

Mentoring Philosophy

Draft 1: turn in hardcopy to Anmarie AND post to D2L

Draft 2: post to D2L only

Final: submit with final class reflection the last day of class

See class schedule for due dates.

In this class I ask you to reflect on your personal mentoring philosophy, and the role of communication in that practice, as you collaborate with NAYA and your Capstone peers. To help foster thinking on your communication practice, throughout the term I ask you to write about what you consider to be the crucial qualities in mentoring (including tutoring), and how you attempt to put your ideas into practice. In essence, I'm asking you to be conscientious about your ethics of communicating and working with students at NAYA (and beyond) by writing down these ideas and sharing with the class.

To this end, twice during the term you'll submit a draft of this philosophy, and at the end of the class a final version.

As you work on your philosophy, make explicit all of the following, though focus on two or three of your choice in more depth:

- What concepts or skills do you find crucial in your mentoring work at NAYA?
For each concept or skill, explain the philosophy/principle behind it, and then give an example of how you try to put it to practice. (As you revise, you might consider how this has changed, how it has been challenged, etc.)
- How do the above concepts help foster interpersonal communication, and what cross-cultural and non-violent communication skills have you been mindful of at NAYA?
- How can you role model the ways vulnerability and failure are a part of learning itself?
- Which text(s) in our class reflect some aspect of your philosophy? What are other influences?
- What examples or experiences at NAYA or other mentoring situations help illustrate how you turn your philosophy into action?

There is no standard form or style for this—make it your own. I do ask that you type it up (even the drafts), use standard conventions (double-spaced, 12-point font, etc.) and write it in prose—so no list of bullet points. And while you are expected to talk about any growth, consider using a professional or formal tone, as if you are communicating to staff at NAYA, future employers, or writing a volunteer application for something you believe strongly in.

If you have trouble getting started, you might reference different ideas and quotes from our readings the first few weeks, and “dialog” with them, discussing why you agree or disagree with their philosophy and how it influences the way you think about mentoring at NAYA.