

Eight Factors to Consider Before Going into Teaching

February 8, 2021

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Teaching is One of the Most Rewarding Careers in the World

Teaching is one of the most rewarding and satisfying careers to begin. A teacher would tell you it is the best feeling in the world when a student learns a concept and feels that sense of accomplishment. The student's accomplishment becomes the teacher's accomplishment. Seeing how the students make progress, especially year after year as they move up ahead and make positive leaps and bounds in their lives is truly magnificent. According to Reader's Digest, teaching is about:

- 1) Molding and transforming lives
- 2) Inspiring learners
- 3) Helping others define their characters
- 4) Fueling curiosity
- 5) Nurturing
- 6) Fostering creativity
- 7) And more



There are so many great reasons to consider teaching as a career. **Working with young people is rewarding and gratifying.** However, it is important for a person who has just graduated from college and is thinking about choosing

it as a profession to know that it is not easy. There are many factors to consider before choosing teaching as a profession.

Why Teaching is Difficult

If there are so many rewards and positive outcomes tied to teaching, why is it difficult? [Why do so many teachers quit after the first few years of trying it?](#)

1) Teaching requires some showmanship. In order to keep the kids' attention and get them engaged, the teacher must be able to teach the lesson well enough to keep the audience captivated or they will lose interest. Great teachers find ways to keep kids engaged and learning. It is going to take some careful planning, efficiency, and organization to put on awesome "shows" for kids so they can have fun while they learn.

Teaching is not just a 6-hour or 7-hour job; some days the prepping for lessons may take hours so someone going into teaching as a career needs to be aware of this.

2) Teaching is 50% delivering of content effectively and 50% social-emotional support. The students are human beings experiencing all kinds of life-changing situations. Some have difficult situations going on at home. Some have stable households but personal struggles and questions they are dealing with. Teaching is not just about the content being delivered – it's about being able to listen and support students, and sometimes even the parents.

3) Students can be disrespectful and disruptive in the classroom despite the teacher's best efforts. For a person who is considering going into teaching as a career, it's important to note this because knowing what you are getting into will help you stay calm and collected. They are not necessarily disrespectful or disruptive because of you as a person or what you are doing. They are being that way because they are going through something in life and this is the behavior that is being manifested.

4) Teaching requires grading – especially depending on what you teach. Just like lesson planning is time-consuming, so is grading. If you

assign work, give quizzes, and tests, you must be up for grading and returning the work as quickly as possible to your students. There may be afternoons and evenings when instead of hanging out and doing leisurely activities, you are grading.

The time management, efficiency (how well you use your time and energy in a short period of time), and organizational skills are the key. Fortunately, these are qualities and skills that can be learned!

5) A teacher must be open to learning and improving no matter how many years he or she has been in the classroom. Our world is constantly changing, and teachers must be open-minded to new ways of doing things.

6) Teaching is not one of the highest-paying profession out there. In fact, there are many teachers who do side jobs to generate extra income because it's difficult to make ends meet, especially in the first five years of teaching. According to the National Education Association, about 20% of teachers hold second jobs during the regular school year.

It is important to consider what school districts are paying and if the money paid is going to afford the lifestyle you want once you go into teaching as a career. With financial organization and planning, a person going into the profession can make ends meet if they have a passion for becoming teachers and changing the lives of others.

7) There is lots of administrative work that has to be done that teachers do not often realize until they get into the profession. The administrative work cannot be ignored. These involve sitting in meetings, taking attendance, correcting attendance, making phone calls, putting independent study materials together, filling out paperwork, and much more. These extra tasks are task-consuming so it's important to take that into consideration.

Once again, this is where time management, efficiency, and organizational skills come in. Otherwise, the feeling of being overwhelmed can be highly stressful, especially for a new teacher.

8) Because teachers are role-models, whether they know it or not, there is some added pressure involved, much like a celebrity. The kids are watching you, the parents are watching you, and the community is watching you. It can be overwhelming for some teachers. Therefore, it is important to

have this in the back of your mind if you are thinking about going into the profession.

These factors and insights are not meant to drive you away from considering going into teaching and choosing it as a profession. The rewards outweigh the difficulties of the profession.



Conclusion

The problem is many people go into teaching without anyone telling them what is involved. This is probably because so many teachers you had in elementary school, middle school, and high school made it seem like teaching was a breeze. They were so good at what they did that you thought I am going to grow up and be just like them! And you should be like them! If you have been inspired by teachers in your life, think of what you can do for the new generation of students.

Just keep in mind that being efficient and organized will be some of the key factors in succeeding. How well you use your time in and out of the classroom is **efficiency**. How well you keep it all together – your **mental and physical organization** will also help you succeed as you progress in the profession.

About the Author

When I became a teacher in 2013, there were so many things I did not realize came with the job - things I did not learn from the credentialing programs. I hope you do choose to go into teaching and are well-informed about everything involved before making the choice!