Teaching philosophy

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I teach my courses by using a very simple premise. I believe that learning is an individual process best achieved through repeated active engagement with the material. My goal is to get students to teach themselves the material in a way that makes sense to them, using means they typically don't explore such as drawing. I only provide a foundation and guide their learning.

Following this, I use my class time to introduce and present the basic overview of the topic, while allowing plenty of room for discussion. Then I require students to go home and work on homework aimed at getting them to engage the material "hands on." These "hands on" assignments usually require some combination of drawing, diagraming, labeling, defining and written explanation and it is often repeated.

So for example I may give my class the task of "describe the neuron using two different means." Students typically complete this by writing the full description out once as a paragraph and then another time through a combination of drawing/labeling/defining. By making them complete the task in different ways, but using means they choose, I feel I help them find their unique path to understanding the topics