

Teaching philosophy

Steven Mortenson, associate professor, Department of Communication, University of Delaware.

Empowerment is the primary goal that fuels the way I teach and study communication. I strive to help students understand that human reality is constructed both socially and linguistically. The more people understand how communication produces the social reality we live in, the more empowered people become in defining their own reality. Rather than blindly accepting that, "that's the way it is," studying communication can help people author their own definitions of a meaningful life and sense of self. These aspects of empowerment serve to guide all aspects of my academic work.