosophy centers on the subject. This approach focuses on the teaching of ideas that have everlasting and universal value and truth. The teaching focus, then, is on principles such as reasoning and critical thinking in addition to time-tested concepts from well-known figures such as Plato and Einstein. The educator is responsible for guiding students in their efforts to think critically and logically and showing them how to appreciate great everlasting works.

### Progressivism

Education comes from xperience

**Why teach?** to develop learners into becoming enlightened and intelligent citizens.

**What to teach?** Curriculum that responds to studnets' needs and that relates to their personal lives and experience.

**How to teach?** Teachers employ experiential methods. They believe that one learns by doing.

The progressivist teaching philosophy is a student-oriented approach that considers the significance of individuality and its connection to active learning. Progressivism states that the ideal learning situation is when the subject matter is relevant to the life of the learner and their abilities. Progressivist educators, therefore, often try to reveal the relevance of academic topics to stoke the curiosity and engagement of their students. This approach also emphasizes interaction, cooperation and consideration of other viewpoints as essential elements of learning.

### Existentialism

Focuses on individual's freedom to choose their own purpose in life.

**Why teach?** To help students understand and appreciate themselves as unique individuals.

**What to teach?** Students are given a wie variety of options from which to choose. Humanities are given emphasis.

**How to teach?** Methods focus on the individual. Learning is self-paced and self-directed.

Existentialist educators believe there is no god or higher power guiding their students. They emphasize individuality and self-understanding as the first step in any education. They also use teaching methods and curriculum design that respect the identity and agency of both teachers and learners as human beings.

### Behaviorism

The acquisition of new behavior based on environmental conditions.

**Why teach?** To modify and shape students' behavior.

**What to teach?** Teachers teach students to respond favorably to various stimuli in the environment.

**How to teach?** Teachers arrange environmental conditions. THeY provide reinforcement and punishment.



### Behaviorism (cont)

The behaviorist school of thought states that students learn behaviors through their interactions. According to behaviorists, an individual's intrinsic qualities have little bearing on how they behave within an environment. Rather, the teacher can directly and intentionally influence the quality and consistency of student behaviors with various strategies. An example of behaviorist thought in practice is positive reinforcement, in which a learner receives a reward for positive actions. In time, they come to associate these actions with rewards and so prefer to behave well rather than poorly.

### Constructivism

People construct their own understanding and knowledge of the world.

Why teach? To develop intrinsically motivated and independent learners equipped with learning skills.

What to teach? Students are taught how to learn.

How to teach? Teacher provide students with data or experieces that allow them hypothesize, predict, manipulate, pose questions, researcg and invent.

Aside from these ideas concerning unique foundations and learning outcomes, constructivism includes the following precepts:

It's necessary for learners to engage actively in learning activities not only to gain knowledge but also to retain it and build meaningfully on top of it.

It's also necessary for individuals to reflect actively on their learning so that they achieve a more complete understanding of new ideas.

Learning happens when people can connect new information with what they already know or thought they knew.

### Constructivism (cont)

Motivation and a willingness to reflect on previous learning are crucial to the learning process.

As learners develop, they become better and identifying relevant information, classifying it mentally and weaving it into sophisticated systems of thought that incorporate multiple simultaneous ideas.

The constructivist philosophy states that learners develop knowledge by building on the foundations of previous learning. Constructivists acknowledge that learners come from different backgrounds, so they carry their unique set of circumstances and experiences into the shared environment of the classroom. Moreover, the experiences and knowledge specific to a learner can affect how they receive new information.

### Reconstructionism

Emphasizes the addressing of social questions and a quest to create a better society.

Why teach? To attain social reform.

What to teach? Curriculum focuses on student taking social action in solving real problems.

How to teach? Social issues are dealt through inquiry, dialogue, and to multiple perspectives. Community-based learning is utilized.

It promotes an empowering approach to education, where the learner is in charge of their own learning journey.

Reconstructionism in education is a philosophy that emphasizes the importance of dismantling oppressive social and institutional structures in order to achieve equality for all learners.

Social-reconstructionist education is based on the theory that society can be reconstructed through the complete control of education.

The objective was to change society to conform to the basic ideals of the political party or government in power or to create a utopian society through education. Social reconstruction in education refers to a sociopolitical movement that has the goal of transforming society through the education system.



### Idealism

Adheres to the view that nothing exists except in the mind of man, the mind of god, or in a super or supra-natural realm.

Idealists believe that ideas and knowledge are enduring and can change lives.

Idealism, as a teaching philosophy, posits that ideas are the only true reality and the objective of the learner is to seek the truth. In this understanding of the world, true ideas are ongoing universal constants, so learners can discover knowledge but not necessarily create it. Some idealists also state that the goal of education is to develop the sort of mind and skills that can better serve society. An important facet of the idealist approach is awareness of a role model whose example can guide the learner to an understanding of their place in and contributions to society.

### Realism

stresses that the world is made up of real, substantial and material entities.

Knowledge is derived from sense and experience.

The realist teaching philosophy states that reality and the mind's perception of it are separate phenomena. In reality, there are objective truths and values, and it's the goal of education to promote rational modes of thought to uncover what truth is. Educators who the realist philosophy tend to focus on teaching critical thinking and the scientific method. By these means can learners overcome their preconceptions and biases and approach a more logical perception.

### Pragmatism/Experimentalism

Pragmatists believe that the curriculum should reflect the society, emphasizing the needs and interests of the children.

The pragmatist approach posits that the goal of education is to teach learners the knowledge and skills that are likely to be of practical use to them. To that end, pragmatist educators tend to implement such methods as project- and play-based learning, experiential learning, experimentation and excursions. What qualifies as pragmatic is often dependent on the circumstances of the learner, their environment and their time. As societies evolve in response to changing technologies and lifestyles, the pragmatic teaching philosophy adapts to provide learners with relevant education.

### Hinduism

emphasizes a commitment to an ideal way of life characterized by honesty, courage, service, faith, self-control, purity and non-violence which can be achieved through YOGA.

### Buddhism

believes in the four noble truths      The truth of suffering (dukkha)

The truth of the cause of suffering (samudaya)

The truth of the end of suffering (nirodhu)

The truth of the path that leads to the end of suffering (magga)

believes in the Law of Karma

### Confucianism

teaches moral life through devotion to the family, loyalty to the elders, love of learning, brotherhood, civil service, and universal love and justice.

Stresses the Five Cardinal Virtues

1. Benevolence

2. Righteousness

3. Propriety

4. Wisdom

5. Sincerity

### Taoism

A philosophy advocating simplicity, frugality and the joys of being close to nature and being in harmony with the whole universe.

Strongly believes in Wu Wei (let things come naturally)

### Zen Buddhism (Japanese Version)

Believes in the Third Eye (to see things which are invisible to the naked eyes and to get attuned to the things around us)

Encourages meditation (mind awakening)

Teaches that the entire universe is one's mind and if one cannot realize enlightenment in one's own mind now, one cannot ever achieve enlightenment.

### Islam

has five pillars: beliefs in Allah, prayer (5x a day), fasting, almsgiving, and pilgrimage.

