My teaching philosophy certainly has changed since my first year. Before I started, I had such wonderful dreams of changing so many lives and helping students to be the best they could be. After my first few months on the job, I realized that my dreams were going to be difficult to achieve. Reality set in and my views were changed forever.

I always made A’s and worked hard and couldn’t understand why the students I had wouldn’t even pick up a pencil or care if they passed. What were these kids thinking?! Why didn’t they care? Why was I the only one that did? As the years passed, I realized that the basic philosophy I had could stay the same but that I needed to change my expectations for everyday teaching.

In my experience, I’ve dealt with many ability levels. I have high expectations of all students and the lower level students were no exception. I believe that all of my students had a high ability to learn, but that they weren’t utilizing their abilities. I found when it came to ‘level of ability’, it was another way of identifying those students that were less motivated than the others. Laziness is a huge factor that I’ve come across so my goal is to motivate. I don’t teach my lesson any differently, but the kids know my expectations on the first day and eventually they come around to the idea of working for intrinsic motivation instead of external reward.

As far as technology, manipulatives, and different learning styles, I try to incorporate each of these into each of my daily lessons if at all possible. However, with NCLB standards, I’m forced to teach from a book that implements very few activities, so developing them has become more of a struggle. Group work vs. individual time is also something that can create problems when doing a lesson. Even though I have excellent classroom management, I still have to assign roles to those in a group so that I’m better assured that the students stay on task. It’s also easier to assess their performance if I know exactly what their role in the group is.

In the coming years, I expect my philosophy to change even more due to national/state standards, school standards and expectations, and the new generations of kids to come. Hopefully I’ll be able to grow with each years experience until I finally achieve the goal of changing the lives of my students in ways I could only imagine.